

Rural Municipality of KINGSTON
Regular Monthly Minutes
Emyvale Recreation Center
Regular Monthly Council Meeting Tuesday January 10, 2023

Present:

Chair Alan Miller
Tom Coady
Dwight Thompson
Darlene MacDonald
Tory Kennedy
Pierce MacLean

Keith Boire CAO

Also in attendance Peter Bevan-Baker

1. **CALL TO ORDER** made by Mayor Miller at 7:05pm
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion "To approve the agenda as circulated" (M) Tory Kennedy, (S) Darlene MacDonald. Motion carried.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the November 8, 2022 Meeting. Motion "To approve the agenda as circulated" (M) Tory Kennedy, (S) Darlene MacDonald. Motion carried.
4. **Completion of Swearing in of new Council.**
 1. Allan Holmes completed swearing in documents. All councillors now sworn in.
5. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
 1. **Excavation Pit Bylaw Amendment Discussion** - Keith gave an overview of the issues related to excavation pits and the jurisdictional conflicts currently existing. After discussion it was unanimous that councillors wanted the Province to manage the environmental and monitoring aspects of pit permitting as they currently do, but also wished to exercise their jurisdiction to require a Development Permit. Keith and Alan would be attending a meeting with Hannah Jenkins and Sandra Keough to discuss options going forward with respect to managing Excavation Pits. Factors council want to consider when developing a development permit application include:
 - i. A performance bond to ensure remediation would take place at the end of the lifecycle of the pit
 - ii. Public Meeting for all new pits to inform residents of details of the proposal
 - iii. Possible Development agreement required depending on feedback from Public Meeting

- iv. Possible additional remediation

2. Plan Review -

- i. Generally councillors were satisfied with the preliminary work on the new Plan. Alan expressed concern over the amount of detail in the old and new plan, suggesting some of the policy statements may not be required.
- ii. Council agreed the next steps would be to hire a planner to get us through the next steps, including reviewing our current update, conducting Public Meeting and finalizing a new plan. Keith to contact other administrators and the Province to find out availability of planners and to find out more on the process.

3. Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) - Formerly Gas Tax

- i. Keith brief council on the current state of our former Gas Tax fund - The CCBF is allotted in 5 year blocks and our current block ends March 31, 2024. Current reserves after the final invoice for the Broadband Expansion project will leave us with just over \$100,000 in that fund and expected further contributions will bring that amount to \$200,000. The fund does not expire but these funds must be spent on approved projects which could include:
 - 1. Capacity Building (projects investing in growth management and land use planning) "Our revised Plan and Bylaws".
 - 2. Community Energy Systems.
 - 3. Infrastructure Projects (Cultural, Recreational, Emergency Readiness, etc)
 - 4. Broadband Expansion (Possibly remainder of Municipality not serviced by previous project)
- ii. The possibility of acquiring the Emyvale Rec Centre was discussed as ownership by the Municipality could facilitate an owned infrastructure to take advantage of Infrastructure projects and Community Energy systems. This option was not unanimous with council, but the majority considered it an option we should investigate. Keith to follow up with Mark McGillivray regarding the legal status of the Rec Centre and to find out what options their board would consider. At the same time, Keith will discuss options for our renewed lease with the Centre in April.
- iii. The potential for Community Energy Systems is one council has considered for some time, but current legislation is such that it is not a viable option for Municipalities like ours without major infrastructure to can take advantage of potentially generated power. Over the past couple of years, the Province has been aware of this issue and has indicated it is considering changes to that legislation, but as yet has not acted. Peter Bevan-Baker contributed to the conversation on this issue and volunteered to communicate with the Province asking what progress has been made and when to expect changes.

6. Community planning:

- 1. The January 10th update report on permit applications was provided to council. A new format for permit reporting is being worked on by Mirko and Keith

2. An application for short term rental of an existing secondary residence was received. There were no objections made by councillors, but it was referred to Planning Board for further discussion.

7. FINANCE REPORT:

1. Current Account Balances to date were provided to council.
2. Keith brought up the issue of obtaining a credit card for minor operational purchases that would not require two signatures. The Municipal Government act allows this if a resolution is made, the expenditures do not exceed \$25,000 and such expenditures are reported to council at each scheduled meeting. The recommendation from Keith was for a \$1000 limit on such expenditures. A resolution was put forward by Dwight Thompson, seconded by Tom Coady to instruct Keith to arrange for credit/debit card to be procured for this purpose. Resolution passed unanimously. Keith to prepare resolution document for our files.
3. Keith let council know the Royal Bank account had been closed and all funds were deposited into the PCU general chequing account.
4. A meeting with the bank was scheduled for January 17th and at that time \$100,000 will be transferred into a savings or investment account depending on advice from the bank and interest rates available. This was a recommendation from our most current audit by BDO.
5. As part of our audit, it was identified that we were eligible for a potential \$1300 in MCEG Funding. BDO has been instructed to proceed with the application for that funding.

8. ADMINISTATOR'S REPORT:

1. Keith let council know the municipality's website would soon be updatde.
2. Keith said his plans for the next month would be primarily working on the filing systems and organizing the office..

9. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Day Care Business, Seeking expansion options
 - i. Keith updated council on communications with Joanne Goodman, owner of Tiny Pastures Free Range Child Care, who is seeking options for a larger space for her expanding Day Care Operation. She had been in contact with 4H Club as well as the Rec Centre. Allan Holmes indicated he would contact Robert Holmes on the matter to potentially encourage discussion. Other councillors were invited to make recommendations if they were aware of other potential sites.
2. Island Food Security Initiative
 - i. Tory brought forward the potential to work with this initiative to possibly set up a community kitchen in the Municipality. The discussion got a positive response from councillors.
 - ii. The Rec Centre or possibly the 4H Club were considered options. But both centres are privately run and would require their participation in any project. Keith to add this topic to the agenda when discussing other matters with Mark McGillivray.

- iii. Allan Holmes indicated he would contact Bluefield School for the potential to have a structure built for the purpose.
- iv. The funding deadline for this initiative was very tight and Tory agreed to seek further information and to see if similar funding would be extended into the next fiscal year.
- v. In order to proceed with this kind of venture, it would be necessary to have at least a small group of volunteers prepared to work on maintaining a community fridge.

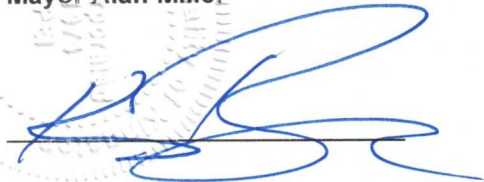
10. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. Christmas cards received from the Province and Elected officials were available for councillors to read.

10. ADJOURNMENT Motion made at 8:45PM to adjourn the meeting moved by Alan Holmes, Seconded by Pierce MacLean. Motion carried.



Mayor Alan Miller



CAO Keith Boire

Date MARCH 14, 2023