

**TOWN OF LOCKEPORT
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Mayor Cory Nickerson, Deputy Mayor Dawn DeMings-Taylor, Councillor Dayle Eshelby, Councillor Kent Balish, Councillor Mary Meagher, Town Clerk/Treasurer June Harding, and Recording Secretary Jill Cassibo.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nickerson at 6:00 p.m.

2. Silence Electronic Devices

All electronic devices were silenced at this time.

3. Approval of Agenda

09-11-23-01

It was duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the additions as follows:

Under Other Business: Provincial Volunteer Awards 2023 and Play Park discussion.

Under Information Only: Letter to Honourable John Lohr, Minister Municipal Affairs & Housing, from Eleanor Roulston – Warden, Municipality of the District of East Hants.

Under “In Camera”: Personnel Motion Passed

3b. Open Mic

A member of the community came in to listen to the Council meeting and discuss the posting of Council meetings.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Council Meeting Minutes July 24, 2023

09-11-23-02

It was duly moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of July 24, 2023, be approved as circulated. Motion Passed

- Emergency Meeting Minutes August 4, 2023

09-11-23-03

It was duly moved and seconded that the minutes of the Emergency Meeting of August 04, 2023, be approved as circulated. Motion Passed

5. Finance

- List of invoices already paid in the amount of \$623,697.55

Council had questions regarding specifics of invoices included in the list of bills. They would like more information included.

- Lockeport and area Preschool donation

The Town of Lockeport received a letter from the Lockeport and Area Preschool asking for the rent of the Recreation Centre to be reduced or eliminated since they will only be running the preschool one week a month.

09-11-23-04

It was duly moved and seconded that the Town of Lockeport will waive the fee of the Recreation Centre for the Lockeport and Area Preschool providing the following condition is met: The Preschool will only have the use of the Preschool room and all the Preschool equipment must be removed from the Recreation Centre. Motion Passed

- Temporary Borrowing Resolution

Surge tank project at the treatment plant:

09-11-23-05

It was duly moved and seconded that

Resolution for Pre-Approval of Debenture Issuance Subject to Interest Rate

WHEREAS clause 66 (1) of the Municipal Government Act (the “Act”) provides that a municipality may borrow to carry out an authority to expend funds, for capital purposes conferred by the Act or another Act of the Legislature;

AND WHEREAS clause 91(1) (a) of the act provides that where a municipality is authorized to borrow money, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the “Minister”), that the sum shall be borrowed by the issue and sale of debentures, in one sum or by installments, as determined by the council;

AND WHEREAS clause (91)(b) of the *Municipal Government Act* authorizes the council to determine the amount and term of, and the rate of interest on each debenture, when the interest on a debenture is to be paid, and where the principal and interest on a debenture are to be paid.

AND WHEREAS clause (91)(2) of the *Municipal Government Act* states, that in accordance with the *Finance Act*, the Mayor or Warden and Clerk or the person designated by the Council, by policy, shall sell and deliver the debentures on behalf of the municipality at the price, in the sums and in the manner deemed proper;

AND WHEREAS the resolution of council to borrow for was approved by the municipal council on September 11, 2023

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT under the authority of Section 91 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Town of Lockeport

Borrow by the issue and sale of debenture a sum or sums not exceeding \$233,745, for a period not to exceed 15 years, subject to the approval of the Minister;

THAT the sum be borrowed by the issue and sale of debenture of the

Town of Lockeport

In the amount that the Mayor or Warden and Clerk or the designated by the Council deems proper, provided the average interest rate of the debenture does not exceed the of 6.5%;

THAT the debenture be arranged with the Province of Nova Scotia with interest to be paid semi-annually and principal payments made annually;

THAT this resolution remains in force for a period not exceeding twelve months from the passing of this resolution.

Motion Passed.

- Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Proposed renegotiated service exchange agreement.

The Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing is proposing to take over the housing deficit for the Municipal Units as well as the fee for Correctional services. Council is disappointed that none of the streets in the Town of Lockeport fall under the proposed guidelines for funding through the Province of Nova Scotia.

