

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Council of Fundy Albert
Multicultural Centre, 13 School Street, Alma
April 4, 2023, at 6:00 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	James Coates – Councillor, Ward 5
Heather Ward Russell – Councillor, Ward 6 – via Zoom	Hanna Downey – CAO/Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rochon called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and seconded by *Councillor Jonah* **THAT** the amended agenda be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Amendments: Addition of Public Comments/Statements

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflict declared at this time.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Ereaux* and seconded by *Councillor Coates* **THAT** the minutes from the Regular Meeting of Council on March 7, 2023, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and seconded by *Councillor Land* **THAT** the minutes from the Special Meeting on March 13, 2023, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and seconded by *Councillor Coates* **THAT** the minutes from the Special Meeting of Council on March 22, 2023, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Guardian Ecology – Japanese Knotweed Eradication Project – Mr. Keith MacCallum provided an informative overview of the ongoing treatment strategy for Japanese Knotweed eradication in Alma and provided results from work completed in 2022.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Land* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* **THAT** the Fundy Albert Council approve a monthly subscription to the People First HR Services having a monthly fee of \$60 plus HST. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE AND PRIVATE MEETINGS – cont'd

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Land* and seconded by *Councillor Jonah* **THAT** the Fundy Albert Council approve a monthly cell phone stipend of \$45 to compensate full-time Public Works Department employees, full-time Arena employees for municipal-related costs incurred when using their individually owned cell phones; **AND THAT** the Fundy Albert Council approve a monthly cell phone stipend of \$115 to compensate the Director of Operations for municipal-related costs incurred when using their individually owned cell phone; **FURTHERMORE THAT** this stipend takes effect May 1, 2023.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and seconded by *Councillor Coates* to amend the motion by inserting "CAO, and the Treasurer" after the words Arena employees so that the motion would read, "**THAT** the Fundy Albert Council approve a monthly cell phone stipend of \$45 to compensate full-time Public Works Department employees, full-time Arena employees, CAO and the Treasurer for municipal-related costs incurred when using their individually owned cell phones; **AND THAT** the Fundy Albert Council approve a monthly cell phone stipend of \$115 to compensate the Director of Operations for municipal-related costs incurred when using their individually owned cell phone; **FURTHERMORE THAT** this stipend takes effect May 1, 2023."

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Land* and seconded by *Councillor Jonah* that the amended motion presented be further amended by inserting "and the Director of Community Services" after the words CAO and the Treasurer" so that the motion would read, "**THAT** the Fundy Albert Council approve a monthly cell phone stipend of \$45 to compensate full-time Public Works Department employees, full-time Arena employees, CAO and the Treasurer and the Director of Community Services for municipal-related costs incurred when using their individually owned cell phones; **AND THAT** the Fundy Albert Council approve a monthly cell phone stipend of \$115 to compensate the Director of Operations for municipal-related costs incurred when using their individually owned cell phone; **FURTHERMORE THAT** this stipend takes effect May 1, 2023." **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and seconded by *Councillor Land* **THAT** the Fundy Albert Village Council fully support the Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee's efforts to have the Province of New Brunswick transfer ownership of the existing NB Housing units located in Riverside-Albert to the Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee; one transferred, the Chipoudy Communities Revitalization Committee, in partnership with a local development group, manages the existing residential units and explore the construction of an additional twelve-unit housing complex in the community of Riverside-Albert. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Jonah* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* **THAT WHEREAS** there are openings on the Hillsborough Public Library Board, **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Fundy Albert Village Council appoint Kelly Beaman, Shannon Gaythorpe, Jessica Hatfield, and Danica Sherry, to the Hillsborough Public Library Board, based on the recommendation of the Hillsborough Public Library Board Chair, Melody Land, and Library Manager, Victoria Stroud-Arsenault. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE AND PRIVATE MEETINGS – cont'd

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Ward Russell* and seconded by *Councillor Land* **THAT** the Fundy Albert Village Council approves four (4) Village of Fundy Albert Bursaries for \$125, two (2) per school, for the 2023 Graduating Class of Caledonia Regional High School and Riverview High School; **FURTHERMORE THAT** any unique eligibility and/or assessment criteria be at the discretion of the Guidance Counsellor and/or Principal of each school.

Question on the motion: *Mayor Rochon* – Is there a requirement that the recipients of the Riverview High School Bursaries reside within Fundy Albert?

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and seconded by *Councillor Land* to amend the motion by inserting, "the students must be residents of Fundy Albert, and" following the words Furthermore that, so the motion reads "the Fundy Albert Village Council approves four (4) Village of Fundy Albert Bursaries for \$125, two (2) per school, for the 2023 Graduating Class of Caledonia Regional High School and Riverview High School; **FURTHERMORE THAT** the students must be residents of Fundy Albert, and any unique eligibility and/or assessment criteria be at the discretion of the Guidance Counsellor and/or Principal of each school. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

(a) *Mayor Rochon* provided the following updates from the Minutes of March 7, 2023:

The Riverside-Albert water main project cannot proceed until the 2021 audited financial statements are received from the auditor for the former village of Riverside-Albert, as a requirement from the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board.

The public tendering process has begun to dispose of the 2007 Chevrolet.

Public meetings have been held related to the prolonged power outage in January. Subsequent debriefing meetings were held with an NB Power representative and Fundy Albert staff.

Mayor Rochon provided the following updates from the Minutes of March 21, 2023:

There is \$28,985.34 in the Alma Water/Sewer reserve fund.

Mayor Rochon stated he would like to have a budget presentation in April. *Mayor Rochon* worked with the Treasurer to develop a user-friendly financial report to be shared at monthly council meetings. *Councillor Ereaux* asked that January's financial report be provided to the Council as soon as it is completed.

Confirmation was received that Fundy Albert's was not successful in the application for the Coin-G grant.

Fundy Albert was successful in receiving a \$5000 grant from ParticipACTION.

Mayor Rochon stated there is a need to increase the water rates in 2023 for Hillsborough to complete the next phase of water exploration.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEE AND PRIVATE MEETINGS – cont'd

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Jonah* and seconded by *Councillor Land* **THAT** the Council of the Local Government of Fundy Albert **RESOLVE** that pursuant to subsection 117(4) of the *Local Governance Act*, the total revenues for the Hillsborough Water utility system for 2023, as approved by the Department of Environment and Local Government, being \$204,616, **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** the annual user charges be increased from \$306 per annum to \$352.20 per annum; **AND FURTHERMORE** that this user charge increase be reflected on the second quarter billing period of April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023.

(b) CAO/Clerk Report – The CAO provided updates on the following:

Alma water exploration: The access road extension construction is scheduled for this week. Englobe estimates to be about a week of work for the access road - the Contractor will monitor site conditions as we're getting into warmer weather so there could be a need to pause if conditions are wet. Tentatively scheduled Englobe's well drilling field technician and E.R. Steeves for well drilling (4th test hole on JDI Property) the week of April 17. The formal Climate lens study report is now complete in draft format.

Riverside-Albert water main upgrade: We are still waiting for an update on the 2021 draft audited financial statements for Riverside-Albert. I spoke with ELG on March 29, who confirmed they cannot proceed without the final approved financial statements from the municipality.

There were seven building permits issued in March in Fundy Albert valued at \$508,351.

The truck tender was issued to dispose of the 2007 Chev 2500 HD, with a tender closing date of April 14 at 10 AM. The tender notice is listed on our social media, website, and various bulletin boards in the communities.

I received an estimate from PAW for animal control services. The quote is more than we have in the budget for animal control. I spoke with Mr. McKinley, who has provided animal control for Riverside-Albert, and he is willing to do Riverside-Albert and Alma at a flat rate retainer of \$2000.

Fundy Albert was not successful in its application for the Horizon Health's COIN-G (Community Innovation Grant). This is a grant program for application by community stakeholders in partnership with Horizon Health to fund initiatives or projects within local communities. The grant supports projects related to population health that focus on the social determinants of health, and where possible, respond to the priorities determined through the Community Health Needs Assessment.

There will be water shut-off notices issued to property owners with overdue accounts in the coming weeks; please direct any inquiries to myself or the Treasurer.

I will be attending an Administrator's Meeting on April 11 at ECO360.

MAYOR & COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS & INQUIRIES

Councillor Elderkin stated that the Personnel Committee has met a couple of times and they are hoping to have the Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee and CAO Policy drafted for the Committee of the Whole.

Councillor Ward Russell thanked the residents for the opportunity to represent Ward 6 and all residents of Fundy Albert. ***Councillor Ward Russell*** advised the Personnel Committee has met a number of times and stated it is the committee's goal to achieve the CAO Policy and Terms of Reference with hopes to share the document in the coming weeks.

-***Councillor Ward Russell*** would like to see a pamphlet developed for distribution to highlight the village of Fundy Albert, provide input on changes to local services, educate and showcase our mandate and roles, and an introduction of councillors.

-***Councillor Ward Russell*** stated she had received multiple calls on the road condition and advised them to call the 1-833 DTI number.

-***Councillor Ward Russell*** and ***Mayor Rochon*** met with a playground committee in Lower Coverdale to discuss the playground in the White Birch area; she will be attending the committee's AGM in late April.

-***Councillor Ward Russell*** has received plenty of correspondence on the local school district's boundary changes.

Councillor Jonah said he would like improved communications for the senior population in Fundy Albert. ***Councillor Jonah*** asked if it is possible to send a village-wide newsletter; ***Mayor Rochon*** suggested that Council consider budgeting the cost of sending newsletters in next year's budget.

Councillor Land said the Hillsborough Arena had a successful tournament on the weekend, which closed the arena for the season. ***Councillor Land*** stated that the Terms of Reference for the Public Works Committee are complete, and he will bring them to the next COW meeting for approval. ***Councillor Land*** will have an update on work that needs to be done at the pool once the ice melts; ***Councillor Land*** will bring the report back to the Council with a cost estimate.

Councillor Ereaux said he met with the Alma Fire Chief and other Department members. ***Councillor Ereaux*** encouraged fellow councillors and residents to attend an upcoming Alma Fire Department pancake breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, May 6. ***Councillor Ereaux*** stated he participated at the in-person training Local Governance Orientation Session in Fredericton; Minister Daniel Allain, Deputy Minister Donahey, and many mayors were in attendance. ***Councillor Ereaux*** stated that among the sessions, there were discussions of plans for a summit in the Fall to discuss the next steps related to the Local Governance Reform and the implementation of a municipal commission. ***Councillor Ereaux*** stated that he is actively calling for members to join him in the Land Use Planning Committee. ***Councillor Ereaux*** advised that DTI repaired the damaged sidewalk on the bridge crossing Salmon River.

Mayor Rochon said a request would come from the Hillsborough District Minor Hockey Association (HDMHA) for their annual subsidy provided by the former village of Hillsborough. ***Mayor Rochon*** stated that Fundy Blades Figure Skating Club are also provided an annual subsidy. ***Mayor Rochon*** said there would likely be requests for Canada Day activities to take place in

MAYOR & COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS & INQUIRIES – cont’d

Hillsborough and Alma, as well as NB Day activities and the annual Alma Fleet Launch. **Mayor Rochon** stated there would be questions related to the Literacy Express Program. **Councillor Land** declared a conflict of interest concerning the Literacy Express Program and he recused himself from the meeting. **Councillor Land** exited the meeting.

