



SOURIS TOWN COUNCIL AND
SOURIS SEWER AND WATER UTILITY CORPORATION

MINUTES

Regular Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Town Hall ~ Council Chambers ~ 3rd Floor
75 Main Street, Souris, PEI

**MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 3RD FLOOR
PUBLIC IS WELCOME – 3RD FLOOR IS ACCESSIBLE BY ELEVATOR**

A. Call the regular monthly meeting of Council to Order 7: OOPM

Mayor Dunphy called the meeting to order with a quorum. All Council were present. Members of Souris Show Hall Foundation and SeaRoots Alliance were also in attendance. Along with RCMP representative and Kyle from the Graphic. MLA Robin Croucher. Also, some members of the public.

B. Agenda

2.1 Approval of Agenda

MOTION by C. Leard and seconded by C. MacPhee to approve the Agenda as prepared and circulated prior to the meeting. All in favour. Motion carried.

2.2 Additions to Agenda

No additions noted.

C. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Part VI, Section 23 of the Municipalities Act, which maintains that no member of Council shall derive any profit or financial advantage from his/her position as a member of Council and, where a member of Council has any pecuniary interest in or is affected by any matter before the Council, shall declare his/her interest therein and abstain from voting and discussion thereon.

No conflict declared.

D. Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2024, Council Meeting

MOTION by C. Mitsuk and seconded by C. Jenkins to approve the minutes of December 9, 2024 Council Meeting as prepared by CAO and circulated to Council prior to this meeting. All in favour. Motion carried.

Presentations:

E. Monthly RCMP Report – December 2024

M. Robinson of the RCMP presented the monthly report for December. Copies were made available to Council.

MOTION by C. Laybolt and seconded by C. MacPhee to approve the RCMP monthly report as presented. All in favour. Motion carried.

F. Presentation from Souris Show Hall Foundation

A handout was provided to Council. CAO will file with January meeting attachments.

Judy Burke and Grace Cameron presented on behalf of the Souris Show Hall. The Show Hall is seeking \$10,000 a year and a commitment to continued funding so long as the Souris Show Hall meets its commitments to the Community.

MOTION by C. Mitsuk and seconded by C. Laybolt to defer this request for consideration as part of the 2025-26 budget planning process. All in favour. Motion carried.

G. Presentation/Request from SeaRoots Alliance to support Comprehensive Feasibility Study

A very informative presentation was made by Ashley Sherbanuk with SeaRoots Alliance. Other members of their group were also in attendance. (Keisha, Their presentation to Council was to encourage the Town Council to provide \$15,000 that would be used towards a Comprehensive Feasibility Study and Business Plan for a new Wellness Centre for the Community. Their presentation highlighted several areas including how such a facility would alignment with Town Priorities, including our newest Official Plan, Economic Benefits, Regional Collaboration and Shared Benefits, External Funding and Support, Social Benefits, as well as Infrastructure Benefits. The study proposed would also include looking for options of what could be done with the existing Eastern Kings Sportsplex (which if the Town was to undertake on their own could cost \$10,000 - \$15,000 alone).

They also made a change to their RFP to include the location for a new facility after realizing that a good portion of the initially proposed plan location is considered a “no development” zone due to it being within the Town’s Wellfield Protection 250 day zone. Considerations for this will be included and alternative locations, potential zoning changes, will be identified within the study.

Questions and Discussion:

C. Mitsuk asked if looking for alternative locations will they only be considering locations within the Town? Or outside the Town? SeaRoots responded that they would only look outside the Town if left with no options within. For many reasons it would be beneficial for it to be built within the Town.

C. Mitsuk also asked if needed are they willing to purchase land? SeaRoots responded, yes, if needed to make it work.

C. Leard asked about the breakdown of \$15,000 from the Town and \$1,000 from 3 surrounding communities. He feels it is unfair and he uncomfortable putting it all on the taxpayers of Souris. Some, but not all businesses, would benefit from this type of development. SeaRoots responded that they feel the Town of Souris has the most to gain and that by them including the options for the existing rink, which alone could cost several thousand dollars, they do not feel the breakdown is unfair. They expressed that they want to work collaboratively with everyone to make this happen and will work towards a smooth transition throughout.

