



**Minutes
Budget Meeting**

**December 4, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Hillsborough Kiwanis Community Centre, 47 Legion Street, Hillsborough, NB**

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

Staff Present: Linda Sabourin – CAO
Jillian Hutchinson - Treasurer

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rochon called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. Adoption of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Ereaux and **SECONDED** by Councillor Land **THAT** the agenda be adopted with the amendment that Public Statements and Inquires be moved to #3 on the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

3. Public Statements and Inquiries

Bill Cudlow mentioned some issues that felt were important and should be considered by council during budget deliberations.

Mark Daggett wanted to point out that the condition of the roads in Lower Coverdale is atrocious and needs to be considered in the budget. It is, however, DTI's sole responsible for the maintenance in all former LSD roads and their repairs.

Linda Lebreton asked if the municipal tax rate was going up in 2025. That cannot be answered until the final budget is approved by council.

Tracy Blair talked about her property tax rate and how it is at least double what her neighbor pays. Feels that the municipality should be advocating for the residents of Fundy Albert to the province about this.

Shawn McGrath told council that it was meaningful and was a show of good faith that the councillors all agreed not to take a cost of living pay increase this year. Stated that he had done research, and that Fundy Albert tax rate was middle of the road in relation to other municipalities in New Brunswick. He feels that as long as the rates are fair they do not need to be the same in all areas of Fundy Albert.

Allistar MacFarlane inquired as to whether a volunteer fire department would be cost effective to have in Lower Coverdale.

4. Conflict of Interest Declarations

NONE

5. Budget Deliberations

Mayor Rochon informed the public of the procedures of how the meeting would be done.

Treasurer briefly explained the changes to the budget she made to the expenses as requested by council at the previous budget meetings. Then asked if the councillors would like to go over the budget again line by line. Councillor were all in agreement, so she proceeded to go over the budget line by line.

Once the budget had been gone over line by line, all councillors had the opportunity to asked questions and make changes as they saw necessary.

Councillor Land left at 7:50pm came back at 7:52pm

Mayor Rochon opened the floor to the public for any further statements or inquiries.

Bill Cudlow stated that he would be okay if his taxes had to go up because of the pool. He feels that is an important asset for the young people in Fundy Albert. He also mentioned that he worked in Health and Safety and would be willing to help with training if needed.

6. Closed Session

None

7. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Jonah that the meeting be adjourned at 8:46pm

Mayor

Clerk