

## Minutes

### Regular Council Meeting of Fundy Albert

Riverside Consolidated School, 90 Water Street in Riverside-Albert

January 9, 2024, at 6 PM

#### PRESENT

Robert Rochon- Mayor

John Ereaux- Councillor, Ward 1

Loretta Elderkin- Councillor, Ward 2

Jeff Land- Councillor, Ward 3

CAO Linda Sabourin

Jim Coates- Councillor, Ward 5

Tammy Rampersaud- Assistant Clerk

Heather Ward Russell- Councillor, Ward 6

Absent- Jeff Jonah- Councillor, Ward 4

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

**Mayor Rochon** called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

- a resolution to add the CAO/Clerk and Deputy Mayor to the signing authorities as Item #13.b
- the addition of Public Comments and Statements as Item #14

#### MOTION CARRIED

#### 3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

**Councillor Land** declared a conflict for item 10 d.

#### 4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

a) Regular Council meeting of December 5, 2023

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Land**.

#### MOTION CARRIED

b) Special Council meeting of December 14, 2023.

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land* with the correction of the spelling of FERRO.

**MOTION CARRIED**

c) Special Meeting on December 23, 2023.

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Coates* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Elderkin*

**MOTION CARRIED**

d) Special Meeting on December 27, 2023.

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Land* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Ereaux*

**MOTION CARRIED**

e) Special Meeting on December 30, 2023.

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land*.

**MOTION CARRIED**

f) Special Meeting on January 6, 2024.

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Coates* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Ward Russell*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

There are no consent agenda items for this evening's meeting.

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Ward Russell* THAT *Councillor Ereaux* be nominated to serve as Deputy Mayor for the next year. *Councillor Ereaux* accepted.

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Coates* THAT *Councillor Ward Russell* be nominated to serve as Deputy Mayor for the next year. *Councillor Ward Russell* thanked *Councillor Coates* but declined.

**Councillor Ereaux** was elected to serve as Deputy Mayor for the following year.

#### 7. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW CAO/CLERK

**Mayor Rochon** introduced Linda Sabourin who recently joined the team as Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk for the municipality of Fundy Albert.

#### 8. PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Mr. McBurnie provided an email stating he would not be making it for his presentation.

Mrs. Land presented on behalf of Literacy Express concerning the Hillsborough Recreation Council.

Literacy Express is a program under the umbrella of the Hillsborough Recreation Council and has been since 2021. She expressed concern if the Rec. Council was frozen or disbanded as the funding would then not make its way to the Literacy Express program. The funding for the program is designated until May 2025. Mrs. Land encourages the Council to allow the management of the Rec. Council in the hands of the municipality of Fundy Albert.

**Councillor Elderkin** clarified that it was not her intent to stop the Recreation Council, but rather to understand the processes better as a new council.

**Councillor Ereaux** expressed his support for literacy and the Literacy Express Program. He said the Rec. Council is on the agenda for this meeting and will speak more on the topic.

Mrs. Curry presented on behalf of the Recreation Council. She explained that she is a lifelong resident who is looking to give back. She stressed the importance of collaboration with the Council and the various services tied to funding together.

#### 9. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

There are no reports and recommendations from committees and private meetings.

#### 10. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a) SERSC Building Permits

**Mayor Rochon** reported that there were two permits issued in December 2023 totaling \$400,090. He noted that the SERSC started tracking the data partway through the year. It will be great to have regular updates in 2024.

b) Request from Constituent – CEASEFIRE NOW!

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Ereaux** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Elderkin** **THAT** this Council promote the cessation of hostilities in all areas of conflict in the world by:

- 1) Publicly stating that Council is deeply troubled by the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding within the world's war zones and calls on all warring parties for an immediate and lasting ceasefire; and
- 2) Preparing and sending a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada to urge him and his government to use all diplomatic means possible to facilitate an immediate ceasefire and lasting peace in all the world's war zones.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

\*note that after considerable discussion it was decided by friendly amendment to carry this motion that included all of the world's war zones instead of focusing on a specific area in conflict.

c) Unsightly Premises Bylaw

**Mayor Rochon** explained that In December he was contacted by a representative of the Department of the Environment to ask if Council had enacted a bylaw for the unsightly and dangerous provisions of the Local Governance Act for the former LSD areas of Fundy Albert. He informed the representative that this was the first time that he had heard of this requirement.

