



**Minutes
Committee of the Whole Meeting**

**August 20, 2024, 4:30 p.m.
W.H. Steeves Museum
40 Mill Street, Hillsborough**

Present: Mayor Rochon
Councillor Ward Russell
Councillor Elderkin
Councillor Land
Councillor Jonah
Councillor Coates
Deputy Mayor Ereaux

Staff Present: Linda Sabourin, CAO/Clerk
Jillian Hutchinson, Treasurer
Kim Beers, Director Community Services

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Coates and **SECONDED** by Councillor Elderkin that the agenda be adopted with the following amendments:

- Addition of # 8 Public Comments and Statements

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

3. **Conflict of Interest Declarations**

none

4. **Consent Agenda**

none

5. **Public and Administrative Presentations**

- a) **Guardian Ecology Report** – Keith McCallum presented a mid-season report to council on the Knotweed eradication program. He discussed where knotweed is mostly located within Fundy Albert and his plans to submit a request to council for the budget cycle to continue the program in 2025.
- b) **Unsanitary Premises Report**
There are currently 23 total complaints including 8 closed with voluntary compliance and 2 that were not deemed unsanitary.
- c) **Administrative Report**
CAO/Clerk spoke about the community grants program, the status of tenders and building permits.

Treasurer provided an updated financial forecast and Aging Accounts Receivables. She noted that they should soon start getting requests for documents to complete the 2023 Audit.

Deputy Mayor Ereaux suggested we make a change in the way the budget is presented to council. It was agreed that if Council wanted changes to the reporting to include line items, it would need to be a motion of council. **Mayor Rochon** stated that he feels a return on Investment line should be included in the budget as it is expected income.

Director, Community Services discussed the following items:

- Signage for the trails have been completed
- Pool update – 41 kids so far have enrolled in swimming lessons (still 2 more weeks of lessons) and we've had 1648 people who have used the pool since July 2 when it opened
- VIC update -Hillsborough has had 875 visitors and Alma has had 375 visitors
- Keyless entry has been installed at the Alma Activity Centre
- Veteran's banner program is well received by the communities
- Update on the Community Centre Rentals, W.H. Steeves Museum
- Currently working on the Fundy Albert Helmet Policy for the arena
- Submitted a proposal on behalf of Fundy Albert to Quest Canada to be part of their pilot program for Energy and Emissions Plan
- Talked about upcoming events happening in all areas of Fundy Albert

Public Works updates as follows (CAO updated):

- Heather Cail is the Operator in Charge for water and sewer and Caleb is the water operator.
- Provided an update on the water system, paving, Hillsborough water exploration
- Interviews are scheduled for the Director of Operations position and Arena attendant position has been posted

6. Reports from Administration

a) **Items from previous meetings**

CAO has created a table with all items that have been brought up at previous meetings with information on where each item is at or what needs to be done to resolve item.

Deputy Mayor Ereaux asked that a column for numbering each item be added to the table.

b) **Application for interim financing for Golf Club Road Repairs**

The total cost financing will be \$711,206, this includes engineering fees. The full amount will be paid by public safety; however, it will take some time to process and receive the funds.

c) **Hygiene Machine Inc. Hillsborough Facility - Water and Wastewater Requirements**

CAO presented information on the laundromat that Hygiene Machine Inc. is wanting to open in Hillsborough and is seeking approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding.

d) **Hillsborough Arena**

Discussed the pros and the cons of opening the arena earlier and extending the closure later in the spring. The research shows that the cost and wear on equipment would be detrimental to having the season extended. It was proposed that the arena be open from October 9, 2024, to April 5, 2025. The idea of budgeting for a new compressor was discussed.

e) **Invitation to Political Candidates**

Discussion on an invitation being sent to political candidates to come talk about the 5 Unions of Municipalities of New Brunswick's advocacy priorities. Motion to be made at the September 3, 2024, Regular meeting. If adopted will invite candidates to the Special Meeting on September 18, 2024. The invitation must be sent prior to the election being called.

Deputy Mayor Ereaux stated he believes that the 5 priorities that are to be discussed should also include our roads and their partnership with us.

Mayor Rochon stated that the 5 priorities were the only things allowed to be asked of the candidates at this possible meeting.

7. Mayor and Council Statement Inquiries

Councillor Ward-Russell – wanted to thank the Hillsborough Fire Department for their help with the fire in Lower Coverdale. Thanked all admin staff for the job they are doing.

Councillor Elderkin wanted to acknowledge all the work that has been done in Riverside-Albert.

Councillor Jonah – Stated his questions were already answered.

Councillor Coates – referred to an email received from a concerned citizen about a blind intersection near White Birch estates in Lower Coverdale.

Mayor stated that there is signage and if anyone is speeding through there are an RCMP problem. On Saturday, August 12th Councillor Coates attended “minds that

changed the world” in Curryville. He suggested that we put on the Fundy Albert Facebook page and suggested we look at it as it was very interesting.

Councillor Land stated that his questions had already been answered. He wanted to thank the volunteer Fire Departments in Fundy Albert for the work they have done.

Deputy Mayor Ereaux wanted an update on gazebo restoration in Alma and was informed that the administration is currently looking for quotes to have the job done by a third party. He also wanted to know what could be done about the complaints of the overnight RV parking on municipal property, crown lands, private land and anywhere else they are parking.

Mayor Rochon stated that the Golf Club Road repair tender was supposed to go out on August 16th, but it has been postponed to August 30th. The Department of Environment and Local Government okayed the watercourse however the Department of Fisheries and Oceans upon looking at the design, realized that the slope on the fish ladder was too steep so the design is being redone then will be sent to tender. The mayor listened in on the Voyent Alert training being implemented by the administration and feels there are many opportunities for use. He believes it will help with the vulnerable and it can be subscribed to by mail, email, text and phone.

The mayor reached out to DTI and spoke to the assistant engineer regarding Route 114 and when we can see some potholes repaired. The patching crew is currently on Route 126 between Moncton and Miramichi, which apparently has faster speed and higher traffic volume, and will get to Fundy Albert hopefully next week.

Now that the Strategic plan has been approved the mayor would like to proceed with the presentations in all 6 Wards. He would like to start sooner than later, and the sessions will be scheduled through administration. He is counting on each councillor’s participation when it gets to their Ward.

Councillor Ward-Russell was asking if we could do the budget and Strategic plan together? Mayor stated that he would prefer not to, that the time is right to do the strategic plan, however the budget is not ready yet.

Councillor Elderkin asked if the presentation could wait until after labour day when the tourism season slows down to make it a better time for local businesses to participate. Mayor stated that it would be okay to wait until after Labor Day to commence the presentations.

There is a SERSC budget committee meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2024, once the budget is approved then there will be some consultation with administrators then it will go back to board to vote. Could take a bit to know what our costs will be for our mandated services

There is an UNMB Zone 2 meeting Thursday, August 22, 2024, and council members are urged to attend either in person or virtually.

8. **Public Statements and Inquiries**

Mr. Woodworth – what happened to the fish in the brook before the fish ladder? Why does there need to be a certain slope on the ladder. Department of Fisheries and Oceans regulates this.

Phyllis Sutherland talked briefly about getting goats for the knotweed as they clean it up! Keith said the logistics of moving the herd is problematic.

9. **Closed Session**

none

10. **Adjournment**

MOVED BY Councillor Land

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:46pm