C. Mitsuk also talked about the breakdown. If we go by population of the 4 incorporated areas, it will work out to about \$7.60 per person, which is not how it is broken down. However, now feels more comfortable with the reasoning, and if asked, could explain it.

C. Leard still has hesitations and worries the Town will end up having to take over, like in the past, but supports the feasibility study.

C. Laybolt has concerns over the two groups (SeaRoots and EK Sportsplex) both fundraising at the same time. SeaRoots explained how they will collaborate and not compete as they also understand it is important to keep the existing Sportsplex running until a new Wellness Centre is completed.

MOTION by C. MacPhee and seconded by C. Mitsuk to approve the request of \$15,000 from SeaRoots Alliance to be used towards a Comprehensive Feasibility Study and Business Plan for a new Wellness Centre for our Community. Council feels this study will provide answers to a lot of questions and give everyone a good understanding of what is required moving forward.

CAO will determine the correct terminology for the resolution required for our support of the Feasibility Study based on what is required by funders. SeaRoots representative Ashley Sherbanuk will confirm.

Vote was taken, 5 in favour, 1 not in favour. Motion carried.

Business arising from previous meetings:

H. Website update.

Work on Website is still ongoing. New content has been prepared by Councillors Mitsuk and Outhouse.

I. RGI Application for Funding – Eastern Kings Sportsplex

Quotes received for compressors are being summarized by CBCL for budgeting purposes. The application is ready to be submitted once the budget is determined.

J. Updating or creating a new operating agreement/policy between the Town of Souris and the Eastern Kings Sportsplex Board of Directors.

CAO has been in contact with a consultant from MRSB that could potentially help us in the preparation of this document. They will be supplying us with a proposal including scope of work, cost, etc. within the next week.

Financial Information

K. General Account Budget Update – December 2024

For information only.

Council plans to host a **Budget Planning Public Open House February 4, 2025**. A casual, informal gathering where residents and local business owners can share their ideas and concerns. Mayor will reach out the Eastern Chamber to see if they can share with members. We can serve finger foods. Could be held at the Acorn Room. Topsy Farmer to supply food. CAO will make necessary arrangements.

L. Water & Sewer Utility Account Budget update – December 2024

For information only.

M. Town of Souris – General Account Payables \$1,893.30 be approved – as of January 9, 2025.

MOTION by C. Outhouse and seconded by C. Mitsuk to approve the A/P as listed in the amount of \$1,893.30. All in favour. Motion carried.

N. Town of Souris – Sewer & Water Utility Payables \$659.61 to be approved– as of January 9, 2025.

MOTION by C. Outhouse and seconded by C. MacPhee to approve the A/P as listed in the amount of \$659.61. All in favour. Motion carried

O. General Account & Water Sewer Account Cheques issued during the month of December 2024. –

For review only.

P. 2025-26 BUDGET PLANNING ~ April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

Proposals for 2025-26 Operating & Capital Budget

Working Sheets to be passed out at meeting so Council can start working on their budgets. If any Council has anything they would like noted, please do so and CAO will add to working file.

The council asked if they could all have copies of all the departments of the budget. As they may have ideas that would fit in other categories. CAO will ask Liz to forward.

Development – For Council information: (approved by development officer as per section 1.6 of our Land Use Bylaw)

- Provincial Ministerial approval was received for Rezoning Bylaw 2024-07 (Baltic Enterprises)

Development requiring Council approval:

Q. Naming of Private Rd going into Baltic Enterprises Development

A poll was undertaken through social media. MacGillivray Lane was one of four suggested names with 60% of the votes.

As per BY-LAW No.76-1 NAMING OF STREETS AND NUMBERING OF HOUSES

MOTION by C. Mitsuk and seconded by C. Laybolt that we name the new Private Rd going into Baltic Enterprises Development “MacGillivray Lane” as per poll taken. All in favour. Motion carried.

Town of Souris Bylaws required to be added and/or updated:

As per the Municipal Government Act (MGA) it is recommended that PEI Municipalities review and update certain bylaws. . .

New Business, Correspondence, Requests and/or Additions:

R. CBCL to undertake an assessment of Town owned buildings.

Approved by Council on November 12, 2024 Meeting. Initial meeting with CBCL is planned for December 12, 2024 at 10am. Work has begun, to date they have completed 4 of the 9 properties to date.

