

Rural Municipality of St. Peter's Bay

March 21, 2024

Dr. Roddie Community Center

Call to Order:

Mayor Ron MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Attendees:

Mayor: Ron MacInnis

Councilors: Cathy MacKinnon, Brenda Curran, Philip Milligan (virtually), Jason Sheppard and Bill Milligan

Guests:

Debby MacKinnon

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Curran that the agenda be approved as presented. **YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (414-03-21)**

Adoption of Minutes:

The approval of February 22/24 minutes was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Curran. **YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (415-03-21)**

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No councilors declared any conflict in the agenda.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Councilor B. Curran mentioned that she and Debby MacKinnon will be meeting regarding the STEP Program next week. The STEP Program are looking for ways to keep tourists in the area of St. Peter's Bay and not just passing through. Councilor B. Curran mentioned that they will be attending workshops in the coming months to receive education and expertise regarding these strategies.

Financial Report:

A review of all accounts was given by the CAO. It was moved by Councilor B. Curran and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan to approve the financial report.

YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (416-03-21)

New Business

Mayor and Council reviewed the proposed 2024 budgets for each account; General, Complex, Fire Dept, Campground and Sewer.

The previous CAO, Debby MacKinnon spoke on behalf of the budget proposal as she completed these with the new CAO, Ernestine Bradley and helped to teach her how the community performs this task.

The 2024 General budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor B. Milligan and seconded by Councilor C. MacKinnon. **YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (417-03-21)**

The 2024 Complex budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor B. Curran and seconded by Councilor P. Milligan. **YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (418-03-21)**

The 2024 Fire budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor C. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan. **YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (419-03-21)**

The 2024 Campground budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor C. MacKinnon. **YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (420-03-21)**

The 2024 Sewer budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor B. Curran and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan. **YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (421-03-21)**

There was a brief discussion around the installation of a UV light for the sewer and the general consensus seems to be that it isn't needed at this time. This will be reviewed in greater detail at a future meeting and a decision will be made whether to move forward or pause this project with review at a later date. It is a very costly project and if it's not necessary there are other things that might better serve the community.

Our guest, Debby MacKinnon who was the previous CAO also continues to oversee the Community Cupboard and she puts a great deal of work into making sure it is always well stocked and ready for the people who access it. She explained that she receives donations for the cupboard on Tuesday(s) between the hours of 2 – 5 pm and that most donations are food donations and not usually monetary donations. A \$1000.00 donation was received last week from UPSE (PEI Union of Public Sector Employees) and the current balance of the Community Cupboard bank account is \$7, 929.64

Councilor C. MacKinnon mentioned it might be in the Community Cupboard's best interest to look into getting a charitable number so receipts can be issued and what not. She is going to look into this and report back to Council and Debby MacKinnon on what the process looks like. It has been operating well and Debby is happy to continue the way she has been and enlist a Community Cupboard Volunteer Committee to help her with receiving donations, stocking and shopping. This will be reviewed again at a later date when Councilor C. MacKinnon can provide information around a charitable number.

In the last edition of the Bay News there was an ad looking for volunteers to come forward to join the Rink Committee or see if anybody had an interest in the rink and what its future holds. Nobody has come forward with any interest.

The Council is not in a position to do anything with the rink but could do so as residents. If the Board dissolves there is a process on what to do but the constitution has yet to be located.

There was a brief discussion regarding several complaints about the internet service at the St. Peter's Bay campground but Mayor and Council stated a lot of money was spent last summer trying to get better service and with the upgrades that are taking place this year there won't be enough money to put into more internet repair. Perhaps when the repairs are completed it is something that can be looked into next year.

It was also mentioned that there is nobody in the office at the Campground between the hours of 4 am and 8 am and this is an inconvenience for campers when there are issues that arise and they are unable to get assistance. There should be a phone number on the door for campers to call between these hours where they can obtain assistance in a timely manner.

An anonymous request had come in to the community to see if the community could take over the grass cutting at the Roman Catholic and United churches. The CAO did check with her maintenance foreman who oversees the community's grass cutting as well as grass cutting at the campground and he specified that they do well to get their own grass cutting done and it can be quite challenging at the best of times. It would be a liability anyway and not in the best interest of the community for multiple reasons. The churches will have to be responsible for their lawncare, not the community.

There has been interest in the canteen rental available this summer, but nothing has been accepted yet. One of the potential renters interested wondered if they could run the canteen as the community's business and have themselves and other hired students under the community's payroll but this is not what the community wants. Council explained the reason for the low rental cost of \$1000.00 for four months which probably doesn't cover our expenses is because it is much easier and more efficient to have somebody else come in and run the business.

The CAO provided an update on the dedication event being held on April 7th in memory of Jim MacAulay. She was able to find curtains and a stand to cover the wall and reveal it the day of the ceremony from the Montague Curling Club. They are lending this to us and we will make a donation to them as a token of our appreciation. The CAO also accepted a quote from Ashley MacCormack with Council's approval for catering of the event at a cost of \$575.00 for sweets, cookies, tea, coffee, assorted sandwiches/wraps, veggie tray and dip. Council also approved a quote from the Eastern Graphic that the CAO presented for a publication to advertise the event costing \$193.20. The work on the wall will take place April 2nd and 3rd and the complex will be closed for bookings that week until after the event on April 7th.

The CAO shared with council that she had readjusted the campground upgrade figure(s) with approval from Chris Blaisdell who is the Rural and Regional Development contact person. RGI covers 75% of the overall cost which is \$82,500.00 and with project management fees of \$4000.00 it reduces the community's out of pocket cost to \$23,500.00. The CAO has been in contact with Curtis Lumsden to see if these upgrades can be a Gas Tax project but we will not know if they are approved as a Gas Tax project

until the fall. We will complete the work regardless and if Gas Tax funds are received the community will be paid back.

The community will receive a \$1500 grant for a Canada Day celebration in the community and the CAO has already lined up entertainment and will be taking care of food and other activities. She asked for the approval to rent an inflatable from PEI Inflatables to help make the event more appealing to the youth. Council agreed that the community can help pay for whatever portion of the inflatable the grant doesn't cover. She will also borrow some outdoor games and equipment from the Blueberry Festival Committee to offer more fun and games to the children who attend.

The CAO completed an application on behalf of the Volunteer Committee a few weeks ago and received approval of the grant on March 20th. The Seniors Community Meal Grant Pilot Program will issue \$5000.00 to the community to disperse to the Volunteer Committee to hold events. The committee asked if the community can grant them the funds in the interim while awaiting for the funds to arrive. Mayor and council agreed we can most definitely reimburse for these costs in the mean time and pay the community back once the money comes in. The committee are planning to host 3 events and will be in communication with the CAO throughout their planning process and they will provide receipts for reimbursement.

The Holy Name Hall requires a sheet of steel and Mayor and Council agree this can be fixed without having to go tender. Craig Campbell will take care of finding somebody to complete this small job.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Curran to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. **YES: 5 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (422-02-21)**

Mayor:  CAO: 