



Village of Alma – Regular Council Meeting
January 18, 2021

The regular monthly Council meeting of the Alma Village Council was held on January 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom communications. **Deputy Mayor Casey, Councillor MacCallum, Councillor Bowron,** and **Kim Beers** (Assistant Clerk) were present.

Absent: **Brenda Hoar**, Village Clerk/Treasurer.

Deputy Mayor Casey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 7:00 pm. **Deputy Mayor Casey** welcomed new Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Kim Beers to the Village of Alma team.

Motions

It was moved by **Councillor MacCallum** and Seconded by **Councillor Bowron** to add correspondence from Russell Tingley regarding the Alma United Cemetery. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by **Councillor Bowron** and Seconded by **Councillor MacCallum** to approve the Minutes from the regular Council meeting November 16, 2020. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by **Councillor Bowron** and Seconded by **Councillor MacCallum** to approve the Minutes from the special meeting November 27, 2020. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by **Councillor Bowron** and Seconded by **Councillor MacCallum** to approve the Minutes from the special meeting December 18, 2020. **Motion Carried.**

Financial Statements for November and December 2020 for general operating and water and sewer. **Councillor MacCallum** advised there is nothing to adopt until next meeting in February.

RCMP Report

Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Casey:

Southeast Regional Service Commission: There is nothing to report. The last meeting was cancelled.

Vision Alma: ACOA to disburse payments to contractors and the project will be deemed complete.

Meetings with rental space vendors will be happening in the next couple weeks to discuss last season and the upcoming season.



Covid-19: Public Health released there was 26 new cases reported January 18, 2021 with seven new cases in zone 1 and all cases are self-isolating and under investigation.

Councillor Bowron

Fundy National Park: Fundy National Park launched its 2021 winter offer on December 31st 2020. Visitors can enjoy a variety of winter experiences such as snowshoeing on pristine wilderness trails, sliding down the hill at Headquarters, skiing or fat biking the well-groomed trails, or staying in one of our cozy accommodations. Here is a glimpse into Fundy National Park’s winter offer:

Park Passes – Seasonal Passes for the 2021 season are now available. To purchase a Seasonal Pass, please send an e-mail at pc.fundy.pc@canada.ca.

Information Services –Headquarters Visitor Reception Centre reopened on December 31, 2020. It is open seven days a week. Please check online for the hours of operation. If you have any questions on visitor services, please send us an e-mail at pc.fundy.pc@canada.ca or call us at 506-887-6000.

Accommodations – Winterized yurts and oTENTiks at Headquarters campground and our rustic cabins are available to rent until April 30, 2021. Due to COVID-19, some restrictions will apply this winter to allow time for proper sanitization between bookings:

Yurts	Two-night minimum stay	Friday- Sunday and Tuesday-Wednesday
OTENTiks	Two-night minimum stay	Friday- Sunday and Tuesday-Wednesday
Rustic Cabins	two or three nights (minimum two nights)	Friday- Sunday

Reserve on-line at www.reservation.pc.gc.ca or by phone at 1-877-737-3783.

Camping – Headquarters Campground remains open on a first come first served basis. Sites with electricity and un-serviced sites may be available. Please keep in mind that they do not remove snow from these campsites, but the campground road is plowed as needed. A washroom with showers and laundry facilities as well as kitchen shelters are available to campers. Visitors may not sleep in the shelters. Contact 506-887-6000 for updated information on campsites.

NOTE: For safety purposes, backcountry camping is not permitted in the winter.

Trails – Groomed and unmaintained trails are available for a variety of winter activities. Details on current trail regulations and conditions are available on Fundy National Park’s website.



NOTE: Dogs are allowed on ungroomed trails and on the groomed loop in the Chignecto Campground only. They must be on leash at all times. Parking along Route 114 and in front of gates is not permitted.

Tobogganing – A sliding hill will be maintained in the Headquarters area, conditions permitting.

Washrooms – Washrooms near the Headquarters Visitor Reception Centre and those at the Chignecto Pavilion are open 24/7. Dry toilets at the Caribou Plain parking lot will also be available.

Staffing

- Employment opportunities for students are still up and will remain posted until January 23rd.
- Fundy National Park will soon post a job opportunity as Maintenance Worker (MAN 02/03). Stay tuned!

Resource Conservation

- 35 salmon returns counted this year for the Upper Salmon River and 2 for the Point Wolfe River.
- This year the salmon recovery project has expanded to include the Point Wolfe River, which will benefit the whole ecosystem.

Reminder

- Winter walking and leashed dogs are permitted on groomed trails in the Chignecto North Campground only and on all other non-groomed trails including Point Wolfe Road, Laverty Road, East Branch, Caribou Plain and more. Our winter guide is available here: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nb/fundy/visit/cartes-maps>
- Parks Canada is asking visitors to be extra cautious on un-maintained trails and to familiarize themselves with Fundy National Park's winter safety standards prior to their visit. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nb/fundy/securite-safety/hiver-winter>

Success Story

- Fundy National Park is being assessed as a likely Key Biodiversity Area, a title that is given to places that are important for preserving ecological diversity. Fundy National Park is being considered based on its population of Eastern Waterfan, a threatened aquatic lichen that has been discovered in brooks throughout the park. Based on recent survey work, Fundy National Park is home to over 50% of the Canadian population of the species!

Councillor MacCallum

Alma Volunteer Fire Department: The fire chief reports that everything has been pretty quiet since the last report. Council did deliver turkeys and desserts to our firefighters in December to show the village's appreciation for their work.



Friends of Fundy (FOF): There have been two Board meetings since the last Council meeting; November 26, 2020 and January 13, 2021 via Zoom Communications. Items of note from these two meetings are:

-Dan Sinclair has resigned from the Board but will continue to participate in partner events.
-The FOF Board has asked their Executive Director for more details on the proposed budget and proposed human resource commitments that will arise from the Upper Bay of Fundy Regional Destination Development Strategy before deciding whether or not to approve this three-year project. The Village of Alma wrote a letter of support for this project and expect to take an active role.

-FOF is undertaking two new projects:

1. Virtual Indigenous Cultural Experience (VICE) which is a series of online studio interviews with film portions funded by Canadian Heritage. The first story is about Emma Perley, a young indigenous artist from Tobique. This piece has been filmed and is currently being edited. Further stories are on hold until we return to yellow phase.

2. FOF was identified by ACOA to be the regional lead for the Fundy region on the upcoming Gros Morne Institute for Sustainable Tourism pilot story telling program. Each region gets 4 participants and FOF has been asked to suggest the other 3 participants which could include a municipality or business leaders. This program is being funded by ACOA.

- FOF has adopted the following mission statement:
To enhance public awareness and appreciation for the cultural and natural heritage of Fundy National Park and increase engagement in the surrounding area.

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Climate Leadership Course: The third and final module of this course will consist of three online workshops in January and February rather than an in-person conference in Ottawa. The first session is on January 27th so more details will be provided at the next Council meeting.

New Village of Alma website: If anyone has any photos they would like to submit for the new website in development, please send them to the village office by this Friday (January 22nd).

Water Report

Deputy Mayor Casey inquired with the water operator and reported there was a cottage leak and was resolved quickly. *Deputy Mayor Casey* would like to remind seasonal property owners to periodically check their properties in the winter months.

Old Business

Water Exploration: *Deputy Mayor Casey* stated that engineers are working with the Province and are in the process of obtaining a permit for a secondary well. The Village of Alma will be in contact with property owners and community members as more information becomes available.

Deputy Mayor Casey also noted the project has not gone over budget.



By-law 63A: *Deputy Mayor Casey* stated that Noise By-law 63A is rescheduled until further notice, as Maritime Enforcement will be offering assistance to amend the By-law.

Crosswalks and Sidewalks: *Deputy Mayor Casey* stated that Kim Beers will explore funding opportunities through the Province for curbs and gutters.

Code of Conduct By-law: *Deputy Mayor Casey* stated the Code of Conduct By-law is rescheduled until further notice.

High-Speed Internet: *Deputy Mayor Casey* advised there is still no word about high-speed internet. This remains an issue for the Village of Alma.

Clerk Report: Kim Beers reported the following

- Spoke with an IT professional (Ian Owens) – in regards to a more efficient online backup system for the village
- Pursuing a more affordable/efficient accounting software
- Applied for a student (maintenance helper) through SEED Program
- Exploring Canada Summer Jobs program
- Exploring funding opportunities: Scotts Canada 2021 Gro Good Grants initiative- provides grants for organizations seeking to develop sustainable community gardens and green spaces. Grants are valued at \$2500 (plus in-kind product donations)- application deadline is February 28th.
- Mobile eco-360 depot is scheduled for February 3-4, May 5-6, and Nov 3-4. Cancelled for August 4 -5. Per usual if Village of Alma residents need help with transporting big items on the days mentioned can call Andy.
- Dog tags for 2021 have been ordered
- Communication: Looking into a more efficient way to send communication – possibly through Constant Contact software – email marketing tool. Individuals subscribe to receive communication via email.
- There was 1 Building Permit for November PID# 00609735 Location 97 School Street, estimated value \$153,868 and permit fee \$794.00
- There were no building permit reports for December.

New Business

Maritime Enforcement Services: Received email communication from Maritime Enforcement Services that they recently hired Colin Cochrane as an Administrative Support Officer. It was moved by *Councillor Bowron* and seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* that the Council of the Village of Alma approves the motion for Maritime Enforcement Services hire Colin Cochrane as Administrative Support Officer. **Motion Carried.**



Transfer of funds: It was moved by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Bowron*, to approve the transfer of \$10,000 from water and sewer reserve to water and sewer general operating account on December 31, 2020. **Motion Carried.**

Correspondence

Deputy Mayor Casey advised he received a request from the Alma United Cemetery (Russell Tingley) requesting a letter of support be sent to MP Rob Moore. The United Cemetery will be requesting approx. 1 acre of land at 2 Bennett Drive, Alma as there are no burial plots available and there is a need and want to expand. It was moved by *Councillor Bowron* and seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* to send a letter of support. **Motion carried**

Kim Beers advised the following correspondence was received:

- Next Census will take place May 2021-Statistics Canada will be hiring approx. 32,000 people across the Country to assist. More information to follow.
- Received an email from the Finance and Treasury Board - New Brunswickers are invited to participate in the Pre-Budget Consultation process for the 2021-2022 budget. Members of the public have until Feb 11th to participate in an online survey or send their comments and feedback by email to wwwfin@gnb.ca
- Connecting Albert County – Request to advertise. Previous years Village of Alma was a Business Supporter on the back cover for \$150.00 for 12 months. CAC is offering a 10% early bird discount for ads placed before January 31st. It was moved by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Bowron* to advertise for 2021 as a business supporter at \$150.00. **Motion carried.**
- Letter received from Albert County Historical Society thanking the Village for their Support of Albert County 175.
- Government of NB has opened a call for proposals under the Integrated Bilateral Agreement for the following three funding streams:
 - Public transit
 - Green infrastructure
 - Community, culture and recreation infrastructure.

The Regional Development Corporation will be accepting completed Expression of Interest forms beginning December 17th with no closing date. Forms can be found on the RDC website.

- Forest Dale Home Foundation: Letter received December 16th - Susan Chase the Chair of Forest Dale Home Foundation is asking for a financial donation. They have had to cancel fundraising activities that generate money for their account due to Covid-19. Since Covid-19 they have not been able to make many purchases but they still cover the cost of cable for the residents. Residents have never had to pay for cable since the foundation was formed. The monthly cost to have it in the home is over \$800. It was



moved by **Councillor MacCallum** and seconded by **Councillor Bowron** to support the Forest Dale Home Foundation cable fund in the amount pledged in 2020. **Motion carried.**

- Urban/Rural Rides and Tele-Drive Albert County: Letter received December 9th - Financial ask of \$500 or more. **Councillor MacCallum** advised a letter was sent last year outlining conditions that Council would re-consider. The conditions were to file their charities return for 2020 and would a lower amount asking be considered and to date Council have not received a response. Kim to send a letter to Kelly Taylor with WA Transpo/Urban Rural Rides stating the conditions.
- CMHA Albert Branch – Letter received November 19th - Financial donation ask for their Christmas celebration. Kim to send a letter acknowledging the letter and invite them to re-apply next Christmas season.

Councillor MacCallum advised that the village received \$10,210.33 of funds from Covid-19 Safe Restart Funding.

Paying of Bills

Kim advised that the best of her knowledge bills are up to date with the exception of Vision Alma vendors. Payments have been approved from ACOA and should be released shortly.

Questions and Answers

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

Adjournment

Councillor Bowron adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Deputy Mayor Andrew Casey

Kim Beers, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer