

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Council of Fundy Albert

Riverside-Albert Rec Centre, 9 Bicentennial Rd, Riverside-Albert

May 2, 2023, at 6 P.M.

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

Tammy Rampersaud- Assistant Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rochon called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

ADOPTION of the AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Elderkin*** and seconded by ***Councillor Ward Russell*** **THAT** 4a. be removed as the Special Meeting of April 18, 2023, minutes were not circulated, and two items be added to the agenda as:

4b. Minutes Committee of the Whole March 21, 2023

12. Public Statements

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously).

CONFLICT of INTEREST DECLARATION

No conflict was declared at this time.

ADOPTION of the MINUTES

- a. Removed from agenda
- b. **IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Jonah** and seconded by **Councillor Coates** **THAT** the March 21, 2023, Committee of the Whole minutes be approved as amended. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

CONSENT AGENDA

None

PUBLIC and ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

- a. Amy O’Keefe, RSW- Community Developer, Horizon Health Network

Ms. O’Keefe introduced herself and explained her role was to connect the community and Horizon Health. To better the health of community and help with social deterrents. She is involved with exploring funding opportunities such as the Community Innovation Grant- Horizon. She spoke about the Community Health Needs Assessment last done in 2016 or 2018 and has undergone an overhaul. Provincial Assessments have a projected timeline to take place in 2026 for Fundy Albert.

Ms. O’Keefe also works with Habitat for Humanity and shared that all three locations in the province are working closely together and that there are more expected buildings happening in the future.

Questions:

Councillor Elderkin asked if Footloose was coming back. Ms. O’Keefe explained that June Participaction would be taking place with coordination with the schools.

Mayor Rochon asked Ms. O’Keefe to explain Footloose. It was noted that Footloose is active over the summer months. Activity is registered and tracked. There are themes and prizes. The program is with Participaction- Canada wide and can see funds sent back to the community.

- b. Peter Jubb- resident of Fundy Albert

Mr. Jubb took 5 minutes to make his presentation regarding various concerns he has with the Village. A letter was sent to Council outlining said concerns.

Questions:

Mayor Rochon responded to Mr. Jubb's concerns:

- 1) Riverside Albert audit- 2021 outstanding. It was recently received and approved at a special meeting in April. Delays were due to staffing issues. 2022 has been provided to the new accounting firm to be done by auditors.
- 2) Alma- Mr. Jubb wanted to hear from the CAO and will wait until she is present. The former Alma account didn't have funds. It will work out in time as previous deficits are funded by taxpayers.
- 3) There has been a lack of involvement in the budgeting process for Fundy Albert. Details have been requested. Should have a better understanding at the Committee of the Whole meeting in May.
- 4) In terms of tourism, positions were created during reform. All new meetings are happening with all parties including the municipality and the Regional Service Commission.
- 5) **Mayor Rochon** reassured Mr. Jubb that the clerk position does exist. The current structure was created by a transition advisor.

REPORTS and RECOMMENDATIONS from COMMITTEES and PRIVATE MEETINGS

NONE

REPORTS from ADMINISTRATION

a. Business Arising from the Minutes

Mayor Rochon

Riverside Albert waterline- financials were sent to the Department of Local Government. A contract was sent to EXP. Engineering to prepare documents. **Councillor Ereaux** asked if it was rolling now. **Mayor Rochon** stated that it is with EXP and that the timing of the project has implications for DTI.

No bids on tender of disposal of vehicle. **Councillor Land** stated that people in Public Works are interested. **Councillor Ereaux** asked for it to be retendered to a broader audience.

Prolonged power outage- no report.

Alma Activity Centre had a generator assessment done. Waiting for the report.

Budget- Treasurer to provide a report May 16th.

Participaction Grant was successful. \$5000 will come through thanks to the Community Service Director.

Hillsborough water exploration- there was an error in rate. Revised rates take affect June 30th, 2023. Sewer rates will also be affected.

Alma water Line- the 4th well is completed. There is an estimated 100 gallons per minute with the 4th well. A boil order advisory was issued and was not entirely unexpected.

Assistant Clerk- contact Office Clerk.

Communications- survey done by **Councillor Jonah**. The preferred method is Connecting Albert Co. and newsletter. Discussion involved creating and mailing a municipal newsletter with concerns regarding lack of manpower and knowledge of budget. Connecting Albert County had sent information to the Mayor in the CAO's absence detailing a previous partnership with the former Village of Alma, as well as the former Villages of Hillsborough and Riverside-Albert. It was decided that further discussion would take place at the next Committee of the Whole meeting with more specific sponsorship pricing.

Grants-

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Land** and seconded by **Councillor Jonah** **THAT** the Village of Fundy Albert provide a grant of \$8400 to Hillsborough Minor Hockey as well as a grant of \$3700 to the Fundy Blades totaling \$12,100 (Recreation Grant portion). **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Councillor Ereaux noted that there are 2 budget lines under grants (Recreation and Other) totaling \$65,000.

Councillor Elderkin asked for the Village to communicate with user groups applying for grants before the end of the year if the process changes.

Canada Day Festivities in Alma were brought up by **Councillor Ereaux**. It was noted that the celebration is a large production in Alma that many have come to rely on. Both Alma and Hillsborough have large Canada Day festivities. A meeting should be called for event planning as traditional committees aren't operating as usual. It was decided that the conversation will continue in May at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

RCMP Repayment-

Mayor Rochon updated Council on the repayment and how it falls on the municipalities. The province will send an invoice. **Mayor Rochon** is attending the upcoming UMN meeting and hopes to ask for more information.

Reimbursement Vehicle Milage

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Ward Russell** and seconded by **Councillor Coates** **THAT** the previous motion carried on April 4th be amended as such: furthermore, the reimbursement of milage expenses will be paid by the legislative portion of the Fundy Albert general operating budget not to exceed the total of \$8,000 per calendar year. **MOTION CARRIED** (5-1).

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Ereaux** to amend the previous motion to not include a cap. The motion was not seconded and was therefore defeated.

Councillor Ereaux noted that he thought \$8,000 was too low.

Mayor Rochon stated that the topic can always be re-introduced for further consideration.

b. New Business

Mayor Rochon

i. CRHS Dragon Boat Team Request for Sponsorship-

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and seconded by **Councillor Jonah** **THAT** a grant in the amount of \$100 be awarded to the Caledonia High School Dragon Boat. **Councillor Ward Russell** noted that there is another school team, but they have not yet made a request. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ii. Request for Use of Riverside-Albert Recreation Centre

There was a request for rates made aware to **Councillor Jonah**. A group has requested access once per week for an active kids' program. A Vulnerable Sector Check would be done. **Councillor Elderkin** suggested scheduling be looked at. **Mayor Rochon** asked to have gentleman contact the CAO for timing and to give details of the programming. **Councillor Ward Russell** inquired if other groups were charged. **Mayor Rochon** stated that some groups charge fees and are charged. Others such as Pickle Ball donate.

iii. Request to Extend Hillsborough Arena Operating Season

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Ereaux** and seconded by **Councillor Land** **THAT** this request be referred to the Administration for assessment. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

The request asked to have the ice season extended from October- March to September- May.

Mayor Rochon stated starting the season early is easier than extending it as it is warmer. He questioned if there were enough employees to do this. He stated that it is important to secure revenue as the arena normally operates at a deficit.

Councillor Land stated it may be easier to extend the season at the back end for staffing and costing would need to be looked at. Spring leagues could also be possible.

Councillor Ward Russell suggested it may be a pilot project to try for a year.

Councillor Coates inquired as to the cost per month to operate.

Councillor Ereaux asked for this to be brought to the Administration immediately for review and recommendation.

iv. Alma Drainage Concerns

The Director suggested that a proper drainage plan needs to be made. There has been an ask to get Engineering to assess. There will be a discussion on this at the Committee of the Whole to talk about costs and plan further action. **Councillor Ereaux** made mention of a second location for Operations to report on.

v. Information Technology (IT) Upgrades

Mayor Rochon explained that an IT company came in to back up everything off site on 3 computers. It was suggested to have a back-up plan for all municipal computers. An ask will go out to the CAO to get a quote. **Councillor Ereaux** made a point to address all information management including paperwork. **Mayor Rochon** stated that networking and servers need to be considered. **Councillor Ereaux** noted that the three separate previous municipalities do not have websites any longer and inquired what is being done on the new Fundy Albert site to promote the Village/Region. He suggested possibly contacting someone. **Councillor Jonah** stated that the website should be well managed.

vi. Volunteer Fire Department Operational Budgets

Councillor Elderkin stated that she and **Mayor Rochon** met with the Treasurer. There was a budget provided. **Mayor Rochon** noted that the Chiefs will be thankful. They will reach out to the CAO and send them to the Departments.

BYLAWS

None

MAYOR and COUNCIL STATEMENTS

Councillor Ward Russell-

Highlights personnel committee

Unsanitary Premises

Spoke about the April 12th District Education Council Meeting and that Riverview East School will no longer be a Middle School

Update on summer students

Noted UMN meeting in Sackville

A meeting will be taking place with Minister Holland regarding schools

Councillor Elderkin-

Noted concerns regarding Bicentennial Road

DTI and Baker Tilley financial reports

Tax reporting Fire Departments

Joined the Treasurer and Mayor for Fire Department budgets

Participated in a tour of the Railway Museum

Councillor Land-

Gave a pool maintenance update. It will be pressure washed, painted and sealed

Request made for lights at basketball court. The neighbour is in agreement until 10pm. Looking for direction from Council

Arena Zamboni is 25 years old. Noted that it would be wise to start looking for a newer used one

The old air exchanger is leaking in the arena. A second will be put into place

Inquired if we could extend student summer lifeguards to longer employment to get quality applicants. Outside of pool work season there is community work that can be done to fill the time

Public Works is looking to fill the vacant position. CAO to post and hire

Councillor Coates-

Library Board orientation is complete

EMO has provided material to help develop a plan

Councillor Ereaux-

Note the absence of the Director of Community Services affects the Village. Suggested moving to filling the need with temporary help

Councillor Jonah-

Explained that the Hillsborough Legion could have no activities or a scaled down version on Remembrance Day. It was noted that the mayor met with the Branch

There will continue to be a Remembrance Day presence in the schools

Noted that a resident is having delivery issues due to Google Maps and will bring it to the CAO's attention

Mayor Rochon-

Committee meeting

Took part in ICS training on April 5th

Met with the Legion Branch on April 19th

Acadian Monument meeting April 21st

Is meeting with former Mayor of Riverside-Albert, Jim Campbell, on May 3rd

Received a call regarding Unsightly Premises will send formal request to CAO

Will investigate process for education going forward

Noted a SERSC \$50,000 grant awarded to VENN Innovation

NOTICES of MOTIONS and RESOLUTIONS

None

CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Jonah*** and seconded by ***Councillor Land*** **THAT** the meeting enter Closed Session at 8:15 P.M. per *a) the NB Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68 (1) (d) proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land and b) the Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68 (1)(j) labour and employment matters.* **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Land*** **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Robert Rochon, Mayor

Tammy Rampersaud, Assistant Clerk