

September 21, 2020

The regular monthly Council meeting of the Alma Village Council was held on September 21, 2020, at 7:00 pm at the Alma Activity Centre. Mayor Shortt, Deputy Mayor Casey, Councillor MacCallum, and Brenda Hoar (Clerk/Treasurer) were present

Absent: Councillor Bowron.

Mayor Shortt called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm.

Motion

It was moved by Councillor Casey and **Seconded by Councillor MacCallum to approve the amended agenda. **Motion Carried.****

It was moved by Councillor MacCallum and **Seconded by Councillor Casey to approve June 15, 2020, minutes.**

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Councillor Casey and **Seconded by Councillor MacCallum to approve August 10, 2020, special meeting minutes.**

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Councillor MacCallum and **Seconded by Councillor Casey to accept financial statements for the months of June, July and August 2020, for General Operating and Water Sewer.**

Motion Carried.

RCMP Report

No Report

Committee Reports

Mayor Shortt – Reported the following; She attended a Southeast Regional Service Commission meeting; the topic of discussion was their budget. She had a busy summer and fall attending weekly meetings concerning COVID 19 given by the province.

Mayor Shortt announced her resignation.

“It has been an honour for me to serve and I hereby tender my resignation as Mayor effective September 30th, 2020. It is with mixed emotions that I exit from Council, but also with gratitude and a sense of pride that I was able to serve for the last 17 years.

All I want to say now is, thank you to those who supported me and stood with me during Alma’s time of transition. It has been a rewarding period in my life. I sincerely hope that after the eventually upcoming election for new Council we will see a new and energized Council for our Village and a promise for an even brighter future for Alma”.

Councillor Casey - reported on the Vision Alma Project.

Thane Excavating has started the landscaping portion of the Vision Alma Project which also includes the sidewalks in front of the Multi-Purpose Building and front of the Alma Activity Centre.

Project money has to be used by the end of the season if not the village will lose this funding. Councillor Casey is hopeful that the project will be completed in a week or two.

Councillor Bowron - FNP

No report

Councillor MacCallum – reported the following details:

Alma Volunteer Fire Department

Since June, the volunteer fire department has had only a few mutual aid calls. They have also undertaken some low angle rope training, got the 4 X 4 registered and in-service (they are now looking into getting tracks for it), and got the fire engines serviced and checked. Their paramedic has successfully recertified to teach first aid, so they will be doing that soon.

Friends Of Fundy (FOF)

FOF had a Zoom Board meeting on August 27th. Chair Ken Kelly started the meeting by thanking local businesses for taking the COVID-19 threat seriously and for working together to help keep visitors and residents safe.

It took a while for Fundy National Park to get things going this summer but they have had good visitor numbers, full campgrounds, and decent golf course revenues. The summer offer continues until October 31st. Roofed accommodations may open up sometime in the Fall.

Outpost Alma store sales are down significantly but with the addition of online sales, federal support with business loans and wage subsidies, and continued project funding, Friends of Fundy will weather the pandemic.

The public washroom trailer did not get quite as much use as everyone thought due to visitor numbers being down, but this service support from the province and FOF was gratefully received by the village businesses.

The rental agreement with the village ends in October and Micha is working on a proposal to see how FOF can continue to operate out of this space into the next season.

FOF has a number of other projects on the go including videos featuring local artists, a writer's circle tentatively scheduled for Fall 2021, and a redeemable recycling centre based in Riverside Albert for upper Bay of Fundy rural residents, to name a few.

FOF has restarted the weekly Zoom meetings for interested Alma business owners to discuss the effects of the pandemic on their businesses, and their plans for this Fall and Winter.

The annual general meeting is set for Sunday, October 25th. The format and location have not been finalized.

Climate Leadership Course

Councillor MacCallum was accepted as a participant in the Climate Leadership Course for Elected Officials which is a free, Canada-wide offering from the Federation of Canadian

Municipalities. Module One is underway with a series of 5 videos that explore the necessary components of climate action in municipalities and teach what steps should be taken to help a municipality become more climate-resilient. There is a live chat on September 30th so more details will be provided at the next council meeting.

Water Report

Nothing to report

Old Business

Water Exploration – Construction of the road is to start on Wednesday and once that is completed drilling company will start test drilling.

By-Law 63 A / Rescheduled until further notice

CrossWalk / Side Walks – Council held a public meeting and the council received feedback from the public on the infrastructure plan. Tod Kierstead from SurTek considered the public’s input and came up with a newly revised plan that the council just received last night. He is in the process of putting stakes into the ground for the public to view. A new public meeting will be announced for the public to view the new infrastructure plan.

Code of Conduct by-law / rescheduled until further notice

High-Speed Internet – Letter was read from Mark Duggan. Councillor Casey also reported that while he was researching other avenues, he found a company in Grand Manan that offers Ultra Fibre Op to the home. Councillor Casey reached out to this company and they are very much interested in providing this service to Alma. The cost would be around 3.1 million Dollars and Councillor Casey is hoping to receive funding for this project. The other three communities would also be involved with this process.

Clerk Report

No report.

New Business

It was moved by Councillor MacCallum and **Seconded by Councillor Casey to accept the quote from JASCO Construction Ltd., for two water & sewer connections for \$11,300.00 plus HST of \$1,695.00 for a total of \$12, 995.00.**

Motion Carried.

It was moved by Councillor Casey and **Seconded by Councillor MacCallum to accept Mayor Kirstin Shortt’s resignation dated September 19, 2020.**

Motion Carried.

Fleet Launch – Meeting will be held on September 28, 2020, at 1:00. The Alma fleet will be leaving the harbour on October 14, 2020, between 8:00 am and 8:30 am.

Halloween – will be celebrated in Alma. COVID-19 provincial guidelines do apply.

Correspondence

Letter received from Jane Chrysostom – Requesting that council seek to hire professional service to administer and provide council approved content for the Village of Alma’s Facebook page.

Letter received from Mark Duggan on the petition for high-speed internet.

SouthEast Regional Service Commission – Three development permits.

Paying of Bills

All bills are paid

Q & A Period - Opportunity for community members to ask questions and receive answers. Thirty minutes were allotted.

It was moved by Councillor MacCallum and **Seconded by Councillor Casey to go into “In Camera”
Motion Carried.**

Local Governance Act 68 (1) (j)

Labour and employment matters, including the negotiation of collective agreements.

It was moved by Councillor Casey and **seconded by Councillor MacCallum to come out of “In Camera”
Motion Carried.**

Councillor Casey adjourned the meeting.
