

Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting Fundy Albert

Steeves Museum, Hillsborough NB

October 17, 2023, 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

Heather Ward Russell- Councillor, Ward 6

Tammy Rampersaud- Assistant Clerk

Note: Councillor Jonah and Assistant Clerk Rampersaud participated virtually

Regrets: James Coates- Councillor, Ward 5

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1 addition was proposed:

Public Comments and Statements

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Land** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Ward Russell** **THAT** the agenda be adopted with the additions.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Mayor Rochon informed the public that the village will no longer be live streaming council meetings due to wifi and networking issues but will continue to record the meetings and publish them on You Tube and linked to the website.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Land declared a conflict on agenda item 5d. Donation of Zamboni for Hillsborough Arena

PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Michael McBurnie- Local Governance Act and Other

Mayor Rochon directed Mr. McBurnie to address the mayor and council as a whole during his presentation as well as to submit questions to council to receive answers.

Mr. McBurnie's presentation consisted of proceeding to question transparency, the 2023 beautification budget for Alma, how many Public Works employees were available this weekend and how much time the Deputy Mayor spent removing products from bathroom.

He questioned the formal complaint that was filed and wanted to know the repercussions- sitting code of conduct.

He wants a commitment to have answers to questions- tax payer wants to know

Mayor Rochon stated that Mr. McBurnie has presented 5 times as well as written to the council. All of his questions had been answered.

Chris Kelly- Alma Community Events

Mr. Kelly presented on the Alma collective community events group of volunteers organizing events past two years. Mr. Kelly urged council to expand Canada Day and events early for next year with an expanded budget.

He shared that the Fleet Lunch was a success and thanked everyone for their involvement and support.

Each Councillor thanked Mr. Kelly for his and the team's work.

Mayor Rochon recognized the tremendous effort all year from Alma Collective volunteers as well as a thank you to the Public Works crew for their weekend work.

Interim CAO Report

Building permit reports September \$977,980

Public library budget has been shared with the librarian

Solid waste contracts have been solidified

Budget process has started

Director of Operations has collaborated with the Provincial-Municipal Highway submission

Director of Operations Report

Arena line marking and ice being laid without hiccups

Paving in Fundy Albert is complete

Forestdale Road Watermain project- a few deficiencies noted.

Switching over the water lines in Alma- they are looking for clear and consistent turbidity

Councillor Ereaux asked if there is any news from pump tests in Alma phase 1- no word yet.

Councillor Elderkin alerted the Director that there is a Maple Street manhole that needs attention.

Mayor Rochon expressed gratitude for having 61 Academy looked at.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer provided council with a report. She highlighted some areas in the budget and what percentages they currently sit at.

General Government Services 66%

Protective Services 65%

Transportation 56%

Environmental Health Services 63%

Public Health 40%

Environmental Services 61%

Recreation and Cultural 51%

Utility - broad Alma 124% expenses over budget due to project and water

55% Riverside-Albert

50% Hillsborough

Alma audit update- waiting on final draft

Hillsborough waiting as well

Riverside-Albert- work in progress

Councillor Ereaux inquired if the final draft of the Alma audit will be shared when it is completed- yes.

In terms of General Operating- Sept. 30 we are 3/4 way through the year with still outstanding

expenditures- are there any areas we are going to significantly overspend-

fleet and Public Works garage- due to under budgeting

Mayor Rochon noted that there are some timing issues with invoicing such as the RCMP billing. He also thanked the Treasurer for a succinct report and briefing for council.

Director of Community Services

The Director provided a detailed report to council. A few highlights are:

Trail Care Grant- Fall trail cleanup October 22.

Municipality Week was a success

Colour NB Pink is ongoing with pink pumpkins being shared on social media

2022 Water and Wastewater Reports for both Hillsborough and Alma have been submitted to the Dept. Of Environment with Riverside-Albert being completed shortly.

Veteran Banners are coming together.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies will take place on November 10 in Riverside-Albert as well as on November 11 in both Alma and Hillsborough. Special thanks to all volunteers and members of the Legion for coordinating.

Hillsborough Water Audit is taking place on October 17th.

EMO- there is funding available through ACOA for warming centers. Funding applications will be submitted.

Fire Alarms have been inspected in the Hillsborough Arena, Alma Cultural Building, and the Alma Activity Centre without issue.

The building by-law council passed on July 4, 2023, has been sent to be registered with the province.

Alma Lobster Trap Christmas Tree- A request was received from Kate Godbout, Teacher/Grad Advisor at Caledonia Regional High School. For the past couple of years, the graduating students have helped set up the Lobster Trap Christmas Tree in the community of Alma and in exchange the former Village of Alma has donated the use of the Activity Center for Prom on June 17th (setup and tear down June 16-18).

