



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF HILLSBOROUGH VILLAGE COUNCIL
October 3, 2022

PRESENT

Robert Rochon – Mayor	Melody Land – Deputy Mayor
Jeff Jonah – Councillor	Trent Steeves – Councillor
Jeff Land – Councillor	Kim Beers – Administrator/Clerk
Public: Norman Woodworth	

CALL TO ORDER & PRAYER

Mayor Rochon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm followed by Council prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor M. Land* to include an RTIPPA item under in-camera 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 12, 2022 be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Local Governance Reform - *Mayor Rochon* advised that a document titled Budgeting and Transition Concepts was circulated to municipalities in mid-August. The document outlines the various concepts to be used when developing entity budgets. The document includes:

- A description of what local versus shared services are;
 - Local services including those normally limited to incorporated municipalities (streets, lights, sidewalks, grants to organizations in 2023, debt).
 - Shared services including general government administration, recreation (pool, arena), cultural (museum), new debt by the entity.
- It describes levels of taxation and includes principles such as rates based on proximity to and access to services.
- Subunit budgeting. *Mayor Rochon* assumes, this means that there will be multiple budgets all rolling into one;
- Fire service agreements, cultural and recreation agreements;
- Consolidation of bank accounts, accounting systems, and insurance policies.
- How utility budgets will be administered;
- Policing costs;
- Mandated services through the Regional Service Commissions.

Mayor Rochon indicated he is curious to see how future entities will be left to sort out the details of how budgets are determined and apportioned to taxpayers. It could become quite



complex and require the support of experts. **Mayor Rochon** advised he is hopeful that support will be made available to municipalities who do not have the expertise in house.

Mayor Rochon advised that the next meeting of the officials advisory committee is on Oct 5th to receive and review the draft budget.

Mayor Rochon advised that the Village received the Expert Panel's report on Provincial Municipal Fiscal Arrangements in New Brunswick. Recommendations include:

- Municipal groupings based on population;
- Transitioning from the old system to the new one;
- Elimination of the core funding grant in the equalization program;
- 50/50 funding of the mandated services by the province and municipalities;
- Funding for roads in LSDs by the province;
- Review of the province's property assessment program.

Voodoo – **Mayor Rochon** advised at the August regular meeting, **Councillor J. Land**, mentioned that he might know of someone interested in spearheading the Voodoo plane restoration project. **Councillor J. Land** advised that Mr. Brad Parker expressed interest in the restoration project.

Shoreline Trail – **Mayor Rochon** advised that an application to lease three parcels of DNR lands through which our Wetland Park Trail runs has been filed and we are now waiting for an interim License of Occupation to allow us to proceed with any work on the trail. The WAWA permit application is on hold until a LOO is issued.

The period of Indigenous consultations has expired, and he has not received any input. **Mayor Rochon** will be corresponding with the federal government to inform them.

Mayor Rochon advised that the Trans Canada Trail registration agreement was signed and sent to them.

Basketball Court – **Mayor Rochon** requested an update regarding the basketball court project. The Administrator advised the equipment has been received and Atlantic Underground Services has begun the installation today (October 3rd).

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

UMNB Resolutions – **Mayor Rochon** advised that the Village of Hillsborough's draft resolution for inflationary relief was not supported by the UMNB's resolution committee because it is too complicated an issue for the association. The UMNB will, however, continue to advocate for financial relief for seniors and low-income New Brunswickers.

Mayor Rochon advised that the draft resolution for ambulance wait times has been approved by the UNMB's resolution committee and will be voted on at the AGM this coming weekend.

Meeting with the RCMP – **Mayor Rochon** advised that a public meeting with the RCMP is set for October 20th at 7:00pm. The information has been included in a newsletter. Mayor Rochon advised Sgt. Patterson the topics that will likely surface, including:

- Vehicle thefts;
- Thefts from vehicles;
- Vandalism to property
- Youth ringing doorbells in the middle of the night;
- Speeding;
- Dirt bikes



Mayor Rochon suspects the issue of police presence will surface and the need to address the possibility of vigilantism.

Meeting with Environment and Local Government – **Mayor Rochon** advised that the August 26th meeting summary was posted on the Village’s social media page.

Water Exploration – **Mayor Rochon** advised an update was provided by Englobe Engineering and a site visit will be completed at a time and date to be determined. The landowner has been informed.

Atlantica Outdoor Recreation - **Mayor Rochon** advised that after Mr. Nelson’s presentation, the Village confirmed that the land he was inquiring about belongs to the Canadian Railway Historical Association. Mr. Nelson was informed that he should be directing his inquiries to the CRHA.

Statements of Public Interest – **Mayor Rochon** advised that a virtual stakeholder engagement session was held on September 14th. Consultations with First Nations groups are being held separately. When asked, Deputy Minister Donaghy confirmed that the public will be consulted in relation to these sometime this fall.

Mayor Rochon advised that he raised the question about the minimum lot size in the Westmorland Albert rural plan. If the minimum lot size of 5 acres is intended to discourage settlement patterns outside of current inhabited areas, if a developer intends to proceed, will that not adversely impact property tax revenues and therefore negatively impact the cost to maintain roads and other services such as garbage collection, ambulance services, policing? **Mayor Rochon** advised that the Department of Local Government representatives did not have an answer.

Mayor Rochon also brought up concerns about landowners in rural New Brunswick being restricted from harvesting woodlots that are adjacent to rural settlements.

Municipality Week - **Councillor M. Land** advised she presented to a Grade 11 class and the student council at Caledonia Regional High School. **Councillor M. Land** reported that both groups were attentive and asked great questions. **Councillor M. Land** has been invited to come back to meet with both groups again as they would like to learn more about how a municipality works and explore ways on how to be advocates for their community. One of the concerns the students have is our local school is not given the same opportunities as other larger schools are and feeling they are being unfairly marginalized for living in a rural community. **Councillor M. Land** advised she will be assisting the students on how to write a letter to list their concerns. **Councillor M. Land** advised that the students asked if the Village would support the students by writing a letter of support to their letter. All of Council agrees and would support the students by writing a letter of support. **Mayor Rochon** advised he wasn’t sure if time allows for the current Council to write a letter due to the upcoming election. However, a letter of reference and recommendation could be given to the new Council to consider. **Councillor M. Land** indicated she will be inviting the students to the November meeting of Council with the possibility of presenting their letter.

Mayor Rochon recommends that the November Council meeting should be held in the Egypt room at the Steeves House Museum. All of Council agrees, the Administrator will book the Egypt room for the next Regular Council meeting in November.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Heritage Hillsborough, Terri Hennessey:



Mayor Rochon welcomed Ms. Hennessey to the meeting and reminded her the meeting is being streamed via Facebook live. Ms. Hennessey introduced herself as the President for Heritage Hillsborough. Ms. Hennessey presented a contract addendum to add to the current lease agreement for Council to consider due to the upcoming amalgamation. **Mayor Rochon** advised that Mr. Ryan Donaghy did indicate at the Local Governance Reform public meeting on August 26th that formalized arrangements should be made in an agreement prior to amalgamation. **Mayor Rochon** asked who prepared the contract addendum per Ms. Hennessey, Ms. Chris Steeves and the Board of Directors prepared the document. **Mayor Rochon** thanked Ms. Hennessey for coming. Ms. Hennessey exited the meeting.

Mayor Rochon asked Council on whether the Village lawyer should look at the agreement first. All of Council agrees. The Administrator will consult with the lawyer to ensure the wording is correct etc.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

MONTHLY EXPENSES PAID

The Administrator advised that no expenses were paid in September.

WATER REPORT

The Administrator reported due to all the rain Well #3 was running, which changed the water some. The Village is back to using Well # 1 now. Well #1 is currently pumping and is at 23.50 meters, and Well # 3 is not pumping and is at 47.21 meters.

LETTERS AND OTHER BUSINESS

The Administrator advised Council she did not receive the permit report for September in time of the meeting. She will provide an update at the next meeting.

The Administrator advised for the month of August the Village of Hillsborough invoiced the Village of Riverside Albert \$4,512.77 (inc. tax) for 15 hours and 11 trips for the use of the Village of Hillsborough's water and wastewater operator.

The Administrator advised that the Asset Management Plan funding that was applied for last Fall has moved on to the second step of review. She reminded Council that being eligible does not guarantee funding; independent peer reviewers will review the application and projects must pass Peer Review to be recommended for funding. A decision is expected within the next six weeks.

The Administrator advised she spoke with a pest control company who asked a series of questions as it relates to rats on Village owned property, which she is not aware of any. The pest control company advised they can be hired to go on private property by a municipality, but this very rarely happens due to rodent control rests with the landowner. A village/town/ city typically controls rodents as they appear within the street right of way or on village/town/city property. The Administrator advised she mailed out a newsletter that included a "rodent prevention" section.

The Administrator advised Council the current insurance policy with Jones Insurance is set to expire October 22, 2022 and she received communication from the transition facilitator to extend the current policy to December 31, 2022. The transition facilitator is to ensure the new municipality of Fundy Albert has the proper insurance coverage on January 1, 2023.



IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor J. Land* and seconded by *Councillor Steeves* **THAT** Whereas the Village of Hillsborough's insurance policy expires October 22, 2022 and the Appointed Transition Facilitator is to ensure the new entity of Fundy Albert has the proper insurance in place effective January 1st, 2023 I move that the Council of the Village of Hillsborough accept the quote from Jones Insurance Service Ltd. at the cost of \$10,215.00, and **THAT** Jones Insurance Service Ltd. provide extended insurance coverage for the Village of Hillsborough from October 23, 2022 to December 31, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

The Administrator advised Council that the estimated ship date of the EV charger is October 25th, 2022.

The Administrator advised Council that the next Regular Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL FOR ITEMS REQUIRING DIRECTION OR DECISIONS

Councillor Jonah had nothing to report.

Councillor M. Land had nothing to report.

Councillor Steeves advised he received an email from a resident on Pleasant Street with concerns of street lighting. *Councillor Steeves* advised the trees may need to be trimmed. The Administrator will advise the Public Works Superintendent to take a look.

Councillor J. Land advised that the new fair play signage for the arena is in the works. *Councillor J. Land* praised the community member who repaired Ms. Linda Geldart's broken car window.

Mayor Rochon asked the Administrator for an update in regard to the Veteran Banners. The Administrator advised that Mr. Jubb was looking after ordering banners and the hardware for the Village. The Administrator advised that the banner installation is scheduled for November 1st. *Mayor Rochon* advised they should be up in October not November 1st. *Mayor Rochon* will follow up with Mr. Jubb.

Mayor Rochon advised planning is underway for the community event to commemorate the historical significance of our incorporation from 1966 to 2022. Council discussed and decided to hold the event at the Kiwanis on November 19th at 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. *Mayor Rochon* advised he will contact MP Rob Moore and MLA Mike Holland to invite them to say a few words. The Administrator will contact the Kiwanis to book. *Mayor Rochon* is waiting for more information on the tokens.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING UPDATE

Mayor Rochon advised there was no meeting in September. The next meeting is scheduled for October 30th.

Mayor Rochon advised that the Public Security Committee held a meeting on September 14th where the committee heard presentations by the RCMP, Ambulance New Brunswick, EMO, The Fire Marshall's Office, the Canadian Red Cross and DTI. *Mayor Rochon* indicated this was the last meeting of the committee until after the local government elections. A new committee will be formed, called the Public Safety Committee, and will have an expanded role.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor J. Land* and seconded by *Councillor Steeves* that Council have an in-camera session at 7:14 pm. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).



IN-CAMERA MEETING

Local Governance Act 68(1)(b) – RTIPPA

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor J. Jonah* and seconded by *Councillor Steeves* to return to regular session at 7:25 pm. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Councillor J. Land asked whether Council would consider purchasing two tickets to the Fundy Royal Conservative Association at \$120.00 per ticket. It was moved by *Councillor J. Land* to purchase two tickets to the Fundy Royal Conservative Association at \$120.00 per ticket and seconded by *Councillor J. Jonah*. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Steeves* **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Mayor

Administrator/Clerk