

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 14, 2023 6:15 p.m.

In Attendance: Mayor Larry Fitzpatrick, Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott, Councillor's Bernadette McInnis, Donna Campbell Dixon, Arthur Baker, Don Humphrey, and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Sonya Martin.

Regrets: Councillor Nathan Paton

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m. A quorum was present so the meeting continued.

2. Conflicts of Interest Declaration – Individual Councillors – MGA 96.(1-8)

Conflicts of Interest for Item 6.(a) were stated in regards to the Budget review. Mayor Larry Fitzpatrick for the Fire Dept portion, Councillor Bernadette McInnis and Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott in regards to items pertaining to EKCC funding.

3. Agenda Approval

It was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Councillor Bernadette McInnis to approve the agenda. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

4. Minutes Approval – January 17, 2023

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Danelle Elliott and seconded by Councillor Donna Campbell Dixon to approve the minutes as presented. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

5. Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Reports

- a. The Income Statement as at January 31, 2023 was reviewed by the CAO.
- b. Mayor Larry Fitzpatrick deferred the Fly Program item to the budget discussion.
- c. A motion to approve the change of dates for the 23-24 Financial Plan presentation to Monday March 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., was made by Councillor Donna Campbell Dixon and was seconded by Councillor Don Humphrey. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

6. New Business – 2023-2024 RMEK Operational Budget Review

The CAO reviewed the projected budget for fiscal 2023-2024 starting with the tax assessment and other revenues, which also included the surplus transfer, and then provided an overview of the categorized annual expenditures. Areas of significance were wage increases for the Development Officer and the CAO; anticipated office and field equipment replacements; a professional arborist safety assessment in regards to the trails



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

for our 2023 Fly Program due to the impacts of hurricane Fiona; and the continuous support for the community with municipal grants funding which represents 46% of the Municipal Tax Revenue income, including an increase in the EK Fire Department remuneration as was requested by a letter dated February 8, 2023 (Appendix A). The final review and approval of the Budget will take place at the March 21st Council Meeting. Copies of the draft budget can be picked up at the municipal office.

*At this time, Mayor Larry Fitzpatrick called an "in-camera session" MGA 119. (1)(d) to review Human Resource matters with Council; and as per MGA 116.(2) restricted disclosure of the confidential subject matter.

7. Bylaw reading and review of content.

- a. Due to time restraints, Mayor Larry Fitzpatrick deferred this item to the next regular council meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. It was moved by Councillor Arthur Baker and seconded by Councillor Donna Campbell Dixon. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

Signed in accordance

Municipal Government Act S.116(4)

Larry Fitzpatrick, Mayor

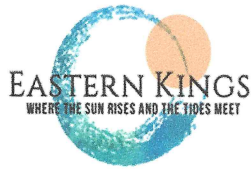
11 APRIL 2023

Date

Sonya Martin, Chief Administrative Officer

April 9, 2023

Date



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

APPENDIX "A"

Eastern Kings Fire Department

February 8, 2023

c/o Tony MacDonald

249 Elmira Road, Souris, PE C0A 2B0

Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

c/o Sonya Martin

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Eastern Kings Fire Department to first and foremost thank you for your past financial support. The department would not be able to deliver the services we do to the community without the support of the municipality.

As we are all aware, costs of running our households has risen dramatically in the past five years and this is the same for us at EKFD. Heating oil has basically doubled in the past five years, our insurance is up 45-50% in this same time frame, and all the other everyday expenses like utilities, repair and maintenance, and truck fuel have all risen dramatically as well.

When we compare to other smaller departments like Belfast, Murray River, and so on, we are getting by with a lower budget to try to offer the same services. It has been a very tight budget the past few years with our grant from RMEK being solely used to keep the department operational, with very little money left for capital investment in the department.

We did receive an additional \$14,000 from RMEK last spring in the form of a one year grant, and it was a huge help to us. We are requesting that this be made permanent on our yearly payment from Eastern Kings Municipality, so we can set future budgets knowing we have these additional funds to work with.

Honestly, we could use more if it was available but we are also aware and respect the fact that RMEK has other organizations and interests to fund as well, so we do not want those to be impacted by our request.

We would immensely appreciate your consideration on this request.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 902-969-7735.

Thanking you in advance,

Tony MacDonald

Secretary/Treasurer EKFD



Rural Municipality of Eastern Kings

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Report – February 14, 2023

Bank Statement Reports

CIBC – Souris

1.) CIBC – Cash Account:

Closing Bank Balance on January 31, 2023: **\$81,481.37**

Souris Credit Union

1.) Shares

Business Shares at January 31, 2023: **\$5.05**
Patronage account at January 31, 2023 **\$279.05**

2.) Gas Tax (Restricted Funds)

Opening Balance on January 01, 2023 **\$111,293.81**
Upland Gas Tax Project#15 - Official Cheque #11210 **\$2,662.25**
Interest – 4.450% **\$411.87**
Closing Balance January 31, 2023 **\$109,043.43**

3.) *New Business Strategic Savings Account

GIC Transfers at January 01, 2023 **\$33,871.80**
Interest – 4.400% **\$126.58**
Closing Balance at January 31, 2023 **\$33,998.38**

***Please Note - there were no approved permits in January 2023**

RMEK DEVELOPMENT PERMITS | SUBDIVISION APPROVALS REZONING AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS 2023

For more information, please contact Development Officer - Michelle Paquet Monette
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