

## Minutes

### Special Meeting of the Council of Fundy Albert

Egypt Room, W.H. Steeves House Museum

September 20, 2023, at 5 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

Tammy Rampersaud attended virtually

#### CALL TO ORDER

**Mayor Rochon** called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

#### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts declared

**HUMAN RESOURCES MATTER**- Council received a letter of resignation addressed to **Mayor Rochon** from CAO/Clerk Hannah Downey.

**Mayor Rochon** thanked Ms. Downey for her services to the Village and Council and wished her all the best. **Mayor Rochon** stated that Ms. Downey was employed as CAO/Clerk for the Village of Fundy Albert since the beginning of 2023. Prior to that she served as the Administrator for the former Village of Alma, and prior to that, was employed by the former Village of Hillsborough.

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Jonah** and seconded by **Councillor Land**:

**WHEREAS** Section 71(4) of the Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, c 18 provides that an officer appointed by the local government is entitled to employment on a full-time basis until retirement, death, resignation, or dismissal for cause after a vote in favour of the dismissal by two-thirds of the members of the council; and

**WHEREAS** the municipality of the Village of Fundy Albert is in receipt of a letter of resignation from Hanna Downey, CAO and Clerk, an appointed officer under the Local Governance Act.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the municipality of the Village of Fundy Albert accept the resignation tendered by Hanna Downey as CAO and Clerk of the municipality, effective September 20, 2023.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the municipality of the Village of Fundy Albert immediately begin an open selection process to hire a Chief Administrative Officer for the local government.

**Councillor Ereaux** statement- he wishes Hannah well and all the best of success in her future. **Councillor Ereaux** stated that he supports Hannah in her decision to resign but cannot support the resolution to accept her resignation. He believes there are other paths that could have been followed to prevent the situation they are in now. The Code of Conduct By-Law that each of them has signed allegiance to includes two conflicting provisions that are making this present situation difficult for him. On the one hand he is bound by the Code of Conduct to conduct council business in an open and transparent manner that promotes public confidence and trust in local government. On the other hand, **Councillor Ereaux** states that he is being silenced by the confidentiality that is being imposed on him and others from above. This voluntary separation is a hugely unnecessary disruption and distraction to our local government. The money spent in all of the different aspects in replacing our CAO could be far better utilized in our municipality for other important things. Those in our community who work tirelessly to hold our government to account are very concerned and so is he. Thank you.

**MOTION CARRIED** (**Councillor Ereaux** voted nay).

**Mayor Rochon** explained that to move forward in the hiring process he recommends hiring a consultant/firm and has to date obtained two quotes.

**Councillor Coates**- in favour

**Councillor Land**- in favour

**Councillor Ereaux**- in favour- suggests 3 quotes

**Councillor Jonah**- in favour

**Councillor Elderkin**- in favour, supports 3 quotes

**Councillor Ward Russell**- in favour- acknowledging someone local

**Councillor Ereaux**- to be clear- seeking someone to guide process- **Mayor Rochon**- yes to guide and manage with the final selection sitting with Council.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY *Councillor Land***

Mayor

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Clerk

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