Southern Victoria Village Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2025

Present: Mayor McLaughlin; Councillors - Sheila Cummings, Paul Legace, Tami McPhail, Todd McQuire, Sara Plant, CAO Dan Dionne, and Assistant CAO Justine Waldeck.

Regrets: Deputy Mayor Shaw

1. Mayor McLaughlin called the meeting to order.

2. Councillor Cummings declared a conflict of interest for the motion on the human resources review.

3. Councillor McPhail ***MOVES*** the approval of January 27, 2025, meeting minutes. ***SECONDED*** by Councillor Cummings. ***MOTION CARRIED.***

4. Delegations – None

5. The CAO gave an update on the Recreation Master Plan. We are in the final draft stages. The Recreation Commission executive will be meeting to review the draft before it goes to the design phase. The final presentation of the plan will be done by OCL in person in March. The date will be announced.

6. Crosswalk Elks Club – The CAO met with Elks Lodge regarding the crosswalk. Dan will send a letter to the Elks Lodge.

7. Municipal Building Project – The Architects were in the community last week for two days to view our facilities, the Grand Falls fire hall and library, and the Woodstock Library. There will be a user group meeting this Thursday to review some of the draft conceptual drawings.

8. Correspondence received included Canadian Union of Postal Workers, Fiscal Reform Update, MMEUA Media Release, National Farmer Union, Horizon Letter, and UMNB Pre Budget Submission.

9. Municipal Administration/Strategic Plan Update – DTI Paving for East Riverside Drive is still in the books for 2025. Liberty is doing the new line into the substation in 2025. We will be trying to schedule an SV Healthcare committee meeting with Horizon. The municipal team will be reviewing the snow removal operations standards.

10. Water consumption and fire report were reviewed.

11. The fire policy/by-law review committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2024.

12. Notice of Motion - A draft criminal background check policy was presented for discussion.

13. Councillor Cummings left the room.

14. **2-25 Motion re: HR Review** - **Background:** To ensure effective operations and planning for the future, the municipality requested proposals from qualified Human Resources (HR) firms to conduct a comprehensive HR review. This review will provide actionable insights into our organizational structure, employee roles, compensation, succession planning, and future staffing needs.

After reviewing eleven proposals, the staff recommendation to select Municipal Management Advisors is based methodology, municipal experience, New Brunswick municipal knowledge, spending at least two days with staff in their work environment, and price.

Councillor Plant ***MOVED*** to table the decision. No ***SECOND***.

Councillor McPhail ***MOVED*** that Council approve the recommendation of Municipal Management Advisors with a price of $24,500 to conduct human resources review for the community. ***SECONDED*** by Councillor McGuire. ***MOTION CARRIED 3-2.***

15. Councillor Cummings returned to the meeting.

16. **3-35 Motion -** Councillor Cummings ***MOVED*** that Council accept the proposal from Gemtec for engineering services along F Tribe Road for $34,000. ***SECONDED*** by Councillor Plant. ***MOTION CARRIED.***

17. **4-35 Motion re: Ambulance Service – Background:** Due to several factors, volunteer fire departments have increasingly been requested to support emergency situations and are often the first to arrive on the scene due to the unavailability of ambulances. The Council and the Union of Municipalities are currently lobbying the Provincial Government to address this critical issue. It is important to note that ambulance services are the responsibility of the Provincial Government, not municipalities or local volunteer fire departments. These added calls are placing both human and financial burdens on municipalities.

    Councillor McGuire ***MOVED*** that Council send a letter to the Province regarding ambulance service issues and invoice Medavie for only direct cost associated with ambulance calls during 2024 totaling $ 11,500. ***SECONDED*** by Councillor Plant. ***MOTION CARRIED.***

18. The CAO reported that an expression of interest under the SREPS-program for a P-A Electrification and Grid Optimization Project has been approved to move on to the application stages. This is a $3.3 million dollar project.

19. Councillor Cummings ***MOVED*** to go to in-camera to discuss land use. ***SECONDED*** by Councillor Plant. ***MOTION CARRIED.***

Councillor Cummings ***MOVED*** to go out of in-camera session. S***ECONDED*** by Councillor McQuire. ***MOTION CARRIED.***

20. Meeting adjournment.