Friends of Fundy Friends of Fundy rental agreement for the Gallery space at the Alma Cultural Building is up for renewal. See the attached draft agreement. In the past Friends of Fundy rented the gallery space for \$600/month during the peak season. From October 1st to March 31st the rent has always been \$300.00/month.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Canada Day Celebrations

November 21 is the due date for request for funding through Heritage Canada- it was suggested that two applications be submitted, one through the Village of Fundy Albert for Alma and a second submitted through the Recreation Council for Hillsborough.

Committee of the Whole Meetings

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land* **THAT** the Committee of the Whole for the Village of Fundy Albert recommends to the Village of Fundy Albert to suspend further Committee of the Whole meetings until 2024.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Mayor Rochon noted that without a permanent Clerk or Assistant Clerk it is difficult to prepare for meetings. Council will temporarily pause Committee of the Whole meetings until January 2024 when the village will have hired one or both roles.

Councillor Elderkin noted that the focus will be on the 2024 budget in the future. As well as that council will continue to receive departmental reports.

Councillor Ereaux stated that a dedicated budgeting session may be needed. He also inquired about the status of COA recruitment.

Mayor Rochon explained that the hired HR Firm is putting the posting together for the position. Once it is posted it will be shared both externally and internally. He also encouraged everyone to share widely with their networks

Councillor Jonah noted that Mayor Rochon has put a lot of time into everything. It will be good to have some of the pressure removed.

By-Law Enforcement Proposal

Mayor Rochon delivered the proposal from Maritime Enforcement Agency. They were contacted through the Interim CAO on behalf of council.

3 options were provided for enforcement and pricing. After discussion it was decided that they would be invited to present to council the options in more detail.

Donation of Zamboni for Hillsborough Arena

Councillor Land excused himself.

A refurbished Zamboni was dropped off to the Hillsborough Area by MacLean Heating. This was a non-solicited drop off for possible donation to the village. A few stipulations were mentioned and need to be examined. Council agreed it was a generous offer. Concerns over perception and conditions were raised.

After a healthy discussion it was determined that this topic would be brought to the November 7th meeting.

Councillor Land returned to the room

MAYOR AND COUNCIL STATEMENTS AND INQUIRIES

Mayor Rochon- was contacted by a resident- sighting that the lighting at Cultural and Activity Centre is too bright- on 24/7

Councillor Ereaux asked if the Director of Operations could see if they need to be on all the time

On October 5 there is a mayor's meeting with Minister of Public Safety Kris Austin on policing and services concerns. **Mayor Rochon** made note that the concerns have nothing to do with officers.

Mayor Rochon spoke about the event at the Surrey Valley Baptist Church

Councillor Elderkin- is meeting with the local Fire Chiefs along with **Councillor Ereaux** and **Councillor Jonah** for budget

Councillor Elderkin extended congratulations to Ponderosa Pines Campground on 60 years of service.

She also thanked the Surrey Valley Baptist Church for a wonderful event as well as extended congratulations to Ward 1 on a successful Fleet Launch.

Councillor Ward-Russell- made note of some dangerous trees blocking the view.

Councillor Ward-Russell extended congratulations to Alma on the Fleet Launch.

She mentioned an upcoming Community Building Funds meeting and inquired on progress for the streetlights in ward 6- any updates- not yet

Councillor Jonah shared in congratulating Alma and their volunteers on a successful Fleet Launch

Councillor Jonah noted that last Wednesday Sparky the Fire Dog joined him for an enjoyable visit with grade 1 and kindergarten students expressing how excited the kids were.

He offered thanks to the Fire Department for all that they do making sure to help educate the children.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Jonah** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Land** **THAT** the Fundy Albert Committee of the Whole recommend to the Village of Fundy Albert to support the food program at CRHS with a \$500 grant.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Two UNB students had made a request to council.

Councillor Jonah explained that 20-30 students show up to school hungry daily.

Mayor Rochon explained that the two UNB students are spearheading a lunch program.

Councillor Ereaux- thanked everyone involved in the Rising Tides Festival.

Councillor Ereaux wanted to use his minutes to discuss a budget item and shared expenses- the budget is a combination of expenses and shared expenses- approx. 2.5 million- shared expenses are not equally shared- LSD areas get discount of about 10%. The province implemented this concept- fire is a shared expense- LSDs pay 90% only

Councillor Ereaux is proposing that some of the shared services should be equally shared in 2024.

Mayor Rochon noted that Local Government set up the budgets for the new municipalities.

Councillor Land thanked the Firemen and local group for the Fleet Launch.

Public Statements or Comments

Mr. Kelly stated that he wouldn't be upset about Public Works taking on maintenance of a donated Zamboni as long as the three former communities are all treated equally.

CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Land** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Ward-Russell** **THAT** the Committee of the Whole enter closed session under
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)(j) labour and employment matters
Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68 (1)(d) proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Land**.

Mayor

Clerk