

Minutes

Regular Meeting Fundy Albert

Cultural Centre, Alma, NB

October 3, 2023, at 7 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

Tammy Rampersaud- Assistant Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rochon called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4 additions were proposed:

1. Sept. 19th Committee of the Whole Minutes
2. 11.d. Winter Maintenance Hillsborough
3. 11.e. Solid Waste Collection Hillsborough
4. Public Comments and statements

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and seconded by **Councillor Land** **THAT** the agenda be adopted with the additions.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES

a. August 1, 2023- **IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Coates** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Jonah**

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

b. September 5, 2023- **IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Ereaux* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land*

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

c. September 19, 2023- **IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Ward Russell* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Jonah*

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

d. September 20, 2023- **IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land*

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

e. September 27, 2023- **IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Ereaux* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Ward Russell*

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

CONSENT AGENDA

None

PUBLIC and ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Mr. McBurnie- Public Works Resources and Water

Mr. McBurnie began by stating that he had received plans today from the architect as well as financing details for his project. We went on to share that he had lost trust and faith in the elected officials for the Alma region due to amalgamation. He cited concerns over the Code of Conduct and said he wasn't comfortable investing in the village.

Mr. McBurnie addressed *Councillor Land* and asked if he receives a salary from the Public Works Department. He then asked if he was employed by the company that completed the work on Scenic Drive. Mr. McBurnie questioned whether the public would be made aware of the consequences after the misuse of Public Works resources.

In conclusion, Mr. McBurnie noted areas in Alma that have not been kept up and asked why public resources are not evenly divided as well as requested credit for his water that he hasn't been able to use.

Mayor Rochon- suggested that Mr. McBurnie ask specific questions of council in writing, and he will be replied to.

Mrs. Chrysostom- Ward 1 Alma Financial Matters

Mrs. Chrysostom began by stating that she hopes council can shed light on some financial matters she is concerned about, specifically the \$20,000 allotted for beautification in Alma as well as enforcement.

She inquired as to how the budget been spent for Alma to date and noted her frustrations and issues with unsightly premises and bylaw infractions.

Mrs. Chrysostom left a letter with Council.

Councillor Ereaux stated that he would address some of the financial questions.

Mr. Kelly- Alma

Mr. Kelly began by stating that he is speaking on his own behalf but knows many share his views. He explained that he feels Alma is being disregarded and that there is a Hillsborough first mentality; citing lack of snow plowing, lack of Public Works in Alma, no plants being planted, and negative feedback from Public Works staff while working in Alma.

Mr. Kelly continued noting that tourism has been down this year and that the local businesses haven't received any promotion from the village on Facebook or the website.

He went on to observe that the Director of Community Services position was vacant for 6 months, that they have been without potable water since June at an extra cost to businesses, and that he feels there is a lack of concern.

Mr. Kelly concluded with his perception being that Public Works contracts are favouring Hillsborough, money being spent on the CAO position, Village Employees accosting resident and noting issues with the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Councillor Coates noted that Alma has a history of boil water orders and that it isn't an easy fix.

Mr. Kelly replied that he is looking for a little concern from Council.

Councillor Elderkin noted that the amalgamation has been a struggle for the entire team and is looking to move forward together.

Councillor Ward Russell thanked Mr. Kelly and stated that she is hoping to do better.

Mayor Rochon recognized Mr. Kelly's concerns and noted that they had had many conversations.

REPORTS and RECOMMENDATIONS from COMMITTEES and PRIVATE MEETINGS

None

REPORTS from ADMINISTRATION

Interim Administrator Report

The winter maintenance tender has closed.

It is confirmed that FERO will continue with solid waste to 2025- Hillsborough.

IT- presently there are only 2 computers that are backed up. Quotes are being secured to have all computers in the village backed up.

Ongoing work for an auditor for Fundy Albert- 2023

Escribe- more info to come

The village is looking to hire a PT attendant for the arena.

Corresponding with the Regional Development Corporation on grants.

The budget planning process has begun.

There will be a water audit on Oct. 17- Hillsborough audit through both the Departments of Health and Environment.

Circular Materials Request- ERP PPP

Mayor Rochon attended a meeting with the Provincial government.

Municipality will be required to handle various materials.

Certain materials only are accepted.

Southeast Regional Service Commission (SERSC) - is looking to municipalities to see if they want them to manage the system on their behalf.

The concern is that some materials could end up in landfills.

Commission provided Recycle NB material.

Mid December is the deadline.

E-Scribe

E-Scribe is a software package used by some municipalities.

It is an end-to-end meeting platform.

Interim Admin. is reaching out to other municipalities for feedback on the platform.

Fundy Albert had signed a contract for 3 years for \$9,631 plus HST.

The projected cost in 2024/25 will be an additional \$8,000 plus.

The cost of cancelling is over \$3,000.

Mayor Rochon believes the village should not cancel the service as it could be used efficiently.

Provincial-Municipal Highway Program (PMHP) Submission

This is a submission for all of Fundy Albert.

It is now a 4-year plan from a 5-year plan.

Once complete it requires a resolution of council to adopt the plan for submission.

Fundy Albert was granted an extension.

The Director of Operations and interim CAO along with the Treasurer will bring suggestions to be included in the plan that will include costing out projects. Once it is approved by the council resolution it will be submitted.

CRHS Yearbook Request

There has been a request submitted to sponsor the yearbook.

\$60 Page sponsor

\$60 Gold sponsor

\$100 Platinum sponsor

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land* to support CRHS as a platinum sponsor for \$100.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

UNB-CRHS Lunch Program Request

Many are increasingly experiencing food insecurity.

They are looking to start a lunch program. In doing so they are reaching out to various groups for partnership.

Councillor Land suggested deferring the request so that council could have further discussions on the needs of both schools.

White Birch Street Lights

Councillor Ward Russell noted that it is not just White Birch in question, but also Duffy, Niagara, Smithfield and Petersfield.

There have been 105 responses submitted to the village in favour.

Councillor Ward Russell suggests adding \$1,500 to the budget to cover the costs.

Councillor Ereaux voiced that it seems like a low number.

Mayor Rochon noted if pole in place the cost is \$8 month.

Councillor Ward Russell clarified that the lights would only be added to route 114.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Ward Russell** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Ereaux** that the Village of Fundy Albert proceed with adding 4 streetlights in Lower Coverdale for the remaining months this year with NB power to do the work. The streets are Smithfield and Petersfield where they intersect with Niagara Road; Niagara Road where it intersects with Route 114 and Duffy Road where it intersects with Route 114.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Water Project/System Update

In Riverside-Albert the leaks have been located and repaired.

They were not able to do the chip sealing as it was too late. There is a possibility of using penalty money for chip sealing of Forestdale Rd in 2024. There will be a meeting with EXP to determine the cost.

In Alma there are continuing to be 2 water sources being used. The source from Fundy Park will end on Oct 16th.

The boil water order is still in effect for the other areas of Alma. The Department is looking for stability in the turbidity.

Costs are still being tabulated from water from Fundy Park. The village is looking to recover some funding.

Looking at the future and phase 2 of water exploration

Councillor Ereaux noted that those in the community serviced from Fundy had periods when water was cloudy. It is known to the officials. It is the result of heavy rains.

Mayor Rochon noted that Fundy Park is a level 3 water treatment facility.

BY-LAWS

None

MAYOR and COUNCIL STATEMENTS and INQUIRIES

Councillor Jonah noted that there are some concerned citizens as a garage opened in an area not zoned for commercial use.

Mayor Rochon the SERSC is looking into it.

Councillor Ward Russell would like some ideas added to the Community Building Fund and will share with interim Admin.

Councillor Wared Russell participated in the Workplace Assessment last week. She will also be attending the upcoming UMNb meetings.

Councillor Land provided an update on the arena ice-surface and lines.

Councillor Land wanted to thank Kevin for his great work.

Councillor Ereaux shared a good news story and extended thanks to everyone involved. The Department of Transportation granted money to complete the repair in front of the fire station. The work is upward of \$100,000 and was previously identified at \$30,000.

Councillor Ereaux asked what the plan was for budget deliberations for 2024.

Mayor Rochon explained that it was being worked on. They were sorting out timelines.

The Treasurer is working with the province to determine how best to put the budget together.

The plan is to talk with each of the Department heads first and look for requests. It would then be brought to council for a conversation. **Mayor Rochon** noted that he would like to see public consultation.

Councillor Ereaux noted that he and **Councillor Elderkin** had met with the treasurer. It seems as though the province was having municipalities work toward a more unified tax rate in community to account for expenditures as shared. **Councillor Ereaux** expressed concern over the varying tax rates in the community.

Shout out to Rising Tides Festival and organizers. Everyone is excited. They are still looking for volunteers.

Councillor Ereaux questioned the budget line items- local expense for Alma- beautification \$20,000.

Noted that he couldn't see how it had been spent. The village square has a gazebo and needs work. This could be a good destination for the money.

Mayor Rochon did inquire about the \$20,000 and was told some benches were purchased.

Councillor Ereaux stated that he will look for \$5,000 in the upcoming meeting to be set aside for repair to the gazebo.

Hilltop Lane- Public Works is looking into the issue.

Councillor Ereaux questioned whether the village had received rebranding and marketing money from government as other communities had received.

Mayor Rochon did reach out and asked if they had to resubmit. He was told the request is in the books but hasn't heard back yet.

Councillor Ereaux noted that there is some money in the budget. Interested businesses in the community could help with re-branding. Could money be identified soon to ask service providers to submit tenders.

Councillor Ward Russell stated that she would prefer to ask for proposals not give the budget number to the interested parties.

Mayor Rochon noted that a statement of work should be created and could ask other communities for feedback. He will have a conversation with the Treasurer to see about funding.

Councillor Elderkin provided an update on Water Street in Riverside Albert- paving will be completed by the end of the week. Noting it's been a long project as it should have been done in July.

Councillor Elderkin also participated in the workplace assessment.

She shared thanks to Peter Jubb for his work organizing Remembrance Day Ceremonies. There will be ceremonies in Riverside- Albert, Alma and Hillsborough.

There is a corner lot with a tree to be removed- follow up required.

Councillor Elderkin attended the event at the Albert Co. Museum, noting it was a fantastic time.

Lower Cape Community Hall- great event.

Councillor Elderkin concluded by noting that there are amazing things happening in the village by a lot of terrific volunteers. Often these folks go without enough praise. Thank you.

Councillor Coates mentioned a new gravel pit that had opened and questioned their permit.

There will be a meeting tomorrow afternoon about the warming center in Lower Coverdale Baptist church.

Mayor Rochon commented about the use of village resources and his involvement in Literacy Express move. Council has determined that no personal sanctions will be imposed and will look to put proper purchasing practices in place.

Mayor Rochon shared concern over Ms. Downey's resignation that was brought forward by a resident. **Mayor Rochon** noted that council had received the resignation and that council had accepted it. He thanked Ms. Downey for her services and noted that the focus now was on hiring a CAO. A contract has been awarded to Smart HR Services Inc.

A discussion on the SERSC reached out about collaborative services, asking if help is needed to fill in services.

Veteran banners- priced out – need to be up for November.

20 banners up and removed will cost \$3,000.

The Director of Community Services has submitted permission to NB Power.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Jonah** that there will be an additional 5 banners added in both Hillsborough and Riverside-Albert as well as 10 in Alma with the village providing the hardware and the families purchasing the banners.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Mayor Rochon concluded by noting that Public Works will be clearing garbage for the Rising Tides Festival at overtime cost.

No objections

NOTICES of MOTION and RESOLUTION

Alma Cultural Centre use- Fall and Winter

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Ereaux** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Jonah** that the Village of Fundy Albert Council authorize the use of the Cultural Centre, located at 13 School St., Alma, by a group of community members to hold weekly community gatherings and activities during the fall and winter months at no cost to the users.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Amendment to paving/patching resolution

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Coates** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Land** that the Village of Fundy Albert rescind the motion adopted on September 27, 2023, related to the issuance of a contract for asphalt patching and padding in the communities of Alma and Hillsborough to Brown's Paving at a cost of \$105,928 plus HST.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Land** that the Village of Fundy Albert Council award a contract for asphalt patching in the community of Alma to Brown's Paving at a cost of \$29,544 plus HST of \$4,431.60 for a total cost of \$33,975.60.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Land** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Jonah** that the Village of Fundy Albert Council award a contract for asphalt padding in the community of Hillsborough to Brown's Paving at a cost of \$76,384 plus HST of \$11,457.60 for a total cost of \$87,841.60

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Water Street Road Maintenance- Riverside-Albert

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Coates** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Elderkin** that the Village of Fundy Albert Council award a contract for asphalt patching of Water Street in the community of Riverside-Albert to Brown's Paving at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 plus HST.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Hillsborough Winter Maintenance

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Land** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Jonah** that the Winter Maintenance Three Year Contract for the community of Hillsborough be awarded to the lowest bidder, who met all the criteria, Brunswick Limestone, at a total cost of \$626,747.70 including HST.

Mayor Rochon informed Council that 2 bids were received.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Hillsborough Solid Waste Collection

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Land** that the Village of Fundy Albert Council enter into an extension of the existing solid waste collection agreement with FERO Waste and Recycling Inc. For the Community of Hillsborough until January 31, 2025, at a cost of \$91,153 plus HST of \$13,672.95, for a total cost of \$104,825.95.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

PUBLIC COMMENTS and STATEMENTS

Mrs. Ross has a letter within it asking for a hidden driveway sign to be posted at the top of the hill. The letter was left with **Mayor Rochon** with contact information.

She was also removed from the Hebron waste pick up along with a few others but is still in the correct area for her waste pickup.

Councillor Ereaux also has her details.

Councillor Ereaux inquired about the water testing. **Mayor Rochon** updated that no feedback or results have come in yet.

CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS MOVED THAT Council enter Closed Session under:

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

- b. *Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68 (l)(j)* labour and employment matters
- c. *Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68 (l)(d)* proposed or pending acquisition of land

By ***Councillor Elderkin*** and **SECONDED** by ***Councillor Land*** at 7:48 PM

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

AJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Elderkin***

Mayor

Clerk