

TOWN OF STEADY BROOK **PUBLIC MEETING** December 14, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Councilors:

Mayor Dawson

Deputy Mayor Sarah Kennedy-Dyson

C. Morrissey

C. Diamond

C. Jenkins

C. Wight (Telephone)

Sherry Lee Hull – Administrative Assistant

ABSENT:

C. Douglas

Agenda Item

1) Call Meeting to <u>Order</u>

Mayor Dawson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor Dawson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mayor Dawson acknowledged that Councillor Wight was via

telephone.

Mayor Dawson asked if there were any additions or omissions to

the December 14, 2023, Agenda,

(1.1) Adoption of

the Agenda

Mayor Dawson, hearing none, called for a motion to approve the

agenda as presented.

RESOLUTION

#2023/118

DIAMOND/JENKINS:

BE IT RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS

PRESENTED FOR THE REGULAR PUBLIC COUNCIL

MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 2023.

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-

Dyson, Wight, Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

(1.2) Adoption of Meeting Minutes

Mayor Dawson proceeded to the adoption of the November 16,

2023, minutes. The Mayor asked if there were any

errors/omissions to note.

Mayor Dawson, hearing none, called for a motion to adopt the

November 16, 2023, minutes.

RESOLUTION #2023/119 KENNEDY-DYSON/MORRISSEY:

BE IT RESOLVED TO ADOPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED FOR THE REGULAR PUBLIC COUNCIL

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023.

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-

Dyson, Douglas, Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

(2) Business Arising Action Items Nothing to Report.

(3) Notices of Resolutions

Nothing to Report.

Delegations & Guests

No Guest

(4) Committee Reports

4.1 OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS:

- 4.1.1 Maintenance Update
 - Ford Truck required a new deck, the box was rusted out.
- 4.1.2 Water/Artesian Wells Parts (MOTION)
 - Wells were shut down on November 2nd to do maintenance on the Artesian Wells.
 - November 5th, 2023, the town went on a boil order due to not being able to maintain water residuals.
 - For several months the maintenance department had been experiencing ups and downs with chlorine levels with no explanation as to why. Maintenance had concern's the flow meter was not giving accurate readings and was not working properly; this was confirmed and a new one had to be ordered.
 - The flowmeter is a piece of equipment that advises us of how much water is going through the system. The most important function is that it alerts the chlorine pump of how much chlorine to dispose into the system. Currently chlorine is being dispensed manually, which means there is just as much chlorine being used at 2:00 am as it is at 2:00pm.
 - A new flowmeter has been ordered and should be here soon, a rush has been put on this order. (Flowmeter is being shipped from Colorado).
 - Regarding the Artesian Wells only 2 wells are functioning due to a mechanical issue with a transducer in the third well. A new transducer has been ordered.

- Good News the reservoir is holding its own.
- The reservoir has been full since the experiment was done. The town does not know currently how much water we are getting due to the third well being down. Once the town receives the new transducer the third well will be recommissioned. The Town will then be able to find out what the water flow is.
- The estimation right now is 30-35 gallons per minute (gpm), not sure if that will be maintained over the winter. Historically the town was getting 13gpm. It has been determined the town would need 55-60gpm.
- The town's intention is to drill another well come spring to obtain 55-60gpm.
- The Towns investment appears to have been beneficial to the Town.

RESOLUTION #2023/120

MORRISSEY/DIAMOND:

WHEREAS THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK'S FLOW METER IN THE CHLORINE BUILDING IS NO LONGER WORKING AND WHEREAS THE TRANSDUCERS FOR THE ARTESIAN WELLS NEED TO BE REPLACED; BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK APPROVE THE ORDER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM K.D. PRATT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,812.85 PLUS HST.

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Douglas, Dawson OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

- 4.1.3 MCW Green Infrastructure Project #17-GI-22-00080 Lift Stations/Generators
 - The anticipated start date is in the spring.
- 4.1.4 Capital Works Application Project #17-GI-23-00067 Lagoon/Compressor
 - Ongoing Under review with Municipal Affairs.
- 4.1.5 MCW Marble Drive Paving Upgrades
 - Approved Letter was signed off to approval of the Engineer firm selected.

4.2 EMERGENCY MEASURES:

- 4.2.1 Fire Department
 - Budget has been approved with no added cost for residents this year.
- 4.2.2 Municipal Enforcement Regulations
 - Being published December 22, 2023, by the Kings Printer.

4.3 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

- 4.3.1 Building Permit Approvals
 - No permits issued.
- 4.3.2 Application 2023-031 Sub-Divide Property (MOTION)

RESOLUTION #2023/121

KENNEDY-DYSON/JENKINS:

WHEREAS THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH AN APPLICATION TO SUB-DIVIDE PROPERTY LOCATED AT PAR ID 274-286 AND WHEREAS THE SUB-DIVIDE REQUEST MUST MEET THE TOWNS DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS; BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK APPROVE APPLICATION # 2023-031 TO SUD-DIVIDE THE PROPERTY UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- UPDATED SURVEY FROM PAR ID 274-286 TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN WITHIN 60-90 DAYS OF APPROVAL.
- UPDATED SURVEY FROM PAR ID 160-374 TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN WITHIN 60-90 DAYS OF APPROVAL.
- UPDATED SURVEYS MUST SHOW THEY ARE CONFORMING LOT SIZES AS PER THE TOWNS DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS.

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Wight,

Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

4.4 RECREATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- 4.4.1 Marble Mountain Development Corporation (MMDC)
 - Nothing new to report.
- 4.4.2 Best Decorated House
 - Let's light up our community this Christmas.
 - First, second and third prizes Will be announced Dec. 21/23.
- 4.4.3 Adopt A Hydrant starting January 1st, 2024.
 - Call the town office to register.

4.5 FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNICATIONS:

4.5.1 – Approval of Invoices (Motion)

RESOLUTION #2023/122

JENKINS/MORRISSEY:

BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK APPROVE THE INVOICES AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$94,601.72.

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Wight,

Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

Mayor Dawson asked if anyone would like to speak to the motion.

Councillor Morrissey stated there was an invoice from Fracflow Consultants Inc. (who did maintenance on the water system) contributed to the invoices being higher this month.

4.5.2 - GIC Transfer (MOTION)

RESOLUTION #2023/123

JENKINS/DIAMOND:

BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK TRANSFERED GIC #10339782186 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.00 INTO THE TOWN'S OPERATING BANK ACCOUNT.

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Wight,

Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

4.5.3 – Approval of 2024 Municipal Tax Structure (MOTION)

RESOLUTION #2023/124

JENKINS/KENNEDY-DYSON:

BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK ADOPT THE 2024 MUNICIPAL TAX STRUCTURE AS PRESENTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Property Tax

Residential:

Mil Rate......6.0 mils

Minimum.....\$300.00

Minimum Vacant Land \$300.00

Commercial:

Mil Rate.....12 mils

Minimum.....\$600.00

Business Tax

Home Base Business......\$250.00

Air BnB's - Short Term Rentals.....12mils

Bed & Breakfast......12mils

Lodging/Cabins/Campsites/Condo......12 mils

Retail/Liquor/Gas/Pubs/Other.....15 mils

Hotel/Motel with Restaurant & Pool....15mils

Dentist/Salons/professional......35 mils

Trucking/Landscape/Contracting......50 mils

Kennels......50 mils

Minimum Business Tax.....\$450.00

Water/Sewer Tax

Residential:

Water & Sewer.....\$300.00

Water Only.....\$250.00

Commercial:

Water & Sewer Lodgings.....\$350.00

Business Water & Sewer.....\$600.00

Hotel/Motel with Restaurant & Pool.....3 mils +\$1000.00 Flat Rate

<u>Other</u>

Utilities...... 2.5%

Tax Certificates.....\$150.00 each

Compliance Letters.....\$150.00 each

Fingerboard Signs.....\$50.00 each

Interest Rate (Outstanding Taxes)2% (Monthly)

NSF Cheques......\$45.00

Overseas Direct Deposits.....\$25.00

2% discount on current year taxes if paid in full by March 31, 2024. Deadline for paying taxes June 30, 2024

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Wight,

Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

4.5.4 – Approval of Municipal Budget 2024 (MOTION)

RESOLUTION #2023/125

KENNEDY-DYSON/JENKINS:

WHEREAS THE STEADY BROOK COUNCIL HAS REVEIWED THE 2024 BUDGET AS PRESENTED; BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK APPROVE THE FOLLOWING 2024 BUDGET.

Steady Brook

Expenditures

1.0 General Government	\$ 471,419.87
2.0 Protective Services	53,547.00
3.0 Transportation Services	79,500.00
4.0 Environmental Health	100,000.00
5.0 Planning & Development	5800.00
6.0 Recreation & Cultural Services	45,500.00
7.0 Fiscal Services	232,024.06
Total Expenditures	\$987,790.93

Revenues

1.0 Taxes	\$ \$789,335.84
2.0 Sales of Good & Services	5,500.00
3.0 Other Revenue from Own Services	12,500.00
4.0 Government Transfers	70,768.00
5.0 Other Transfers	109,687.09
Total Revenues	\$987,790.93

<u>IN FAVOUR:</u> (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Wight,

Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

The Finance Committee along with the Town Manager worked hard to put together a balanced budget. No changes in the residential mil rates. There have been changes to rates regarding short-term rentals. Small increase for Tax certificates and Compliance letters. More money for recreation. Funds have been put aside for water improvements, plus three capital work projects.

Mayor confirmed for the most part there is no increases this year. Budget will be submitted to Provincial & Municipal Affairs for approval, once approved the 2024 budget will be uploaded to the Towns web site for review.

4.5.5 -Appointment of Auditor (MOTION)

RESOLUTION #2023/126

KENNEDY-DYSON/JENKINS:

BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK APPOINT BRIAN N. HILLIER CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT AS THE TOWN'S FINANCIAL AUDITOR FOR 2024.

<u>IN FAVOUR:</u> (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Wight,

Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

4.5.6- Appointment of Appeal Commissioner (MOTION)

RESOLUTION #2023/127 **DIAMOND/KENNEDY-DYSON:**

BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK APPOINT DENNIS WATERMAN AS MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT REVIEW COMMISSIONER FOR 2024.

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Wight,

Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

4.5.7- Disability Accommodation Policy (MOTION)

RESOLUTION #2023/128

KENNEDY-DYSON/MORRISSEY:

WHEREAS COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE HAS REVIEWED THE DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY; BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK APPROVE THE DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION POLICY AS PRESENTED.

IN FAVOUR: (6) Morrissey, Diamond, Jenkins, Kennedy-Dyson, Wight,

Dawson

OPPOSED: (0)

RESOLUTION CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Kennedy-Dyson confirmed this is a new policy to add to the existing policies that the town has.

4.6 WATERSHED AND ENVIROMENT:

4.6.1 - Meeting January 23, 2024

Nothing New to report.

5. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE:

5.1.1 - MP Gudie Hutchings

Mayor Dawson confirmed that Steady Brook is the only stretch that
does not have fiberoptic available. The Town had to purchase Starlink to do the day-to-day functions in the Town Office. The town
has contacted the MP with a letter for follow up. The Letter will be
posted on the Facebook page for the residents to review.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

Nothing to Report.

7. COUNCILOR'S / MAYOR FORUM:

Councillor Diamond – Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone and keep healthy.

Councillor Morrissey – Thanks to the finance committee and town manager for preparation of the budget and holding the line on it and not having to increase the taxes. The town is very fortunate that we have paying residents that support the Town.

Merry Christmas.

Councillor Jenkins – Thank you to the staff for getting this water issue solved and grateful the town is off the boil order as of yesterday. Looking forward to getting the new equipment to do the repairs to the water system. Merry Christmas!

Councillor Wight - Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Deputy Mayor Kennedy Dyson – Thanked all of Council for being on council, it is not easy. Extended thankyou to Councillor Jenkins, Wight, and Douglas, they have brought a great perspective to Council and it's great to have younger councilors on Council. Looking forward to another great year. Thank you to Councillor Morrissey and Councillor Diamond for all your hard work towards the water issues. Thank you to the mayor. Merry Christmas everyone.

Mayor Dawson – Thanks all around to everyone for stepping in while I was absent, thank you to all councilors and staff, it's been a challenging year with the water issues. All committees are challenging at times and take real commitment. Thanks to everyone as well as our fire fighters and volunteers who keep us safe. Thanks to all volunteers who help the town in any way. It's very important to thank the residents for their patience. We are doing our best; it's been a tough year working through all the issues we are having with the water. Bare with us, we are going in the right direction on the water.

Safe Christmas and a Happy New Year everyone, looking forward to some positive things happening in the new year to come.

RESOLUTION #2023/129

MORRISSEY:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF STEADY BROOK ADJOURN THE MEETING ON DECEMBER 14, 2023, AT 7:44 PM.

MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:44 PM.

THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 18, 2024.

Mayor Dawson

Town Manager