



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Thursday, March 20, 2025 6:15 p.m.

In Attendance: Mayor Larry Fitzpatrick, Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott, Councillor's Don Humphrey, Donna Campbell Dixon, Arthur Baker, Nathan Paton, Bernadette McInnis and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Sonya Martin. Members of the Public:2

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

2. Conflicts of Interest Declaration – Individual Councillors – MGA 96.(1-8)

No conflicts were heard.

3. Agenda Approvals

It was moved by Councillor Donna Campbell Dixon and seconded by Councillor Arthur Baker to approve the agenda. All were in favour and the motion was carried. Votes For: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Result: Carried

4. Minutes Approval(s)

Council Meeting Minutes February 11, 2025

It was moved by Councillor Don Humphrey and seconded by Councillor Bernadette McInnis to approve the minutes as presented, with an edit to #5 Souris Show Hall. All were in favour and the motion was carried. Votes For: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Result: Carried

Special Meeting Minutes March 04, 2025 (Closed Meeting 119.1 (a)(e) Contract Review)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott and seconded by Councillor Arthur Baker to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

Votes For: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Result: Carried

Public Meeting Minutes March 06, 2025 (2025-2026 Draft Financial Plan Presentation)

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott and seconded by Councillor Nathan Paton to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

Votes For: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Result: Carried

5. Requests to Speak before Council - None

6. Reports

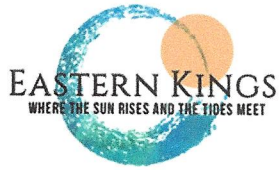
a) Mayor

i) PEI Energy Corporation meeting with Gordon MacFadyen CEO and Heather MacLeod March 14/25. The conversation evolved around EK Wind Farm Phase 1 and what that compensation might look like. Council will think on the matter, and a framework for compensation will be discussed at the next council meeting. Phase II will be operational by October 2025.

ii) "Regional Government Conversation" update and meeting notes. Council was supplied with the notes from the February 19-2025 meeting. (See Appendix A). The next meeting will be held April 9, 2025 at the Souris Regional School at 6:30 p.m.

iii) MGA Consultations. Council reviewed the criteria and opted to take no action at this time.

b) CAO Report - Income and Bank Statements as of February 28, 2025 (See Appendix B) and Permit Data Report (See Appendix C)



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

7. Business Arising

a) Resolution to Approve & Adopt the 2025-2026 RMEK Financial Plan. The CAO reviewed a few changes to the draft budget due to less tax assessment revenue determined by the province. The resolution was read. Whereas section 150 of the MGA requires that a Council, on or before March 31, in each year, adopt by resolution a Financial Plan for the upcoming fiscal year and that a public meeting be held in respect of this plan; and whereas the required public meeting was held on March 6/25; be it resolved that the RMEK Financial Plan for fiscal year 2025-2026 be hereby formally approved and adopted effective April 01, 2025. It was moved by Councillor Nathan Paton and seconded by Councillor Bernadette McInnis. (See Appendix D) Votes For: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Result: resolution approved

b) 2025 Municipal Biting Fly Program Contract Update.

On March 14th, at 9:30 a.m. the Mayor and CAO met with a potential contractor for the Fly Program. They reviewed the whole contract with the candidate and gave a short list of mandatory requirements needed before signing. The contractor indicated that he was interested in the contract and he agreed with the Mayor to let the CAO know by Thursday March 20th if he was going to sign. The contractor said yes at the deadline.

c) RMEK Enforcement & Summary Proceedings Bylaw, 2nd Reading, Approval & Adoption. The resolution was read. Whereas Part 9, Bylaw Enforcement, Offences and Liability, Section 233. (1)(2) of the MGA enables Council to establish by bylaw, provision for the appointment of enforcement officers for the purpose of enforcing its bylaws and the issuance of summary offence tickets, therefore be it resolved that this "RMEK Enforcement Summary Bylaw #2025-01" was read a second time at this council meeting; and that this "RMEK Enforcement Summary Bylaw #2025-01" was approved and adopted by a majority of Council members present at the council meeting held on the 20th day of March, 2025. It was moved by Councillor Donna Campbell Dixon and seconded by Councillor Bernadette McInnis. Votes For: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Result: resolution approved

d) Update for the "Municipality to Municipality" Transfer of CCBF (Gas Tax) Funds to Town of Souris/EK Sports Plex. The CAO has been asked by the Infrastructure Secretariat to hold the transfer of gas tax funds until the Town of Souris reconciles the current project and provides a new project #.

