

Present: Mayor Campbell
Councillor Lackey (late)
Councillor Elderkin
Councillor Davis
Councillor Phillips

Absent: Councillor Cooke

Staff Present Kim Beers – Director, Legislative Services/Clerk
Krista Ronalds – Acting Treasurer

Guests: Hospice SENB – Bonnie MacFayden Kirstin Shortt
Albert County Historical Association – Janet Clouston, Dawne
MacLean and Angela Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

Councillor Lackey entered the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

None declared.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

[Hospice SENB](#) – Bonnie MacFayden, CEO and Kirstin Shortt, Chair Board of Directors

Representatives from Hospice Southeast New Brunswick provided Council with an overview of the organization, its services, community impact, funding model, and future priorities. Hospice Southeast New Brunswick operates Maison Albert House, a bilingual, 10-bed residential hospice facility serving individuals of all ages and their families throughout southeastern New Brunswick.

Since opening in July 2021, the hospice has supported approximately 670 residents and their

families.

The presentation emphasized that hospice services extend beyond end-of-life care and include grief and bereavement support, community education and engagement, volunteer companionship, grief cafés, facilitated group sessions, and an annual candlelight memorial service. Representatives noted that the organization has more than 40 staff members and relies significantly on volunteers to support its programs and services.

Council was advised that the organization's future priorities focus on community support, sustainability, and excellence in care. Funding is derived approximately one-third from government funding for clinical care, one-third from the Boutique Hospice Shop, and the balance through fundraising events, donations, memorial gifts, and other community support.

During the question-and-answer period, representatives confirmed that the facility is located on Pleasant Street in the Lewisville area of Moncton, that a waiting list may occur depending on demand, and that there are currently no plans to expand the residential facility beyond its existing 10 beds. Future service delivery options, including possible virtual care, may be explored.

Council thanked the representatives for the presentation and for the services provided to residents and families throughout the region.

[Albert County Historical Association](#) – Dawne MacLean, Board President; Janet Clouston, Managing Director, and Angela Smith, Board Treasurer

Representatives from the Albert County Historical Society provided Council with an overview of the Society, the Albert County Museum, its programs, financial position, current challenges, and future opportunities. The Society was established in 1951 and operates as a not-for-profit registered charity dedicated to preserving and celebrating the history and cultural heritage of Albert County. The Albert County Museum was established in 1962 and includes the historic Shire Town buildings, courthouse, R.B. Bennett Commemorative Centre, and exhibits highlighting the history and natural heritage of the region.

Representatives highlighted recent exhibits and initiatives, including the Mastodon exhibit, the *County of Heroes* First World War exhibit, heritage programming, community events, educational outreach, and the mobile exhibit developed for Albert County's 175th anniversary. The Museum also hosts annual events such as Canada Day, Remembrance Day, R.B. Bennett Day, the Quilt Show and Sale, and the Haunted Jail.

Council was advised that the Society's annual operating budget is approximately \$160,000 to \$180,000, with funding derived from provincial and federal grants, museum admissions, gift shop sales, facility rentals, events, donations, fundraising, and an endowment fund. Significant ongoing expenses include staffing, utilities, insurance, technology, maintenance, and repairs to the heritage buildings.

The Society discussed its efforts to promote the Museum and Fundy Albert as a tourism destination, including media partnerships and opportunities to encourage visitors to the Hopewell Rocks to remain in the region longer. Opportunities identified included extending the Museum's operating season, enhancing the visitor experience through technology, developing new exhibits and programs, and strengthening community and tourism partnerships. Key challenges include aging infrastructure, limited exhibit and artifact storage space, and volunteer recruitment and retention.

Representatives expressed an interest in continuing to strengthen the partnership between the Society and the Village of Fundy Albert and identified ongoing municipal operating funding as a key area where the Municipality could provide support. Council was also invited to attend the Society's Annual General Meeting on October 17. Council thanked the representatives for their presentation and acknowledged the importance of preserving and promoting the area's local history and heritage.

James Wilson – registered for a 2-minute presentation – Follow up on previously raised issues

A resident appeared before Council to follow up on several concerns previously raised during the prior Council term. The resident first highlighted concerns regarding GPS routing, noting that travellers approaching the area from the Fredericton direction may be directed over Caledonia Mountain and suggested the Municipality explore whether the routing issue could be addressed.

The resident then requested updates on several previously identified community concerns, including ongoing drainage and flooding at the bottom of Fairview Avenue; speeding and limited enforcement south of Hillsborough; trees and vegetation obstructing sightlines at road intersections; vehicles failing to stop at the Fairview Avenue stop sign; and road drainage/runoff contributing to erosion of a resident's driveway.

Council agreed that the matters would be referred to Administration for review and follow-up.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following reports were presented to Council as information items only:

[Development Activity Report – Plan 360 July Report](#)

[Development Activity Report – Plan 360 August Report](#)

COUNCIL DIRECTION REQUESTS

Bank Accounts

Administration advised Council of the need to open two new bank accounts, one for the Capital Renewal Fund and one for the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), to improve financial tracking and reporting. Approximately \$352,000 currently held within the general operating account relates to these funds and would be more appropriately maintained in dedicated accounts.

Council expressed support for establishing the separate accounts, noting that this would provide greater clarity in tracking the funds and assist with financial reporting and the annual audit process.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Refer to the following reports:

Director, Legislative Services

Administration provided several updates to the Council Report. The AED at the Alma Activity Centre has been installed. The Municipal Advisory funding application for the construction of dugouts/bunkers at the Riverside-Albert ballfield was unsuccessful.

Regarding the Fundy Albert signage project, the tree at the installation location have been removed, and Hansen Signs is expected to install the new sign within the next few weeks.

