



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF HILLSBOROUGH VILLAGE COUNCIL
November 7, 2022

PRESENT

Robert Rochon – Mayor	Melody Land – Deputy Mayor
Jeff Jonah – Councillor - Absent	Trent Steeves – Councillor
Jeff Land – Councillor	Kim Beers – Administrator/Clerk
Members of the public	

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

Mayor Rochon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. *Mayor Rochon* welcomed Pastor Rob who opened with prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor M. Land* to include the Basketball Committee, Dustin Steeves as a presenter seconded by *Councillor Steeves* **THAT** the amended agenda be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - No conflicts declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Steeves* and seconded by *Councillor J. Land* **THAT** the minutes of September 28, 2022 be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Steeves* and seconded by *Councillor M. Land* **THAT** the minutes of October 3, 2022 be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Audited Financial Statements – *Mayor Rochon* advised that the Village of Hillsborough audited financial statements have been sent to the Department of Environment and Local Government.

Internet at the arena – *Mayor Rochon* advised that the installation of internet access at the arena will not be possible as there is no service at that location.

Local Governance Reform – *Mayor Rochon* advised that the elected officials advisory committee meeting was held on October 5th, presumably to review the 2023 budget for the Community of Fundy Albert. *Mayor Rochon* advised that the facilitator Chad Peters presented an overview of the effects of using the 3 villages and former LSDs 2022 budget information with the budget templates he had been provided by the province. According to Mr. Peters, using the 2022 budget information we would see increases in the rates for Hillsborough, the LSDs, the Village of Riverside-Albert and a potential decrease for the Village of Alma. Mr. Peters added that the 2023 assessment information had not been factored in and, would, in all likelihood result in a softening of any increases. Mr. Peters was asked when we would see the 2023 proposed budgets and his response was that we would see it when everyone else does, once they are approved by the Minister. A good number of the elected representatives were not pleased with this and voiced their concerns. Mr. Peters further stated that he did not expect there would be any further meetings of the elected officials advisory committee.



BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES- cont'd

Shoreline Trail – **Mayor Rochon** advised that the Trans Canada Trails group were contacted and informed that because of the delay in obtaining a lease on the 3 parcels of land from DNRE and resulting a delay to obtain a Wetland and Watercourse Alteration permit, that we may not be able to proceed with any of the anticipated work on the trails this fall. TCT indicated that they do not object to the use of the funds to purchase the tailings material, to be stockpiled and then used in 2023. Funding needs to be spent in 2022. The Signature Trails coordinator was also contacted, and they do not object to the purchase of material in 2022 to be used in 2023. They further advised that we have to complete the work for the project before applying for any further funding.

Mayor Rochon advised we received confirmation from Infrastructure Canada that a second letter to Indigenous groups was required before receiving authorization to proceed. This was done and a letter was received from MTI, the group representing Mi'gmaq First Nations groups on November 1, 2022 informing us that a Mi'gmaq Rights Impact Assessment must be conducted before proceeding. This includes reading the New Brunswick Mi'gmaq Indigenous Knowledge Study guide which they provided, as well as a review of a Mi'gmaq Rights Impact Assessment Framework. In light of the time of year, **Mayor Rochon** recommends postponing the purchase of tailings and returning the funding provided by the Department of Heritage and Culture's Signature Trails funding to allow for the completion of the rights assessment. **Mayor Rochon** asked Council for their thoughts. **IT WAS MOVED** by **Councillor J. Land** and seconded by **Councillor Steeves** to proceed with purchasing the tailings and stockpiling to use once the Mi'gmaq Rights Impact Assessment is completed. **MOTION CARRIED** (Nay-**Councillor M. Land**).

Security Cameras – **Mayor Rochon** advised that the work to install the security cameras is complete.

Meeting with the RCMP – **Mayor Rochon** advised that a public meeting with the RCMP went ahead as planned on October 20th. Supt Dan Austin, Insp. Marc Maillet and Sgt. Tamara Patterson were present.

Topics discussed included:

- Concerns over lack of traffic enforcement;
- Vandalism in the community;
- Incidents of vehicle thefts;
- Careless operation of off-road vehicles;
- Public mischief.

There was considerable discussion about not unjustly targeting the community's youth, many of whom do not have anything to do and simply want to ride their dirt bikes around. There was a suggestion that some community members might be willing to get involved. Supt. Austin suggested the possibility that the RCMP might be able to assign a new cadet to work with the community to develop a solution. When a new cadet is assigned to the Caledonia Detachment.

The RCMP were informed that they need to work on their presence in the community as a deterrent effect.

There was also some discussion about the RCMP's Online Crime Reporting (OCR) tool and the Safe Communities and Neighborhood (SCAN) program that is available to communities where the criteria fits.

Water Exploration – **Mayor Rochon** advised that the preliminary site survey and geophysics study was completed by Englobe Engineering on October 26th, and we are currently waiting for



BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES- cont'd

the report. **Mayor Rochon** advised that an email has been sent to the governance reform facilitator suggesting that the remainder of the Phase 1 work and costs be split between 2023 and 2024 to soften the impact on user rates in each of these years.

Heritage Hillsborough Agreement – **Mayor Rochon** advised that a draft agreement between the Village of Hillsborough, based on the request from Heritage Hillsborough was provided to Council by our legal counsel. It contains the additional services (grounds maintenance) that Heritage Hillsborough requested in their presentation to council on October 3rd.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor M. Land** and seconded by **Councillor Steeves** to approve the revised agreement between Heritage Hillsborough and the Village of Hillsborough. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Basketball Committee member, Dustin Steeves:

Mayor Rochon welcomed Mr. Steeves to the meeting. Mr. Steeves thanked the many people who were involved in the upgrades to the basketball court. Mr. Steeves reported the following upgrades were done/purchased: Two new regulation basketball nets, landscaping, purchased new hockey nets, pickle ball equipment, benches, lines will be painted (in the Spring) and a lending program will be launched in partnership with the Hillsborough Library for sporting equipment. The basketball committee requested permission to store equipment in the pool house next year. Mr. Steeves advised that the committee are still exploring lighting options that do not disturb nearby households. Mr. Steeves advised that the committee are working with the Hillsborough Kiwanis on an application through Coin-G to do upgrades to the skateboard park. Mr. Steeves requested permission from the Village to go ahead and apply for the funds to upgrade the skateboard park. **Mayor Rochon** thanked Mr. Steeves for his presentation.

Mayor Rochon advised Mr. Steeves to approach the school for permission to upgrade the skateboard park. **Councillor J. Land** recommended if successful with the funding application the committee could purchase a small shed to be placed in the fenced in area of the pool to store equipment. **Councillor J. Land** also recommended dusk to dawn lights as a lighting option.

Caledonia Regional High School Student Council, Elijah Hargraft:

Mayor Rochon welcomed Mr. Hargraft to the meeting. Mr. Hargraft introduced himself as the CRHS student council President. Mr. Hargraft advised Council that the school soccer field is in need of repair: uneven ground, flooding, bleachers are rotten, no fencing to keep motorized vehicles out etc. The student council prepared a letter to be sent to the District Education Council Chairman, Harry Doyle requesting help to do these much-needed repairs and is requesting Council to support the letter by signing. **Mayor Rochon** recommended that the Student Council should also approach a new Council for their support in the New Year. **Mayor Rochon** thanked Mr. Hargraft and the Student Council representatives for their presentation.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor J. Land** and seconded by **Councillor M. Land** to sign the letter prepared by the CRHS student Council addressed to the District Education Council Chairman, Harry Doyle supporting the initiative to repair the school soccer field. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).



NB Railway Museum, Steve Milburn:

Mayor Rochon welcomed Mr. Milburn and Board members Kate Tower and David Briggs to the meeting. Mr. Milburn stated that the NB Railway Museum is an important part of the Village, and they are in their 40th year. Mr. Milburn advised that a lien has been in place on a large parcel of land since 1984 and on paper it is worth over \$1M, the NB Railway Museum Board feel this lien is holding them back. Mr. Milburn provided history of the land: The land was given to the Municipality by the Province when the Gypsum operation closed. In 1983 a 100-year lease was given to the railroad stating another 100 years to be added if the railway requested and within one year this was changed with no explanation as to why. In 1984 this piece of land was deeded to the railway with a lien attached. Mr. Milburn stated 4 years later it was confirmed there is no money owing on the land and no money was ever paid nor expected to be paid. Mr. Milburn stated the NB Railway Museum have invested a lot of money into the property and over the 4 years the railway has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the last three years they have invested over \$100k. Mr. Milburn requests Council to make a motion to initiate the process to remove the lien on the property.

Mr. Milburn advised Council the station building was not a Village endeavor. The railway handled everything, permits, hiring contractors etc. The station committee built and paid for the station building. According to Mr. Milburn the station building is only in the Village of Hillsborough name due to legal minutia. The NB railway museum has invested lots of money in the station building and they have plans of investing over \$100,000.00 into the building. Mr. Milburn stated the group struggles to find funding sources due to the building being in the Village name. However, the group is working with a government agency for funding. The group does not think the larger new community of Fundy Albert will make it any easier or better for the station. Mr. Milburn requests Council to make a motion to come up with a fair purchase price for the station building.

Councillor J. Land has no questions

Councillor M. Land thanked Mr. Milburn for the presentation and asked if he is able to speak to any of the Government partnerships the Railway Museum are working with, per Mr. Milburn no, he is unable to speak to that at this time.

Councillor Steeves has no questions.

Mayor Rochon provided a summary of the meeting held with the board of directors of the NB Railway Museum on October 17th. Council had previously met with them on March 21st. The Board members presented an overview of their 2022 season, the proposed tree planting ceremony in celebration of Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee, their plans for the lower parking lot, an issue with loitering in front of the NB Railway Museum, and the Railway Museum's status with the village and the impending implementation of governance reform.

The board communicated that they do not feel Council has supported their organization as well as we could have. The board has previously asked that the Village consider transferring ownership of the train station building that currently sits on leased land over to them. They also asked that the property be transferred to them as well.

The board was informed that when the governance reform process began, the Village was strongly advised against making any financial commitments that would tie the hands of a future council. Moreover, council feels that the optics of turning an asset with significant value over to any group prior to the transition would not be well received by the broader community. For this reason, Council decided not to proceed and recommended that the board approach a new Council with their request. They have also been offered help to prepare the request to ensure that



their ask is clear and specific, and identifies the benefits and risks associated such a move.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor M. Land* and seconded by *Councillor Steeves* to initiate the process to eliminate the lien on the land that was assessed at \$85,000 with accumulated interest totaling \$1 Million. Question on the motion:

Councillor M. Land read the initial agreement and advised it is dated, and Council should at the very least look at the legality of the implications to remove the lien;

Councillor T. Steeves agrees to initiate the process;

Councillor J. Land requests the documentation to be looked at by a lawyer. Mr. Milburn advised he received previous council meeting minutes, and it stated this lien was put in place for security to protect the Village and the railway.

Mayor Rochon asked Mr. Milburn if the Canadian Railway Historical Association are behind the ask to Council and per, Mr. Milburn advised the NB Railway Museum is the Canadian Railway Historical Association. *Mayor Rochon* advised Mr. Milburn this process will unlikely be completed prior to January 1st, per Mr. Milburn that is fine. *Mayor Rochon* advised Mr. Milburn this is to initiate the process only. Mr. Milburn advised he has no problem to provide council their financials. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Steeves* and seconded by *Councillor M. Land* for the Village of Hillsborough to establish a reasonable purchase price for the Railway Station. Question on the motion:

Councillor Steeves advised he is okay with assisting the Railway Museum as it is currently holding the railway board back;

Councillor M. Land asked is there is money owing on the building and *Mayor Rochon* confirmed there is no money owing on the property;

Councillor J. Land requested clarification on the land the station building sits on, and *Mayor Rochon* confirmed the Station building sits on leased land that the Village has in place; *Councillor J. Land* requests additional information as to what the process is regarding the lease.

Mayor Rochon advised that this motion is to come up with a reasonable price to sell only as it will be up to the new Council on how to proceed with the sale of the building.

Mayor Rochon advised his recommendation is if the NB railway museum board of directors can demonstrate to the new Council of Fundy Albert that there is no risk to the community, the NB Railway Museum could request for the building to be handed over to them. *Mayor Rochon* clarified that this motion is to come up with a reasonable purchase price, for example having a realtor appraise the building. Mr. Milburn advised that the Station building was built by and paid for by the Station committee and it should not be difficult. *Mayor Rochon* asked Mr. Milburn is he has a purchase price in mind, per Mr. Milburn no he does not. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Mayor Rochon advised Mr. Milburn that Council will begin the process, but it will probably not happen prior to January 1, 2023. Mr. Milburn stated he hopes Council will come up with some ideas for a purchase price.

NEW BUSINESS

None.



MOTIONS

Transfer to Utility Reserve Fund

IT WAS MOVED BY Councillor J. Land and seconded by **Councillor Steeves** **THAT WHEREAS** it is a requirement of the Village of Hillsborough's agreement under the Canada-New Brunswick Rural Infrastructure Fund to establish a replacement reserve fund which will be maintained for future replacement of various short life capital items that would be above and beyond ordinary maintenance and minor repairs to the new lagoon;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Council of the Village of Hillsborough transfers \$4,000.00 to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this will be the ninth transfer and a transfer of \$4,000.00 will be made yearly until the Municipality has established a replacement reserve fund of \$40,000. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Short Term Loan

IT WAS MOVED BY Councillor M. Land and seconded by **Councillor Steeves** **THAT** whereas the Village of Hillsborough Utility Fund owes the Village of Hillsborough General Operating Fund \$110,000.00 and whereas the *Local Governance Act* of New Brunswick requires that all inter-fund balances be paid by December 31st each year, be it therefore resolved by the Council of the Village of Hillsborough that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to borrow funds not to exceed \$110,000 (One hundred and ten thousand) for a period not to exceed 10 days. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID

The Administrator advised that no expenses were paid in October.

WATER REPORT

The Administrator reported Well #1 is not pumping and is at 23.41 meters, and Well # 3 is not pumping and is at 51.60 meters. On October 12th there was a water main break on Academy Street which impacted residents on Academy from Route 114 to Central Street. A boil order notice was issued that night and lifted on Saturday October 15th. The Administrator thanked the public works team who worked through the night repairing the break. It appears a rock caused the water main break.

LETTERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

The Administrator advised that in September there was 1 building permit issued, PID 01094432 valued at \$1280.00. In October there were 2 building permits issued, PID 05088554 valued at \$103,040 and PID 00611632 valued at \$202,164.

The Administrator advised for the month of August the Village of Hillsborough invoiced the Village of Riverside Albert \$4,445.15 (inc. tax) for 15 hours and 9 trips for the use of the Village of Hillsborough's water and wastewater operator.

The Administrator advised that a thank you letter was received from the Eric Steeves Charity Golf tournament organizing committee. Thanking the Village for their contribution. The tournament raised \$5,150.00. This money was raised to assist the Hillsborough Kiwanis Club.

The Administrator received a request from the yearbook Committee at Caledonia Regional High School requesting sponsorship for the 2022-2023 yearbook. Since 2015 the Village has contributed \$60.00 as a "page sponsor".



IT WAS MOVED BY Councillor J. Land to contribute to the CRHS yearbook committee for 2022/2023 in the amount of \$60.00 and no seconder.

IT WAS MOVED BY Councillor M. Land and seconded by **Councillor T. Steeves** to contribute to the CRHS yearbook committee for 2022/2023 in the amount of \$100.00.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously).

The Administrator advised Council that Bakertilly confirmed they will do the 2022 Village of Hillsborough Financial Audit next year. The fees are increasing to \$25k to \$30k compared to the \$18k the Village paid this year. The other option is to issue a tender.

IT WAS MOVED BY Councillor J. Land and seconded by **Councillor J. Land** that the Council of the Village of Hillsborough retain the services of Bakertilly for the 2022 Financial Audit of the Village of Hillsborough. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

The Administrator advised that the EV Charger has arrived, and the electrician will confirm a date of install in the near future.

The Administrator advised the Veteran banners are now up. A couple were damaged due to the wind and are currently being repaired. On November 30th the banners will be removed, and Christmas lights will be installed.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL FOR ITEMS REQUIRING DIRECTION OR DECISIONS

Councillor M. Land advised that the Coin-G grant for the upgrades to the skateboard park is due November 28th and the group needs permission from Council to proceed. Council is okay to proceed and also to store some of the equipment until ready to replace.

Councillor Steeves had nothing to report.

Councillor J. Land had nothing to report.

Mayor Rochon advised he attended the UMNBA AGM in Fredericton from October 7th to October 9th. **Mayor Rochon** participated in a number of informational sessions, including:

- Community based healthcare
 - There is a need to modernize the healthcare system and expand community involvement;
 - New physicians don't want a silo approach to healthcare.
- Presentation by the RCMP
 - Discussed resources, limitations
 - **Mayor Rochon** commented that as elected officials, victims often reach out to us. What should we tell them?
- Reducing barriers to build inclusive communities
 - Session was mainly focused on immigration and reducing racism
- Emission reductions with solar energy
 - Smart Energy Company
 - Pitching the idea of pursuing solar energy for things such as sewerage lagoons

Minister Allain and Deputy Minister Donaghy presented. **Mayor Rochon** advised there should have been much more time dedicated to this topic as there was a lot of criticism leveled at government for the lack of communication in relation to governance reform.

There was a community climate solutions session where a representative from the province's Climate Change Secretariat spoke about climate change and climate adaptation plans. The expectation is that municipalities that received funding will be implementing some of the



recommendations contained in their approved plans. **Mayor Rochon** advised this is something that the future Community of Fundy Albert should look at.

Mayor Rochon advised that the Keynote Speaker was Doug Griffiths, author of 13 ways to kill your community.

Mayor Rochon advised at the AGM the Village of Hillsborough's ambulance delay resolution was passed unanimously. There was also a resolution passed to urge the province to do more to inform the public about governance reform and the changes that are coming. Municipalities were urged to send a letter of support as well – which we did.

Mayor Rochon advised he met with a resident after the meeting with the RCMP concerning youth engagement opportunities. The resident suggested perhaps working with the local high school to possibly elect a school representative who would sit on council. No ability to vote and not be involved in in-camera discussions. **Mayor Rochon** indicated this would be a good way to include youth perspective in decision-making. Something to possibly introduce to the Council of Fundy Albert.

Mayor Rochon was recently contacted by concerned citizens about incidents involving hunting and discharging of firearms in the village and in the White Rock Recreational Area. **Mayor Rochon** met with and spoke with the residents and have since followed up with an enforcement officer with the Department of Natural Resources and Energy who will be following up in relation to these two incidents.

Mayor Rochon reminded residents that while there is no municipal by-law prohibiting hunting within the village limits, it is illegal to discharge a shotgun within 200 meters of a dwelling and a rifle within 400 meters of a dwelling. It is also illegal to carry a loaded firearm or discharge a firearm in a park. A park is defined as any privately or publicly owned area that is set aside for recreational use by the public. Notwithstanding the above, **Mayor Rochon** recommends users of the White Rock Recreational area to wear blaze orange during hunting season.

Mayor Rochon advised the community event to commemorate the historical significance of our incorporation from 1966 to 2022 will be held November 19th at the Kiwanis with coffee, tea and cake will be served. **Mayor Rochon** advised an invitation was sent to MP Rob Moore and MLA Mike Holland. The first Mayor of Hillsborough, Vaughn Snider will be invited to speak. **Mayor Rochon** is waiting for more information on the tokens.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING UPDATE

Mayor Rochon advised there was a meeting held on October 25th. **Mayor Rochon** advised that a previous grant application for 13 hybrid mobility vans for Urban / Rural Rides had been approved by the federal government. This still has to be approved by the SERSC board. A report is to be prepared for consideration so the next board will be prepared.

There was a clarification that the mosquito control program will only be paid by Riverview, Moncton, Dieppe and a portion of Fundy Albert. **Mayor Rochon** was assured that our facilitator is aware – for budgeting purposes.

Mayor Rochon advised there was a special meeting of the SERSC Public Security Committee on October 19th post-Fiona to discuss the impacts on the most affected communities in southeast NB and the response by the various agencies. The end result was a report that was provided to the SERSC outlining a number of observations and recommendations including better communication, education and understanding of roles.



Mayor Rochon advised how it has been an honor and privilege to have served the residents of the Village of Hillsborough since June of 2021. **Mayor Rochon** thanked all the employees for their hard work this past year and a half and thanked the Councillors for all that they have done. Our community has a lot to be proud of. In the past year and a half, we have investment in our infrastructure, upgraded our community greenspaces and recreational areas, a much-needed repair to our community pool, refaced our Artisans Village buildings, and a major renovation project at the basketball court that was undertaken and led by community volunteers.

Mayor Rochon thanked everyone for their hard work and would like to wish the new council of the Community of Fundy Albert every success as they assume their new role.

PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Individuals had the opportunity to ask questions to Mayor and Council.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Steeves** and seconded by **Councillor J. Land** that Council have an in-camera session at 8:20 pm. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

The public exited the meeting

IN-CAMERA MEETING

Local Governance Act 68(1)(j) – RCMP

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor J. Land** and seconded by **Councillor Steeves** to return to regular session at 8:28 pm. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Steeves** **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Mayor

Administrator/Clerk