



Minutes

Meeting of Alma Village Council

November 22, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Activity Center

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 7:05 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

- Agenda item 6) Motion added for RCMP Contract Policing Municipal Cost Increase
- Agenda item 10) Transfer funds from Utility Capital Reserve to General Operating
- Addition of Agenda item 16) In-Camera session.

MOTION CARRIED (unanimously).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Ereaux* and seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* **THAT** the minutes of October 18, 2021, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

CLERK/TREASURER APPOINTMENT

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Bowron* and seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* **THAT** the Council of the Village of Alma, with authority given by the *Local Governance Act*, Section 71(1), that Ms. Hanna Downey be hereby appointed as Clerk and Treasurer for the Village of Alma, effective November 2, 2021. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

RCMP REPORT

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* that **WHEREAS** the recent collective agreement between the RCMP and National Police Federation includes significant retroactive pay going back to 2017 as well as pay increases going forward; and **WHEREAS** our municipality and others that depend on RCMP contract policing are facing significant, unbudgeted costs that may force us to make very difficult choices at a time when our primary focus needs to be on economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and **WHEREAS** Municipalities were not consulted at any stage of the negotiations process, despite the outcome of these negotiations having a direct and significant impact on municipal operations; and **WHEREAS** RCMP cost increases will disproportionately impact rural communities; and **WHEREAS** municipalities are eager to work more closely with other orders of government and the RCMP on contract policing issues to ensure the financial sustainability of contract policing and to maintain the service levels necessary for community safety; therefore **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village of Alma joins the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in calling on the federal government to absorb all retroactive costs associated with the implementation of

RCMP REPORT – cont’d

the new RCMP labour relations regime; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should commit to ensuring municipalities are properly consulted prior to implementation of measures that impact local fiscal sustainability and ability to maintain effective levels of police services in communities. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Casey - Southeast Regional Service Commission. *Mayor Casey* advised that he attended the SERSC meeting on October 26, 2021, and the following items were discussed:

- 2022 budgets for municipalities, capital and operating budgets, capital works program budget, mandated and non-mandated services budget, and the capital works financing – All budgets were passed.
- Technical report from Plan360.
- Tenders and proposals announced.
- Request from the town of Riverview for support for a new community wellness center, which was supported unanimously.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Bowron* and seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* that **WHEREAS** the Province of New Brunswick has repealed all regulations related to building standards, permits, and inspections from the Community Planning Act and adopted them under the Building Code Administration Act; **AND WHEREAS** Ghislain Belliveau, Meilanie Chiasson, Denis Frenette, Patrick Gaudet, Jason LeBlanc, Adrien Robichaud, Josie Vautour, and Bill Wright have been accepted by the Southeast Regional Service Commission as Building Inspectors; **BE IT RESOLVED** that the municipal council appoint the above-named Inspectors as Building Inspectors for the Village Alma under Section 71 of the *Local Governance Act*; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Village of Alma hereby gives authority to the Building Inspectors to issue orders and to lay information for offences under Section 14 of the *Building Code Administration Act*. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Mayor Casey – Local Government Reform. *Mayor Casey* stated that the Department of Environment and Local Government released the white paper on Friday, November 17, 2021, outlining the new government structure. *Mayor Casey* advised the restructure of this area will be the amalgamation of the entire parish of Alma to Lower Coverdale, including the other two municipalities and all the local service district areas within that region. *Mayor Casey* stated the white paper focuses on four pillars: local governance structure, regional collaboration, land-use planning, and financing local government. *Mayor Casey* stated this restructure will reduce the number of local governments from 340 to 90, and 236 local service districts will be reduced to 78 local governments and 12 rural districts for a total of 90 entities. *Mayor Casey* stated that one of the reasonings the province stated that they had the mandate for this change was that 30 per cent of New Brunswickers currently have no municipal representation. *Mayor Casey* stated property taxes could increase or decrease and that the white paper states that changes in property taxes will be done in phases. *Mayor Casey* stated the name for the new area (Entity 42) will be announced July 2022. *Mayor Casey* stated that with these changes, the Southeast Regional Service Commission will be expanding their services for economic development, tourism promotion, affordable housing, transportation, recreation cost-sharing, and public policing. *Mayor Casey* stated that one of his concerns is that voting for the SERSC is done by population base and fears the needs of Alma will not be heard, as they currently are. *Mayor Casey* stated that transition teams will be appointed to the new entities January 2022 to assist with the amalgamation, and that municipal elections are set to take place November 2022.

Councillor Bowron – Fundy National Park. *Councillor Bowron* reviewed the “Fall Season Recap” provided by Fundy National Park. Fall in Fundy has proven to be another great season for tourists! Fundy National Park welcomed over 40,000 visitors in September and had over 7,000 camping site nights – which makes for it the second-best camping results during this time of the year since 1972,

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont’d

being surpassed only by the 2017 numbers. October numbers were the best since 1972 with over 2,800 camping site nights and over 30,000 visitors. **Councillor Bowron** advised of the following closures to traffic: Hastings, Herring Cove, and Point Wolfe. Backcountry camping and river crossing are also now closed for the season. **Councillor Bowron** reviewed the following for Winter 2022. Reservations for winter camping, including roofed accommodations such as yurts, oTENTiks and rustic cabins, launched on October 4, 2021. So far, the park has received over 200 bookings for dates between November 2021 and March 2022. **Councillor Bowron** advised an update on the details of the 2022 Winter season will be shared at the next Council Meeting.

