

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

Staff Present: Linda Sabourin – CAO
Jillian Hutchinson – Treasurer
Ian Barrett – Director of Operations

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Ereaux called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm. He informed Council of the resignation of Mayor Rochon and stated that the Deputy Mayor assumes duties and obligations of the mayor for the interim.

2. Adoption of Agenda

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

- Move item # 7 to item # 4, moving all other items down
- Move item #8 and item #9 to the next Regular Council meeting
- The addition of #10 Public Statements

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

NONE

4. Resolution accepting the resignation of the mayor

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Ward Russell and **SECONDED** by Councillor Land **THAT**

WHEREAS Robert Rochon has submitted a letter of resignation from the position of Mayor of Fundy Albert, effective December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS the council of Fundy Albert has reviewed and considered the resignation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of Fundy Albert, as follows:

1. The Council hereby accepts the resignation of Robert Rochon as Mayor of Fundy Albert, effective December 31, 2024

2. The Council hereby declares the position of Mayor vacant, pursuant to Section 50(1)(b) of the NB Local Governance Act.
3. The Council expresses its appreciation to Robert Rochon for his many years of service and contributions to the community.
4. The Deputy Mayor shall act in the place of the mayor, and while so acting, the Deputy Mayor possesses the power and shall perform the duties of the mayor, pursuant to Section 48(4) of the Local Governance Act.
5. The Council directs the Clerk of Fundy Albert to take all necessary steps to ensure that the Commissioner, the Department of Local Government and Elections NB be notified so they can begin the process to fill the vacancy for Mayor of Fundy Albert.

The CAO made a statement.

Motion carried (unanimously)

5. Budget Deliberations

Deputy Mayor Ereaux advised the issues he sees are:

- The administration is still waiting on the audited financial statements for 2023.
- No workplan to back up budget
- Competing subunit tax rate proposals
- Competing expenditures proposals

Deputy Mayor Ereaux's goal during this meeting is to address what council needs to do to finalize the budget, which are as follows:

- Agree on tax rates for the 8 subunits
- How expenses/revenues are shared
- Agree on the general operating and utility budgets.

Council agreed to start discussions with revenue of \$864,946.

Councillor Land left room at 5:22pm and returned at 5:23pm

Councillor Coates left room at 5:37pm and returned at 5:40pm

Councillors Ward Russell, Land, Jonah, Elderkin and Coates would like to use the 2024 budget numbers and have a zero-tax rate increase, having 5 subunits (3 for the former villages and 2 for former LSD's)

Councillor Jonah left the room at 6:01pm and returned at 6:03pm

The treasurer went over her recommendations for cuts to the budget.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Elderkin and **SECONDED** by Councillor Land to break for a recess at 6:43pm

Motion Carried (unanimously)

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Elderkin and **SECONDED** by Councillor Coates to return to session at 6:53pm

Motion Carried (unanimously)

Deputy Mayor Ereaux recapped the deliberations thus far.

There were 4 tax rate options discussed;

- No change to tax rates for anyone
- Everyone's rate goes up 1 cent, except Alma
- Only the LSD's go up 1 cent
- Only the LSD's go up 1 cent and Alma decreases to 1.46

Councillors Elderkin, Ward Russell, Jonah, Land, and Coates feel that the LSD's should increase by 1 cent, Riverside-Albert and Hillsborough stay at the same rate and that Alma's rate should be decreased by 1 cent.

Councillor Coates left the room at 7:57pm and returned at 7:58pm.

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Ward Russell and **SECONDED** by Councillor Land to break for a recess at 8:04pm. **Motion Carried** (unanimously)

IT WAS MOVED by Councillor Ward Russell and **SECONDED** by Councillor Land to return to session at 8:23pm. **Motion Carried** (unanimously)

6. Resolution to approve the 2025 general operating budget

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

WHEREAS the 2023 audited financial statements for Fundy Albert are not yet available;

AND WHEREAS Council has no choice but to include an estimate for the second previous year surplus/deficit if we are to approve the budget today;

AND WHEREAS the Treasurer of Fundy Albert is recommending that Council include a conservative estimate for the second-year previous surplus in the amount of \$100,000 and Council is prepared to accept this recommendation as prudent;

BE IT RESOLVED that the sum of \$6,680,505 be the total operating budget of the local government that the sum of \$5,602,032 be the Warrant of the local government for the ensuing year, and that the tax rates for the local government be as listed below:

Taxing Authority	Residential Rate	Non-residential Rate	Heavy Industrial
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681-0	1.5569	2.6467	2.6467
681-1	0.5899	1.0028	1.00028
681-2	0.5899	1.0028	1.0028
681-3	0.5461	0.9284	0.9284
681-4	1.3936	2.3691	2.3691
681-5	0.5899	1.0028	1.0028
681-6	1.3936	2.3691	2.3691
681-7	0.5899	1.0028	1.0028

The council orders and directs the levying by the Minister of Local Government of the said amount on real property liable to taxation under the Assessment Act within the Local Government of Fundy Albert.

Motion carried (unanimously)

7. Resolution to approve the 2025 utility budgets

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

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to subsection 117(4) of the Local Government Act, the total budget for the Water and Wastewater utility for the ensuing year would consist of total revenues of \$1,335,674 and total expenditures of \$1,335,674

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the water system within Alma would pay their annual household would be water service of \$780.00, wastewater disposal service of \$730.00 for total of \$1510.00 annually. For users in Hillsborough water service would be \$380.00, wastewater disposal service of \$500.00 for a total of \$880.000. Riverside-Albert water system water service of \$588.00, wastewater disposal service of \$480.00 for a total of \$1068.00 annually per user. Deputy Mayor Ereaux stated the billing rates were per billing unit.

Motion carried (unanimously)

8. Public Statements

Mrs. Weir - stated that she was happy to hear the discussions that went on around the table.

Mr. Knickle- stated that he realizes that council has a tough job and that they were great at listening to concerns and working together to build consensus.

Mr. McGrath – thanked council for all the work that they put in.

9. Resolution to appoint a temporary second bank signatory

Deferred to next meeting

10. Resolution to appoint the Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Deferred to next meeting

11. Closed session

Nothing to discuss

12. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Land that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35pm

Deputy Mayor

Clerk