This will require a new bylaw for Fundy Albert, including the repealing of any unsightly and dangerous premises bylaws in the former incorporated municipalities. When this happens the village will need to inquire whether any funding from DELG or the Department of the Environment is available for the enforcement.

d) Hillsborough Recreation Council

**Councillor Land** exited due to conflict

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Ereaux** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Elderkin** Whereas it is agreed that the Hillsborough Recreation Council (HRC) has done and does good works in the community; and

Whereas the HRC has no Board of Directors and is effectively "owned and operated" by the new amalgamated municipality of Fundy Albert (FA); and

Whereas there are concerns that the new FA Village Council is not currently able to oversee the functioning of HRC in a manner that is consistent with what is expected of a municipal government.

I move that Council requests our new Chief Administrative Officer to review the role the HRC has played in Fundy Albert in 2023, and the role it could play in the future for the betterment of Fundy Albert and to make a recommendation to Council on the suggested future of the HRC and how best to ensure that the Council is able to have effective oversight of HRC operations in a manner similar to all other FA municipal government operations.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

**Councillor Ereaux** clarified that he has no issue with any of the Recreation Councils. He noted that the HRC is governed by the village without Council seeing any reporting. He would like this assessment done and can revisit this when it's complete.

**Councillor Elderkin** stated that she looks forward to this being looked at and working with the HRC going forward.

**Councillor Ward Russell** noted that she supports all of the work done with the Recreation Councils and that there has just been a lack of information.

**Mayor Rochon** noted that when he was first elected to Hillsborough Council the HRC was managed by the administrator and a councillor. Since then there hasn't been active management of the HRC and records of the workings. It should be more transparent.

**Councillor Land** rejoined the meeting.

e) Request from the NB Railway Museum

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Ereaux** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Ward Russell** Whereas an ever-increasing number of grant applications are being received by administration and council on an almost daily basis; and

Whereas Fundy Albert still does not have a grants policy to guide Council in awarding grants; and

Whereas Fundy Albert has a limited amount budgeted for grants in 2024 and Council wishes to award grants in the most effective way possible.

I move that Fundy Albert issue a call for grant applications to all not-for-profit organizations in Fundy Albert who are providing good works in, and for, our community and who wish financial assistance from our local government. The deadline for the applications should be 60 days from now. Once received, the Fundy Albert administration shall review all applications received by the submission deadline and make a recommendation to Council at the March COW for grants totaling no more than 80% of our budgeted allocation. Council shall then debate and approve the grant requests deemed worthy of support in 2024 at the March COW meeting adopted in April at the Regular Council Meeting.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

f) Request from the Albert County Historical Association

It was noted that this request is in the same situation that the previous funding request is in and is addressed in the motion made in 10 e).

g) Request from the Royal Canadian Legion

It was noted that this request is in the same situation that the previous funding request is in and is addressed in the motion made in 10 e).

h) Request from Elementary Literacy

It was noted that this request is in the same situation that the previous funding request is in and is addressed in the motion made in 10 e).

i) Request from Airbnb owner

Correspondence has been received from the owner of several Airbnb's in the community of Alma asking to be included in residential solid waste collection. The owner indicated that they are prepared to pay an additional fee.

**Councillor Ereaux** noted that there is a bylaw that excludes this from happening.

## 11. BYLAWS

There are no bylaws to present this evening.

## 12. MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS AND INQUIRIES

**Councillor Land** noted a busy month with several budget meetings. He also attended a meeting at the Curling Club in Riverside-Albert about making a 3 season 4-wheeler trail in Albert County. He encourages anyone in support of that to connect with Joanne Butland as she is the lead in this project. There is a need for volunteers.

**Councillor Coates** inquired if anything had been done with the generators. Mayor indicated not yet but it is a priority. Councillor Coates cited that he has been investigating the classification of heavy industrial tax rates in Fundy Albert.

**Councillor Ereaux** as a liaison to Fundy National Park he shared that reservation booking opens on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 am. He inquired about the contract for the next phase of water work being done in Alma. He will look into it.

**Councillor Ward Russell** wished everyone a Happy New Year. She shared that there was a meeting with ELG on the lagoon project in December and it currently sits at status quo as per last report. She is currently working with NB Power to provide power to an area in Lower Coverdale where power is needed for a build. More dialogue is needed on behalf of these residents.

**Councillor Elderkin** attended the Albert County Tourism Association Christmas Social at the Chipoudy Bay Inn. Money has been set aside for the purchasing of a new Fire Truck for Riverside-Albert. A group of residents in the past walk in the Recreation Centre and are requesting approval to use the facility when it is not in use. She noted attending several budget meetings as well as the 4-wheeler meeting. She would like to host a Ward 2 budget summary for the public. Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**Mayor Rochon** shared that on December 6<sup>th</sup> he attended a regional public safety committee meeting. The committee's new mandate is to not only provide a forum to exchange information between public safety program providers but also look at opportunities to strengthen our regional abilities and resilience. One of the outcomes of the meeting was to explore opportunities to develop a regional emergency measures plan. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, he participated in a national webinar organized by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. He also participated in a virtual call with representatives of the Anglophone East School District to discuss the creation of a reciprocal agreement between the AESD and Fundy Albert. The goal is to create an arrangement similar to what exists in other communities where our municipality would partner with AESD to provide access to their facilities, in exchange for services from the community. The AESD has invited members of Council to take part in a further virtual session on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00PM. He participated in a regional transportation committee meeting on December 8<sup>th</sup>. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, he attended the SERSC board meeting. The economist predicts that by 2030, the population of Fundy Albert, now approximately 6,100 residents, could grow to almost 7,000. The availability of housing is predicted to continue to be well short of population growth. The report was shared with members of Council. On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, members of Council attended a meeting organized by the Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee (CCRC) on the topic of developing a trail from Hillsborough to Alma. The project, if realized, would be an economic and tourism benefit to Fundy Albert. For our local government, it would involve working with CCRC and the Albert County Trailblazers ATV Club and residents to permit ATV travel on certain community streets. On January 5<sup>th</sup>, the transfer of the replica train station in Hillsborough to the NB Division of the Canadian Railroad Historical Association was finalized. Mayor Rochon thanked Mr. Kris Kelly for his help in bring much-needed improvements to the Fundy Albert website. The website is now much easier to navigate and visually appealing to users.

### 13. NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

a) An investigation into 2 public complaints received in September 2023 has been completed. The finding is that Councillor Land provided direction to public works employees contrary to the Improper Use of Influence provisions of the Code of Conduct By-Law for the Council of Fundy Albert. As a result, Council has the duty to impose a sanction in accordance with the by-law.

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Ward Russell** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Ereaux** Whereas an investigation has been conducted into the public complaints made against **Councillor Jeff Land** and;

Whereas it is determined that **Councillor Land** has provided direction to public works employees contrary to the proper use and influence provisions of bylaw 2022-02 a Code of Conduct Bylaw for the council of Fundy Albert;

Be it resolved that the council of the Village of Fundy Albert determined that the appropriate sanction in this matter is that **Councillor Land** be issued a written reprimand;

Be it further resolved that **Councillor Land** will be replaced as the Chair of the Public Works Advisory Committee effective immediately.

**MOTION CARRIED**

b) A motion of Council is required to name individuals authorized to sign cheques and payment authorizations for the 2024 calendar year.

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Coates** Be it resolved that the council of Fundy Albert authorize the Treasurer, Jillian Hutchenson or CAO/Clerk, Linda Sabourin and **Mayor Robert Rochon** or **Deputy Mayor John Ereaux** to sign all cheques and payment authorizations issued by the local government of Fundy Albert for the 2024 operating year.

**MOTION CARRIED**

14. COMMENTS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

15. CLOSED SESSION

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Ward Russell** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Elderkin** **THAT** council enter into 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; Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68 (1)(d) proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Land** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Elderkin** to move to Open Session

**MOTION CARRIED**

16. ADJOURNMENT

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

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**MAYOR**

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**CLERK**