



Minutes

Meeting of Alma Village Council

January 17, 2022, at 7:00 pm – Video Communication via Zoom

PRESENT:

Andrew Casey – Mayor Susan MacCallum – Deputy Mayor
Tiffany Bowron – Councillor John Ereaux – Councillor
Hanna Downey – Clerk/Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Ereaux* and seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* **THAT** the amended agenda be approved as circulated. Amendments:

- Addition of Agenda item 3) a. Financial Statements
- Removal of Agenda item 6) Motion – A Notice of Resolution “To proceed under Subsection 5(4) of the *Expropriation Act* to access land known as PIDs 05008818 and 00609263 to explore the suitability of water supply.”

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – November 22, 2021, & December 8, 2021

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* **THAT** the minutes of November 22, 2021, and December 8, 2021, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* **THAT** the Council of the Village of Alma accept the Financial Statements for November 2021, and December 2021 for both General Operating and Utility Accounts. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

RCMP REPORT

Mayor Casey advised that an email was received from Sgt. Tamara Patterson stating that the New Brunswick RCMP have officially launched its new Online Crime Reporting (OCR) website. *Mayor Casey* reviewed types of criminal activity that can be reported using the OCR: Mischief/damage to property under \$5,000, theft under \$5,000, including theft of bicycle and theft from vehicle under \$5,000, and lost property.

Councillor Ereaux stated that upon reporting activity within the OCR, an acknowledgement is received indicating that a file has been received, which *Councillor Ereaux* further stated is often helpful in the case of initiating an insurance claim. *Councillor Ereaux* asked that the Clerk include the information received regarding the OCR in the next newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Casey – **Southeast Regional Service Commission.** *Mayor Casey* advised he attended a meeting on January 11, 2022, and that the Agenda included the following topics:

- Local Government Reform. *Mayor Casey* stated that Gérard Belliveau has resigned from his position as the Executive Director for the SERSC and has been seconded to the province (for a period of up to three years) as a local government reform transition coordinator.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont’d

- **Mayor Casey** advised that a CEO will be hired to manage all the service commissions and that the CEO will be reporting to the Minister of Local Government.
- Positions of Executive Director within the service commissions are being eliminated, and will only be reestablished as needed.

Mayor Casey expressed that his concern is potentially losing services or having fewer services for the Village of Alma.

Mayor Casey – Local Government Reform. **Mayor Casey** advised that the transition teams are not yet fully in place, but he anticipates he will be contacted within the next week to set up meetings to proceed with the amalgamation process. **Councillor MacCallum**, who also attended the meeting on January 11, 2022, expressed her concerns with Gérard Belliveau taking on a role with the Province of New Brunswick as he may look more favourably on the service commissions and not on the municipalities. **Councillor MacCallum** also expressed concern with the Province of New Brunswick not being ready to implement the amalgamation and the unknown of who will be taking positions within the SERSC. **Councillor Ereaux** suggested that Council consider hosting a public meeting to receive concerns from our residents regarding the reform. **Mayor Casey** stated that, at this time, Council does not have enough information to offer the residents to warrant a public meeting, but it could happen in the future. **Councillor MacCallum** stated that Council is committed to informing the residents as much as possible once more information is received.

Councillor Bowron – Fundy National Park. **Councillor Bowron** shared the following report provided by Fundy National Park regarding their “2022 Winter Offer”, winter safety and trail usage, and changes to the management team:

Visitors can book the park’s winter accommodations including oTENTiks, yurts, and rustic cabins at Headquarters Campground which includes campsites available on a first-come-first-serve basis. A shelter with a cozy wood stove that can accommodate up to four people is available at Point Wolfe Campground. Reservations can be made on Fundy National Park’s website. The Headquarters Visitor Reception Centre is open seven days a week from 10:00 am to 5:45 pm Monday to Thursday, and from 8:00 am to 6:45 pm Friday to Sunday. Washrooms near the Headquarters Visitor Reception Centre and those at the Chignecto Pavilion are open 24/7. Dry toilets at the Caribou Plain parking are also available.

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, Lavery Road, East Branch, Caribou Plain and more. The 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 before their visit <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nb/fundy/securite-safety/hiver-winter>. Visitors are also encouraged to check Fundy National Park’s Trail Conditions Page before they travel to the park. Trail conditions are updated daily but please note that conditions are subject to change throughout the day, depending on the weather conditions.

Cory Gaudet will be fulfilling the role of Visitor Experience Manager for the time being. Cory joined the New Brunswick South Field Unit as Asset Manager in October 2019. Since that time, he has been instrumental in updating the Asset Management section’s organisational structure and delivering on capital projects throughout the field unit. He will be the community point of contact for all things related to visitor experience. Cory can be reached at cory.gaudet@pc.gc.ca or 807-355-9735. Carole Saucier continues in her role of External Relations Manager and remains the point of contact for issues relating to Fundy National Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS cont'd

Councillor Ereaux asked that *Councillor Bowron* reach out to Fundy Park to determine if they intend to clear snow on the sidewalks from the Park “Bowl” to the bridge at the entrance of the park.

Councillor MacCallum – Alma Volunteer Fire Department. Councillor MacCallum reported the following from Fire Chief, David Rossiter: “Covid made for a quiet year.”

Councillor MacCallum - Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Councillor MacCallum stated that project lead, Laura Leger from our engineering firm Englobe, hosted a village stakeholder meeting on November 24, 2021, which included participation from various members of the village’s business community, as well as representatives from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization. Laura provided an overview of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan process and reviewed the village infrastructure map, including risk areas and various flooding scenario maps with the group. *Councillor MacCallum* indicated that the next step in the process is to host a Public Engagement Session which Laura had hoped to conduct this week or next. The updated Covid-19 lockdown measures likely mean this planned session will be postponed or replaced with an online/hard copy survey.

Councillor MacCallum - Alma! Committee. Councillor MacCallum stated that eight of the eleven Alma! Committee volunteers attended a committee meeting on December 10, 2021. She reported the following key points from that meeting’s draft minutes:

- One committee member has been looking into some ideas for fundraising and funding/grant opportunities. The former includes asking businesses/individuals to sponsor a pole/bench, guided hikes (For a fee), a community cookbook, and a firemen/fishermen calendar. The latter is going to take more time to research but there is one opportunity with the federal Celebration and Commemoration Reopening Fund that will be pursued by the committee.
- Nine nurseries were asked to quote on a village landscaping plan. Bob Osbourne from Corn Hill Nursery was the only interested party. He did a walk around the village last month so he could visualize the areas and take his photos and measurements. He will provide a quote and some drawings for the committee’s consideration.
- The committee hopes to work with other partners for hosting buskers, musical events, and Artistic demonstrations and workshops throughout the summer season.
- The next meeting will be held on January 28, 2022, via Zoom. A full 2022 schedule of events and landscaping plan are the intended outcomes.

Councillor MacCallum stated there are no resolutions or recommendations for Council to consider at this time.

Councillor Ereaux asked if the Clerk could forward him the updated Emergency Measure Operations Plan; per the Clerk, yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Casey stated that the Clerk will provide updates on water exploration in her water report.

WATER REPORT

The Clerk stated that Englobe had provided an update on the SCADA-Controlled Well Flushing Design valve, which is that the contractor is still waiting for parts to arrive.

The Clerk stated that the Village of Alma has acquired a Land Exploration License from J.D. Irving, Limited, which permits the Village of Alma and its contractors to enter PIDs 00609263 and

WATER REPORT – cont'd

05008818 for the purpose of establishing exploratory wells to determine suitability for potential municipal water.

CLERK REPORT

The Clerk stated that POCT test kits are available at the Village Office from Tuesday-Thursday, by appointments made through www.gnb.ca.

The Clerk stated that 2022 dog tags are available for purchase at the Village Office.

The Clerk stated that there were no building permits issued in November or December 2021.

The Clerk stated that she is compiling financial materials to send to the accountant as required for the year-end audit.

The Clerk stated that the Canada Summer Jobs application has been submitted. The Clerk advised that she will be applying for funding for a student through the SEED program as well.

The Clerk stated that the new website should be live within the next few days.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised the following were received:

- E-mail from Scotts Canada announcing Gro for Good Grants 2022!
- Fundy Biosphere Region Winter Newsletter is released and can be seen at www.fundy-biosphere.ca
- Letter from the Province of New Brunswick indicating a minimum wage increase by \$1.00/hr effective April 1, 2022, and again increase by \$1.00/hr effective October 1, 2022.
- 2019/2020 Annual Reports from the SERSC; available for viewing at the Village Office.

PAYING OF BILLS

The Clerk stated that all bills have been paid.

Councillor Ereaux suggested that the Clerk research if this agenda item is required as per the *Local Governance Act*.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

IN-CAMERA SESSION

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor MacCallum** and seconded by **Councillor Bowron** to move to an in-camera session.

- *Local Governance Act* 68(1)(b) personal information as defined in the *Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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Council returned to regular session at 9:10 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Ereaux** and seconded by **Councillor MacCallum** **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer