

Rural Municipality of St. Peter's Bay

February 24, 2025

Dr. Roddie Community Center

Call to Order:

Mayor Ron MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Attendees:

Mayor: Ron MacInnis

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

Guest:

Dean Lewis, Josh O'Hanley, Neil Weber and Craig Campbell - St. Peter's Bay Fire Dept
Parth Partel - St. Peter's General Store

Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Councilor B. Curran and seconded by Councilor J. Sheppard that the agenda be approved as presented. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (496-02-24)**

Adoption of Minutes:

The approval of January 21/25 minutes was moved by Councilor C. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (497-02-24)**

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No councilors declared any conflict in the agenda.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Mayor R. MacInnis mentioned that the Refrigeration Specialists will be coming this week on Thursday and Friday to install the new heat pumps as we accepted their quote.

He also shared that after our last council meeting that he, Councilor C. MacKinnon, Councilor B. Curran and the CAO met with Bonnie MacAulay who had looked for council's support and 20% of the funding required to begin a Genealogy project at the St. Peter's Cap site. After gaining more information on the project details, approval was granted regarding Bonnie's request.

The members of council also asked the CAO what resulted from her contact with MRSB to share the concerns of council as well as her own with regard to the lack of training and help reconciling all of the accounts as well as the poor recommendation to have us change our Sewer Sage bookkeeping program to one which doesn't calculate interest.

The CAO shared an update with the council that she's been working with an accountant from MRSB one day a week to catch up and learn how to reconcile the accounts. It is a lot of work and not an easy task as there are so many accounts and reconciling is not completed all the way back to May 2024.

The CAO intends to contact MRSB managerial staff again as she moves forward with the new plan as due to a lack of good advisement and proper training the workload to get reconciled now is quite difficult and much more time-consuming than it should be. Therefore, it seems only fair that MRSB handle some of the costs associated with these extra expenses to have help moving forward.

The members of council also inquired about the Campground Canteen rental opportunity that is available again this coming season and the CAO shared that she has had somebody show interest and stop by to visit. They will prepare a business proposal, and the CAO will share it with the council when it is received.

Financial Report:

A review of all accounts was provided by the CAO and shared with the mayor and council. It was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Curran to approve the financial report. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (498-02-24)**

New Business

The St. Peter's Bay Fire Department joined the meeting to share their 10-year capital plan and to discuss the fire dues rate increase that they feel is necessary to move forward. They shared that the costs required to run the fire department safely and successfully have gone up and despite their huge fundraising efforts as well as donations they are stretched to the limit all the time. Therefore, their proposal to increase the fire dues across the board by \$15.00 per household and other categories adjusted accordingly was fully supported by the mayor and council. It was moved by Councilor C. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Curran to approve the fire dues rate increase. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (499-02-24)**

Parth Patel from the St. Peter's Bay General Store joined the meeting to share his request to use land between the Dr. Roddie Center and General Store belonging to the municipality as a designated space to facilitate better traffic flow. The mayor and council reiterated that they do not want the lane for the Dr. Roddie Center being used to access or exit the General Store as it would cause congestion for the Fire Department and potentially interfere with efficient response time as well as the fact that it would become too busy, and it is not necessary. The mayor and council suggested again that the General Store go to Highways and if we must give a few feet at the end of our gate we can agree to that but not agree to the request to use our land as an entry/exit for their business.

The mayor and council reviewed a proposal submitted by St. Peter's Meals and Events volunteer, Joelyne Taylor to run a Day Camp at the St. Peter's Campground this summer. The proposal outlined funding that can be applied for, the schedule and intended activities/meals and cost per child, how many positions would need to be filled and what funding is available for said positions as well as an estimated profit at the end of the program. The need for childcare is obvious across the Island and this would be a great

asset to the Community as well as to help the Campground to meet that need as well as to enhance what the Campground can offer. The mayor and council agree to support this project, and the CAO will work with Joelyne Taylor to move forward by applying for funding, retaining staff and planning.

The CAO addressed the SEAM project and asked the council for feedback regarding the potential to run it this summer as it hadn't been operated in the summer of 2024. It was agreed by all that there doesn't seem to be as much of a need in our community as well as we don't have the bodies to help oversee this project the way we once had. If we are able to offer a Day Camp at the Campground and oversee the administration of that program that will be the plan for this summer minus the SEAM project.

The mayor and council reviewed the email received from the federation regarding the MGA Review. Some council members felt strongly that we should be a voice in these meetings regarding the review and the CAO will update the mayor and council on the next public meeting date as it would be ideal to have some members of council represent St. Peter's Bay.

The CAO shared the completed CCBF application to close in the shelter ceiling at the Campground with the mayor and council and received signature from members of council on the project resolution that is required with the application. She will submit the project for review.

It was discussed that expanding the sewer would be ideal for the municipality but that the cost is too great and would take up too much of the Gas Tax funding available for other projects that don't bear such significant cost(s) but can be of great value to the municipality as well.

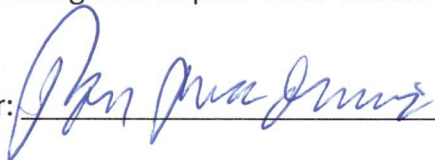
The mayor and council briefly discussed policy and job description for full-time staff. It is the goal to review job descriptions with year-round staff and ensure that things are operating as intended and that employees understand their roles and responsibilities as well as to give them a chance to offer feedback. The mayor and CAO will work on this and update the council to create a plan in moving forward.

The CAO shared that she spoke with Councilor P. Milligan, the lead on the Marina Project earlier in the morning and that he had been in contact with Honorable Lawrence MacAulay regarding the Marina Project and that he did receive confirmation not to move ahead with this project at this time.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor B. Milligan and seconded by Councilor J. Sheppard to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 pm. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (500-02-24)**

Mayor:



CAO:

