

APPROVED MINUTES

Public Meeting – Rural Municipality of North Shore

6:00 pm Wednesday Mar 9, 2022

@ North Shore Community Centre

PRESENT:

Mayor Gerard Watts, Deputy Mayor Nancy MacKinnon, Councilors - Krista Shaw, Peter Vriends, Derek Cook, Wanson Hemphill, Bob Doyle and CAO Stephanie Moase.

4 members of the public.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 pm by Mayor Gerard Watts

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

It was duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by Councilor Peter Vriends, seconded by Councilor Bob Doyle

6-0

MOTION CARRIED

2.1. **DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY (Financial) or other CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

There were none.

3. **NEW BUSINESS (REQUESTS FOR DECISION)**

3.1 Review of Draft 2023 Operational and Capital Budgets

Chair of Finance Committee Peter Vriends presented the Draft 2023 Operational and Capital Budgets.

Operational Budget Review

Revenue - Fire dues and property tax are based on \$0.10 Municipal tax and \$0.08 for Fire Dues except for Pleasant Grove \$0.08 Municipal Tax and \$0.08 for Fire Dues. Pleasant Grove has increased \$0.02 each year since amalgamation in 2018, next year they will be on par with North Shore and Grand Tracadie.

Planning and Development 1.1 cent per \$100 of assessment, Pleasant Grove and Grand Tracadie are not included in this amount until the Official Plan is signed by the Minister. CAO will double check when this becomes effective.

A Councilor questioned the miscellaneous income amount, CAO will look and see what this consisted of.

Resident question regarding the tax roll assessment amounts- the budget amount is based on the assessment tax roll as of December, 2021, as this is what Tax and Land has told us they based the monthly payments on. Any discrepancy is paid by lump sum payment in March 2023.

Resident question regarding Grand Tracadie rentals amount- this amount is for the private child care renting the facility.

Expenses - Election reserve fund of \$ 2,500.00 being used for the upcoming election in November, Elections PEI does not reimburse for election expenses.

A Councilor asked about the increase in the Planning Consultant line - the Development Officer remuneration is currently considered a consultant fee and not paid out of wages based on the shared agreement bylaw approved by Council with Miltonvale Park and Kingston.

Question regarding phone and internet - this is the actual amount that is paid, no government assistance.

A Councilor asked about funds approved for FCBB for Cass's Pond Restoration , these funds are currently in a Reserve Fund.

Resident questions:

- Regarding the staff wages and the hiring of a Development Officer, will the Development Officer will be paid out of wages? - At this time the Development Officer will be paid out of wages, there may be another shared agreement in the future which may change that.

- Legal expense have increased? - Legal expenses are expected to increase with a few outstanding items to be coming about in the new budget. An RFP was sent out in September with Key Murray Law having the winning tender for services for the next 5 years

- If there are legal issues amounting to more than the budgeted \$ 25,000.00, can funds be taken from the Capital Reserve funds? – This would be up to council to decide where the amount would come from.

- Public meetings budget amount - there were a number of public meetings last year, where are the expenses for these meetings? – This is a new line added this year, last year the expenses were split between advertising and newsletter, printing and postage. Public meeting line has been added this year, to try to better capture these costs.

- Under Planning and Development - Consultant fees are \$55,000.00 what is this for? - \$40,000.00 is budgeted for the Stanhope Peninsula Water Analysis and Conceptual Design and \$15,000.00 for the Recreation and Greenspace Master Plan.

-What is the Bylaw Officer amount? – based on April to Nov contract for 4 hrs week

- Grand Tracadie Facility - \$19,000.00 in operating expenses and \$14,000.00 in rental income, has there ever been a facilities review for Stanhope and Grand Tracadie? No formal review has been done, the Municipality did recognize the need for a daycare in the area. \$42,000.00 came from Grand Tracadie in the amalgamation. With the increase in population the Community needs to expand these facilities.

- Promenade maintenance - Why is there so little used of the budget? Lighting has been an issue but Municipal Office had not been made aware there are more lights out. Many Promenade expenses in the past year were paid out of the Capital budget. Safety on the promenade will be looked at.

Capital Budget Review

Projects with CIP numbers are approved to be paid out of Gas Tax, some other projects can be forwarded to Gas Tax and some are awaiting approval for other funding.

Sports field upgrade is for fencing around our new ballfield, dugouts, team benches, bike rack, picnic tables and garbage cans.

Will be adding a new parking lot to increase parking for the fields at Grand tracadie.

Medical lift vs Addition - PEI Construction Assoc. quote \$200 per square foot in 2019, could be twice that much now, an 18x20 addition on the NSCC, could be \$72,000.00. Medical lift approx \$45,000-\$50,000 (\$30-35,000 for the lift and \$15-\$20,000 for the shaft), were approved for \$25,000 of through New Horizons Accessibility Program.

Washroom upgrades at NSCC - bring up to date and accessibility, upgrade toilets and urinals, hand dryer and automatic faucets.

NSCC roof repair - the valleys in the roof have to be corrected to stop snow and rain collecting in these and causing issues.

Flag poles at NSCC - two existing poles are not working properly and a request to add a third pole.

GT rink length increase - 4 new panels to increase the size of the outdoor rink by 16 feet.

Generator for GT - EMO would like to be able to have two warming spaces available. \$ 13,000 of the funding in place. Other Applications are pending through the Climate Challenge Fund, if this funding falls through the project will probably not go ahead this year.

Master Greenspace and Recreation Plan - \$7,500 applied through the provincial capacity building fund Stanhope Peninsula Water Study - \$40,000 to be transferred from capital reserve fund.

Snowblower for GT Rink - volunteers request

NS Trail Creation - all new plaques and benches along the Promenade

Website upgrade - site needs to be more user friendly.

Resident Questions:

Website Upgrade -Has there been a VPN security analysis done? Not that the CAO is aware of.

4. ADJOURNMENT @ 6:48 pm

SIGNED: Gerard Watts, Mayor

DATE:

SIGNED: Stephanie Moase, CAO

DATE: