

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

Staff Present: Sean Wallace – CAO
Kim Beers – Director, Legislative Services/Clerk
Jillian Hutchinson - Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councillor Ward-Russell requested the addition under closed session Local Governance Act 68(1)(j) labour and employment matter.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Coates* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Jonah* **THAT** the amended agenda be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

None declared.

COUNCIL CHAMBER AUDIO VISUAL APPROVAL

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Land* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Jonah* **THAT** Council authorizes the CAO and Mayor to approve the purchase and installation of the Council Chambers audio-visual system as proposed by Ivan's Audio-Visual in the amount of \$43,395.04 plus HST;

AND FURTHER THAT funding for the project be allocated as follows: \$32,000 from the Office Building Budget Line, and the remaining \$11,395.04 plus net HST be funded.

Question

Councillor Ward Russell asked whether there was follow up from the question raised by a resident at the last meeting. Ms. Beers advised that an email was received from the resident who acknowledged and apologized for the error.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

APPLICATION FOR FINANCING

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Coates* **THAT WHEREAS** the Riverside-Albert Water System Upgrades Project is now complete and requires final closure; and

WHEREAS a remaining balance of \$23,029.68 must be financed through the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board; and

WHEREAS debenture requests must be submitted rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, resulting in a required application of \$23,000, with the remaining \$29.68 to be funded through Riverside-Albert Utility Operating; and

WHEREAS the estimated 2026 interest payment of \$433.84, along with the \$29.68 operating balance, can be accommodated within the budget line "Water Supply: Short Term Interest on Capital Projects" as no further shortterm capital interest expenses are anticipated for 2026;

AND WHEREAS RBC estimates the lease buyout amount will be approximately \$606,633.12 (including Net HST) by June 2026 when the debenture is issued and the lease buyout completed; and

WHEREAS debenture applications must be rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, requiring that the remaining \$633.12, along with early lease release fees of \$950.00 will be funded through operating;

AND WHEREAS approximately \$22,000 is projected to be available across the following budget lines to fund these operating requirements:

- Short Term Interest on Capital Projects
- Interest on Long Term Debt (2026 fire truck interest payment under budget)
- Cost of Issuing/Selling Debenture;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Clerk, Treasurer and Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation a Local Government of Fundy Albert a debenture in the principal amount of \$629,000 on such terms and conditions as are recommended by the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, and be it resolved that the Local Government of Fundy Albert agree to issue post-dated cheques payable to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation as and when they are requested in payment of principal and interest charges on the above debenture;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the remaining unfunded balances and associated operating costs, including short-term interest and lease buyout fees, be funded through the applicable operating budget lines identified above.

Question

Council discussed whether multiple items, including water infrastructure and a fire truck, were being considered separately or as part of the same application. Administration clarified that the structure of the application requires all components to be submitted together, with details outlined in a supporting sheet. This includes the required resolution, and a breakdown of debenture amounts for general/operating and utility purposes.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

RESTRICTION OF GUARANTEED INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE(S)

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land* **THAT WHEREAS** Ascend LLP identified that certain Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs) purchased in 2023 were classified as unrestricted cash, as the related resolutions authorizing their purchase did not explicitly state that the funds were to be held as Capital Reserve; and

WHEREAS the original intent of the organization in purchasing these Guaranteed Investment Certificates was to invest funds designated for Capital Reserve purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all Guaranteed Investment Certificates purchased between January 2023 and December 2025 are hereby designated as restricted funds and shall be treated as Capital Reserve, consistent with the original intent at the time of investment.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

VILLAGE OF ALMA – AUDIT 2022 – INTERFUND CORRECTION

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Land* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Jonah* **THAT WHEREAS** the Village of Fundy Albert is in Noncompliance with PSAB standards in regard to Interfund Borrowing;

WHEREAS the auditor has noted an outstanding Interfund Borrowing balance of \$712 owed to Alma Utility Capital from Alma Utility;

AND WHEREAS the Village of Fundy Albert does not have a set interest rate for interest on Interfund Borrowing;

BE IT RESOLVED that \$712 be transferred from Alma Utility to Alma Utility Capital;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council directs administration to create an interest rate for interest on Interfund Borrowing for Council to approve at our next regular council meeting

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ms. Hutchinson presented a [council report form](#)

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Ward-Russell*

THAT WHEREAS Ascend LLP has presented council with completed Draft 2023 Financial Statements;

AND WHEREAS Council has reviewed and is satisfied with the Draft 2023 Financial Statements;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council approves the 2023 Draft 2023 Financial Statements

Question

Councillor Ward-Russell acknowledged the progress made in completing the long-awaited audit but expressed concern regarding its findings. It was noted that the audit opinion was not unqualified, with a qualification related to unrecorded Asset Retirement Obligations, which may impact the municipality's liabilities and financial position. *Councillor Ward-Russell* emphasized the importance of formally recognizing these issues on record and ensuring they are addressed promptly. It was further stated that failure to do so could be viewed as irresponsible if subject to future audit, public, or legal scrutiny. *Councillor Ward-Russell* requested that these matters be incorporated into the motion.

Amendment:

The motion was amended to include that Council acknowledges the auditor's qualified opinion related to PSAS3280 Asset Retirement Obligations and the disclosed breach with RBC due to delayed financial reporting and directs Administration to address both matters and report back with corrective actions within an appropriate timeline.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Councillor Land inquired about the 2023 budget surplus amounts. Administration advised that the 2023 surplus was \$276,943 for general operating and \$40,832 for water and sewer

operating. Discussion followed regarding the surplus used in the 2025 budget, noting that a higher estimated amount (approximately \$300,000) had been applied. Administration indicated that final surplus figures remain subject to change as 2024 financials are still being finalized, with adjustments expected due to accrued expenses and restricted funds. It was noted that some corrections will not be fully reflected until future audit cycles.

CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* and **SECONDED** by *Councillor Land* **THAT** Council have an in-camera session at 5:20 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

Mr. Wallace and Ms. Hutchinson exited the meeting.

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 Land* to return to the regular session at 6:35 pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously).

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Elderkin* **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Mayor

Clerk