

Minutes
Resort Municipality Public Meeting
February 27, 2023
6:30 p.m.

The Public Meeting of the Resort Municipality was held on February 27, 2023, at the Cavendish Visitor Information Centre.

PRESENT: Mayor Matthew Jelley, Councillors George Clark Dunning, Kay Hryckiw, Chris Robinson and Ryan Simpson. Brenda MacDonald – CAO, Deputy CAO – Heather Hay.

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Linda Lowther and Councillor Lee Brammer.

VISITORS: Richard Moore, Stig Andersen, Phil Davison and Anthony Davis - CBC.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jelley called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Jelley advised that the pre-budget consultations are the only item on the agenda for the meeting.

Mayor Jelley commented on the Council's priorities and how the previous budget was completed.

Mayor Jelley talked about the yearly projects that were being worked on including.

- 1) Infrastructure projects on upgrading the trails - \$75,000.00
- 2) Montgomery Park new shelters \$13,500.00
- 3) Official Plan and Bylaw Review \$44,000.00
- 4) Water Study is being worked on at a cost of \$30,000.00
- 5) New filing cabinet, cameras and computers were purchased at a cost of \$3,800.00
- 6) Remembrance Day Event at a cost of \$2,650.00
- 7) Special Events throughout the year including Multi-Cultural Heritage Day, Tree Lighting Event, February Social and Fiona Warming Centre at a cost of \$3,950.00.
- 8) Sewer Utility work was completed on the lagoon site with trees as well as the roadway at a cost of \$5,000.00

Mayor Jelley went through the yearly budget items to date.

The sewer utility has some debt for sewer loans, and it is separately incorporated. Reserve funds are not allowed with the sewer utility.

Mayor Jelley commented on some new projects that are being looked at such as a municipal space to have meetings and various events and a warming centre with a generator, dog park and wayfinding signage.

Stig Andersen commented on the field beside the gas station and the community purchasing it for a variety of things. He also commented on having a ball field and a place for people to go in the area.

Mayor Jelley advised that the land being discussed is private.

Mayor Jelley advised that the corner hub and the visitor centre is the space that the municipality is looking at to have as a warming centre and office space for events and a variety of things.

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Phil Davison advised that there are lots of international students here and it is a great space to be able to use year round.

Mayor Jelley advised that the municipality is working with all levels of government as the land is Federally owned and the building is provincially owned.

There are various leases with the tenants in the building that include Tourism Cavendish Beach, Central Coastal Tourism Partnership, Resort Municipality, the Indigenous groups, and the RCMP.

Stig Andersen advised that the space could be used for a number of groups if it were allowed for small and large groups as it is a great location.

Councillor Robinson replied to Stig Andersen's comment about a community recreational field and one idea would be for a dog park and a pickle ball court.

Stig Andersen commented on having sack races and various events for kids as it would be a big deal for them.

Mayor Jelley advised that the Visitor Information Centre is the only presence that the province has in the central region and we don't want to lose that either and let them off the hook with contributing to the area.

Mayor Jelley advised that the Council has to look at the Swimming Rock site to determine the next steps as the stairs were taken away again during hurricane Fiona.

Mayor Jelley advised that the municipality could start working towards a community campus similar to other areas with pickle ball and a park area and noted that the biggest challenge we have is that we don't own a lot of land.

Mayor Jelley advised that there are 6 – 8 families farming in the area presently and there may be some availability of land in the future.

Phil Davison talked about the upper area of the Cavendish Grove where the tents were located in the past for Rainbow Valley. He wondered about having a basketball court at the top as there is enough land there as well as washrooms.

Mayor Jelley advised that with Parks Land it depends if the land is gazetted or not and what can be done with it.

Councillor Simpson advised that the land has a lot of history.

Richard Moore advised that there is a lot of Parks Land that is not gazetted.

Mayor Jelley advised that there may need to be some more exploratory work with Parks Canada to see what lands are and are not gazetted.

Councillor Robinson advised that an articling student may be able to do some work on the Parks Land. Mayor Jelley advised that there may be some sort of collaboration with a law student and working with the land registry.

Mayor Jelley advised that Parks Staff use the former Simpson property for their own staff or staff coming from away to work at.

Mayor Jelley advised that with the flooding that has been happening within the PEI National Park, the next area that is shown to flood is where the Otentiks are located. They will be looking to relocate them in the near future so there will be some work coming forward for this near the lagoon site.

Phil Davison asked if there were any plans on expanding the lagoons. Mayor Jelley advised that the original agreement with Parks was for the existing land and not the changes to the site to another location so there will be fees being charged and it would be metred just like all businesses.

The sewer utility has around 1 million in loans and the municipality has some reserves so the municipality may look at lending funds to the sewer utility at a different rate as there is a new project being worked on for lift station # 4.

Phil Davison asked about solar power and if it is something that the community is looking at. Mayor Jelley advised that the community has looked at some options and the utility does have extra land at the lagoon site that could be used for a solar array. To date the municipality has mostly been against wind energy,

Councillor Robinson advised that there may be some projects that the municipality could partner with the Town of North Rustico on.

Mayor Jelley advised that when the new rink was being constructed the municipality was invited to one meeting and never invited to anything further. The rink says that it has the support of the 13 communities, but they have never asked the municipality to be part of the discussions.

Mayor Jelley advised that the municipality has its own tax rate that is 1/3 of North Rustico and we would continue to do things in our own municipality to keep our rates down for landowners.

Mayor Jelley advised that we have to look at options for various services as they arise and deal with them. For instance, our sewer contractor is aging, and services are always being looked at and how they will continue to be provided.

Stig Andersen suggested that for Heritage Day why not consider rotating it around and engage more people. The CAO advised that we have a strict budget and all projects must meet the approval of the funding partners and be inspected for food service and various items.

Mayor Jelley advised that the Stewart Homestead Community Park is a pavilion that rents for \$60.00 to help with clean up costs and no one wants to rent it as they feel it is too expensive. Mayor Jelley advised that the posts at the pavilion will need to be replaced.

Mayor Jelley advised that the public has until March 6, 2023 to send in any written feedback by e-mail and there are also forms at the entrance that can be completed and returned to the office with any ideas or suggestions.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Jelley adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m..



Mayor



CAO