



**Minutes
Special Council Meeting**

**December 27, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
W.H. Steeves House Museum, 40 Mill Street, Hillsborough, NB**

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

Staff Present: Linda Sabourin – CAO
Jillian Hutchinson – Treasurer

1. Call to Order

Mayor Rochon called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

2. Adoption of Agenda

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Elderkin and **SECONDED** by Councillor Jonah **THAT** the agenda be adopted as presented.

Motion Carried (unanimously)

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

NONE

4. Budget Deliberations

Mayor Rochon began deliberations by going around the council table and asking all councillors what their expectations for this deliberation session were.

Council engaged in a discussion on the General Operating Budget. The consensus among the council was that tax rates should not be increased, and council directed the administration to return with a budget that kept the tax rates the same as last year.

The treasurer next reviewed the utility budget with council. A discussion ensued.

5. Motion related to the 2025 general operating and utility budgets

Council did not reach a consensus on the budget therefore a motion was not read.

6.a. Motion related to 2024 year-end financials

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Ereaux and **SECONDED** by Councillor Coates **THAT**

WHEREAS Fundy Albert General Operating Fund has a projected surplus of \$625,273 due to incomplete budgeted items and an additional 2022 surplus from the previous village of Hillsborough;

WHEREAS the additional 2022 surplus of \$198,502 from the Village of Hillsborough was invested into a Cashable GIC;

WHEREAS the Treasurer has recommended \$150,000 of Shared Surplus be transferred to the Fundy Albert Capital Fund and that \$172,345 of Shared Surplus among the subunits of Alma, Riverside-Albert and Hillsborough be invested into a Cashable GIC;

WHEREAS the Village of Fundy Albert will end with an estimated surplus of \$104,426;

BE IT RESOLVED that \$150,000 be transferred to Fundy Albert Capital Fund, \$172,345 be transferred to a Cashable GIC and the remaining monies estimated at \$104,426 be used to cover yearend cost and/or contribute to the 2024 surplus for the 2026 Fundy Albert General Budget

Motion carried (unanimously)

b. Motion related to WorkSafe NB refund

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Coates and **SECONDED** by Councillor Elderkin **THAT**

WHEREAS the first time in WorkSafe NB's history, they are providing performance refunds to eligible employers because of a surplus in their accident fund;

AND WHEREAS Fundy Albert has received a refund in the amount of \$20,352.90;

BE IT RESOLVED that \$20,352.90 be transferred to the Operating Reserve for use in 2025

Motion carried (unanimously)

7. Closed Session

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Land and **SECONDED** by Councillor Jonah **THAT** council move into closed session as per:

- a. Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68(1)(j) labour and employment matters, including the negotiation of collective agreements

Motion carried (unanimously)

IT WAS MOVED by Deputy Mayor Ereaux and **SECONDED** by Councillor Land **THAT** the meeting move back into open session

Motion carried (unanimously)

8. **Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Coates **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Mayor

Clerk