



Budget Council Meeting-Minutes
Thursday, March 13th, 2025 @ 7:00 pm
CDC Boardroom, William Callbeck Centre

Present:

Mayor: Matthew Bowness

Councillors:

Barry Stewart
Karen Ashley-Neill
Derrick Blacquiere
Nichola Arsenault
Andrew David

CAO: Kevin McKenna

Absent:

Councillors:

Robert Green

Guests: No Guest Attended Open Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Attendance** – Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. Mayor Matthew Bowness welcomed all Councillors in attendance.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Karen Ashley-Neill, seconded by Barry Stewart that Agenda be approved as presented. **Motion Carried.**
3. **Determine Conflict of Interest:** No Conflict of Interest by any members present.
4. **Financial Plan for 2025 – 2026 Fiscal Year: Final Review and Acceptance of Budget:** CAO Kevin McKenna distributed the Final Financial Plan showing the estimated actual figures for this past 2024-2025 Fiscal Year along with the projected budget for the upcoming 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. The Budget after Expenditures showed a slight Net Revenue of \$ 510.00 for the upcoming 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. Moved by Barry Stewart, seconded by Andrew David that the 2025-2026 Budget be approved as presented. **Motion Carried.**

5. New Business:

A) **GST Rebate Funds Received: Decision on Allocation of Funds**

CAO Kevin explained to Council that we received a Direct Deposit on March 5th, 2025, in the amount of \$ 17,269.25 from Canada Revenue Agency. This represented 5 % Goods and Services Tax Claim for the period July 1st to December 31st, 2023. This claim was submitted by our Auditor, MRSB last Fiscal Year. Most of these funds relate to capital expenditures towards the McKenna Ballfield Project including the new Facility Building, Maintenance/Announcers Building, and the Lighting around the Walking Trail. As agreed between the Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area and the Bedeque Area Minor Ball Association the GST portion of these McKenna Field Projects are to be retained by the Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area. It was suggested that these Funds be placed into the Sports and Recreation Reserve account for future Playground and Multi-Sports Pad infrastructure. Mayor Matthew Bowness suggested that a portion of these funds be used to compensate CAO Kevin McKenna for his time spent on these projects. Mayor Matthew stressed that a considerable amount of his time has been spent on these projects over the past 4 years, over and above his regular duties for the Rural Municipality of Bedeque and Area. Majority of Council felt that some form of compensation be based on the number of hours directed towards these projects, but they required more time to reflect. Council suggested that we leave these funds in the operating account for now and decide on distribution of funds at a future Council Meeting.

B) **Funding Proposal Bedeque Days Summer Series: Bedeque Historical Museum**

CAO Kevin distributed document titled “**Bedeque Area Historical Museum Funding Proposal**” received from Caeley Currie their Museum Manager. Council reviewed and discussed the proposal requesting an annual contribution of \$5,000.00 for the next 5 years totaling \$ 25,000.00 for period covering 2025-2030. These funds would directly support the Bedeque Days Summer Series encompassing the re-establishment of Old Bedeque Days with the Loyalist Heritage Days during the summer months of June to August each year. Council felt that a five-year commitment is a significant request based on the current economic situation in Canada and the uncertainty of Federal and Provincial funding support. It was suggested that we will advance funds this fiscal year provided funds are directly related to Bedeque Days Summer Series expenditures. Council would advance funding once Bedeque Days Summer Series Committee provides financial reports reflecting expenditures directly associated to these Bedeque Days Series events. Future funding would be reviewed annually this time of year. Moved by Derrick Blacquiere, seconded by Andrew David that we approve funding up to \$ 5,000.00 for Summer of 2025 towards the Bedeque Days Summer Series provided financial reports reflect expenditures are directly related to such events. **Motion Carried.**

C) Proposed Capital Project: Bedeque Historical Museum:

CAO Kevin distributed document titled “**Bedeque Area Historical Museum – Proposed Capital Projects**” which was forwarded to the Municipality on behalf of the Historical Museum from Caeley Currie Museum Manager for our consideration. The document outlined the requirement for an accessible boardwalk to the Lower Bedeque School Museum along with repairs to the Loyalist Monument Park Gazebo. Council felt that perhaps this funding could be obtained through the Rural Growth Initiative (RGI) funding through the Province of PEI. If provincial funding is approved, we could perhaps apply for a portion of our CCBF Gas Tax Funding for the project through the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) application. The RGI funding through the province would have to be initiated by the Historical Museum first and foremost.

D) Breakdown of Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Projects under CCBF

CAO, Kevin outlined to Council that we are required to plan ahead for the projects that we would like to contribute to through the Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF - Gas Tax) Funding. For each Project funded we are required to submit a Capital Investment Plan (CIP) application. Once approved we will obtain our annual allotments of CCBF Funds. Over the next five years, Fiscal years 2024 -2029, we are eligible to receive approximately \$ 49,000.00 in funding. Council felt that we should apply for the “Revitalization” funding based on the following tentative breakdown. 1) \$10,000.00 Bedeque Area Rec Center Ice Plant Replacement 2) \$ 10,000.00 Bedeque Historical Museum Boardwalk Project 3) 10,000.00 Bedeque Area Rec Center – New Heat Pumps and Ceiling Insulation Project and 4) \$ 19,000.00 New Multi-Sports Pad and Playground Project. Kevin to make CIP applications based on the above breakdown.

E) Signing of Municipal Office Lease Agreement with CDC

Mayor Matthew Bowness indicated that the Municipal Office Lease Agreement with Central Development Corporation required a new agreement be signed for the upcoming Fiscal Year. The cost per month including HST will be \$233.00 per month. Mayor Bowness and CAO Kevin both signed and sealed the new agreement. CAO Kevin is to deliver signed lease to CDC this week along with twelve Post-Dated Cheques

F) Application for Land Transfer: Bedeque Park from Province of PEI

CAO Kevin McKenna advised Council that he met with Stephen Yeo and Matt MacFarlane on March 4th, 2025, to discuss the possibility of obtaining additional land for Park Space from the Province of PEI for future development. The property in question is Property ID 222141, now owed by the Government of PEI, between the Bedeque Park property boundary and the Trans Canada Highway Route 1A. Kevin is to measure off what portion we would require for development and submit that proposal to Mr. Yeo and the Department of Highways for their consideration. If accepted, then we will proceed to arrange for land transfer between both parties. Moved by Derrick Blacquiere, seconded by Andrew David that we proceed with the above potential land transfer for future Park Space development. **Motion Carried.**

G) Stipend / Honorariums:

Councillor Derrick Blacquiere mentioned that he spoke to a Borden Council member and they receive Honorariums of approximately \$ 192.00 per month in taxable income for each Council Member. Mayor Bowness also inquired with Kensington Council, and their Mayor receives \$ 10,000.00 annually, Deputy Mayor receives \$ 7,500.00 annually and each Councillor receives \$ 1,500.00 annually in Honorariums or Taxable Income. It was noted by our Council that these municipalities have Official Plans, and both have significant water and sewage infrastructure in place. With this infrastructure comes significant funding and time commitments for their Mayors and Councillors. Council felt that we should discuss in more detail at a future Council meeting.

6) Schedule Next Meeting Date: Regular Council Meeting - May 1st, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

7) Adjournment: Moved by Karen that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 PM

Prepared By: CAO, Kevin P. McKenna

Approved By: Mayor: Matthew Bowness