

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF LUNENBURG**

May 13, 2025 | 6 pm

Lunenburg Town Hall - Council Chamber



Present Mayor Jamie Myra, Deputy Rachel Bailey, Councillor Alex Greek, Councillor Debbie Dauphinee, Councillor Renea Babineau, Councillor Gale Fullerton, Councillor Alison Strachan

Also present Marvin Macdonald, Interim CAO
Kayla Byrne, Legislative & Policy Advisor
Tyson Joyce, Director of Public Works
Jamie Deans, Communications and Events Coordinator
Kathleen Rafuse, Deputy Director of Finance
Jacob McGuigan, Accountant
Marc Kiely, Director of Community Development

Call to Order The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgment The Chair recognized Lunenburg's location on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

Approval of Agenda Moved and seconded that Council approve the agenda for the May 13, 2025 meeting as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Approval of Minutes Moved and seconded that Council approve the April 22, 2025 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Public Input The Mayor reminded the public of the rules and expectations for this portion of the meeting. It was noted that comments should pertain to any municipal matter but must remain civil and not be directed at individuals, including citizens, elected officials, or staff.

Blake McDonald, Program and Service Development Manager for South Shore Public Libraries, addressed Council regarding a letter sent from the South Shore Public Libraries, requesting Council's endorsement of a letter to the Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage.

Greg Greek addressed Council regarding concerns over the condition of Maple Avenue. He emphasized the road's deteriorated state, its role as a main route into town, and the safety concerns for both vehicles and pedestrians. The Chair acknowledged the concern and noted that the

project has already been moved up in the Town's long-range capital budget and could potentially be advanced further, depending on future funding opportunities.

Correspondence

Council received an update on the Additional Officer Program from the Department of Justice.

Council received a letter inquiring about the future of the Old Firehall.

With respect to a letter of support request, Council made the following motion: Moved and seconded that Council approve a letter of support regarding public library funding, as requested by South Shore Public Libraries, and authorize the Mayor to sign the joint letter on behalf of the Town of Lunenburg.

Motion carried unanimously

With respect to a flag raising and proclamation request, Council made the following motion: Moved and seconded that Council proclaim May 25–31, 2025, as Access Awareness Week in the Town of Lunenburg and approve the raising of the Access Awareness Week flag at the UNESCO Monument flagpoles during that period, as requested by the Lunenburg County Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Motion carried unanimously

Adoption of
Immediate
Strategic Priorities

Moved and seconded that Council replace Objective #4 in the presented strategic priorities (focused on daycare) with a review of the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and Land Use By-law (LUB) as a priority item; and with that amendment, adopt the identified goals as Council's official priorities until a formal strategic plan is approved.

Motion carried unanimously

Draft Budgets

For the second time, Council reviewed the Draft 2025/26 Capital and Operating Budgets for Town, Water Utility, and Electric Utility.

Darin Lamont from CIMA+ presented an overview of the Town's proposed Electric Utility Capital Plan. The presentation included a multi-year capital plan outlining key investments over the next five years, including upgrades to existing feeders, planning for a new substation to enhance system capacity and reliability, and consideration of smart meter deployment.

Public Input on
Draft Budgets

Robert Young raised several clarifying questions regarding various budget items, insurance coverage, procurement processes, taxation, and other financial matters.

Teresa Quilty spoke regarding the Town's five-year capital plan, expressing support for the investment in critical infrastructure but

raising concerns about the absence of a clear funding strategy and prioritization of projects. She encouraged Council to enhance communication with residents to build understanding and support for the significant capital investments.

Duncan Kroll provided comments regarding the capital plan, expressing concern about the long-term affordability of the Town's infrastructure investments. He highlighted the importance of balancing necessary upgrades with fiscal responsibility.

Lunenburg
Academy Roof
Repairs

Moved and seconded that Council pre-approve the Lunenburg Academy Roof Repairs Project for the Town's 2025/26 Capital Budget for the amount of \$750,000 (including net HST) with funding of \$250,000 from Capital Debt, \$250,000 from the Lunenburg Academy Foundation and \$250,000 from Grants; and that this pre-approval would be conditional on the Town receiving the funding contributions from the external sources as presented in the May 2, 2025 staff report on this item.

Motion carried unanimously

Councillor Reports

With respect to a notice of motion provided by Councillor Strachan at the April 22, 2025 Council meeting, Council made the following motion: Moved and seconded that Council direct staff prepare a local rule governing the placement of election signs on public lands, specifically parklands, within the Town of Lunenburg.

Motion carried unanimously

Councillor Strachan reported on recent community activities, including recognition of local birthdays, appreciation to staff for recent infrastructure repairs, and acknowledgment of the Central United Church's completion of an energy retrofit project.

Councillor Dauphinee shared a personal reminder to the community about the importance of keeping dogs leashed in public areas.

Mayor Myra, Deputy Mayor Bailey and Councillor Fullerton reported on attending the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities (NSFM) Spring Conference in Truro, highlighting the value of the conference in providing education and networking opportunities with other municipalities.

Motion Action List

Moved and seconded that Council confirm the updated Motion Action List as presented.

Motion carried unanimously

Closed Session

Moved and seconded that Council move in closed session at 7:23 p.m. Council held a recess before officially starting closed session

discussions.

Revert to Open
Session &
Adjournment

Council reverted to open session at 8:17 p.m.. There being no further business, the May 13, 2025 Council meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes were read and approved.