The PMHP Scenic Drive project has been delayed pending final engineering design approval, which has now been received, with work anticipated to resume within the next few weeks.

Administration also advised that the Province approved the requested change in scope for the White Birch Estates project in Lower Coverdale, replacing the originally proposed playground equipment with a pump track. Construction is expected to begin the following week and take approximately five to ten days to complete.

Treasurer Report

Administration presented the financial reports and income statements, noting that the pool season had concluded with positive results and that permitting revenues were performing well, with revenues already approaching the annual budgeted amount. Administration advised that

several expenses remain outstanding, including a recent paving invoice and upcoming utility maintenance and project costs, which will increase expenditures as invoices are processed.

Council discussed the level of contingency funding within the water and sewer utility budgets, noting that significant amounts remain unspent and requesting further review of what the contingency amounts were originally intended to fund. It was suggested that future budgets more clearly identify the purpose of contingency allocations.

Particular attention was given to the Riverside-Albert water and wastewater budgets and the need to plan for anticipated capital expenditures in the coming year. Council discussed identifying any funds from the current year's budget that may be available to carry forward or otherwise assist with upcoming costs. Administration clarified that some apparent variances are related to timing, including utility transfers that are processed quarterly and maintenance invoices that have not yet been reflected in the financial statements.

Council also discussed outstanding lift station maintenance expenses and planned wastewater treatment/vegetation control work. Administration agreed to review the status of these items and determine whether the budgeted work is expected to proceed. A further meeting will be arranged with Administration to review the Riverside-Albert utility finances in greater detail and assist with planning for the upcoming budget year.

MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR STATEMENTS AND INQUIRIES

Councillor Reid raised a previous request from residents regarding the possibility of installing a stop sign at the intersection of Central Street and Pleasant Street. Administration noted that the matter had been raised previously and would be revisited.

Councillor Reid also reminded residents of the upcoming Albert County Fair.

Councillor Reid raised a road safety concern regarding mud, rocks, and debris on the roadway approximately one kilometre outside Alma toward Riverside-Albert, reportedly associated with nearby logging activity. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential hazard to motorists, particularly motorcycles, and the need for warning signage and roadway cleanup. As the location is outside municipal jurisdiction, it was noted that the matter should be referred to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI).

Councillor Lackey presented a proposed project on behalf of Alma Community Tourism for Alma involving the development of a marine-themed public space featuring a tide clock. The project would seek to reclaim currently unusable and eroding land through the construction of a rock retaining wall, creating a public area intended to showcase Alma's connection to the Bay of Fundy and its tides.

Councillor Lackey advised that discussions are underway with DTI regarding the land, and that potential partnerships are being explored for the design and construction of the tide clock. The project would require fundraising and matching funds, with the requested municipal contribution primarily consisting of in-kind support, assistance in securing the land, eventual municipal ownership, insurance, and ongoing maintenance of the completed project.

Council requested additional information regarding the financial implications, land ownership and transfer costs, and ongoing maintenance responsibilities before considering formal support.

Councillor Lackey advised that the project would be designed to require minimal maintenance and confirmed that discussions with DTI regarding the property are still preliminary.

Councillor Lackey indicated an intention to return to Council with a proposed resolution of support and further details regarding the Municipality's requested commitments. The project presentation and applicable PID information will also be provided to Council for further review.

Councillor Elderkin thanked the Acting Treasurer for providing consistent financial reporting and noted progress toward completing the outstanding audits. She also thanked Administration and Operations staff for their work in organizing the ward parties, noting that the events were successful while suggesting that promotion could be improved next year. **Councillor Elderkin** reported attending the Alma Water System ribbon-cutting ceremony and ward party, both of which had a good turnout, and encouraged residents to attend the upcoming Albert County Exhibition.

Councillor Davis highlighted the upcoming 2026 Albert County Exhibition Youth Ambassador event, noting that opportunities remained for students in Grades 9–12 and encouraging interested youth to participate. She thanked **Councillor Phillips** for his assistance with the barbecue at the ward party and commented positively on the event.

Councillor Davis requested an update on the branding and promotion of Voyent Alert, including previous discussions about referring to the service as “Fundy Albert Alert.” She also noted that the newly formed Economic Development Committee would be meeting the following day.

Councillor Davis suggested that Council consider reinstating a Personnel Committee in light of recent staffing changes and the number of policies and personnel-related matters under review. She offered to chair the committee should Council decide to re-establish it.

Councillor Phillips thanked **Councillor Davis** and noted that the ward party had a good turnout despite some residents not being aware of the event. Improved promotion was suggested for next year.

Councillor Phillips also expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming Albert County Exhibition. Administration advised that the last available information indicated just over 1,000 users had subscribed to the service.

Mayor Campbell thanked Councillors who attended the ward parties and noted that the events were successful and should continue in future years, with opportunities to expand and improve them.

Mayor Campbell reported that the Alma Water System ribbon-cutting ceremony was well attended and expressed appreciation to Englobe for providing an informative project update and answering questions from attendees.

Councillor Lackey noted that a short video of the Alma Water System ribbon-cutting ceremony was posted on Facebook and would be provided to Administration.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND INQUIRIES

Ms. Kathy Weir provided the Municipal Office with a copy of the Albert County Exhibition booklet.

CLOSED SESSION

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Phillips** that Council have an in-camera session at 5:47 pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously).

Local Governance Act 68 (1) (f) information concerning legal opinions or advice provided to the local government by its solicitor or privileged communications between solicitor and client in a matter of local government business.

Local Governance Act, s. 68(1) (b) – Information of a Personal Nature.

Local Governance Act 68(1) (j), Labour and Employment Matter including negotiation of contracts.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** and **SECONDED** by **Councillor Davis** to return to the regular session at 6:50 pm.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously)

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Elderkin** **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Mayor

Clerk