e) Souris Show Hall request for multi-year funding and commitment. Council reviewed the financial reports for the Souris Show Hall. Council unanimously agreed that they are not ready for this type of financial commitment. A motion was put forward by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott to support the show hall with funds to cover two mortgage payments. An amount of \$4,026.00 Votes For: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Result: Carried



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

8. New Business

a) Resolution to appoint the Auditor for fiscal 2024-2025. The resolution was read. Whereas section 172 of the MGA requires that the council appoint an auditor to conduct annual audits of the finances of the municipality, be it resolved that MRSB Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. be engaged to perform the mandated audits of the finances of the RMEK for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

It was moved by Councillor Nathan Paton and seconded by Councillor Donna Campbell Dixon.

Votes For: 6 | Votes Against: 0 | Result: resolution approved

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. It was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

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

Larry Fitzpatrick, Mayor

08 APR 2025

Date

Sonya Martin, Chief Administrative Officer

April 8, 2025

Date



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX A

“Regional Government Conversation” February 19-2025 Notes

NOTES ON MEETING OF 19 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 630PM FORTUNE COMMUNITY HALL

The following email was sent to invite individuals to the meeting: Ladies and Gentlemen:

There is recent and renewed interest in re-opening the discussion around the idea of Regional Government in our area. I am currently representing the three Rural Municipalities – Souris West, Eastern Kings and Annandale/Little Pond/ Howe Bay. We are organizing a gathering with invited community members from the three rural municipalities, the Town of Souris and the various unincorporated areas in our region. It is our goal to have a strong cross-section of regional residents represented at this “conversation” about our future. Notes will be taken to help gauge interest and to inform any future discussions. This gathering, by invitation, will take place on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025, at the Fortune Community Center beginning at 6:30 PM. On Behalf of the above-mentioned Municipalities Sincerely Pat O’Connor

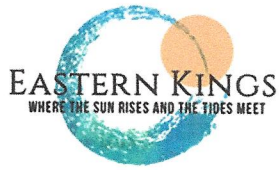
The agenda for the gathering was as follows: 6:30PM - Welcome and opening remarks 7:00PM - Group breakout 7:45PM - Break 8:00PM - Recap of Group discussions with large group 8:45PM - Next Steps The meeting was called to order at 630PM by Pat O’Connor. There were thirty-seven individuals in attendance. 1 Pat thanked everyone for coming and taking part in this important conversation. After apprising everyone of the makeup of each of the four current municipalities, he gave a short history of regional government discussions in the area, starting with a meeting in December, 2017, to discuss the, then, incoming Municipal Government Act and its impacts upon the incorporated areas of PEI. Discussions continued and, in March of 2020, a meeting was scheduled to have the very conversation for which we were now convened! That was the same week COVID shut everything down and momentum was lost. With an apparent renewal of interest in this topic, it was decided to move forward with tonight’s meeting. Pat made it clear that there is no effort by any party to railroad anyone into anything; individuals were asked from various unincorporated areas as a sample of residents from those areas, not a full representation. If the initiative moves forward, methods to communicate with the broader community will be found. With that, the participants broke into discussion groups to consider a series of five questions.

The questions....and their responses....are as follows:

Question 1: Where did you first hear of the idea of a regional government in our area?

Responses: • Some people had been hearing about regional government for 15 – 20 years and the story was related of a meeting held in that time period. A small sum of \$1500 was received from the province to facilitate the meeting; questions re. farm assessments and losing farmland arose and the initiative died. • Others had heard more recently, either through the Three Rivers process, directly from Pat O’Connor, through the Vision East efforts from 2020 (derailed by COVID), the invitation to this meeting, from attendance at council meetings or from friends or relatives. A couple of people heard twenty minutes before the meeting began!

Question 2: To your knowledge, what do you see as the benefits to forming a regional government in our area? Responses: • More organized and more able to deal with the provincial government and fire dues; • Balance tax assessment revenue over communities (and receive more tax revenues); • Power in numbers to collaborate and get what you need; stronger voice when dealing with province due to larger numbers



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

represented; • How do we hang onto the Souris Hospital if Montague gets a new one? A regional government would be better able to hang on to Souris Hospital and improve it; • With more people we would have more provincial clout and a “Planning Authority” for the region; better facilitate building permits and may be able to speed them up if amalgamated; the area would gain more power from coming together; • More money to run programs; more gas tax funds because it won’t go to the provincial government from unincorporated areas; gas tax supports infrastructure; • Greater engagement of residents due to increased flow of information; • More media exposure; 2 • Easier compliance with Municipal Government Act; smaller municipalities are financially stressed; • Savings when amalgamating resources; • Bigger tax breaks; more benefits for funding; larger gas tax; • More strength with population growth; • Open the door to bringing more voices to the table; • Reduction in staff for shared services; • More provincial tax staying within the community; • Different tax rates can happen according to services; can we expect just Souris residents to pay for Souris while everyone uses their services? • Spread resources out if amalgamated, like ball fields, community centres, etc.; could be more dispersed, not just the Town of Souris; • Can learn from the Three Rivers experience; • Can get a study funded; • More control by having bylaws but no benefit to bylaws unless you can actually enforce them which costs money; would need bylaw officers;

Question 3: To your knowledge, what are some of the disadvantages of forming a regional government in our area? Responses: • Taxes went up \$250 in Three Rivers (anecdotal); increased taxes for seniors; perceptions of people getting increases in their taxes; • Tax increases for some; not going to get sidewalks, sewers, etc. but taxes rise; tax increases could cause divide; those on fixed incomes could find increases challenging; • Too many different levels of bureaucracy; • Outsiders telling us what to do (US residents, ON, etc.) • Perception that as a larger area, all areas need equity in resources which increases expenses; • Due to the size of the area, services may be centralized which may result in difficulties for residents (i.e. building permits); • What are we currently missing out on; need to see a study to delineate the true pros and cons; • Only have one Member of the Legislative Assembly, so under-represented provincially; • Growing pains with development and zoning; regulations and permitting; policies and bylaws; • Inheriting non-profit structures; • Lack of control for people; more government control; lose control over what happening in your immediate area; • Larger job for councillors, etc.; with a larger area, stipends would have to be enticing; • Large geographic area to govern so how to fairly disperse money/resources; • Gas Tax distribution questions; • Tax rates – would there be different levels? 3

Question 4: Are you in favour of seeing the question of regional government being surveyed in a comprehensive feasibility study? Responses: • General consensus was yes, with one undecided and many “absolutely” and “It’s absolutely needed”; • Suggested that we consult with Three Rivers to get their feedback on how the process worked for them. • Concern re. how to ensure fairness of the questions in any survey; will the provincial government be overseeing it; bias;

Question 5: What is the biggest question you have about what regional government would look like for our area? Responses: • Learn from Three Rivers experience; would it work best for the community; avoid pitfalls of other amalgamated areas; • Sector representation a must; homeowners need to say; • Infrastructure for all – what does it look like; • Protect what we have; • How large would the governed area be – Farmington? Central Kings? What are the boundaries; how to ensure equity given a large geographic area; • What does it

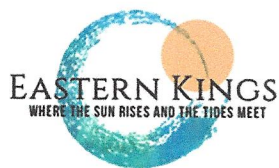


Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

look like now vs. what WILL it look like;

- How would representation work; how big would the council be (12?); how is it made up; how would we elect councillors and mayor;
- How would compensation work;
- Who has the “loudest” voice – how to ensure all areas are properly represented;
- Why is the government pushing this but not supporting it at the local level;
- How do we ensure that unincorporated areas have a voice;
- Can people afford a tax increase; many are elderly;
- Harder to push us aside if we join together; Province of PEI would pay more attention to us;
- Many tiny municipalities can’t afford to comply with the Municipal Government Act, for example, warming centres;
- We could have many different tax rates;
- Tax dollars will work better for us, stay more local;
- This process must be transparent with the public;
- How do projects get done in unincorporated areas? Not much funding to draw from if municipality is smaller;
- Can bargain with provincial government through the process. After the group discussions, all came together for a plenary session where the main points were put on flip charts and discussed in group. Additional commentary from that included: 4
- Should use dollars available (from 2020 funding) to have a professional facilitator at the next meeting and it should be open to the public; should be focus on presentation of facts; could have same format and similar questions and share what this first group said (at some point); if press comes, that is fine too.
- Make the Three Rivers study available; also, look at the perspective of West River which also came together recently, as a larger regional government.
- Even in a larger group, would probably get a mandate to do a study; do need an opportunity for more community members to participate.
- Is there an opportunity to use SurveyMonkey in this process?
- Right now, it should be about gathering information, not saying yes or no to a regional government; people have to make an informed decision.
- At the next meeting, should have some prepared responses to some questions, for example, what is gas tax?
- Pat O’Connor will be the person to speak to the press until a committee decision is made to amend that. In addition to a representative from each of the four Municipalities (to be chosen by the Councils), five people stepped forward to work on a committee to move this initiative forward, including:
 - Maggie MacIntyre, Rollo Bay
 - Brian Deveau, Souris River
 - Cory Byrne, Souris West
 - Angela Winter, Little Pond
 - Johnny Flynn, Souris West

This concluded the “conversation”; the committee will meet and decide on the place and timing of the follow-up discussions. Recorded by Grace Cameron



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX B

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report – March 20, 2025

Bank Statement for the month of February 2025

Souris Credit Union

Business Operational Account

Opening Balance on February 01, 2025	\$153,625.03
Closing Balance at February 28, 2025	\$166,757.88

Shares & Patronage

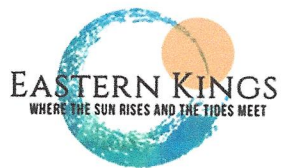
Business Shares at February 28, 2025	\$5.11
Patronage account at February 28, 2025	\$246.78

Gas Tax (Restricted Funds) Account

Opening Balance on February 01, 2025	\$41,262.07
Interest at 2.800%	\$96.54
Closing Balance February 28, 2025	\$41,358.61

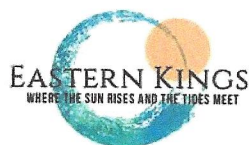
RMEK Reserve Funds Savings Account

Opening Balance at February 01, 2025	\$114,852.07
Interest at 2.850%	\$273.13
Closing Balance at February 28, 2025	\$115,125.20



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX C



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

Address: 85 Munns Road, Rte. 301 Kingsboro PE C0A 2B0

Telephone: (902) 357-2894 | Email: developmentofficer.rmek@gmail.com |

Website: www.easternkings.ca

2025 DEVELOPMENT PERMITS & SUBDIVISION APPROVALS

Development Permits Issued

Permit No.	Date - D/M/Y	Name & Civic Address	PID #	Details	Estimated Value
EKDP01-2025	09/01/2025	Doug and Suzanne Hayes TBD Red Point Park Road, Red Point	1170521	1728 sq. ft. cottage with a 336 sq. ft. deck and a 160 sq. ft. accessory building.	\$500,000.00
EKDP02-2025	16/01/2025	Anthony and Kelli Bishop 7564 Northside Road, Lakeville	1050764	73 ft ground mount solar array (15.99 kW).	\$43,500.00
EKDP03-2025	18/03/2025	Ian Campbell 136 Inlet Lane, Priest Pond	1178292	384 sq. ft. addition to cottage with a 192 sq. ft. covered deck.	\$100,000.00

Subdivision Approvals

Permit No.	Date D/M/Y	Name & Civic Address	PID #	Details
S01P-2025	13/02/2025	Kelly Eaton 6342 Northside Road, North Lake	111203	Application to subdivide approximately 1 acre from an existing parcel
Subdivision Application Denial	30/01/2025	Justin Cheverie 571 Baltic Road, Red Point	451237	Application to subdivide 0.45 acres from a 1.36-acre parcel. Does not minimum lot standards.
S02F-2025	18/02/2025	Michael and Sheila Poole 6592 Northside Road, Lakeville	938589	Subdivision of approximately 80 acres from an existing 14-acre parcel.



