

Rural Municipality of Murray River

Monthly Meeting- Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Murray River Library at 6:00 pm

Present: Mayor Pat Bray, Deputy Sandra Edwards, Councilors Marvin MacLeod, Walter Munn, Karri Ferguson, Greg Munn, CAO Dianne MacDonald

Guests: Devin Murphy, Alexa Ellis - Grant Thornton

Residents: Keith MacDonald, Donna Penny

1.0 Call to Order: Mayor Pat commenced meeting at 6:00 pm.

2.0 Declarations of Conflict of Interest: No conflicts to declare.

3.0 Approval of Agenda: Moved by Cllr Marvin and seconded by Cllr Walter.

4.0 Approval of Minutes (Oct 13/20): Moved by Cllr Walter and seconded by Cllr Marvin.

5.0 Reports:

5.1 Financial Report: Dianne presented the financial report for the past month. Northumberland Arena received \$20000 bilateral assistance related to COVID-19. This payment was received by the municipality and forwarded by cheque to Northumberland Rec Association.

Dianne has applied for the "Safe Restart Funding". This financial assistance is for reopening municipal services and support critical needs for safety, protection of public health, and for potential future waves of the virus. These funds are to be used for costs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, personal protective equipment, technology enhancements, additional cleaning and sanitizing protocols. The municipality will receive the base funding of \$2000 plus \$19.37 per capita (2016 census). Based on our population of 304 the village is eligible to receive base funding of \$7890. Report approved by Cllr Karri and seconded by Cllr Greg.

Audit -Grant Thornton presented the financials for the Municipality for the period beginning April 1st 2019 to March 31st 2020. Discussion held about the report. Motion made by Cllr Walter, seconded by Cllr Greg. All in favor.

5.2 Park/Rec/Lighting and Sidewalks: Remembrance Day Service will be held tomorrow November 11 outside at the Memorial Park, masks are recommended.

Northumberland Arena- Operational plan has been approved. Minor Hockey is now underway. Village sponsored family skate times are booked.

Dianne will contact Miller Trucking for the snow removal and sidewalk clearing for the winter season.

5.3 Community Hall: Council met on October 21st with representatives from the PEI Government, Sonia Dixon and Amy Swallow to discuss the possibility of moving the Hall to the former Murray River school property. This project could be funded for 50% of the cost through the

Community Rural Development Fund but would need to be approved. Decisions for the funding would not be announced until March 31, 2021.

Dianne received notification from the office of Darlene Compton -MLA that the Executive Council approved the transfer of PID # 997270 to the Municipality. Karen MacLeod (Lawyer) will be contacted to have the deed transferred.

Greg reported he is waiting for the topographical survey before the final design can be completed. A planning meeting will be held at that time.

Marvin has the Hall booked for Friday, November 13th.

5.4 Community Library: No report.

6.0 Other Business:

6.1 Correspondence: Pat reported to Council topics discussed at the FPEI Annual virtual meeting held on Monday, October 19th. Pat, Sandra and Dianne attended the meeting.

Other correspondence circulated for Council.

6.2 New Business: Pat spoke with Jamie Miller for suggestions on the sinking hole at the Memorial Park parking lot. He could fill the hole and feather it out for approximately \$500.

Karri suggested more discussion on this situation as it potentially could be a problem. It was suggested to hire an engineer to do a soil probe to see what is present.

Motion made by Cllr Karri to hire Derek French to have sinking hole surveyed. Seconded by Cllr Greg. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Request from Southeast Environment Association: Read by Cllr Karri.

October 27, 2020

Re: Request for Project Support

Dear Murray River Council,

The Southeast Environmental Association (SEA) is a community-based, charitable organization established that was established 1992 with the goal to protect, maintain and enhance the ecology of Prince Edward Island for the environmental, social, and economic well-being of Island residents. We manage the largest watershed region on Prince Edward Island at 73,139 hectares, or 13% of total land area which includes 33 sub-watershed units grouped into six large management areas: Boughton, Cardigan, Brudenell, Montague-Valleyfield, Sturgeon and Murray River.

Atlantic salmon use to be present in all of our river systems but these populations disappeared in the late 1990s. To our surprise, and delight, populations have been reported in two of our rivers, Cardigan and Murray River. Monitoring needs to be completed to determine the size and location of these salmon populations. The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Fund (ASF) has a mission to promote enhanced community partnerships in the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and its habitat in Atlantic salmon and its habitat in Atlantic Canada. SEA is developing a monitoring and restoration project that will be dependent on approval of the ASF application. As part of this application we require in-kind or cash support from our partners. This project will take place May 1, 2021 – March 31, 2024. Activities will include:

- Fish population monitoring o Redd surveys, electrofishing, fish trapping, creel surveys
- Water quality monitoring o Macroinvertebrate surveys, surface water quality surveys

- Stream Restoration o Tree planting, blockage removal, alder thinning, instream sediment control
- Community Outreach o Fish Friends Program, Educational sessions
- Stream Assessments o Riparian assessments, culvert assessments

If the Municipality of Murray River is interested in supporting SEA, and their Atlantic salmon restoration work, a letter outlining the support, sent to project@pei.aibn.ca by Friday, November 13, would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melissa McCarron, Projects Coordinator

Motion made by Cllr Greg to send a letter of support to SEA. Seconded by Cllr Walter. All in favor.
Motion Carried.

6.3 By-Election: The nomination period ends on Friday, November 13th, if there is more than one candidate an Election will be held on Monday, November 30th, and as per the regulations, an advance poll.

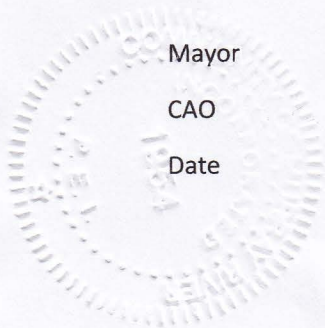
6.4 Unsightly Properties: No updated report.

6.5 EMO Plan: Council is still seeking for an EMO Coordinator for the EMO management plan. Discussion was held about possibly advertising for this position or joining with Murray Harbour. Dianne will contact Denise at the EMO office for more clarification on what other municipalities are doing and also including members of the MR Fire Department.

6.6 Christmas in the Villages: Pat reported the Committee is still working on the "operational plan" due to COVID-19 with masks being mandatory. Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 5th.

6.7 Christmas Council Dinner: Paul White will cater for the dinner, to be held at the MR Hall on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:00 pm.

7.0 Motion to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Cllr Karri at 7:40 pm.



Mayor

CAO

Date

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature: Dianne Donaldson]

[Handwritten date: January 12, 2021]
