

Rural Municipality of St. Peter's Bay

April 18, 2024

Dr. Roddie Community Center

Call to Order:

Mayor Ron MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Attendees:

Mayor: Ron MacInnis

Councilors: Brenda Curran, Cathy MacKinnon, Bill Milligan, Jason Sheppard, Jerry MacKinnon and Philip Milligan

Guests:

Debby MacKinnon, Lori MacGregor, Craig Campbell & Dean Lewis

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Councilor B. Curran and seconded by Councilor J. Sheppard that the agenda be approved as presented. **YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (432-04-18)**

Adoption of Minutes:

The approval of March 27/24 minutes was moved by Councilor P. Milligan and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan. **YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (433-04-18)**

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No councilors declared any conflict in the agenda.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Councilor C. MacKinnon mentioned that it is a lengthy process to get a charitable number, it would take at least 6 months before hearing back on whether approved or not. There was a brief discussion between the mayor and council and it seems to be working fine the way it is and perhaps it is unnecessary to pursue this process at this time.

Financial Report:

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

YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (434-04-18)

New Business

Debby MacKinnon and Lori MacGregor joined the meeting on behalf of the STEP Program. They are on the STEP committee and are hoping to have mayor and council members present at the upcoming information session being held on April 24th at the St. Peter's Bay Complex. STEP's goal is to enhance the region of Morell and St. Peter's Bay with funding from ACOA and work on ways to expand our current assets in these areas. They shared that an example of a project that was developed and funded through the STEP program is

the new boardwalk in Souris and if the mayor and council can brainstorm and think of any projects that might enhance our area that their presence at the session and any ideas they may have would be greatly appreciated.

Craig Campbell and Dean Lewis joined the meeting on behalf of the St. Peter's Bay Fire Department to discuss with mayor and council the need to increase their fire dues to help meet the needs and requirements of the Fire Dept financially. There is nobody in the Fire District committee besides firefighters and they do not want a conflict of interest, so they are seeking the mayor and council's approval and unbiased input. The fire district has the right to put the dues up but not the fire department. A lot of districts have different ways of coming up with their rates. It seems that raising these dues based on assessment seems to be the simplest solution and a fair formula.

They are going to complete a 10-year capital budget plan and bring it back for review before requesting the increase. Mayor and council consent to the fire district completing their 10-year capital budget and contacting Taxation to increase the rate based on assessment or in whichever formula best meets their needs. The current rate is 0.08 and raising it to 0.10 seems reasonable as it hasn't been raised in five years.

Craig Campbell, maintenance supervisor addressed the issues regarding the Fire Department parking lot. The doorway in the parking lot is getting very bad, water comes right in the firehall. There is rot that needs addressing, and the mayor and council agree to having these repairs completed.

The CAO is to check with her Gas Tax contact to see if trench drains which might help remedy the issue would be covered by Gas Tax. If not covered by Gas Tax she will connect with her Rural & Regional Development contact. She will report back at the next council meeting.

Craig Campbell also addressed that the wear and tear he puts on his truck and trailers isn't being compensated for through mileage. He would like to see the community get a maintenance vehicle of their own, so he isn't putting so much wear and tear on his own vehicle and equipment. A conversation was had between the mayor and council and they agree that it would be fair to the maintenance supervisor to have a community vehicle as his trailers are additional to a vehicle and that hauling them does increase the wear and tear to his vehicle. It was mentioned that perhaps a maintenance vehicle could be gotten through the utility as a Gas Tax project. The CAO is to find out if this is something that could be covered by Gas Tax.

If a maintenance vehicle were purchased it would be a crew cab so it could serve the Fire Dept as well and it would have to stay in the community office parking lot.

The CAO addressed the issue of the campground internet not meeting the needs of campers. She was unable to generate a quote through Starlink's online site as she doesn't know what the campground requires. She did contact Eastlink who the Campground is in a 3-year contract with which only began last year and the penalty to leave that contract would be \$9,646.80

She mentioned that without any previous knowledge or understanding of the campground internet it is difficult for her to do this and she did ask the campground manager for help but she did reiterate that we are in a contract and helped find out what the penalties would be with Eastlink. In the meantime, she is getting a quote from Eastlink on adding more modems to the existing contract. Due to time constraints, it was decided that when this quote is received the mayor, campground manager and CAO will make the decision regarding proceeding with the work or not. It was moved by Councilor P. Milligan and seconded by Councilor C. MacKinnon to approve this decision. This upgrade could potentially be added to the current RGI application for campground upgrades.

YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (435-04-18)

The CAO also addressed the community office hours which since she's began have been 7:30 am to 2 pm. The CAO has made numerous efforts to diffuse the multiple drop ins, community cupboard donation drop offs and interruptions but as she's made some progress she still has a lot of unnecessary interruption throughout the work week which has been leading to working beyond the 30 hour work week which was agreed to during hiring and signing her contract. The community office is to be open to the public 20 hours a week according to the MGA and the CAO has proposed to have the office closed to the public on Fridays to allow her to have a day minus interruptions to complete her work. The mayor and council agree that this is a fair and reasonable request. The CAO will get signage for the front door to specify hours. These office hours will be in effect as of May 2024 and she will add a note regarding this to the May Bay News.

The CAO shared with the mayor and council that she has made an agreement with Patti MacDonald who has submitted a business proposal regarding the canteen. The CAO will prepare a contract for Mrs. MacDonald to sign, and she will collect \$1000.00 rent for the season.

Councilor C. Mackinnon gave an update on the St. Peter's Rink and shared that she had found the constitution which she'd been looking for. In 2002, a clause was added that David Alec MacKinnon and Mary Burge had authorized stating that if the board of directors disband that all the assets are to be sold and donated to a charitable organization. The community is a nonprofit but not a charitable organization though the fire department is a charitable organization.

There are a lot of complaints from the public regarding what an eyesore the rink has become as the steel has become rusted and it is missing pieces. Jason Palmer stated that it is structurally sound and that it does hold potential but more volunteers are needed and help from the community. No volunteers have come forward but a public meeting is very much necessary. If the rink is going to stay in the community something must be done to make it more aesthetically pleasing and the option of painting it could be beneficial as it guarantees 10 to 12 more years out of the steel and the painter offers a 5-year warranty. The CAO will discuss with Chris Blaisdell what grants may be available and look into the Community Enhancement Grant to see if the rink maintenance would qualify.

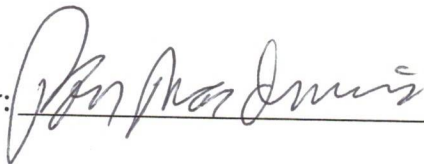
The CAO has reached out to Shiny Paint to get a design for the Dr. Roddie Centre sign. She is awaiting to hear back from Starla and once received she will share with Mayor and council at the next meeting.

Lastly, on the agenda there was a discussion around the installation of a UV light for the lagoon. The mayor and council don't feel that this is an appropriate expenditure for our lagoon as it is operating very well. The Climate Change Centre did a study on the municipality and they emphasized how well our lagoon was functioning and they also didn't see the need for a UV light. We will be putting this project on pause as we have other more pressing expenses as well as the fact that the ongoing maintenance is quite costly and more than we can afford. The decision to cancel the installation of the UV light was moved by Councilor C. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Curran. **YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (436-04-18)**

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor J. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor J. Sheppard to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. **YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (437-04-18)**

Mayor:



CAO:

