RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF MURRAY HARBOUR MINUTES of SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING March 26, 2025

In Attendance: Mayor, Terry White; Deputy Mayor, Gary MacKay; Cllr. Paul White; Cllr Kelly

Matheson; Cllr. Pam Oickle; Cllr. Marlene Chapman; Cllr. John Robertson

Gallery: Charlotte MacAuley - Graphic

Staff: Anne Harnesk (CAO)

1. Call to Order:

Deputy Mayor White called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm

2. Acknowledgement

In the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge that the land upon which our organization stands is unceded Mi'kmaq territory. Epekwitk (PEI), Mi'kma'ki is covered by the historic Treaties of Peace and Friendship. We pay our respects to the Indigenous Mi'kmaq People who have occupied this island for over 12,000 years; past, present, and future.

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts declared.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Cllr. White, and seconded by Cllr. Oickle, that the agenda for the March 26, 2025, special Council Meeting be accepted as submitted. *Vote was 6-0 in favour; motion carried.*

5. New Business

a. 2025-2026 Budget Approval – Deputy Mayor MacKay

The draft budget was posted on the website, and a message was placed on the electronic sign directing residents to view the draft budget. Despite these efforts to engage residents in the budget process, no one reached out to any councillors, the Mayor, or the Village Office to raise concerns.

Discussion followed with Cllr Robertson again raising his concern regarding an increase to the property tax. Cllr. Robertson also raised discussion regarding legal fees. It was suggested that when creating the next budget funds will be allocated under professional fees for legal fees. In the interim should unexpected legal fees arise, council will look at the possibility of using the reserve fund. With further discussion and the fact no resident reached out with concerns it was

Moved by Deputy Mayor MacKay, and seconded by Cllr. Oickle,

that the 2025-2026 budget be approved as submitted.

Vote was 6-0 in favour; motion carried.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Cllr. Robertson and seconded by Cllr. Matheson to adjourn at 6:30pm.

The next regular meeting of the Council will be on April 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Boardroom.

Mayor Terry White

Anne Harnesk, CAO