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX D

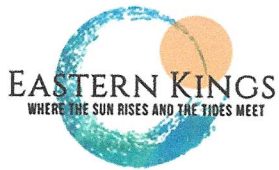
2025 FINANCIAL PLAN (APPROVED & ADOPTED)

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings 2025-2026 RMEK Financial Plan Approved & Adopted for Municipal Operations Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2026	
	
REVENUE	Budget
Operational Surplus, prior years	72,886
Property Tax Assessments at 0.19/100	245,111
Commercial - Wind Farm #1 Tax Revenue at 0.65/100	82,134
Development Permit Fees	6,500
Subdivision - Consolidation Fees	2,500
Misc Revenue	0
<i>Subtotal revenue:</i>	409,131
Total Revenue:	\$409,131
EXPENDITURES	
Community Grants Programs	
Eastern Kings Fire Protection Services	
Fire & First Responder Svcs Remuneration	119,500
Grants and Other Requests (Contingent)	5,000
Eastern Kings Grants Programs	
Emergency Mgt. Plan - training & supplies	500
EK Community Centre Grant	10,800
Small Grants Programs	10,000
Donations	
Grad Awards	2,000
Christmas Programs	1,200
Local Donations	3,500
Memorials	250
Total Community Grants Programs:	\$152,750
Wages & Benefits	
Chief Administrative Officer Wages	43,030



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

Development Officer	17,212
WCB Payroll Premiums	690
Employee Benefits - Health: Medical/Dental	900
<i>Subtotal wage expense:</i>	61,832
Professional Fees & Contracts	
Municipal Contracts, including Biting Fly Program	85,000
Bylaw Enforcement Officer/Enforcement Exp	7,800
Accounting - Audit Fees	4,600
Planner Review Fees/Maps/Equip	3,500
Honourariums	500
Remuneration for Council & Appointees	9,200
<i>Subtotal professional fees & contracts:</i>	110,600
Total Wages & Professional Fees:	\$172,432
OPERATIONAL EXPENSE	
Advertising	1,860
Bank Service Charges	150
Computer Maint. & Tech support	850
Contingent Miscellaneous	6,402
Council & Staff Training and Travel	680
Economic Development	3,017
Housing Start-up - Planning & Development	9,500
Insurance	7,700
Legal Fees (1) [Bylaws and Contract(s)]	6,590
Legal Fees (2) [Wind Farm Contract(s) & IRAC]	30,000
Memberships - Geolinc, FPEIM	1,850
Municipal Community Activity & room rentals	3,500
Office Equipment (Asset)	1,000
Office Space Lease/Rent	5,520
Office Supplies	2,500
Phone / Wifi	2,280
Sign(s) - Maintenance + Insurance	550
Website Development [Reserve Fund - Contingent #9]	0
Total Admin Expense:	\$83,949
TOTAL MUNICIPAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSE	\$409,131
NET INCOME PROFIT/LOSS	\$0



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

RMEK Reserve Funds set aside for specific purposes of Council:

CU Reserve Account as at Feb 28/25:	\$115,125
Surplus from Operational Account:	\$0
Total Reserve Funds:	\$115,125.00

1	Contingent	22,125
2	Emergency Management	8,000
3	Housing Start-up - Planning & Development	15,000
4	Legal Fees (2) [Wind Farms & IRAC]	70,000
	Balances:	\$115,125

Reserve Fund - Contingent Categories:		Expensed
1	Capital Assets: Replacement of Office Equipment - Other	
2	Eastern Kings Fire Department	
3	Economic Development	
4	Environmental Projects	
5	Municipal Biting Fly Program	
6	Future Planning	
7	Insurance extra	
8	Legal Fees (1) Bylaws and Contracts	
9	Website Development	
10	Elections	
		\$0.00