



SOURIS TOWN COUNCIL AND
SOURIS SEWER AND WATER UTILITY CORPORATION

MINUTES

SPECIAL PUBLIC Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 @ 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**

NOTES FROM CLOSED MEETING HELD March 27, 2024 at 6:00pm ALSO ATTACHED AS PART OF THESE MINUTES.

A. Call SPECIAL meeting of Council to Order 7: OOPM

Mayor called the meeting to order with a quorum. All Council present.
Also, some members of the public.

B. Agenda

2.1 Approval of Agenda

MOTION by C. Leard and seconded by C. Outhouse to approve the Agenda as prepared. All in favour.
Motion carried.

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. Review and Approval of 2024-25 Town of Souris General Operating/Capital Budget

MOTION by C. Leard and seconded by C. Outhouse to approve the 2024-25 Town of Souris General Operating/Capital Budget. Finance chair J Dunphy summarized the budget presented. Total Revenue \$1,877,868, Expenses \$1,814,568. All in favour. Motion carried.

E. Review and Approval of 2024 Municipal Tax Rates

MOTION by C. Chaisson and seconded by C. Laybolt to approve the 2024 Municipal Tax Rates of \$.70/100 for non-commercial and \$1.70/100 for commercial. No change from the previous year. 5 yes votes and 1 nay (C. Outhouse). Motion carried.

F. Review and Approval of 2024-25 Souris Sewer and Water Utility Corporation Operating/Capital Budget.

MOTION by C. Chaisson and seconded by C. Jenkins to approve the 2024-25 Souris Sewer and Water Utility Corp Operating/Capital Budget. Finance chair J Dunphy summarized the budget presented. Total Revenue \$641,000, Expenses \$663,554. All in favour. Motion carried.

G. Consideration for support of SeaRoots Alliance Inc. who are looking to have a comprehensive feasibility study done to determine if a Community Wellness Facility would be possible for our area. They have been working together as a group for several months and have developed a concept plan. They will be approaching the federal and or provincial government for funding for this feasibility study and would like to have the Town of Souris' support in doing so.

MOTION by C. Mitsuk and seconded by C. Outhouse that the Town Council support Searoots Alliance in their pursuit of funding for a comprehensive feasibility study for a new Community Wellness Facility for our area. All in favour. Motion carried. Mayor will provide a letter of support for them to include with their funding application.

H. Adjournment

MOTION by C. Leard to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm.

- PLEASE SEE PAGE 3 FOR NOTES TAKEN AT CLOSED MEETING HELD PRIOR TO THIS PUBLIC MEETING.

Please keep in mind that some people are very sensitive to strong smells, especially from colognes and perfumes. Let us keep our public meetings SCENT FREE so all can enjoy!

Your cooperation is appreciated!



MINUTES Prepared by:
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SOURIS TOWN COUNCIL CLOSED MEETING – MARCH 27, 2024 – 6:00PM

A closed meeting was held just prior to this public meeting as advertised on the Town's website. www.sourispei.com

The closed meeting was so the Council could discuss the request from Searoots Alliance Inc to support them in their pursuit of funding for a comprehensive feasibility study for a new Wellness facility for our community. This was following a meeting held March 21st at SRS that the Council attended to see a concept of what a new facility could look like.

Also, a couple of items for the Budget needed to be discussed.

Notes taken from discussion during Closed meeting:

Searoots Alliance Request for Support:

- C. Chaisson liked the idea of a new facility but was disappointed that in the concept plan it did not include a gymnasium. From experience he knows it is hard for community members including youth to access the gyms at the schools. And is hopeful if this goes ahead it will be reconsidered.
- C. Mitsuk pointed out that a couple of others at the meeting at SRS brought up the gymnasium as well.
- C. Mitsuk agrees we should support them but feels the Town should revisit the option analysis for the Sportsplex that they are planning as she sees no need to duplicate the work.
- C. Jenkins worries greatly about the proposed cost. Do we have enough people in the area to support it and/or will people come to Souris for it? But he also wants to support this group in their efforts to see if something like this could be viable for our community.
- C. Leard - with the representation Searoots Alliance has on their committee he feels they speak for all of eastern kings, not just Souris, which is good.
- A Comprehensive Feasibility Study can only help to move forward; whatever that direction may be.

Budget Items:

- Council to consider an increase in Council remuneration. This could be done via a new remuneration bylaw. With this an appointed commission of people from outside of council and staff would review the council remuneration and make a recommendation. An amount will be included in the budget, but review to take place prior to any increase. The last increase was in 2015.
- Wages for staff were also discussed. There is an increase in the budget for a 5% raise for full-time staff. Council would like to see something included in an HR policy that outlines how raises are calculated so that it is clear. Currently consideration is taken of CPI + %. (consumer price index changes)
- Request from Souris Show Hall for \$5,000 annual grant was discussed and is included in the 2024/25 Budget. They requested a multi-year commitment, but Council wants to reserve the option to re-evaluate yearly.