Mayor Rochon said there might be the question posed if funding for the Literacy Express Program are to come from the Library Personnel budget line item or if they are to come from the Grants budget line item. **Mayor Rochon** suggested compiling a list of donations supported annually by the three former municipalities. **Mayor Rochon** stated that the Literacy Express Program was included in one of the top priorities that was shared with the Transition Facilitator. **Mayor Rochon** stated that unless he receives something contrary, the \$3,000 for the Literacy Express Program is included in the budget. **Councillor Jeff Land** re-entered the meeting.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and seconded by **Councillor Land** that **WHEREAS**, the Government of Canada has made the decision in Budget 2023 to make municipalities responsible for all retroactive costs stemming from the latest RCMP collective bargaining agreement, and **WHEREAS**, these extraordinary one-time costs, which in some jurisdictions amount to millions of dollars, will cause significant hardship for communities and residents across the country, and were negotiated without meaningful consultation or a seat at the table for the municipalities responsible for paying the bill; and **WHEREAS**, Municipal governments are already paying a growing share of policing costs, but unlike other orders of government, cannot run deficits to spread out the impact of these extraordinary one-time sums, and have limited revenue tools; and **WHEREAS**, Local governments will now be forced to make difficult decisions that will impact residents, such as cutting essential services, reducing policing levels, raising property taxes significantly, and/or cancelling work on local infrastructure, a time when Canadians' concerns about community safety and the cost of living are already rising; and **WHEREAS**, going forward, it is critical that municipalities be proactively engaged in any forthcoming processes related to contract policing to prevent this occurring again; therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that Fundy Albert joins the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to commit to ensuring that local governments are meaningfully consulted, fully informed, and at the table on issues related to policing costs given the municipal role in keeping our communities safe; and be it further **RESOLVED**, that Fundy Albert conveys this support in writing to local Members of Parliament. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Mayor Rochon stated the new municipality of Fundy Albert would require financial assistance from the Department of Local Government and Local Governance Reform for branding exercises, logo and website design, among other costs. **Mayor Rochon** participated in the following meetings since the last meeting of Council: A rebranding exercise with 3+, a meeting with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure, an online presentation by the Provincial Fire Marshall, a SERSC Strategic Planning Retreat in Miramichi, and the SERSC Board of Directors Meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION AND RESOLUTIONS

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Ward Russell** and seconded by **Councillor Ereaux** that **WHEREAS** the Fundy Albert Village Council believes that members should be reimbursed at reasonable kilometre/mileage rates for the use of their personal vehicles while in the performance of their municipal duties and travelling to and from meetings of Council; **AND WHEREAS** the Provincial Government establishes kilometre/mileage reimbursement rates from time to time for its employees; **AND WHEREAS** the municipality of Fundy Albert is part of the broader provincial

NOTICES OF MOTION AND RESOLUTIONS – cont'd

public sector; **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Fundy Albert Council approve a kilometre/mileage reimbursement at the Provincial rate of \$0.50 per kilometre effective immediately, and retroactive to January 1, 2023, for all members; **FURTHERMORE** that this rate be amended whenever the Provincial Government base kilometre/mileage rate changes as approved from time to time by the Provincial Government, and that such rate to be referred to as the "Fundy Albert Kilometre/Mileage" rate. **MOTION CARRIED** (Nay votes: Councillor Loretta Elderkin, Councillor Jeff Jonah)

Councillor Coates exited the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Residents were provided with the opportunity to ask questions to the Mayor and Council.

Councillor Coates re-entered the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and seconded by *Councillor Land* that the meeting enters Closed Session at 7:43 PM per the NB *Local Governance Act*, SNB 2017, 68 (1)(j) labour and employment matters. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Land* and seconded by *Councillor Coates* **THAT** the Closed Session ceases at 8:15 PM. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Council returned to regular session at 8:15 PM.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Coates* and seconded by *Councillor Land* **THAT** the Fundy Albert Council authorize the hiring of Corrigan HR Consulting Inc to perform work as described in the closed session. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Coates* **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Robert Rochon, Mayor

Hanna Downey, Clerk