

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

Council Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 08, 2021

In attendance:

Mayor Grace Cameron, Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott, Councillor Anne McPhee, Councillor Arthur Baker, Councillor Bernadette McInnis, Councillor David Stewart, Councillor Bradley MacDonald, Development Officer (DO) Judy Burke and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Sonya Martin.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cameron at 6:15 p.m. A quorum was present so the meeting could proceed.

2. Agenda Approval

Chair Cameron asked if there were any additions to the agenda. The CAO added item 5.(d) "COVID Warrior Coin Nominations". It was moved by Councillor Bradley MacDonald and seconded by Deputy Mayor Elliott that the agenda be adopted as amended. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

3. Conflicts of Interest Declaration – Individual Councillors

Chair Cameron asked if there were any conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda, noting that Councillors involved in the groups that applied for the Small Grants Program, should excuse themselves prior to voting on the applications.

Accordingly, Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott indicated a conflict in regards to Small Grants applications from Eastern Kings Community Centre, Eastern Kings Seniors Neighbours Club and the Internet & Resource Centre as she works for the Community Centre. Similarly, Councillor Bernadette McInnis indicated a conflict with the applications from Eastern Kings Community Centre, the Eastern Kings Seniors Neighbours Club and the Internet & Resource Centre due to her involvement with all.

4. Minutes Approval

Mayor Cameron asked Council to review the May 11, 2021 Council Meeting minutes for any errors or omissions. Hearing none, it was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Councillor Bernadette McInnis that the minutes be approved as presented. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

5. Chief Administrative Officer Report

a) Comparative Income Statement as at May 31, 2021 and Notes - See "Appendix A"

b) Request for Shared Services Pilot Program – the request to Council from the Rural Municipality of Souris West involves a proposal to address communications of municipal governments with residents in Eastern PEI. The Council discussed the request but did not feel it was relevant to the Municipality of Eastern Kings at this time. Council, however, indicated that they are still interested in the "Vision East" concept and will wait until there is some future movement on that project to become involved.

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c) Remuneration Commission Meeting – Mayor Grace and CAO Sonya met with Judy Coffin and Lynne Morrow on May 20, 2021, and discussed the Terms of Reference for the Commission and answered questions. The Commission requested information for their research gathering, which Grace and Sonya supplied that afternoon. A status report will be ready to present to Council at the August 10, 2021 meeting.

d) COVID Warrior Coin Nominations – A letter from the Lieutenant Governor of PEI was sent to Municipalities asking for nominations of “three extraordinary individuals, organizations or businesses in (y)our community who had gone above and beyond to provide help or care to their fellow Islanders” during COVID-19 to receive the “COVID Warrior Coin”. The Nomination Form was given to Council and they are to provide nominees for the Awards at the July 13th meeting.

6. Fly Program Report – April and May 2021 – See Appendix B

7. Old Business

a) RMEK Grant Bylaw – First Reading Approval

(Whereas the Bylaw #2021-01 “A Bylaw to Establish Grant Programs Bylaw” was read a first time at the Council Meeting May 11, 2021)

Be it resolved that the Bylaw #2021-01 “A Bylaw to Establish Grant Programs Bylaw” be hereby approved. The resolution was moved by Councillor Anne McPhee and seconded by Councillor David Stewart. All were in favour and the resolution was carried.

b) Canada Community Building Fund (Gas Tax) – Proposals – The CAO presented a CIP Gas Tax project for Solar Panels to be installed on the Eastern Kings Community Centre. It would give the EKCC a 104% energy offset, basically covering all their energy needs and diminishing their current expenses to minimal. The CAO indicated that she would require another update on the cost breakdowns and the expenditure timeline in the CIP application. Deputy Mayor Elliott, in her role as Manager of the Community Centre, will connect with the contractor again on the quote and attend the EKCC Board meeting to finalize numbers and identify any other funders for discussion at the next Council meeting.

c) 2021 Small Grant Program – Approvals – Resolutions

Those Councillors with conflicts of interest were asked to step out of the room before each application was discussed; each returned after the resolution was voted upon. The applications were reviewed and evaluated prior to the meeting. Councillors discussed and came to consensus for the allocation of the budgeted funding, after which the following resolutions were read:

- i.) Be it resolved that the Eastern Kings Community Centre be approved to receive Small Grants funding in the amount of \$2,000.00. It was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Councillor Anne McPhee. All were in favour and the resolution was carried.
- ii.) Be it resolved that the Eastern Kings Senior Neighbours Club be approved to receive Small Grants funding in the amount of \$4,000.00. It was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Councillor Anne McPhee. All were in favour and the resolution was carried.
- iii.) Be it resolved that the Eastern Kings Internet & Resource Centre be approved to receive Small Grants funding in the amount of \$500.00. It was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Councillor Anne McPhee. All were in favour and the resolution was carried.

- iv.) Be it resolved that the “Story Boards at Cheverie/Detcheverry Monument” be approved to receive Small Grants funding in the amount of \$1,000.00. It was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Councillor Anne McPhee. All were in favour and the resolution was carried.

It was noted that the 2021 Small Grants budgeted funding for 2021 was \$8,000. and that not all submitted applications were fully funded. Also, the Souris Regional School had received approved funding of \$500.00 for a graduate award at the May 11, 2021 Council Meeting.

8. Planning and Development

a) Land Matters PEI Letter from Minister of Agriculture and Land, Bloyce Thompson – The letter noted that the Land Matters consultation process related to the *Planning Act* and the *Lands Protection Act* was expected to provide a report to Government in late spring 2021 and that municipalities that are currently maintaining or developing their official plans and development bylaws may result in changes to legislated requirements for municipal planning documents, including our official plan and bylaw.

Council discussed how this may impact our current review of our “Official Plan and Subdivision and Development Control Bylaw and Zoning and Subdivision Control Bylaws”. The Council agreed that Mayor Grace Cameron should contact Minister Thompson to get more input on the Land Matters PEI report and the actual implications it might have.

b) Upland update – Official Plan & Bylaw Review

The Council reviewed the Project Schedule submitted by Upland; the CAO noted that Start Up Calls had been completed and the first invoice for the Month of May had been received. CAO has the Credit Union cut bank cheques for each invoice from our Gas Tax Account. (All invoices are double signed and reviewed against the contract.) It was noted that Upland is looking for some high-resolution pictures of Eastern Kings to use in their publications; if used, appropriate credit will be given to the photographer.

c) Subdividing – Planner Consultation Quotes and Way Ahead

Council reviewed input from five PEI Planners whom the CAO had contacted requesting a Consultation Quote on four Subdivision applications. All planners indicated that they could not either provide a quote or were busy until August of 2021.

Action: Development Officer (DO) Judy Burke is to send the CAO more details for the four subdivision applications with specific questions to be forwarded to a Planner for more input.

Action: CAO will ask Samantha Murphy for a list of Planning “Guidelines” so that the Municipality and the DO will have a professional expert list of planning considerations to guide us in our application process while waiting for PEI Planners to become available.

d) Xplornet Tower Application

Xplornet has made inquiries about establishing a tower to facilitate internet services in Eastern Kings. In an effort to determine an appropriate fee, CAO Sonya provided some information she had received on local tower installations but which did not cover fees specifically. It was noted that, previously, East Link had been charged \$1000. for their special permit application processing.

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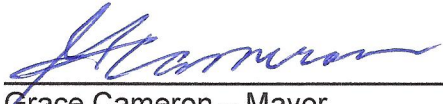
Action: Development Officer Judy Burke to connect with Xplornet to clarify their application; also, continue to research fees for installation of the tower(s) and any other pertinent information, including whom would cover the public meeting costs, etc. The decision on the fee was deferred until more information is received.

Freedom of Information Request – it was noted that a Freedom of Information Request was received regarding communication between the Council and the Department of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change; this request was handled by the CAO as per standard procedures and there was nothing of concern.

9. Adjournment

At 8:34 p.m., it was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Councillor David Stewart that the meeting be adjourned. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

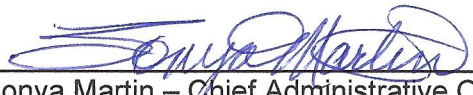
Signed in accordance
Municipal Government Act S.116(4)



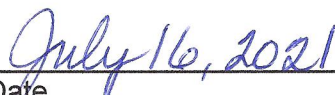
Grace Cameron – Mayor



Date



Sonya Martin – Chief Administrative Officer



Date

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APPENDIX A

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report – June 08, 2021

Bank Statement Reports:

CIBC – Souris

1.) CIBC – Cash Account:

Closing Bank Balance on **May 31, 2021:** **\$77,619.88**

Souris Credit Union

1.) Shares

Business Shares at **May 31, 2021:** **\$5.02**

Patronage account at **May 31, 2021** **\$252.67**

*The Patronage account will be used to do overnight visa payments for RMEK purchases to save on late charges and provide a paper trail.

2.) Gas Tax (Restricted Funds)

Balance on **May 31, 2021** **\$102,637.54**

Interest **\$70.86**

Closing Balance **May 31, 2021** **\$102,708.40**

3.) *New Business Strategic Savings Acct 21-3

GIC (2 year) Transfer to Savings Closing Value : **\$15,837.50**

Previous Balance **\$ 891.13**

Interest **\$ 0.50**

Closing Balance **May 31, 2021** **\$16,729.13**

4. Term Certificates

GIC 3 YEAR TERM: Current Principal Balance 2nd year: **\$15,428.67**

Accrued Interest **439.72** | Closing Value: **\$15,868.39**

Maturity Date: '05/14/2022 | Interest rate 2.850%

Total Overall Value at May 31, 2021

Principal \$15,428.67 | Accrued Interest 439.72 | Closing Value: \$15,868.39

Notes:

Gas Tax Project – 4.2.1 Community Signage Update:

Quotes sent out Tues. May 4th, 2021 | Sent out another quote to Fast Signs to have a minimum of 3.

Post Secondary Student Program (Skills PEI) – May 7/21 – Fully Funded 15.00/hr + 4% vacpay for 35hrs weekly for 14 weeks. 3 - Candidates withdrew | 1 - Candidate not qualified for program

EDA – Special Projects Program – 12 Weeks – Open to March 31/22 – Min Wage 13.00/hr + 4% vac pay = 13.52 /hr + 8% merces (Applicants must be on the Seasonal Jobs Registry)

Remuneration Commission – Lynne Morrow and Judy Coffin met with Grace and Sonya on May 20/21. The Terms of Reference were given to them. Grace and Sonya provided requested data for their research. A report will be ready for the August 10/21 Council Meeting.

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Appendix B – Fly Program Report April and May 2021

We started the 2021 Fly Program Season on April 13th of this year. As with every year we have noticed similarities and differences with the previous seasons. So far we have noticed the following: Increased precipitation throughout April and May but much colder temperatures. A milder winter with less snow than the previous winter.

With these two circumstances the blackfly larvae in April were already at their medium growth stage, when usually they would be small. This would be due to the mild winter. However, the colder temperatures throughout April and early May ensured they stayed the same size longer than usual. Instead of going through their growth stages in the usual 3-4 weeks, it took well over 6 weeks. This allowed us ample time to treat all the streams at least once, while some of the hotspots have been treated twice.

Once all of the streams were properly treated for blackfly larvae, it was time to focus our attention on the mosquito larvae. With the mild winter the mosquito larvae appeared sooner than last year. This was due to the warmer temperatures throughout that season and especially the lack of snow and ice keeping the ponds and pools cold. However, as with the black fly larvae, the colder than usual temperatures throughout the spring kept them from developing at their normal rate. We have treated all of the mosquito larva hotspots, as well as all of the smaller ponds and puddles and are very happy with our position heading into June.

We are noticing some interesting happenings with the water table this year compared to last. Last year every area was extremely dry, whether that be marshes, ditches or puddles. This year the ditches and hard bottomed areas are dry like last year but any marshy areas are overflowing with water. We are not sure what this signifies yet, but we will hopefully have more information by the end of the season.

As with last year, the floods along the straight allowed for fish to be trapped in the many pools along the basin. This ensured we had many less puddles to treat as the fish took care of the mosquito larvae.

Another interesting event we noticed pertains to dragonflies. We were well aware that adult dragonflies are voracious mosquito eaters, however we did not know that dragonfly larvae are just as voracious. Two weeks ago, we were lucky enough to witness a large aquatic bug bite into a mosquito larvae and pull it under the water. We immediately looked up the predator eating the mosquito larvae and it was indeed a dragonfly larvae. We are thankful to have nature trying it's hardest to help us out. 😊 .

We would also like to mention that Diligent's Pond is no longer draining and hasn't been for quite some time. It is holding more water than ever before which means there are no small, swampy areas around its perimeter, therefore no mosquito habitat to treat. Throughout the summer we will monitor this area closely. If the pond does begin to drain or it turns out to be a dry summer, those areas around the pond will become hotspots and need treatment immediately.

Overall, we are in a good position starting into June. We have treated all streams at least once, if not twice. We have treated all of the mosquito habitat at least once, and over the last week we have started refocusing on the blackfly areas, starting the cycle all over again.

Thank you, Vaughan Robertson & Lyndsie Prosser