

Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting of Fundy Albert

W.H. Steeves Museum

January 16, 2024, at 4:30 PM

PRESENT

Robert Rochon- Mayor

John Ereaux- Councillor, Ward 1

Loretta Elderkin- Councillor, Ward 2

Jeff Land- Councillor, Ward 3

Jeff Jonah- Councillor, Ward 4

Jim Coates- Councillor, Ward 5

CAO Linda Sabourin

Heather Ward Russell- Councillor, Ward 6

Tammy Rampersaud- Assistant Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rochon called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Ereaux** **THAT** the agenda be adopted with the following additions:

-Public Comments and Statements

-Closed Session

MOTION CARRIED

3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

None

4. PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

a) CAO Report

CAO welcomed everyone and expressed that she was both excited and honoured to be working in Fundy Albert. She began her role last Monday and got to work. She has had meetings with employees and stakeholders such as ECO 360. There is work being done on the Grants and Contributions Policy, budget overview and some investigation into the sewer line request in Ward 3.

b) Treasurer Report

The Treasurer updated that we are still waiting for two audits to come back. There was some collaboration on financials with Donna Floyd. The team is currently busy working through year-end and starting quarterly billing.

c) Director of Community Services

The Director updated Council on the Trail Care Grant Fall Cleanup on Oct. 22 in Hillsborough with approx. 16 volunteers.

Colour NB Pink saw over 300 pumpkins given out.

There were 20 additional Veteran Banners installed in November.

Christmas lights were installed as the banners were removed. They will be up until Jan. 15th.

There was an EMO application for funding generators submitted. ACOA should be announcing recipients shortly.

The Alma Lobster Trap Christmas Tree was erected with a group effort by students, staff, councillors and residents.

The Hillsborough Christmas Parade was held on Dec. 2nd.

Funding requests have been submitted for Canada Day Celebrations through Department of Canadian Heritage.

There was a culvert installed in Riverside-Albert that can now allow residents to take advantage of the duckpond for skating.

The Director attended the 2nd Annual Fundy Connects Summit in November.

The department helped with the Alma Water Funding announcement on Nov. 14th.

22 houses participated in the Christmas Light Tour. It was a success. Mrs. Butland from West River won a prize package valued at \$500.

There is work being done with other municipalities developing a network of Acadian Heritage sites along the Petitcodiac.

A call for quotes is being put together for Strategic Plan/Website/Branding for the village.

A work order has been created for multiple streetlights to be installed in Lower Coverdale.

Requests have been submitted for student funding for summer employment.

The February Frolic takes place from Feb. 10th to the 19th.

d) Director of Operations

It has been a quiet winter so far with snowfall.

The Director extended congratulations to the new CAO.

The Director expressed disapproval of Councillor Land receiving sanctions.

Mayor Rochon explained that it was a decision of council. If in the future these are concerns, they should be spoken to the CAO about.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a) Social Media Terms of Use

Council received a draft copy of a proposed Social Media Terms of Use policy. A robust conversation was held on the helpfulness of social media along with some of the concerns of managing the village's page.

There was agreement that guidelines were needed to ensure the page was used for positive and transparent information without any kind of abuse or vulgar language.

Different opinions were expressed on whether to leave the comments open to the public to post on or to remove the comment option entirely. Council will be looking for feedback before this is decided. Comments from Council are sought until the first meeting in February.

b) Council Meeting Presentations

There was discussion on the procedural by-law that provides the public the opportunity to appear before Council to make brief presentations. The item was placed for discussion as there have been some residents who have used the opportunity to quiz Council on a variety of topics.

It was noted that Section 2 of the Presentations portion of the by-law requires the clerk to prepare a council report form where required. Some municipalities have placed limits on the number of times a person can present on a topic in a calendar year. Others require a copy of the presentation to be provided to Council ahead of time. This would be helpful as it would allow Council members an opportunity to better understand the nature of the information provided and allow them to prepare questions.

Any changes to the procedural by-law would require an amendment through a formal by-law amendment process, including three readings.

It was agreed that the CAO could prepare an amendment to come back to Council with a recommendation.

6. Mayor and Councillor Statements & Inquiries

Councillor Ereaux- CAO and he should meet soon about the Alma Water Project.

Councillor Coates- expressed concern about the quarries not being listed under the commercial tax rate. It is also noted that the woodland tax rate is lower than it should be categorized as. He inquired whether the village had an agreement with the SENB Snowmobile Assoc. similar to the one with Kiwanis to utilize their space as a warming center if needed. **Mayor Rochon** mentioned that the SERSC is looking at a regional EMO plan currently.

Councillor Land- received phone calls about the letter of reprimand.

Councillor Jonah- reminded Councillors that he requested a master call list from both Riverside-Albert and Alma for firefighters.

Councillor Elderkin- Riverside-Albert's newly proposed firetruck was approved in the budget.

Councillor Ward Russell- Noted that Lower Coverdale had an increase of over 30% in tax rate. She requested a public consultation to explain shared services to the public.

7. PUBLIC STATEMENTS & INQUIRIES

None

8. CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Land*** and **SECONDED** by ***Councillor Jonah*** **THAT** council enter closed session as per:

Fundy Albert By-Law No. 2022-02 Code of Conduct By-Law for the Council of Fundy

Albert; Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68 (1)(b) personal information as defined in the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

9. ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Land***

MAYOR

CLERK