

Council Meeting Minutes
May 1st 2024 – 6:30pm
Community Complex



The regular meeting of the Rural Municipality of Mount Stewart was held on May 1st 2024 at 6:30pm with the following Council members present:

Mayor: Spencer Long

Councillors: Chad Poirier, Amanda Myers (Deputy Mayor), Kevin Lloyd, Jaryd Burt, Jaryd Burt

Regrets: Bev Campbell

Staff: CAO Katharine MacDonald

Delegations: Sidney MacEwen, MLA

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.
2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest of Council Members, Chair, & CAO: Chad Poirier re: Katharine MacDonald's salary.
3. Approval of Agenda was moved by Chad and seconded by Amanda.
4. Adoption of Minutes: Council Meeting April 3rd 2024. Moved by Kevin, seconded by Julie.
5. Delegations: Sidney MacEwen, MLA
 - a. Came to say hello, to come meet new Councillors and catch up. Spencer said that he would like to bring up a few things in his Mayor's Report.
6. Monthly Report of the Mayor:
 - a. Heritage fair attended
 - b. ACOA meeting happened
 - i. They are waiting on more details from us because they want the case to stay active. ACOA meeting was to clarify that we are still working on this and making progress but it is moving along a little more slowly. The motivation to get tenants settled is more urgent. Once we have numbers received from CBCL, we can pass that along to ACOA and RGI. Once engineers start to get working on items, there are new challenges that are presented and can push the designs along. Hoping to tap into Reception Centre funding to cover some of the Community-side of things, but there has been some movement on it with reps coming by from EMO.
 - c. Eco-Centre meeting went well
 - i. Leigh Emerson named new Chair of the Eco-Centre Committee. Julie said it used to be a very busy spot. Spencer recapped who attended; committee approved several items relating to the Farmer's Market, including expanding out into the "front yard" along the streetfront. Patio stones, better lighting, etc. for the remaining funding.

- ii. Student, if we get funding, could be there. Julie said we should ensure that the student is able to offer “visitor centre” help to people.
 - iii. Spencer reached out to Andy about building a small shed for the Eco-Centre.
- d. FPEIM AGM this week – really great to attend.
- e. CREG funding approval for solar panels came in (agreement signed and mailed by Katharine). Touched base with Hansen Electric about the timing because we want to integrate it with the new proposed utility room.
- f. Rink project – we’re applying to RGI for that, funding confirmed from CCBF. Rink and engineering first phase, more landscaping and “park” stuff to come. Spencer would like to put some of the CCBF allocation towards getting the engineering phase started soon. Jaryd said he was part of a rink build and it only took about a day – boards come numbered and it’s a matter of setting them up. Jaryd and Spencer both suggested reaching out to Tracadie and Scotchfort about “rink-raising.” Working on this project and the Complex demonstrates how serious we are about building up the village.

*Side discussion about mosquito treatment; trails need a cleanup; Pigot’s Trail needs work. Could organize a trail cleaning day and have a BBQ.

- g. Tentatively booked the Spuds for Canada Day.
 - h. Pitched to the Province that they should buy the corner lot that’s for sale on Main and Egan, and heard that they may be looking into it already.
 - i. Dog Bylaw / Dog Act – Spencer stated to Sydney that it is very difficult for small municipalities to handle, contracting with the Humane Society is cost prohibitive. Kevin brought up that it’s often the owners, not the dogs. Amanda agreed that enforcement is the issue.
 - j. Seniors Complex power issue – Spencer updated Sidney about the timeline about dealing with provincial counterparts about getting this issue dealt with. Julie brought concerns from Seniors housing resident to meeting for Sidney.
 - k. Thoughts on expanding boundaries. One idea was to incorporate but that all current homeowners outside the boundary won’t experience a tax increase, but new homeowners of existing households, or new builds, would. Which would slowly increase the tax base.
7. Sidney:
- a. Paving the village – being pushed off because work needs to be done under the road.
 - b. Snow clearance of the Active Transportation Trail.

Moved by Chad seconded by Jaryd

8. Staff Reports:
- a. Report of CAO
 - i. Katharine delivered a verbal report
 - * Julie mentioned we should reach out to Lenny Murphy about the defibrillator.
 - ii. Financial update – for April 2024
 - * Spencer asked if we could review paying off a portion of our loan.
 - * Spencer wanted to bring up asking Matt about the workload with being sewer operator (after a few stressful weeks/month), ask about bringing on a backup operator on contract.

Moved by Chad, seconded by Amanda

- iii. General and Sewer Accounts for approval

Moved by Jared, seconded by Julie

9. Unfinished Business:

- a. Julie and Amanda will spearhead the CAO hiring.
- b. EV chargers – next week
- c. Bryce – paid rent
- d. Grocery boxes
- e. Eco Centre cleaned out

10. New Business:

- a. Weekly cleanings at Churches – approved
- b. Chloe – approving \$150
- c. Juanita – approving \$150
- d. Grant money to spend on seniors meals etc
 - i. Julie asked if we could ask Bishop's Rest.

11. Motion – CAO compensation to be raised by 20% retroactively effective to Jan 1st – moved Jaryd and seconded by Amanda.

12. Adjournment at 8:48pm, moved by Amanda and seconded by Kevin.

Next regular Council Meeting:

May 1st 2024 at the Community Complex at 6:30pm or as called by Council.