

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

Staff Present: Linda Sabourin – CAO  
Jillian Hutchinson – Treasurer  
Ian Barrett – Director, Operations  
Kim Beers – Director, Legislative Services

**Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** welcomed everyone and thanked former Ward 1 Councillor Mr. John Ereaux for his dedication to the community and the hard work representing all of Fundy Albert. Mr. Ereaux's leadership, thoughtfulness, decision making and commitment especially to the Alma water project has helped shape a better future for all of us. It has been a pleasure to witness his efforts in action and council wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

**Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

- The addition of #12 Public Statements;
- Move Closed Session to #13 and include Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68(1)(c) information that could cause financial loss or gain to a person or the local government or could jeopardize negotiations leading to an agreement or contract.

**MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously)

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

None

### **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Elderkin** **SECONDED** by **Councillor Coates** **THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 4, 2025 be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously)

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Elderkin* **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land* **THAT** the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held February 25, 2025 be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**PUBIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Caleb Babin and Phil Robichaud with Plan 360 - Rezoning presentation. View the presentation [here](#).

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Land* **SECONDED** by *Councillor Jonah* **THAT WHEREAS** Council received a request from White Birch Subdivisions Inc. for a rezoning of the property located on Justin Drive and bearing PID 05115621 from Rural Area Zone (RA) to the Dwelling Group Zone (DG) to permit a mini home park.

**AND WHEREAS** the Council wishes to consider the above-mentioned modifications;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- a) A bylaw amending the rural plan bylaw be drafted;
- b) The Clerk, in name and on behalf of Council, will publish the public notifications in conformance with section 111 of the Community Planning Act;
- c) The hearing of objections to the proposed bylaw is set for **May 6th**, in the Council Chambers at **6:00 pm**;
- d) The Clerk, in name and on behalf of Council, will request the views of the Southeast Regional Service Commission, **with an extension to April 15, 2025**, on the proposed bylaw in conformance with section 110 of the Community Planning Act; and
- e) The proposed bylaw will be available for consultation by the public at the municipal building during operating hours from the date the first notice is published.

**MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously)

Two (2) minute presentations:

- b. Mr. Kris Kelly from Alma Community Tourism - Community Grant Program:
  - Mr. Kelly advised he has submitted an application under the community grants program and understands Council has a temporary hold on spending however, the application he submitted is under time constraints
  - Council approved the budget and is concerned why 80% of funding has been assigned to

three Hillsborough based programs; leaving little money for the rest of Fundy Albert.

- Flawed process – Council issuing grants to Fundy Blades for more than requested. Mr. Kelly advised in the past the Council donated \$1,000 and now donating \$4,000.
- Mr. Kelly believes Council looked at only the first three applications and did not look at the other applications.
- Mr. Kelly advised he wishes to withdraw his Alma Community Tourism grant application.

**Councillor Land** advised Mr. Kelly that Council did look at all the submitted applications and the reason there is a hold on the grant program is due to financial uncertainty.

**Councillor Jonah** asked Mr. Kelly what his time commitments are. Mr. Kelly advised he wanted to partner with the Village to increase business flow through Alma in June. The proposal was for banners for the food festival taking place June 19 to June 21, 2025.

**Deputy Mayor Ward Russell** thanked Mr. Kelly and advised a letter should be sent to the CAO or Clerk advising his wished to withdraw the community grant application

c. Mr. Lee Warnock – Audit

- Mr. Warnock thanked **Councillor Land** and Ms. Kathy Weir for bringing up the issue
- Former Mayor Rochon and CAO made commitments to communications and transparency.
- In the February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, it was revealed the Village does not have the 2023 audit completed. Mr. Warnock asked why the public is just learning about this now and how did we get in this situation. Mr. Warnock advised that the audit is a critical administrative milestone and impacts the Village operations. Mr. Warnock asked why this problem was allowed to manifest into the current situation and what steps are being taken to ensure this does not happen for the 2024 audit.

**Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** asked if Council or the CAO wants to respond and no, not at this time. **Deputy Mayor Russell** advised they are working on a plan and hoping the plan of action will take place and communicated in the near future and advised that the Council are trying to move forward.

Mr. Warnock advised the rumor is Alma and Fundy Albert are bankrupt.

**Deputy Mayor Ward- Russell** advised that rumor is false and is sorry that the rumor is out there. **Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** hopes the CAO has an update for Council later in the meeting.

d. Mr. Kent MacDonald – President of the Albert County Trail Blazers.

- Mr. MacDonald advised the ACTB manages 1500+ members and covers Salisbury all the

way through the Fundy Albert region, which drives the tourism piece.

- Mr. MacDonald is very supportive of the ATV Access on Roads and Streets committee and is looking forward to working with the committee.

## **REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND PRIVATE MEETINGS**

**Personnel Committee** – **Councillor Elderkin** advised she participated in a Personnel meeting along with the **Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell**, the CAO, and **Councillor Land**. The following was discussed: General administration topics; job descriptions were provided for the Clerk position and administrative position. **Councillor Elderkin** advised she will send to Council for review.

**EMO Committee** - **Councillor Coates** advised he received the EMO committee has received an emergency mutual aid agreement which includes 17 out of 18 towns, rural areas etc.; a meeting is planned for next week to discuss. On March 20<sup>th</sup> there is an EMO presentation on wildfires and **Councillor Coates** plans on attending

## **REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION**

None

## **BY-LAWS**

The Animal Control Proposed By-Law underwent first and second reading by Council at the February 4, 2025 Regular Council meeting and now requires third reading and adoption. The Draft By-Law has been posted on the Fundy Albert Website for public viewing, as required under section 15 (3) of the Local Governance Act.

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Land** **THAT** Council proceed with third and final reading of By-Law 2025-01 - A By-Law respecting dog control services in Fundy Albert, by section as follows:

1. Title
2. Purpose
3. Definitions
4. Application
5. Operations
6. Repeal of Existing By-Laws
7. Enactment

**WHEREAS** the Village of Fundy Albert is **HEREBY GIVEN** its third and final reading **THAT Bylaw 2025-01** is enacted on this 11th day of March 2025.

**MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously)

## **MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS**

**Councillor Land** advised that Council asked for an update regarding the reserve bank accounts and information was received. However, additional information was asked and nothing received. The CAO advised this will be provided at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Councillor Land** asked for an update regarding the Alma water exploration project. The Director, Operations advised he spoke with the project manager and englobe yesterday. The tree cutting was delayed however; the work has commenced. The MTI agreement has been sent to MTI for review, and updated will be provided at the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**Councillor Land** asked for an update regarding the Hillsborough water exploration project. The Director, Operations advised the landowner agreement expired, and a new one is being developed with the landowner with changes.

**Councillor Land** asked for a financial report at the Committee of the Whole meeting – not just showing the bank balance but also cheques that have been issued.

**Councillor Jonah** asked if it was a good time to bring up the naming of a piece of Hillsborough property to “all terrain park”. **Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** advised a Council Report Form will need to be completed and discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Councillor Coates** advised he has nothing to report.

**Councillor Elderkin** advised as a Councillor she is concerned about the finances and asked when the plan is available, what can be shared with the community? **Councillor Elderkin** advised that the Council struggled at budget time due to not having the audit completed which is not a normal procedure and the importance of sharing a plan with residents when one is available. **Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** asked the CAO to prepare a statement to be shared with the public. Per the CAO she will provide an update at the Committee of the Whole.

**Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** advised there is a funding stream available through the Federal Government for upgrades to storm water, wastewater, drinking water and waste related infrastructure. **Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** advised other municipalities have been granted funds. **Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** asked if administration is aware and/or have we applied. Per the CAO no, she was not aware however, will look into. Per the treasurer she has been looking into this grant and will share more information with Council.

**Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** asked if the Fire Departments received their budgets? per the CAO yes, they have.

**Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** asked if the flags at the Riverside-Albert Recreation Centre have been picked up and moved? Per Director of Operations, yes, the flags have been picked up and moved to the Village office.

**Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** asked if there is an update from Environment and Local Government for transition funding? Per CAO and Clerk, they are still waiting for a call/email back.

**Deputy Mayor Ward-Russell** advised she has requested a meeting with Department of Transportation regarding the Bridge closure on Midway Road.

**Councillor Land** advised to the residents in Alma that the water exploration project is moving forward, and there are some financial issues however, Council is working hard to ensure it happens.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION AND RESOLUTIONS**

**IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor Coates** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Land** **THAT** Fundy Albert Council approve the Terms of Reference for the ATV Access on Roads and Streets and further establish the ATV Access on Roads and Streets Committee, as outlined in the proposal presented, with the aim of ensuring ATV routes comply with legal and safety standards, and to address the community's needs regarding ATV access and safety.

**MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously)

### **PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

Ms. Susan MacCallum thanked Council for the kind words about former Ward 1 Councillor John Ereaux.

Ms. MacCallum advised that Council approved the 2025 budget, and the tax rates are set, and the budget includes an estimated \$100,000 surplus, which represents the possible surplus which has yet to be finalized due to no 2023 financial statements. Ms. MacCallum advised what happens if the estimated surplus turns out to be wrong, in a bad way. Ms. MacCallum advised she hopes Council commits in the spirit of transparency as it was done during budget deliberations as Council discusses other revenue generation options or what services and expenses will be cut.

Ms. MacCallum thanked **Councillor Elderkin** for helping the Shepody Food Bank find an alternate location while the building undergoes renovations.

Mr. Lee Warnock asked for Council to speak up for the audience and the owl, some people are soft spoken and hard to hear. Mr. Warnock thanked Council for including the council package on the website.

Mr. David Knickle thanked the Council for coming together and approving the budget and he understands there are still some challenges. Mr. Knickle appreciates the work Council did to be

fiscally responsible and glad to hear there is a plan in the background.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**IT WAS MOVED** by ***Councillor Elderkin*** and seconded by ***Councillor Coates*** to move to a closed session at 6:47 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, 68(1)(c) information that could cause financial loss or gain to a person or the local government or could jeopardize negotiations leading to an agreement or contract.

CAO, Ms. Sabourin exited the meeting at 7:09 pm

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

**IT WAS MOVED** by ***Councillor Elderkin*** and seconded by ***Councillor Coates*** to return in session at 7:45 pm.

**MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by ***Councillor Elderkin*** to adjourn at 7:45 pm

-----  
Deputy Mayor

-----  
Clerk