

**TOWN OF NORTH RUSTICO  
PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA  
MONDAY MARCH 13, 2023, AT 7:00PM  
NORTH RUSTICO LIONS CLUB**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
- 4. New Business**
  - 4.1 Review of Financial Budgets for Sewer and Water, Fire Dept, Wellness Centre and Town**
- 5. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday April 11, 2023, at 6:00PM**
- 6. Adjournment**

DRAFT

**Town of North Rustico  
Public Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00PM**

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor  
Councillors**

Heather McKenna  
Margaret Goulding, Donna Coll  
Michelle Pineau and Patricia Doucette

**CAO  
Deputy CAO**

Barry Schieck  
Stephanie Moase

**REGRETS:**

Councillor Andrea Greenan

**OTHERS:**

3 members of the Public

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Heather McKenna called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

It was moved by Councillor Margaret Goulding and seconded by Councillor Michelle Pineau that the agenda be approved as presented.

**(4-0) MOTION CARRIED  
(2023-03-042)**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Nil

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**4.1 Review of Financial Budgets for Sewer and Water, Fire Dept, Wellness Centre and Town**

Mayor Heather McKenna introduced Barry Schieck, CAO and turned the meeting over to him. Barry explained the layout of the operating budgets and capital budget.

**Malcolm MacLean-** How much is in the capital reserve from previous years?

**Barry-** There is none, this was not done in previous years.

**Malcolm MacLean-** Why is the administration line less in this year's budget than has been spent in the last 9 months?

**Barry-** The previous year had items included that are not in this year, for example the Wellness Centre expenses have been removed and items that were coded incorrectly. We have broken down each line to the Sage accounts so are now able to clean up the budget items. In the new year we will also be providing a quarterly update to Council on the budget.

**Malcolm MacLean-** Will these updates be posted to the website? The minutes on the web do not include any additional information.

**Stephanie Moase, Deputy CAO-** They will be part of the minutes. We recognize there has been a gap in the past with how minutes have been posted and are working towards improving. I ask for your patience as I try to implement new procedures that will provide increased transparency.

Barry reviewed the capital budget, explaining where the funding comes from. In the past many capital expenses were shown on the operating budget.

Barry reviewed the Fire Dept Operating budget.

**Norman Gallant-** Where is the fundraising shown from Chase the Ace?

**Barry-** That is a Capital revenue and not an operating revenue.

**Alan Williams, Deputy Fire Chief-** Some fundraising comes with an operational cost. For example, the hundred dollar ticket draw requires prizes of \$12,500 to be given away, so what is shown for fundraising revenue is what is required to offset the expense, all other fundraising revenue goes to the capital account.

**Barry-** We have changed the layout to make things more transparent, the categories now match exactly the wording in the audited financial statements. I did notice that the budgets do not include the amortization.

**Stephanie-** The operating budget does not include amortization as this is a cash representation and does not show assets only cash revenue and cash expenses for the year. Amortization is shown on the audited statements at year end and as an expense against the assets, and, in a perfect world, should equal what cash you have saved for capital that year.

Barry reviewed the Sewer and Water budgets.

Barry reviewed the Wellness Centre Operating Budget. As this is the first year, most of the budget is based on best guess, with no historical data, especially where in areas that include revenue from The Mount and expenses for electrical etc.

**Malcolm MacLean-** Where is the mortgage payment shown?

**Barry-** As that was part of Capital, we are still working on completing the construction portion of the project and completing the required paperwork to close off funding being received for the construction.

**Malcolm MacLean-** So in the name of transparency how much has the Wellness Centre actually cost?

**Barry-** It is about \$20mil, however the construction is not yet fully complete and we are still receiving invoices. It will still take time to have the final complete cost.

**Norman Gallant.** Who is paying for all the extra cost? The Feds? The Province?

**Barry-** We are working at where we can get funding for the cost over runs. I don't want to speculate, I do not have an answer to that question as of yet.

**Malcolm MacLean-** And the interest on loans is much more now. Speaking of transparency, that is one thing that many in the Town want to know, and how did the cost rise so much?

**Barry-** I have been working with Coles on all the change orders and have been creating a spreadsheet to have all the info together. It is a moving target as invoices come in.

**Heather McKenna-** Really it will be another 6 months before we have the final information. The construction has to be complete and all deficiencies corrected before final payments are made. As Barry said, it is changing everyday.

**Barry-** We are working on the additional funding, to ensure we are better prepared for the long run, that is why I have not included the interest on the loan in the budget at this time as I am working on a better solution for that loan.

**Stephanie-** It is a work in progress, Municipal Affairs is aware and working with the Town as well. Once all cost over runs and funding for the same have been figured out, Council will approve an amended budget that will include all information that we do not have complete information for at this time.

**Norman Gallant-** On the Wellness Centre budget, why do the ice rentals only start in Sept?

**Barry-** The contract for the Mount is for 700 hrs grouped in Sept -Mar for the competitive season and Minor Hockey, Ringette Etc season also is Sept to Mar. Any ice time rentals in between that main season is extra and not known for sure at this time. This year will give an indication of how to budget for next year, Willie is just being conservative in the budget until more is known.

There was a discussion on Wellness Centre ice times.

**Malcolm MacLean-** The gym memberships at \$75,000 seems quite high.

There was a discussion on gym rentals/memberships

**Barry-** About 250 members is the goal that they are aiming for, is that a lot?

**Malcolm MacLean-** Yes that is a lofty goal considering many seniors feel they would be constantly competing with the Mount students for equipment.

**Barry-** Please come to me with any questions you have, your input is helpful in fine tuning our process. We have 2 weeks before it goes to council for approval.

There was a discussion regarding the Wellness Centre construction.

5. **NEXT MEETING**—Regular Council Meeting Tuesday Apr 11, 2023 at 6:00PM

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm

**Moved by** Councillor Donna Coll

**Seconded by** Councillor Margaret Goulding

**(4-0) MOTION CARRIED**

**(2023-03-043)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Heather McKenna

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO Barry Schieck

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date