Councillor MacCallum – Alma Fire Department. **Councillor MacCallum** advised that Fire Chief, David Rossiter, reported “Nothing new”.

Councillor MacCallum – Climate Change Adaptation Plan. **Councillor MacCallum** advised that Laura Leger, the project lead from the engineering firm Englobe, has organized a meeting of village stakeholders for Wednesday, November 24, at 2 pm at the Alma Activity Center. We are hoping for a good turnout and some enthusiastic participation.

Councillor MacCallum - Alma! Committee. **Councillor MacCallum** advised that ten volunteers attended a Zoom meeting of the Alma! Committee on November 19, 2021. Following are the highlights of the meeting:

- Paula Horvath was nominated for and accepted the position of committee chair.
- The committee discussed a 2022 full schedule of events which will be circulated as soon as possible in the new year via newsletter to all residents and via social media channels to the wider region.
- Dan Sinclair (FNP) and Ian Duncan (FOF) will circulate the anticipated 2022 schedules of events for their respective agencies to the whole group.
- Catherine Rhyno offered to take the lead on pursuing quotes and drawings for village landscaping and beautification. Everyone agreed that it is important to focus on native species and on items that will survive and flourish in our coastal climate.
- Micha Fardy will provide details on the FOF application to the Environmental Trust Fund which includes options for reducing bird and infrastructure collisions. More information to follow.
- Jenn Hawkins-Forbes offered to take the lead on pursuing funding opportunities.
- There are no resolutions or recommendations for council to consider currently.
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, at 2 pm, via Zoom.

Councillor MacCallum - Website update. **Councillor MacCallum** advised no further progress has been made on this project since the last meeting. **Councillor MacCallum** and the Clerk will work together with David from Panchroma in the next couple of weeks to answer his few remaining questions and determine a potential date to make the website live.

WATER REPORT

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Exploration. To be discussed in-camera. **Councillor Ereaux** asked if test drilling can still take place before the end of 2021; per **Mayor Casey**, he was advised by the engineer that it is possible.

MOTIONS

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor MacCallum** and seconded by **Councillor Bowron** **THAT** the Council of the Local Government of the Village of Alma **RESOLVED** that the sum of \$626,982 be the total operating budget of the Local Government, that the sum of \$517,482 be the Warrant of the Local

MOTIONS – cont’d

Government for the ensuing year, and that the tax rate for the Local Government be \$1.5744. The Council orders and directs the levying by the Minister of Environment and Local Government of said amount on real property liable to taxation under *The Assessment Act* within the Local Government of the Village of Alma. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* **THAT** the Council of the Local Government of the Village of Alma **RESOLVED** that pursuant to subsection 117(4) of the *Local Governance Act*, the total budget for the Village of Alma Utility for the ensuing year would consist of total revenues of \$271,578 and total expenditures of \$271,578.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Ereaux* and seconded by *Councillor Bowron* **THAT** the Village of Alma accept the contract with D & S Butland Ltd. for snow removal services and sanding services for the Village of Alma from November 1, 2021, to April 30, 2022 inclusive, with an annual option to renew up to April 30, 2025. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* to accept the 2022 Alma Fire Department budget of \$61,611. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Bowron* **THAT** the Clerk of the Village of Alma be so authorized to transfer the sum of \$5,456 from the Utility Capital account to the General Operating account to pay for the balance of a capital expense item. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Ereaux* and seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* **THAT** the Council of the Village of Alma hereby adopt the *Incubator Space Policy Rental*, as presented, effective November 22, 2021. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

CLERK REPORT

The Clerk advised there was one building permit issued in October for development of a single dwelling unit on Forest Drive, valued at \$142,025.

The Clerk advised the Remembrance Day service was well attended on November 10, at the Activity Center. Council is appreciative of Legion Branch #32 for arranging the service.

The Clerk advised of a planned power outage, originally scheduled for November 25, is now re-scheduled for December 7, affecting homeowners from Maple Street in Riverside-Albert to Fundy National Park. This will be an 8-hour power interruption.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to discuss.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk stated that a letter was received from the UMN, reviewing activity in 2021.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Bowron* **THAT** the Village of Alma approve the 2022 membership with UMN, in the amount of \$1230. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

The Clerk advised an invitation was received for Council, from the Alberta County Chamber of Commerce to attend a Members Information Meeting, via Zoom, December 13, at 6:30 pm.

The Clerk advised a letter was received from a resident requesting paving work be considered on Chignecto Drive. *Mayor Casey* advised that he received a quote from a paving contractor in the amount of \$107,000. *Mayor Casey* stated the paving budget for 2022 currently sits at approximately \$30,000, and that the scope of this expenditure would be something that would have to be budgeted for over a few years. *Councillor Bowron* stated that utilities should be installed prior to paving a street. The resident was

CORRESPONDENCE – cont’d

in attendance and spoke from the Gallery and encouraged Council to consider completing some ditch work and resurfacing Chignecto Drive with drain rock to protect Council’s investment on the work done previously to Chignecto Drive. **Mayor Casey** advised this will be considered in the Spring of 2022.

PAYING OF BILLS

The Clerk advised that all bills have been paid.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Opportunity for residents to ask questions to members of Council.

Councillor MacCallum advised there will be no Council Meeting held during December.

IN-CAMERA MEETING

Local Governance Act 68 (1)(d) the proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor MacCallum** and seconded by **Councillor Bowron** to return to regular session at 8:44 pm. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor MacCallum** and seconded by **Councillor Bowron** **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer