

Community of Malpeque Bay
March 9, 2016
Annual – Special Meeting

Councillors Present: Jamie Crozier, Herb Clark, Paul Brown, Trent Caseley, Tyler Pickering

Councillor Regrets: Tim Thompson, Myles Hickey

Administrator: Joanne McCarvill

Residents and Guests: Wayne Cousins, William Cousins, Leaming Murphy, Paul Montgomery, Ross Harrington, Dale Adams, Winston Cousins, George MacKay, Carl Adams

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Agenda

The Agenda was circulated. The minutes for the 2015 AGM were added to the Agenda. It was moved by Paul Brown and seconded by Ross Harrington that the Agenda be accepted as updated.

MOTION CARRIED

Minutes

Minutes were read by Joanne McCarvill. It was moved by Herb Clark and seconded by William Cousins to accept the minutes as read. **MOTION CARRIED**

2015 Financial Statements

The 2015 Financial Statements were circulated. Chairman Crozier presented the 2015 Financial Statements. Trent Caseley moved acceptance of the Financial Statements as presented. Ross Harrington seconded the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

2016 Proposed Budget

The Proposed Budget for 2016 was circulated and reviewed. Chairman Crozier presented the Budget noting that the projected Revenue was less than the projected Expenses identifying that the difference would be absorbed by the community's surplus, and that the Budget was based on the recommended tax rate of 6.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, the same as in 2015. It was moved by Ross Harrington and seconded by Winston Cousins the Proposed Budget for 2016 be adopted as presented and that the tax rate for 2016 be set at 6.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. **MOTION CARRIED**

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Chairman Crozier noted that the Community had provided funding support to the following local organizations:

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- Malpeque Bay Christmas Tree of Hope
- Lion's Club Christmas Basket program
- Kensington Out Reach program
- QEES nutritional program
- KISH 2015 Graduates
- Stipends for Community signage

Also noted was paid community membership in the Kensington North Watershed Association and the Keir Memorial Museum.

Donations to other organizations included sponsorship to the Festival of Small Halls and the Flags of Remembrance program.

It was also noted that seven street lights were installed and are now being maintained at the following locations:

- Malpeque corner
- Lower Darnley Road
- Penderosa Beach Road
- Spring Valley Road and Memory Lane
- Rte. 20 and 102 South (Memory Lane)
- Ball field at Spring Valley
- Rte. 103 and 20 (corner Walter Adams)

New Projects

The chairman identified that the community was participating in a program known as the 'Notional Allocation Capital Investment Plan' project. This project is part of the funding Agreement pursuant to the Canada – Prince Edward Island Administrative Agreement on the transfer of Gas Tax Revenues, was signed on May 27, 2014.

Projects approved for the next five years include: Spring Valley Community Hall Upgrades, Phase I (purchase and installation of a heat pump system), Spring Valley Community Hall Upgrades, Phase II (purchase and installation of a PA system). Cabot Park Playground and Park Upgrades. Upgrades to Sea View Hall Academy of Music. Keir Memorial Museum Upgrades (purchase and installation of a heat pump system). Malpeque Community Hall Upgrade Phase I (purchase and installation of a heat pump system) Malpeque Community Hall Upgrade, Phase II (purchase and installation of a PA system). Hamilton Community Hall Upgrade.

Presently, the following projects have been completed or are underway and expect to be completed by March 31, 2016; Phase I and II Upgrades of Spring Valley Community Hall, Phase I and II Upgrades of Malpeque Community Hall, and Keir Memorial Museum Upgrades. Upgrades to Sea

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View Hall Academy of Music is expected to begin April 2016. The remaining projects will proceed as funding is received.

Proposed Road Closure – Sea View

This item was included at this meeting for information purposes only. Council has been asked to provide a response to a road closure proposal including providing an opinion on any affect the closure may have on the citizens and if the closure of this portion of road would adversely affect the municipality. Dale Adams identified that the main reason for considering closure of the road is the runoff of clay into the stream and wash out conditions. The Province is considering putting in a culvert as well as a farm crossing. All adjacent land owners have been contacted by the Province and have received and are considering a proposal from the Province. The item was tabled for Council's April meeting where a response to this proposal will be considered.

Preliminary discussion on the possibility of amalgamation

A discussion on the possibility of amalgamation with adjacent communities was held. Chairman Crozier identified that Council had originally intended to pursue amalgamation but later decided to table the idea. He noted that the New London Fire District had approached Council looking to discuss the possibility and invited them to a meeting. As well, the Long River WI had recently invited him and Vice Chairman Clark to a meeting.

The meeting was shown a map of the proposed area being considered. The Thompson Report on land use and municipal reform has recommended significant changes to the current municipalities' structure on PEI. Premier MacLauchlan has indicated he would like this process to begin in 2016. General consensus of the residents at the meeting was that they would prefer to have a choice to join with other rural areas and maintain their rural identity as opposed to being instructed by the Province to join an urban area. A suggestion was made that the New London Fire District consider holding a public meeting with local residents to gauge their support. Representatives from Municipal Affairs could be invited to answer questions. In the meantime, residents were encouraged to present the idea to their friends and neighbours.

The Chairman indicated that the Community of Malpeque Bay had no intention of pursuing amalgamation unless the adjacent communities supported the idea. Some benefits to being part of a large incorporated municipality would be to: allow the smaller unincorporated communities access to some of the funding available through the transfer of Gas Tax Revenues; maintain their rural identity; and continue to enjoy a low municipal tax rate. Also identified was that Fire Protection from both the Kensington and New London Fire Departments would be maintained.

It was moved by Carl Adams to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.