6. Other Business

- Municipal Planning Strategy Policy – amendment

09-11-23-06

It was duly moved and seconded that Council accept the amendments to the Municipal Planning Strategy Policy.

Motion Passed

- Roundtable on Immigration and Population Growth

This meeting is scheduled to take place at the same time as our next Council meeting so no members of Council will be able to attend.

- Make Your Move Lockeport – hiring for the position of Business Navigator

09-11-23-07

It was duly moved and seconded to hire Melanie Stuart as the Make Your Move Lockeport Business Navigator. Motion Passed

09-11-23-08

It was duly moved and seconded that the position of Make Your Move Lockeport Business Navigator will be 15 hours a week at a rate of \$18.00 per hour. Motion Passed

- Provincial Volunteer Awards 2023

Debbie Scott is the Provincial Volunteer for Lockeport and will be travelling to Halifax to accept this award. The Mayor has declined attending because there is a Council meeting that day, so Frances Scott, Community Coordinator will be attending with her.

- Play Park

It was brought to the attention of Council that upgrades are needed to be completed at the Play Park for insurance purposes or at least a plan of action needs to be created. The Community Coordinator had just sent an email with the information at day's end and will be forwarded to Council the following morning.

The Town Clerk/Treasurer has contacted Cory Williams regarding repairs that are needed in other areas.

There is a concern regarding the ramp leading to the basement at Huskilson's Funeral Home located at 37 Spruce Street in Lockeport. The basement opening and ramp fills with water and is a danger to children who may be playing in the area. Council instructed the Town Clerk/Treasurer to send a letter to the owner of the Funeral Home asking him to address the situation.

7. Council Reports

- Mayor Cory Nickerson
- Deputy-Mayor Dawn DeMings-Taylor
- Councillor Dayle Eshelby
- Councillor Kent Balish
- Councillor Mary Meagher
 - o Shelburne County Mental Health and Wellness Association

8. Information Only

- Extension on C&D permit application
- Letter to Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change from Warden Eddie Nickerson, Municipality of the District of Barrington.

The Town of Lockeport will also draft a letter to send to the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment & Climate Change, regarding Volunteer Emergency Service Providers being exempt from the new Carbon Tax.

- Letter from Ian Morrison – Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities

With this letter was an attachment “Considerations Before Accepting Positions on Outside Boards.” Council thought it was helpful and will be included in the current Council’s handbooks and in newly appointed Council members handbooks.

- Shelburne District Policing Model

Deputy Mayor DeMings-Taylor will ask Staff Sergeant Mark Macpherson at the next RCMP Advisory Board meeting in October if he is planning on attending one of our Council meetings in November.

9. Date of next meeting

- Monday, September 25, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

10. “In Camera”

09-11-23-09

It was duly moved and seconded that Council proceed “In Camera” to discuss a personnel concern. Motion Passed

Council proceeded in regular session.

At the Regular Council Meeting of Monday, September 11, 2023, Council of the Town of Lockeport reviewed the request from the Community Coordinator, to hire Rowan Goulden to fill the position of Inclusion Worker for 10 hours per week for 7 weeks, to utilize the 70 hours that were remaining in this program after Madelyne MacIntosh returned to university.

After consideration of this matter Council's decision is reflected in the following motion:

09-11-23-10

It was duly moved and seconded that after consideration of the MEMO from Frances Scott, Community Coordinator, regarding hiring Rowan Goulden to fill the position of Inclusion Worker for the remaining 70 hours of the program, it is the decision of Council to deny this request. Motion Passed

09-11-23-11

It was duly moved and seconded that the Town Clerk/Treasurer be instructed to address the second personnel issue as discussed by Council "In Camera." Motion Passed

11. Adjournment

09-11-23-12

There being no further business to discuss, it was duly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Time 8:25 p.m. Motion Passed

Cory Nickerson, Mayor

June Harding, Town Clerk/Treasurer