

Fundy Albert Emergency Measures Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2024 – Riverside-Albert Recreation Centre, 9 Bicentennial Rd, Riverside-Albert, NB

Committee Members Present:

Chair – Councillor Jim Coates

Committee member – Deputy Mayor John Ereaux

Committee member – Mayor Robert Rochon

Committee member – CAO Linda Sabourin

Regrets:

James Lindsay – EMO Coordinator

Call to Order

Councillor Coates called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

Two items were added to the agenda:

- Voyant Alert System
- Covid Retrospective

It was moved by Mayor Rochon and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ereaux that the agenda be adopted, as amended. Motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Declarations

None.

Regional Collaboration

Mayor Rochon began by explaining that at the last meeting of the SERSC Public Safety Committee, Region 7 EMO Coordinator, Melissa Pageau, provided an overview of the regional collaboration initiative. In essence, communities in regions 6 and 7 are being offered the opportunity to use a regional EMO plan template. The template is the EMO plan for Moncton/Riverview/Dieppe. Municipalities wishing to do so are being offered that plan as a template where they could adopt any sections of it that are applicable, remove sections that are not, and incorporate any appendices that are relevant to the community, such as contingency plans for specific incidents, and resource lists.

A second part of the regional collaboration initiative would involve signing on to a mutual aid agreement that would allow the municipality to access equipment and expertise, at minimal expense. It would also involve us being willing to reciprocate.

Mayor Rochon indicated that Ms. Pageau is asking municipalities to confirm their willingness to participate in the regional collaboration effort. She also mentioned that she will continue to support any municipality that opts not to join in the effort.

Based on the information provided at the Public Safety Committee meeting, Mayor Rochon is urging Council to sign on and inform Ms. Pageau of this decision. Deputy Mayor Ereaux asked whether there are concerns that if another municipality offers assistance, they would end up taking the lead role in the event. Mayor Rochon indicated that he believed this would not be the case.

A short discussion ensued and the committee indicated its support to recommendation to Council of Fundy Albert to join. Mayor Rochon will produce a council report form to be included by the CAO for the regular meeting on August 6th.

Voyant Alert

CAO Sabourin informed committee members that she is proceeding with the implementation of a Voyant Alert system that will enable citizens to subscribe to receive municipal alerts like boil water advisories, information related to emergency events in the community, and other messages through push notifications. The notifications could be sent out by text, email, or voicemail. CAO Sabourin indicated the cost to the municipality will be about \$2,800 annually. She further advised that the Town of Sussex uses this system.

Covid Retrospective

Deputy Mayor Ereaux mentioned that he participated in a Covid-19 retrospective session last week, and that the only two municipalities that participated were Fundy Albert and the community of Edmundston. Deputy Mayor Ereaux mentioned that the City of Edmundston's EMO plan contains a contingency plan for pandemics. Chair Coates confirmed that the issue of pandemic response was included in the hazard risk assessment session that he and Deputy Mayor Ereaux had attended in Shediac a number of weeks ago.

A short discussion ensued about the types of incidents that could be incorporated in Fundy Albert's EMO plan.

There being no further business, the committee meeting was adjourned through a motion by Mayor Rochon at 1:32 pm.

Approved:

Jim Coates, Chair