

Minutes

Regular Meeting Fundy Albert

Recreation Centre, Riverside-Albert, NB

September 5, 2023 at 6 PM

PRESENT

Robert Rochon- Mayor

John Ereaux- Councillor, Ward 1

Loretta Elderkin- Councillor, Ward 2

Jeff Land- Councillor, Ward 3

Ward Jeff Jonah- Councillor, Ward 4

James Coates- Councillor, Ward 5

Heather Ward Russell- Councillor, Ward 6

Tammy Rampersaud- Assistant Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The proposed additions to the agenda:

Item 7 (e) Hillsborough Arena Rates

Item 7 (f) Hillsborough Solid Waste Collection

Item 7 (g) Color NB Pink

The addition of Public Comments and Statements as Item # 11. This would make the Closed Session Item #12, and the Adjournment item # 13.

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

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts were declared at this time.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

A) June 26- **IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Land** and seconded by **Councillor Coates** that the minutes from June 26, 2023, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

B) Aug 7- **IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Jonah** and seconded by **Councillor Elderkin** that the minutes from Aug 7, 2023, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

C) Aug 8- **IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Ward Russell** and seconded by **Councillor Coates** that the minutes from Aug 8, 2023, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

D) Aug 17- **IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Land** and seconded by **Councillor Ereaux** that the minutes from Aug 17, 2023, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

E) Aug 23- **IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Elderkin** and seconded by **Councillor Ward Russell** that the minutes from June 26, 2023, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

CONSENT AGENDA

None

PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

A) Michael McBurnie- Ditching and Culvert 4073 Scenic Drive

Spoke with Minister Holland today and Lisa Parsons - sent a letter of action to council and mayor- looking for answers.

Mr. McBurnie noted that he is concerned about the quality of work performed as well as that it wasn't done by a local company. He also noted that Ms. Parsons visited the site and said it was substandard.

He has concerns over the work that will take place on Bucket Hill next year.

Mr. McBurnie said he had to determine it was the responsibility of the village for the work. He would like the cost of the ditching and why two companies located close to the property weren't hired.

He had to go to ECO360 to understand disposal. He cited too much work for him, and time wasted.

Now that his ditch is done- he wants to know plans to control velocity of water coming down and wants to know when it was inspected. Can the culvert withstand after ditching work is done.

Councillor Elderkin stated that she is excited that he was willing to invest in the village. She inquired about the culvert having gravel. Mr. McBurnie stated that the other culverts are plugged solid, and he was initially told it was his responsibility.

Councillor Elderkin noted that the village is open to multiple quotes for work that needs completing and that the village is larger now.

Councillor Land stated that the reason for moving the pipe was because of the washout.

Councillor Ereaux noted that they have previously discussed this. He believes council does need to review its tendering process. **Councillor Ereaux** referred to a document clearly defining areas and responsibility. It will be shared with Mr. McBurnie.

Councillor Jonah noted that he understands Mr. Mc Burnie's frustration.

Mayor Rochon has taken note of questions and will provide a written response from the mayor.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND PRIVATE MEETINGS

a) Herbicide spraying concerns.

Kerry Howard presented to council on her concerns over spraying. She noted that she is speaking on behalf of a number of people and protestors. She loved the area and is growingly concerned about both spray and clearcutting. She fears these actions are causing harm to people's health. She notes that glyphosate stays in the body from 5 hours to 17 weeks (about 4 months). She is asking for council to help. People are taking notice in New Ireland and think spray is occurring too close to water sources.

Mayor Rochon noted that the reason this topic is on the agenda is to acknowledge the concern that is being expressed and for council to ensure that it is fulfilling its obligations of providing good government and developing and maintaining a safe and viable community. It is not council's role to become involved where a matter is a provincial or federal government mandate or responsibility.

Councillor Elderkin expressed concern over the water.

Councillor Ereaux noted that council had taken part in a virtual discussion with Minister Holland and discussed testing the water. He noted that he is supportive of a motion to test and make sure with partners what the threshold levels are to make a more informed judgement on comparable levels in the water.

Councillor Coates noted that he lives where water flows by to turtle creek. A couple of years ago he noted spraying in area- wants to make sure water is safe. There has been spraying for the last 50 years or more. He would like to make sure it's properly applied.

Councillor Jonah stated that he believes spraying should be banned.

Councillor Land would like to see testing in the 3 communities as well as Fundy Park.

Councillor Elderkin would like to have the water tested for comparisons.

Councillor Ward Russell agreed on the need to proceed with testing the locations for the water now and once again after spraying has occurred. She would like specialist to present findings of the results.

Mayor Rochon noted that he thinks it is important to test the water as well as to be able to interpret the results. Council has a duty to act and be responsible.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and seconded by **Councillor Coates** to proceed with testing of the water in the three areas. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

b) Business Arising from the Minutes

Alma paving

In discussion: a quote had previously been obtained from a contractor to conduct pothole repairs in the community of Alma. A second quote has not been obtained. There is also the unresolved matter of the Route 114 culvert near the Alma Fire Hall. An estimate from Englobe Engineering had initially been obtained for repairs. One option was to cost approximately \$30,000 and the other, more extensive repair, was to cost \$100,000.

DTI had confirmed an emergency contribution of \$30,000 to that project. A recent revision to these costs has resulted in significant increases, such that the repair will not be possible in 2023 and will have to be budgeted for in 2024.

A second and or third quote was going to be requested to determine if this work could be completed this year.

Grants

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and seconded by **Councillor Jonah** that the Village of Fundy Albert approve the following grants:

Harvey Hall \$2,000

Albert County Historical Society \$2,000

Rising Tides Trails and Tunes \$3,000

The Eric Steeves Golf Tournament \$500

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Alma water exploration

Update from **Mayor Rochon**- The drilling, well casing expansion and pump test have concluded. The pump test concluded on schedule. The pumping equipment was to be removed, followed by analysis of the information and samples. A report is to be submitted to the province by mid-October.

As far as the boil water advisories are concerned, he had a conversation with the representative of the Dept of Health last week. They discussed both the Alma municipal supply and the supply from Fundy National Park. There had been continued turbidity in the Alma municipal supply which, according to the DOH, would have to show an improving trend. The DOH is open to the idea of lifting the boil water advisory, as long as the municipality can put together a plan to ensure that it's clear that those on the municipal supply remain on the boil water advisory. Our Director of Operations will speak with DOH to discuss what information is required from FNP to make this happen.

In speaking with the Director of Operations, he feels that the community can probably safely be removed from the FNP supply after the Thanksgiving long weekend.

c) UMN NB Zone Meeting

A reminder for Council members that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick Zone 2 meeting will be happening on Saturday, September 16th in Memramcook.

d) UMN NB Annual Conference (November 24-25)

The Union of Municipalities annual conference will be happening the weekend of November 24th and 25th in Fredericton. Registrations are now open.

e) Hillsborough Arena Rates

A discussion occurred about whether to increase Hillsborough Arena rates this year.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Ward Russell* and seconded by *Councillor Coates* to keep the current arena rates for 2023-2024 season with a discussion in the upcoming budget deliberations for the next season.

Councillor Ereaux noted that costing of everything is increasing, shouldn't the village increase by 5%.

MOTION CARRIED (recorded nay votes for *Councillors Ereaux and Elderkin*).

f) Hillsborough Solid Waste Collection

The contract for solid waste collection in the community of Hillsborough expires on December 31st. It was hoped that a single contract for solid waste collection could be developed where one single service provider could service the entire Fundy Albert municipality.

The local service manager for the former LSDs of Alma, Harvey, Hopewell, Hillsborough, and Coverdale has decided to extend the current solid waste collection for these areas for one year. That means that a single contract will need to be tendered for the community of Hillsborough. The interim administrator is asking council whether it is in favor of trying to negotiate a one-year contract with the current provider, FERO waste, rather than enter into a multi-year contract which may be problematic in 2025 when a multi-year contract with the entire area may be possible.

For the time being, our public works employees will continue to collect solid waste in the communities of Alma and Riverside-Albert in 2024.

g) Color New Brunswick Pink

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. A request has been received from the New Brunswick Breast and Women's Cancer Partnership to show solidarity by participating in a Color NB Pink activity.

Past activities have included supporting a pink t-shirt day, illuminating municipal offices with pink lights during the month of October, encouraging residents to paint pumpkins pink, etc.

It was decided to participate. **Councillor Elderkin** asked if this could be added to Connecting Albert County with a challenge issued.

h) Riverside-Albert Water

It was noted that there is a leak in the line and Angela Murray is looking to finalize the meeting and steps ahead.

i) Riverside-Albert Fire Heating Update

Mini splits

2 quotes were obtained at \$12,750 plus HST and \$12,600 plus HST

The Chief recommends the lowest quote and has money in the GIC to cover costs.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and seconded by **Councillor Coates** that the village approve the purchase at the quoted price of \$12,600 plus HST. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

BYLAWS

There are no bylaws to present this evening.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL STATEMENTS

Councillor Ereaux- continues to have concerns in Ward 1 including Harvey LSD and Alma- sub units in budget separate tax rate- still have not had any fiscal report broken down into updates

Councillor Elderkin spoke about COW meeting with those updates- looking forward to that for this year and moving forward for different areas

Councillor Coates- asked about bill sent for Fundy Albert for work on sewer line- **Mayor Rochon**- nothing showed up yet

He had attended Sawmill Creek covered bridge day- there were quite a few people there.

Councillor Jonah- asked about looking into the bylaw regarding Hillsborough Fire- 1 pumper and 2 men to stay behind

Noted that there is a rescue vehicle that needs to be retired in a few years.

There was a Fireman in Curryville in the spring- that was promised pay to be there and hasn't come through- advised to connect with **Mayor Rochon**.

Councillor Land- Director on Riverside-Albert water supply- noted how difficult it is to get in with fence and growth

Alma garbage collection and bathrooms- will be checked once a day and mowing- daily Mon-Fri.

Councillor Ereaux inquired about lagoon and water- protocols in past- communication- how is the communication going- **Mayor Rochon** explained that Englobe and CAO are copied on all communications.

Rising Tide mid-October- **Councillor Ereaux**- budget last year set aside for weekend and busy season.

Need quote for that coverage and need to find in budget

Councillor Ereaux reiterates the need for fiscal updates- need to know if funding is available.

Councillor Elderkin- there was a meeting about the Hillsborough Public Library budget at end of July to finalize funding amount. Currently working on budget for next year.

Caledonia Regional High School soccer field, although not in municipality has fundraising efforts are underway for field- 875-2735 Megan Leger

Riverside- Albert Fire Truck-there is a truck that in two years will be out of commission. They will be meeting with Doug Hamer to discuss options. Blueprints of another truck- approx. Cost 800k plus HST. This will be a huge undertaking- more discussion needed- possibly fundraising campaign- lead time 2-3 years.

Budget season- request **Councillors Elderkin, Ereaux, Jonah** and chiefs for group meeting to prepare for budgets next year.

Councillor Ereaux asked if the Canada Community Building Fund- Gas Tax- could it be used on downpayment of truck- ask administrative staff to inquire.

Councillor Ward Russell- noted that the video on Facebook live was currently not working.

Spoke about the excessive speed on Niagara Road- urges residents to contact the RCMP through the 1-800 number immediately upon witnessing speeding. The more reports, the more presence.

Thank you to DTI for the roadwork in lower Coverdale- noted ruts and holes were showing back up again- needs a senior visit.

Made mention of Municipality Week- highlighted why it's important and asked Director to highlight.

Councillor Ward Russell also noted the upcoming UMNb meeting and conference.

Mayor Rochon spoke about an Alma resident contacting him regarding violations of parking bylaw- asked for reinforcement. Truck and RV were blocking driveway.

Mayor Rochon spoke of contacting Maritime Enforcement to inquire about both education and enforcement.

Suggested council needs to come up with plan for enforcement going forward- illegal parking- Alma- close proximity- if enforcement comes from Moncton there could be issue in timing.

Costs associated with enforcement and prosecution were referenced.

Councillor Ereaux inquired if there was any appetite to enable Public Works to enforce parking bylaws- discussed in Alma previously. Is this something PW could take on. Noted St. Andrews enforces parking well. Instead of a 3rd party could this be an option.

Mayor Rochon noted on Aug 22 there is a contract policing meeting on 2032 expectations.

Discussions continue to come back to service delivery.

There was a job posting for part-time rink attendant in Hillsborough.

On Aug 29 the Regional Service Commission had a draft budget approved.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

A) Resolution: Alma Utility Interim Overdraft Increase

IT WAS MOVED BY AND SECONDED BY: *Councillor Ereaux and Councillor Land*

That the resolution that was adopted by the Council of the Municipality of Fundy Albert on June 6, 2023, be amended to read:

“That the Council of the Municipality of Fundy Albert authorize the borrowing of up to \$262,910 as an overdraft on RBC Account ending 181, pursuant to Ministerial Order 23-0016 for Fundy Albert, Environmental Health Service (Utility), for a term not to exceed three years.”

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

B) Resolution: Riverside-Albert Interim Overdraft Increase

IT WAS MOVED BY AND SECONDED BY: *Councillor Elderkin and Councillor Coates*
That the resolution that was adopted by the Council of the Municipality of Fundy

Albert on June 6, 2023, be amended to read:

“That the Council of the Municipality of Fundy Albert authorize the borrowing of up to \$712,672 as an overdraft on RBC Account ending 911, pursuant to Ministerial Order 23-0024 for Fundy Albert, Environmental Health Service (Utility), for a term not to exceed three years.”

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

c) Resolution: Fundy Albert Credit Card Policy – Amendment I

IT WAS MOVED BY AND SECONDED BY: *Councillor Land and Councillor Jonah*

WHEREAS the Fundy Albert Credit Corporate Credit Card Policy, under “Eligibility”, the Treasurer’s credit card limit is listed as \$13,500;

AND WHEREAS the credit limit of the Treasurer’s card has been adjusted from \$13,500 to \$11,500 to allow for a \$2,000 credit limit for the Chief Administrative Officer;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Fundy Albert Corporate Credit Card Policy be amended to reflect the Treasurer’s credit card limit of \$11,500

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

d) Resolution: Municipal Borrowing Board Application–Riverside-Albert Water Treatment Plant Upgrades

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED BY: *Councillor Elderkin and Councillor Land*

WHEREAS the Municipality of Fundy Albert is approved for funding under the Canada-New Brunswick Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for 93.33% (\$559,980.00);

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Fundy is to contribute the remaining 6.67% (\$40,020.00);

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Fundy Albert submit to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board an application for authorization to borrow for “Riverside-Albert Water Treatment Plant Upgrades” for the following term and amount:

Purpose Amount (\$) Term

Environmental Health Services, Utility

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades (Interim Financing) 559, 980 3 Years
Water Treatment Plant Upgrades \$40,020 20 Years

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

PUBLIC COMMENTS-

Mrs. Chrysostom from Ward 1 Alma asked **Mayor Rochon** to introduce acting Clerk and status of CAO/Clerk

Mr. Kelly inquired whether the Director of Community Services role is filled- yes

Noted that the contract for ditching to go to Mclean’s company was optically horrible.

Resident

To get water testing outside of the village where/how would you get it done? **Mayor Rochon** believes it is \$200+ for home testing. He suggested reaching out to area MLA.

Mrs. Robertson thanked council for listening to their concerns. She is pleased that there will be water testing and benchmarking. She wanted it noted that she was not speaking on behalf of the group Stop Praying NB.

Mr. Warnock noted bushwhacking mowed down weed- asked about contamination. **Mayor Rochon** will check in with Mr. McCallum.

CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Land*** and seconded by ***Councillor Jonah*** that the meeting enter into closed session per *Section 68 (1) (j) of the NB Local Governance Act labour and employment matters.*

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously) 8:15pm

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Land.***

Mayor

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