

Rural Municipality of St. Peter's Bay

March 19, 2025

Dr. Roddie Community Center

Call to Order:

Mayor Ron MacInnis called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm

Attendees:

Mayor: Ron MacInnis

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

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 (501-03-19)**

Adoption of Minutes:

The approval of February 24/25 minutes was moved by Councilor C. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (502-03-19)**

Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

No councilors declared any conflict in the agenda.

Business Arising from Minutes:

The mayor and council asked if there had been any progress with MRSB and getting the balancing and reconciling up to date. The CAO shared that she continues to work with an accountant on a weekly basis and they are making progress but there is still a lot more work to do. Due to the fact that appropriate training wasn't completed as guaranteed the balancing and reconciling is much more time-consuming working back as far as April 2024 for multiple bank accounts. MRSB have waived some of the costs after the CAO reached out to express her concerns and they helped prepare the budget because she was unable to with unreconciled accounts and limited experience.

The CAO shared that there has been a lot of interest via email in the past week regarding the canteen. She is hoping to have business proposals for review at the next meeting for council to decide upon which is the best fit for our Campground.

The CAO said that All-Tech were out on Friday past to perform the air quality test and she will share the results for the mold test as soon as 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. Milligan to approve the financial report. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (503-03-19)**

New Business

Mayor and Council reviewed the proposed 2025 budgets for each account: General, Complex, Fire Dept, Campground and Sewer.

The CAO explained that the budget proposal took into account a potential sewer rate increase of around 15% and a 10-cent/per hundred-dollar(s) increase for municipal taxes to help cover the costs of the maintenance vehicle that had to be purchased in order to carry out the maintenance duties. It was also decided to remove the Fire Department rent of the Dr. Roddie building from the budget(s) moving forward as the building is paid off.

The 2025 General budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor B. Curran and seconded by Councilor J. Sheppard. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (504-03-19)**

The 2025 Complex budget proposal with adjustments instructed by mayor and council was approved and moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (505-03-19)**

The 2025 Fire budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor C. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (506-03-19)**

The 2025 Sewer budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Curran. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (507-03-19)**

The 2025 Campground budget proposal approval was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (508-03-19)**

Next on the agenda was an update from Councilor B. Curran regarding the STEP Project which is geared toward improving tourism and getting people to stop by our community and stay awhile versus driving through. The proposal from the STEP Project consultant, Richard Innes, was to build a stage in the Day Park near the gazebo where an actor of sorts would narrate and/or tell stories related to the history in our area.

The mayor and council didn't really see this as a suitable project for the specified location and aren't interested in trying to fund this project moving forward as similar things have been attempted in the past and it didn't draw in enough tourists or visitors to keep it going. The other potential option would be to create this stage at the Visitor Information Center as it is in a more suitable location and one where people pass by, can access easily, have parking and is sheltered. There will be another meeting in April and Councilor B. Curran will provide the mayor and council with an update when she has one.

The mayor shared several quotes for lawn mowers with the council as one of ours is beyond repair. It was mutually agreed by all that a 2022 60" Cub Cadet ZT4 Commercial Mower with a 4-year warranty or 500 hours would be the best purchase. It was moved by Councilor B. Milligan and seconded by Councilor B. Curran to proceed with the purchase of a new mower. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (509-03-19)**

The CAO shared the Taxation and Property Records Municipal Tax Rate Certificate assessment document with the mayor and council showing the increase of the tax rate by 10-cents/per hundred dollar(s). The increase will provide the municipality with an additional \$19 001.54 which is necessary to pay for the maintenance vehicle and maintenance position wages which are new to the community but necessary to keep things operating smoothly throughout the village at its various properties.

It was moved by Councilor C. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Curran to raise the municipal tax rate by 10-cents/per hundred dollar(s).

YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (510-03-19)

The CAO shared a request that had come in from the Development Corporation to use land at the Jim MacAulay Complex for a community garden. The mayor and council agreed to allow the use of land at the Complex but aren't sure they can provide a source of water. Councilor B. Milligan will look into this at the Complex and report back to council on whether an outside tap can be added inexpensively.

The CAO shared that in the General bank account there are multiple accounts that are no longer necessary. The SEAM Project/Project Shares Account-002 is no longer necessary, the Volunteer Committee Account-003 which was initially the Community Cupboard Account is no longer necessary, and the Fiona Insurance Account-013 is no longer necessary as the CAO is about to release the remainder of that money for courthouse theater roof repair.

Closing these 3 accounts (002, 003 & 013) within the General Bank (06517010) account was moved by Councilor C. MacKinnon and seconded by Councilor B. Curran.

YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (511-03-19)

The mayor and council reviewed a request from the MRHS Class of 2025 looking for donations to help cover expenses for this year's prom and graduation gifts. It was agreed by the mayor and council to donate a 2-night stay at the St. Peter's Bay Campground for their online auction.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor J. Sheppard and seconded by Councilor B. Milligan to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 pm. **YES: 4 NAY: 0 Motion Carried (512-03-19)**

Mayor:  CAO: _____