



Village of Alma – Regular Council Meeting **March 15, 2021**

Prior to the regular council meeting Village of Alma held a budget information session at 6:30 p.m. for residents.

The regular monthly Council meeting of the Alma Village Council was held on March 15, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Alma Activity Centre. **Acting Mayor Casey, Councillor MacCallum, Councillor Bowron,** and **Kim Beers** (Assistant Clerk) were present.

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

Motions

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

It was moved by **Councillor MacCallum** and Seconded by **Councillor Bowron** to approve the Minutes from the regular council meeting on February 16, 2021. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by **Councillor MacCallum** and Seconded by **Councillor Bowron** to accept the Financial Statements for December 2020, January 2021, and February 2021 for both General Operating and Water & Sewer Accounts. **Motion Carried.**

RCMP Report

No update.

Committee Reports

Acting Mayor Casey reported the following:

Southeast Regional Service Commission:

Planning- New Brunswick updated the building code and energy standard. If you require more information please contact Town Planning on how this may affect your project.

Trails- Shoreline Trail received environmental approval to start work on expanding the Canada Trail which currently goes from Riverside and ends at the Shepody Inn. The expansion will be from the Shepody Inn to The Hopewell Rocks. The Trail will be built on both private and Crown lands.

Vision Alma: **Acting Mayor Casey** was extremely pleased to announce that there is a new tenant for the retail space that was formerly occupied by Candies & Kites. Alma is going to



have a Spa.

Covid update: No update.

Meetings: Acting Mayor Casey attended a zoom meeting Hosted by Local Gov, Minister Allain & Minister Holland and other attendees included the Mayors of Albert Co.

The topic was Local Gov Reform. The Dept of Local Gov is currently working on a Green paper that will be released late April early May followed by a White paper which will have reforms that they would like to pass in the fall sitting of the NB legislature.

Councillor Bowron reported the following details:

Fundy National Park:

Fundy National Park's roofed accommodations including yurts, oTENTik and rustic cabins, as well as camping, are currently available and will remain available through the Spring, Summer, and Fall seasons if local public health conditions allow. FNP is currently working on the details for the 2021 summer season, which they hope to share at the next Alma Council Meeting.

As always, FNP encourages visitors to plan ahead and Fundy National Park's website provides the latest detailed information on what locations are open, what visitors can expect, how to prepare for a visit, and what services may be available.

Fundy National Park's Management Plan – Virtual Engagement Sessions: Parks Canada is currently reviewing the management plan for Fundy National Park. Management plans are strategic in nature, based on a long-term vision, aimed at providing management direction for a 10-year period, including measurable objectives and targets to achieve results.

Next month, as part of the process, the management planning team will be inviting key partners and stakeholders to attend virtual engagement sessions and provide input on the following topics: Visitor Experience/Tourism and Resource Conservation. An email invitation including a link to the virtual session will be sent. The feedback gathered during those sessions will help the management planning team develop a draft plan that will be presented to the public during formal public consultations in the Spring of 2022.

Fundy National Park's 2021 Management Plan is scheduled to be tabled in Parliament in the Winter of 2022.

Youth Employment Strategy and Skills (YESS) Program: The New Brunswick South Field Unit received funding to deliver a range of activities aimed at helping youth (ages 15 - 30) overcome barriers to employment and develop a broad range of skills and knowledge. By providing more flexible employment services, we are helping youth develop the skills and gain the experience they need to successfully transition into the labour market. Youth who face barriers often include:



- youth who are early leavers from high school;
- recent immigrant youth;
- youth from visible minority groups;
- youth living with disabilities;
- single parent youth;
- youth living in low-income households;
- youth experiencing homelessness or precarious housing; and,
- youth living in rural or remote areas.

A total of 25 individuals will be hired as part of the YESS Program in Fundy National Park this summer. For more information on the Government of Canada's YESS Program, please visit their website.

Councillor MacCallum reported the following details:

Alma Volunteer Fire Department

The fire chief reports that everything has been quiet in Alma but the department was called out to assist with a structure fire in Albert yesterday.

Friends of Fundy (FOF):

A Board meeting was held on February 24th via Zoom. The FOF strategic planning committee presented some final wording for a mission statement which was accepted by the full Board. The mission statement is: To enhance public awareness and appreciation of the cultural and natural heritage of Fundy National Park and increase engagement in the surrounding area. If FOF is able to open all of their gift shops this summer their focus will be camping gear and perishable items at Outpost West, touristy souvenirs at Outpost East, and the Pro Shop will stock mainly golfing gear and clothing as well as snacks and drinks. A new committee was formed to provide the Executive Director with support and advice for rolling out the Regional Development Plan. The Village of Alma provided a letter of support for this application last year and hope to hear soon how the village will be engaged in this process. Micha reported that the funding application is waiting for the Minister's approval and FOF should hear in the next 2-4 weeks whether the application is approved.

Climate Leadership Course for Elected Officials:

The last session for this course wrapped up in late February. The main presenter was David Miller, a former mayor of Toronto, who explained the concepts and research behind his book "Solved. How the world's great cities are fixing the climate crisis". Councillor MacCallum reported that it was an uplifting, hopeful read and will be a good reference as we now turn our attention to creating a climate change adaptation strategy, setting some emission reduction targets, and creating a framework for future municipal asset management decision-making through a climate change lens. Councillor MacCallum has joined the Climate Caucus-a small non-profit based in Calgary-and will start to join their bi-weekly calls where project strategies



and successes and failures will be shared and discussed.

New Village of Alma Website:

We have received two draft pages for our new website and need to make some decisions this week about layout, fonts, and colours so that David can continue to work on this project for us.

Water Report

No update.

Old Business

Water Exploration: *Acting Mayor Casey* announced the Village has a target location for a second well located on Forest Drive. Adjacent landowners have been notified of the construction that is commencing Tuesday, March 16, 2021. There have been no issues with the current landowners. Once the access road is built and the pads are put in they will start drilling shortly thereafter. There will be two wells drilled, one is a production well and one will be a testing well, then a 72-hour pump test to time how long it will drain and recover.

Councillor MacCallum reported that this is a great time of year for test drilling because the water table is low and it will give more accurate results.

It was noted that Elliott Drive is currently in rough shape and will get worse with all the machinery travelling that road that leads to the water exploration site. This will probably be the next road that will require work.

Noise By-law 63A: *Acting Mayor Casey* reported that Maritime Enforcement Services has the original By-law and the re-written version of the Noise By-law 63A. Maritime Enforcement Services is comparing this By-law to other municipalities.

Code of Conduct By-law: *Acting Mayor Casey* reported the final edits are underway.

Clerk Report: Kim Beers reported the following

- There were no building permit reports for February
- The March newsletter was sent out to all Alma residents
- There have been lots of locals taking advantage of the indoor walking at the activity centre
- Working with rink committee with a funding application and will be hosting a world café/ brainstorming workshop (depending on Covid-19) to build Community Engagement. The rink space is the hub of Alma and can and should be utilized by all ages and for all seasons



New Business

Capital Borrowing Board:

Resolution of Council

The Municipality of Alma will submit to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board an application for authorization to borrow for a capital expense for the following term and amount:

Purpose

Protective Services: Firetruck

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Term</u>
\$97,000	5 years

The resolution was moved by **Councillor MacCallum**

Seconded by **Councillor Bowron**

Motion carried.

Correspondence

Kim Beers advised the following correspondence was received:

Purple Day is March 26th – Council and staff wore purple ribbons to promote Epilepsy awareness. This is a global event dedicated to promoting Epilepsy awareness around the world to reduce social stigma about the condition. A better understanding of Epilepsy will help improve the quality of life of those with Epilepsy.

Health Care review engagement sessions - Public consultation sessions on the future of health care in the province are planned in several communities across New Brunswick.

Health Minister Dorothy Shephard will conduct a virtual provincial tour to talk about the challenges facing the health-care system and receive input from medical professionals, community leaders, and the public. Members of the public are encouraged to submit feedback by emailing healthplansante@gnb.ca

In order to respect the current COVID-19 safety requirements, all sessions will be held using Zoom. Thursday, March 18th, from 6:30-8:30 pm (Sussex) and Tuesday, March 30, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Moncton)

Statistics Canada is hiring people in our local area. For more information, please go to

<https://census.gc.ca/jobs-emplois-eng.htm>

Albert County Tourism Association sent a request asking if the Village of Alma would like to purchase a 3" x 4" color ad for \$300.00 plus tax for their locator map?



This was discussed and it was decided not to purchase a colour ad at this time.

Albert County Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards 2021 will be held LIVE on Facebook on Saturday, April 24th, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. They sent a request for sponsorship ranging from \$250.00 to \$1,000. This was discussed and it was decided not to proceed with sponsorship this year due to limited funds for civic relations. It was moved by **Councillor MacCallum** and Seconded by **Councillor Bowron** to purchase a membership for \$150.00.

April 14, 2021 - National (TWOKAM) Talk With Our Kids About Money Day

(CFEE) Canadian Foundation for Economic Education, a non-profit organization, would like to invite educators, parents, and guardians to participate in this year's (TWOKAM) Talk With Our Kids About Money Day, April 14th, 2021. The goal of the day is for educators, parents, and guardians to have a discussion/conversation with their child/children on any topic relating to money. This is the sixth year for New Brunswick to participate in the national day. Learning about money matters is essential to allow children and youth to make positive decisions about finances. Looking for ideas? You are encouraged to visit: <http://www.talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com> to access free information and resources to assist with your 'talk'.

Alma Leisure Group - Received a letter on February 17th and an email on February 18th from Kirstin Shortt who is the representative for the Alma Leisure Group regarding the vacant unit in the activity centre. With the request for consideration, the unit in the activity centre be used by the Alma Leisure Group. They are willing to pay the annual water and sewer rate for one unit. Council discussed and due to the retail space no longer being available the offer to the Leisure Group to use the multi-purpose building at the community rate of \$25.00 still stands. Kim to respond to Kirstin Shortt.

Paying of Bills

Kim Beers advised that all bills have been paid.

Questions and Answers

Opportunity for community members to ask questions to members of Council.

Adjournment

Councillor Bowron adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.



Acting Mayor Andrew Casey

Kim Beers, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer