

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 14, 2022 6:30 PM
730 VICTORIA STREET**

Attendees: Mayor Keith Dewar; Deputy Mayor Pat Smith; Councilor Richard LaGrange, Councilor Susan Oxley; Councilor Eric Gilbert; Councilor Jean McCardle
CAO Margaret Andrade

Absent with regret: Councilor Marly Anderson

Call to order by Mayor Dewar at 6:30 – Zoom delayed momentarily

Mayor Dewar opens with comments on the recent Census figures showing Victoria has grown by 88% - we now have a population of 139 residents! The Mayor also advises that Councilor Anderson has sent her regrets for tonight.

Conflicts of Interest

Councilor Gilbert advises he is in conflict regarding any discussions on 8 Main Street and will recuse himself.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Dewar asks for the adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Deputy Mayor Smith; Seconded by Councilor LaGrange

Adoption of Minutes

Mayor Dewar asks if there are any comments or issues with the Minutes for the council Meeting of February 15, 2022. No comments are made, so the Mayor asks for the Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Councilor LaGrange; Seconded by Councilor Gilbert

Business Arising

Mayor Dewar advises that the Municipality has received two Tenders for the Municipality Sustainability Study (MSS) and that each Councilor has received copies and had time to review them. Mayor Dewar asks each Councilor to discuss their reviews and preferences of the two Tenders. All of the Councilors advised they thought both Tenders were well done and reflected what Council needs. Each Councilor then discussed which Tender they preferred and why.

Mayor Dewar asked for a motion to be made.

Motion for Council to select one of the Tenders received for the Municipal Sustainability Study

Moved by Councilor McCardle; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Mayor Dewar than asked for a vote on the issue.

Council voted to select MRSB's Tender.

Mayor Dewar then requested the CAO discuss three points with MRSB

1. Are the travel costs for MRSB included in the per diem charges?
2. If the study is completed in less time than blocked off, will RMV pay less?
3. RMV would like a commitment that the staff presented in the Tender will be working on the Study. If there is a suggested change in personnel, RMV would have the right of first refusal.

Mayor Dewar than asked the CAO to notify MRSB and make arrangements for an initial meeting with Council.

Mayor Dewar thanked everyone for their hard work and support to get the MSS moving forward.

Budget

Mayor Dewar advises that Council, the CAO and our Bookkeeper had attended 2 Budget workshops with good results. There is a strong effort to work through all the Budgets. However, it is taking longer than anticipated to complete the Budgets, as we had to wait to receive the tax rate figures from the Province. He asks that the CAO advise the Province that we will be late submitting the Budgets. Council agrees to meet for another workshop on Monday, March 21 at 1:30.

Development Agreement on 8 Main Street

Councilor Gilbert leaves the room due to conflict of interest at 7:13.

The question was raised that the Development Officer did not include a definitive clause stating that the owner of 8 Main Street must be resident in the property for 6 months of the year. However, it was pointed out that the residency requirement is explicitly stated in the Bylaws and that the owner had been asked at the previous Council meeting if he was aware of this requirement and had assured Council that his wife would be living full time in the property for 6 months during the Tourism season.

Councilor Gilbert re-entered the room at 7:17.

The CAO advised Council of a series of emails between the office and the owner of Richard's Seafood requesting permission to move a 12x8 shed on to the property temporarily during the time they are open during the Tourism season. The CAO advised that the owner was requested to complete a Development Application and the Development Officer would advise Council. To date, an Application has not been received.

On the issue of the Development Officer's planned departure in June, Mayor Dewar requested that an advertisement be placed to begin the search for a replacement. Mayor Dewar also suggested the CAO look into shared services for this.

Letter to FPEIM

Councilor Gilbert advised he had spoken with John Dewey. Mr Dewey stated FPEIM would like a letter of support from RMV. Council agreed they should go ahead and draft a letter supporting FPEIM's efforts to lobby the Provincial government to increase financial support to the Municipalities.

Auditor's Report

Mayor Dewar requested that the response to the Auditor's 3 questions for the report be forwarded to the Auditor.

Water Tests

Council advised they still are not receiving the correct Water tests done by the Contractor. They are looking for tests that show the levels of nitrates. It is their understanding these tests should be taken from resident's homes, not from the Wells. Council requests the CAO discuss this with the contractor.

ClimateSense Meeting

Mayor Dewar asked how the plans for a public meeting or Council meeting to discuss the Report are going. Councilor Gilbert advised he and Councilor Oxley would start planning for the public meeting.

Emergency Measures Operations Plan

Councilor Gilbert inquired if the Municipality needs to pass a Fire Services Bylaw before completion of the EMO. No clear answer was discussed.

Closed Session

Council then moved to enter a closed session.

Motion to move to closed session of Council, with no conflicts of interest.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Smith; Seconded by Councilor LaGrange

Motion to move out of closed session.

Moved by Councilor Gilbert; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Motion to move into open Council Meeting.

Moved by Councilor Gilbert; Seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith

Motion to adjourn

Moved by Councilor Oxley