S. Request for Support from Lennon House

Further information was provided. (attached) They’ve also offered to come to a meeting if Council deems appropriate.

Council’s suggestion is that we could possibly host an event to raise funds. Maybe something to bring up to our new Events Coordinator. And we could, as staff and council, gather items as suggested by Lennon House to donate.

T. Active Transportation Fund proposed projects

If there is a project we want to consider for this upcoming fiscal year the deadline to apply is January 17, 2025. Guidelines and eligibility attached.

C. Outhouse had some great ideas including the addition of more walking trails around the Town. Trails that would connect what we have now to areas such as the Farmer’s Market, Dog Park and Ballfields. More walking trails with lights. Bike rest stops with shelters, possibly near T-3 bus stops, more bike racks. Carpool Parking area.

MOTION by C. Outhouse and seconded by C. Laybolt that we submit an application to the AT Transportation Fund by January 17th with these ideas in mind. CAO will check to see if design or consulting fees would be eligible in order to build a plan for new trails. All in favour. Motion carried.

CLOSURE OF BOARDWALK – Council suggests that we should clarify within the advertisement of the Boardwalk Closure that the closure includes the Boardwalk and provide alternative walking locations.

U. COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mayor JoAnne Dunphy

- FPEIM Hiring Committee meeting
- Souris Building Asset Assessment meeting
- Set up & Decorated for Lions Club Christmas Party
- Walk in Clinic meeting in Three Rivers
- Conference call with Mel Fraser CEO Health PEI
- Assisted with organizing and delivering Lions Club Christmas food boxes
- Met 2 times for Interviews for Events Coordinator position
- HR meeting
- Virtual meeting with MRSB Alex MacBain
- Meeting with SeaRoots Alliance
- Attended and assisted with New Years Levee
- Regular communication with MLA Robin Croucher with ongoing projects
- Daily meetings with CAO and Admin Assistant
- Delivered Town of Souris calendars with a Merry Christmas message to seniors in Provincial Housing units in Souris... it was wonderful to sit and chat with everyone.
- Ongoing contact with residents
- Contact with media, CBC and Eastern Graphic

Mayor would like to highlight that she recently donated Blood and wants to **CHALLENGE** other Council members and other Island Mayors (that are able) to do the same. Everyone is different as to when or how often they can donate. She plans to donate again when able.

Deputy Mayor Boyd Leard

- EK Sportsplex Meeting. The new Manager is Dustin Peters, he seems to be doing well. The Sportsplex board is working on new innovative ideas including recently setting up a recycling bin for people to donate their refundable cans and bottles as a donation to the Sportsplex. People can also drop off the Eastern Feed and Seed and have their refund go to the Sportsplex.

Kim Outhouse

- Dec 9th - attended Regular Monthly Council Meeting
- Jan 7th - attended SeaRoots Alliance Presentation SRS
- Positive feedback on new rink Manager.

Stephanie Mitsuk

- December 11 - SHAI finance meeting (unable to attend due to illness)
- January 2 - HR meeting
- January 6 - Interviews for Special Events Coordinator
- January 7 - Meeting with SeaRoots Alliance
- January 9 - Interviews for Special Events Coordinator
- Various communications with residents

Curtis Laybolt

- December 16 - sorted gifts for Lions Christmas boxes
- December 17 - put gifts in Lions Christmas boxes
- December 19 - Lions meeting
- December 23 - delivered Lions Christmas boxes (150 boxes delivered)
- January 1 – Town’s New year's Levee
- January 2 - Lions meeting
- January 7 - meeting with SeaRoots.

David Jenkins

- Visited some seniors
- Helped organize and deliver Lions Club Christmas Boxes
- Attended Seniors meal in St Peter’s and brought Season’s Greeting from the Town

Rebecca MacPhee

- December 9 - regular council meeting
- January 1 - assisted with New Years Event
- January 7 - meeting with SeaRoots and associated municipalities/groups/people
- *various correspondence with the public and council/staff

***Tipsy Farmer & Friends Free Community Meals** will be starting back up January 19th at Souris Regional School. 11am – 1pm This will work out great because SRS students will be helping with set up and prep for the meals. They will be able to earn volunteer hours by helping.

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by C. Mitsuk to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm

MINUTES Prepared by:
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