

## **Rural Municipality of St. Peter's Bay**

May 16, 2024

Dr. Roddie Community Center

### **Call to Order:**

Mayor Ron MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:28 pm.

### **Attendees:**

Mayor: Ron MacInnis

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

### **Guests:**

Neil Weber

### **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 (438-05-16)**

### **Adoption of Minutes:**

The approval of April 18/24 minutes was moved by Councilor P. Milligan and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan. **YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (439-05-16)**

### **Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:**

No councilors declared any conflict in the agenda.

### **Business Arising from Minutes:**

None to report.

### **Financial Report:**

A review of all accounts was given by the CAO. It was noted that the baseball account seemed substantially different from last month's report and the CAO has provided bank statements to mayor and council to show that it was a typing error. It was moved by Councilor J. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Curran to approve the financial report based on the CAO sharing the corrected information. **YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (440-05-16)**

### **New Business**

The first item on the agenda to review was that the Department of Finance received a request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the disclosure of the following records for the municipality and fire district of St. Peter's Bay for the period of January 1, 2023 to April 5, 2024 as well as requesting the amount of funding provided to the municipality by the Government of PEI under the Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes

Program, including the amount for each type of eligible infrastructure and the total grant received by the municipality for the period of January 1, 2023 to April 9, 2024:

- Total taxable commercial assessment
- Total taxable noncommercial assessment
- Total taxable farm assessment
- Total market value assessment
- Total taxable assessment
- Total residential assessment (included in non-commercial)
- Total non-taxable assessment

The mayor and council felt no need to withhold this information and instructed the CAO to respond accordingly to James Hatton, Access and Privacy Services Office, FOI Analyst.

Next on the agenda there was a discussion around the UV Light installation for the lagoon. Previously, the mayor and council felt it was in the best interest of the community to pause this project but action on this project is needed and cancelling it is not feasible as there has already been a large sum of money spent on design and consultation fees. The cost of ongoing maintenance is quite high, and the mayor and council worry about being able to afford these ongoing expenses. The goal is to revise the project and try to find a way to make it more affordable for the community.

The CAO shared with the mayor and council that recently when she had the accountant out from MRSB to make the switch from Sage to QuickBooks that it was discovered that paying bills online or setting up automatic payment was going to be very challenging due to so many different banking accounts. Paying bills online was not possible due to the way the account was set up and having to set up different company login accounts for all of the different bills was going to be even more cumbersome than writing cheques and obtaining a second signature.

The accountant recommended trying to amalgamate some of the bank accounts so there are fewer banking fees and confusion. After consulting with the mayor and council it doesn't appear there is still a legitimate reason to have each account separate as long as the chart of accounts in QuickBooks is capturing each community entity's revenue and expenses accurately. The CAO has asked that only the current bills be signed off on to pay online and if we have new bills she will seek permission to add payees.

The documents will be drafted to make this change to the accounts at the bank and will need to be authorized by those with signing authority besides the CAO.

It was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Curran to approve the change to the bank account bill payment method and amalgamate the current accounts. **YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (441-05-16)**

The CAO shared a quote that the campground manager was hoping to have approved with regard to activities for this camping season. The mayor and council felt their approval wasn't needed as the quote didn't exceed \$700.00 and suggested the campground manager reach out the campers to see if they have interest in these NERF Wars (ages 6+),

Gel Blaster Wars(8+) and Archery Tag (10+) and if she receives a positive response then she can proceed with booking and paying for these activities.

The CAO also shared that the maintenance supervisor suggested a self-propelled push mower for the ditch grass cutting at the park as it is quite challenging. The mayor and council agreed that this purchase would be acceptable.

The CAO updated the mayor and council on the RGI application for campground upgrades and Emergency Reception Centre costs. The two projects have been merged into one application and the total funding from the province is \$161, 337. 00 and the cost to the community is \$47, 951.00

The Rural and Regional Development Contact had submitted the application but said he could make an amendment in support of internet upgrades at the campground in the amount of \$15, 000.00

The CAO will provide those updated details when she receives them. She will check to see if the amount owed on the heat pumps for the Emergency Reception Centre cost can be covered by Gas Tax as it is an energy upgrade. She will report back to the council with this information.

The Complex Energy Upgrades will be completed once funding is received. The upgrades will consist of: adding washer/dryer, a wheelchair accessible bathroom and shower, heat pumps, generator, electrical upgrades and fire equipment. The CAO completed the certification process earlier in the week with David Rossiter (FMO) and Bryce Doucette (Public Safety Officer, Emergency Measures Organization). Both centers are certified reception centers now and will be registered with municipal affairs.

Councilor P. Milligan addressed the mayor and council regarding the marina project. He has been in conversation with the Honorable Lawrence MacAulay who has confirmed that he wants to see this project completed. The CAO will have MRSB revise the Marina Business Plan Proposal as it was last completed in May 2023 and resubmit it. MRSB stated that provided the engineer remains available, it is likely that price will be very comparable – and may well remain similar even with a new engineer.

If there is a way to tie the marina in with the STEP program, there may be funding available.

Councilor P. Milligan mentioned that there was supposed to be a meeting with the Housing Committee earlier in the week, but it had been cancelled. The meeting will be rescheduled to a later date. There is an interest in seniors housing in the community as there is land that can be developed. This would help seniors stay within the community and have new families move into the homes they sell which would increase the community's population. It would be nice to see an entrepreneur within the village who may have interest in such a venture and perhaps having a public meeting with regard to housing opportunities would be beneficial.

Next on the agenda was a request from Brittany MacDonald on behalf of UpDog & Isle Fly Disc Dogs to use one of the soccer fields at the Jim MacAulay Complex during the summer

months of 2024-2025 for the purpose of recreational disc dog competitions. The mayor and council agree that this shouldn't be a problem if it doesn't interfere with the lease agreement at the Jim MacAulay complex should a daycare end up there. It would be better for them to install a port-a-potty on the grounds during these events rather than accessing the complex washroom amenities but other than that the mayor and council see no issue with this request and will allow the use of the soccer field.

The CAO shared the Dr. Roddie sign design from Shiny Paint with the mayor and council as well as a quote. They like the design, and the CAO will contact Starla from Shiny Paint to have the work completed at her next availability.

The CAO shared that she checked into different funding options regarding a maintenance truck, but vehicles are not funded by the province or through Gas Tax. After much conversation it does seem that providing a maintenance truck is a reasonable request to consider and that if we could get 0 percent financing over the course of 5 years that payments can be made by pulling money from each account as the truck would serve the community, complex, fire dept, sewer and campground. Councilor J. Sheppard will get quotes and report back to council.

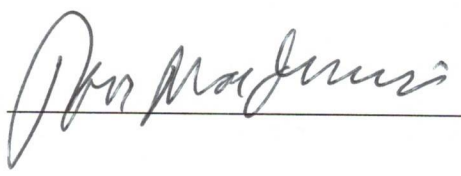
The CAO shared that this year's funding for the Canada Day Celebration has been awarded in the amount of \$840.00 which is less than anticipated and she has asked for the Events Committee to please help in planning this event with her on a limited budget. She has booked entertainment as well as a PEI Inflatable and she will update the committee on those costs and let them know what remains in the budget.

Not on the agenda but noted in the minutes was a discussion had regarding the campground credit card fees which have been eaten by the community in the past and this year has been added as a fee for seasonal campers to pay as it is over \$50.00 per seasonal site at a rate of 2.65% interest. There are varying feelings around this, and some councilors believe it's the cost of business to absorb these fees while others feel it shouldn't be the community's responsibility to be the incentive to pay with a credit card. The CAO will discuss with the campground manager and report back to the mayor and council regarding credit card fees being paid not only by seasonal campers but all campers and seek their opinion before making any further changes with regard to these fees.

Missed on the final agenda was the addition of a rink update and Councilor C. MacKinnon feels strongly that a meeting needs to be called as there hasn't been in 2 years. There is a Legacy Fund available to recreational facilities in the province and the rink committee should be tapping into any grants available to turn it into some sort of a functional and more useable space again. If the existing people on the board don't want to handle these tasks, they should give the authority to someone else to take over. Councilor C. MacKinnon will draft a letter to send to the remaining board members regarding this issue for the Mayor and Council to review. Upon review and approval, the letter will be sent from the Mayor and Council to the Rink Committee.

**Adjournment**

It was moved by Councilor J. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor P. Milligan to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm. **YES: 6 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (442-05-16)**

Mayor: 

CAO: 