

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, AT 1:30 p.m.

1066 MacInnis St. Murray River PE C0A 1W0

**Members Present** Robert Hughes, Official Trustee

**Staff Present** Interim CAO Jill Walsh

16 Community Members present, 1 media

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Official Trustee – Robert Hughes

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Official Trustee Hughes approved the agenda.

**3. Public Presentations/Petitions/Delegations**

No one present wished to speak regarding anything other than item #4 on the agenda. The Official Trustee asked the audience speak on that matter after he explained its origins.

**4. Report of the Official Trustee:**

**a. Resolution to study municipal restructuring in the Southern Kings area**

Following an explanation of the process that led him to the conclusion that a study would provide valuable information for the Rural Municipality of Murray River (through interviews with members of Council over the past two terms, with the Murray Harbour Council, and review of an ACOA report specific to this area), Official Trustee Hughes opened the floor for comments and questions. Nine in attendance offered thoughts, which included whether the consultants would consider a ward system vs. open, whether research would be done into specific development opportunities, whether a consultant has been hired, concerns about increases in property taxes, concern about whether promoting development and attracting new residents is desirable at present, objections that notice of the meeting was insufficient, a desire to delay the resolution, the potential significance of a

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southern Kings municipality, and most residents in the area being studied are presently in unincorporated communities.

Adopted by Official Trustee Hughes:

*Whereas the Rural Municipalities of Murray Harbour and Murray River are concerned about their ongoing viability as municipalities, interested in exploring the funding, economic development and tourism opportunities that that a larger municipality could bring to the area, and interested in studying the costs and benefits of incorporating the two communities and their two fire districts into one new sustainable municipality of approximately 3000 residents in the Southern Kings area, therefore*

*Be it resolved that the Rural Municipality of Murray Harbour and the Rural Municipality of Murray River engage a consultant to study the costs and benefits of establishing a new sustainable municipality in the Southern Kings Area, which study will include:*

- An assessment of the impact of the proposed restructuring on the existing incorporated and unincorporated areas, including proposed services and tax rates (both Provincial and Municipal) by area served, in accordance with the Principles, Standards and Criteria Regulations of the Municipal Government Act, and*
- A community engagement plan to ensure that all area residents and stakeholders have an opportunity to have input into the study, and*
- An assessment of the lost tourism and economic opportunities caused by the current lack of a coordinating body for the area.*

*And Be it Further resolved that an application be made to the Province to fund the study.*

**5. Adjournment – by the Official Trustee at 2:32 pm.**

**Signed in accordance**

**Municipal Government Act S. 116(4)**

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MURRAY RIVER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Hughes, Official Trustee

December 19, 2023  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill Walsh, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Jan 16/24  
Date