



Monthly Council Meeting-Minutes
Thursday, March 6th, 2025 @ 7:00 pm
CDC Boardroom, William Callbeck Centre

Present:

Mayor: Matthew Bowness

Councillors:

Barry Stewart
Derrick Blacquiere
Nichola Arsenault
Andrew David

CAO: Kevin McKenna

Absent:

Councillors:

Karen Ashley-Neill
Robert Green

Guests: Caeley Currie, Catherine Callbeck, Joan Gauvin, Brenda Green, Bill Callbeck, Helen Callbeck, and MLA Matthew MacFarlane

- 1. Call to Order and Attendance** – Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. Mayor Matthew Bowness welcomed Caeley Currie from Bedeque and Area Historical Museum, MLA Matthew MacFarlane, along with all Councillors and Guests in attendance.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Derrick Blacquiere, seconded by Barry Stewart that Agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried.**
- 3. Presentation From Caeley Currie - Bedeque and Area Historical Museum:** Mayor Matthew Bowness introduced Bedeque and Area Historical Museum Manager Caeley Currie to make her presentation to Council. Caeley handed out their Loyalist Heritage Festival Report and provided additional details on the events covering the weekend of August 9th to 11th, 2024. The successful Festival included events being a Loyalist dinner, craft workshops, Heritage dancer performances, historical talks, Blueberry/Ice Cream Social and the Richard Wood Concert. Currie stressed on numerous occasions during the

festival that the funding provided by the Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area was critical to the success of their ceremonies. Thanks were extended to Council for their assistance. In closing her presentation Currie asked from Council if there would be additional funding this year to perhaps continue the Loyalist Heritage Festival and combine those festivities with the re-establishment of Bedeque Days in 2025. Mayor Bowness asked Currie to make a formal written request over the next week and Council will consider their request at our next meeting the following week.

4. Determine Conflict of Interest: No Conflict of Interest by any members present.

5. Financials:

CAO Kevin McKenna presented the Cumulative Income Statement Spreadsheets as of February 28th, 2025, to Council for their review.

Balances in Bank Accounts as of February 28th, 2025

Main Account:	\$ 65,638.19
Gas Tax Account	\$ 834.50
Ball-Field Account	\$ 76,277.47
Contingency Savings	\$ 35,523.09
Emergency Management Plan Savings	\$ 1,990.89

Council reviewed the 2024-2025 Budget and compared figures with Cumulative Income Statements. Moved by Barry Stewart, seconded by Nichola Arsenault that we accept the February 28th, 2025, Financial Statements as presented. **Motion Carried**

6. Financial Plan for 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year: Review and Discuss Proposed Budget:

CAO Kevin McKenna distributed the initial Financial Plan draft showing the estimated actual figures for this past 2024-2025 Fiscal Year along with the projected Budget for the upcoming 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. Under the Revenue Section it was explained that the figures shown for Government Transfer or Equalization Grants should show a slight increase over last years figures, so we projected a small 5 percent increase for this upcoming year at \$ 33,785.00. Also, Property Tax Assessments of \$ 59,978.00 is based on our Municipal Tax Rates remaining the same at .30 Cents per 100.00 of Current Taxable Municipal Market Assessments. Moved by Nichola Arsenault, seconded by Derrick Blaquiere that we remain at .30 Cents per 100.00 of Current Taxable Municipal Market Assessment for the upcoming 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. **Motion Carried**

The Expenditures for the 2025-2026 Budget were reviewed in detail. It was pointed out that the Donations expenses should be increased from \$1,800.00 to \$ 5000.00 to allow for extra donations. This would allow for potential increased donations to our annual donors. The revised Financial Plan, attached to these minutes, shows a Projected Net Profit of \$510.00. Moved by Barry Stewart, seconded by Andrew David that the changes to the 2025-2026 Fiscal Budget Draft be completed for final approval March 13th, 2025. **Motion Carried.**

7. **Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:** Minutes from our last Regular Council Meeting on Thursday January 2nd, 2025, were reviewed and presented by Mayor Bowness. Moved by Derrick Blacquiere, seconded by Nichola Arsenault that the Minutes of the January 2nd, 2025, meeting be approved as presented. **Motion Carried.**

8. **Business Arising from Previous Meeting:**

A) **Crosswalk – CDC Request on Behalf of Heritage Museum / Speeding Issues:**

CAO Kevin reported that he established a meeting with MLA Matthew MacFarlane and Stephen Yeo from Department of Highways on Tuesday March 4th, 2025, to discuss crosswalks and speeding issues within the Communities. The potential crosswalk on Callbeck Street between William Callbeck Centre and the Lucy Maud Montgomery Schoolhouse would require a landing pad be established on the Schoolhouse side of the road for safety concerns. Also, a potential crosswalk from McKenna Field entrance across Linkletter Avenue, to join the potential new PEI Bag Company Walking Trail was discussed. This Crosswalk would also require a landing pad on the Baptist Church side of Linkletter Avenue. Both Crosswalks will be investigated late April or early May 2025.

With respects to speeding issues within the communities, Department of Highways will not allow 3-way stop signs at the Linkletter Avenue / Callbeck Street intersection. In addition, speed bumps or rumble strips on our main roads are prohibited by law. Their reasoning is due to safety issues and regulations already studied and implemented. Stephen Yeo, however indicated they will conduct traffic count and speed monitoring study in May-June 2025 to determine average traffic and speed to determine potential solutions. In the meantime, Stephen Yeo will ask Highway Safety Patrol to monitor our streets for heavy trucking violations as that appears to be most of the speeding issues being local contractors. Also, an advance Stop Sign and flashing Stop Sign will be introduced at the Linkletter Avenue intersection to make drivers aware and slow down. Further details will be provided late spring.

B) **Update on CCBF (Gas Tax Fund) and CIP Application for Bedeque Recreational Centre:**

CAO Kevin informed Council that it is still our intentions to apply for the Capital Investment Program (CIP) under the CCBF Funding for the Bedeque Area Recreational Center Project prior to March 15th, 2025. As each CIP Application is received and approved then allotment funds will be distributed directly to our CCBF Bank Account for that specific Project Number. As we do not have an Official Plan for Water and Sewage these allotments can't be placed into the Official Plan as was done in previous years. So, we must have planned projects such as Playground, Multi-Use Sports Pad, Bedeque Area Recreational Center, and Bedeque Historical Museum capital expenditures in place and apply for CCBF Funds through these CIP Applications. Kevin to follow-up Infrastructure Secretariat and apply before deadline of March 15th, 2025, and report back to Council.

C) Memorandum of Understanding / Reception Center Plan - Bedeque Baptist Church:

Mayor Bowness reported that Memorandum of Understanding was signed by both parties on October 15th, 2024. The focus now is to update and finalize the Reception Center Plan for the Warming Centre. We continue to work on the Plan to establish the list of names from both parties that will assist in opening and supervising the Warming Centre during operation. In addition, we will need to get signage for the outside Eisel Board indicating the Warming Centre hours of operation. Kevin to continue to obtain signage from Dalmac Signs.

D) Update on Bedeque Water Pump Generator Project:

Mayor Matthew Bowness advised Council that he met with Cody Lidstone last week and expressed Council's disappointment and the urgency to have the 60 KW Generator commissioned due to potential liability issues. Lidstone Electric are to arrange with Maritime Electric to finish their service work and have the commissioning of the generator completed over the next couple of weeks.

E) Property Tax Waiver: Designate Bedeque Park / McKenna Field as Park/Green Space

CAO Kevin informed Council that he had located and submitted the June 2020 Meeting Minutes to the Province of PEI Department of Finance Taxation and Property Records. These June 2020 minutes indicated that Council made a motion to designate Bedeque Park as **"Green Space"** only rather than **"Park Space / Green Space"**. Due to this technicality the province will only accept our most recent motion passed at our January 2nd, 2025, meeting designating the Bedeque Park / McKenna Field as Park and Green Space. As a result, the Province of PEI, Finance and Property Records have made a recommendation to waive Property Taxes on our Park Space retroactive to January 1st, 2024. These changes should be reflected in this years Property Tax Statements being distributed this May 2025. To report our findings to Council once received.

F) PEI Bag Company Walking Trail Project:

CAO Kevin McKenna reported that the Active Transportation Funding Application for the PEI Bag Company Walking Trail was submitted to the Province of PEI prior to the deadline being January 17th, 2025. Attempts were made on numerous occasions to obtain a third quote from Waugh's Construction but was unobtainable before the application deadline. In following up Francois Caron on a potential approval timeline he indicated approval should be made sometime in April – May 2025.

9. New Business:

A) AED Unit Formerly at Doctor's Office: New Location to be Determined

Mayor Matthew Bowness indicated that the AED (Defibrillator) has been removed from the former Doctor's Office in Village of Bedeque and requires a new home within the Community. Discussion surrounded potential locations such as the Water Pump Shed or McKenna Ballfield Facilities Building were suggested. The concern was availability to the Municipality 24/7 access. It was determined that we should obtain the Kinkora Fire Department's recommendation as to an appropriate location. This will be discussed when we meet to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding for the new Water Pump Shed Generator Project.

B) Update on Rural Municipality of Bedeque Wall of Fame:

Councillor Barry Stewart reported that he had informed CDC Business Manager Gordon Coffin that we wished to place our former Mayor's and present Mayor framed pictures on the wall outside the CDC Boardroom across from Baba's Restaurant back entrance. All indications were positive from Mr. Coffin, however final approval will be obtained once Mr. Coffin returns to PEI following his vacation. CAO Kevin has also obtained a quote from Heckbert's Studio on the cost of such framed pictures. Also, will obtain a separate quote from Boily Photo and report back to Council at next meeting.

C) Re-establishing Citizen of the Year Awards:

Council discussed the possibility of re-establishing some type of Recognition Award or Achievement Award that could replace the former Citizen of the Year Award. It was suggested that perhaps we could hand out these awards publicly say at our Annual Loyalist Days or potential Bedeque Days events. Will discuss potential candidates at next Council meeting.

D) Bedeque Days: Potential Re-Establishment:

It was briefly discussed at our previous meeting that we investigate the feasibility of perhaps re-establishing of Bedeque Days. This was further suggested in this evening Council meeting when Caeley Currie made her Loyalist Heritage Festival presentation. Currie was wondering if funding would be available, like last year's Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area's \$ 5,000.00 donation, towards a combined Bedeque Days / Loyalist Festival for this upcoming 2025 season. Again, Council suggested that Currie make a formal request in writing to Council for consideration and potential approval.

E) Potential Funding from RGI and CCBF for Upcoming Projects:

As discussed under Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes, Council outlined numerous projects that we are investigating for potential funding over the next five years. Some suggestions were 1) Bedeque Park Playground, 2) Bedeque Park Multi-Use Sports Pad, 3) Bedeque Area Recreational Center, and 4) Bedeque Historical Museum capital expenditures. Kevin is to seek out these projects and report back to Council.

10) Correspondence:

A) Email from Citizens Concerned on Excess Speeding in our Communities:

As mentioned earlier under Crosswalks and Excess Speeding, Stephen Yeo, in our March 4th, 2025, Meeting indicated Department of Highways will conduct traffic count and speed monitoring study in May-June 2025 to determine average traffic and speed. This will determine potential solutions to this problem. In the meantime, Stephen Yeo will ask Highway Safety Patrol to monitor our streets for heavy trucking violations as that appears to be most of the speeding issues being from local contractors. Also, an advanced Stop Sign and flashing Stop Sign itself will be introduced at the Linkletter Avenue intersection to make drivers aware and slow down. Further details will be provided late Spring 2025.

B) Email from Shawna Crowe – Hobby Farming Within our Community:

Council discussed this request from Shawna Crowe who lives within our Municipal boundaries at 2063 Route 112 Village of Bedeque. We are awaiting word back from Robert Zilke, Province of PEI Municipal Planning Specialist before we reply to this inquiry on potential Hobby Farming. MLA Matthew MacFarlane indicated that unless we have an Official Plan established with Policies and Regulations, we are unable to restrict such practices within our Municipality. CAO Kevin is to inform Shawna Crowe once we obtain recommendations from the province on this matter.

11) Open Floor: No topics brought forward at this time

12) Schedule Next Meeting Date: Budget Approval Meeting - March 13th, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
Regular Council Meeting - May 1st, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

13) Adjournment: Moved by Derrick that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 PM

Prepared By: CAO, Kevin P. McKenna

Approved By: Mayor: Matthew Bowness