



Village of Alma – Regular Council Meeting **September 20, 2021**

The regular monthly Council meeting of the Alma Village Council was held on September 20, 2021, at 7:00 pm at the Multi-Purpose Building. *Mayor Casey, Councillor Bowron, Councillor Ereaux, Councillor MacCallum* and *Kim Beers* (Clerk) were present.

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

Motions

It was moved by *Councillor MacCallum* and Seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* to add a presentation from Keith MacCallum from Guardian Ecology to the agenda. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by *Councillor Bowron* and Seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* to approve the Minutes from the special council meeting on July 19, 2021. **Motion Carried.**

It was moved by *Councillor MacCallum* and Seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* to accept the Financial Statements for June, July, and August 2021 for both General Operating and Water & Sewer Accounts. **Motion Carried.**

RCMP Report

No update.

Presentation

Keith MacCallum from Guardian Ecology presented an update on the Alma knotweed project. Keith announced there are 86 known sites of knotweed in the village and 209,000 stems have been chopped to date. The method being used is working and he has discovered native vegetation is coming back.

Committee Reports

Mayor Casey reported the following:

Southeast Regional Service Commission: **Mayor Casey and Deputy Mayor MacCallum** attended the Southeast Regional Service Commission meeting on August 31st, 2021. The first meeting in person in two years. There were appointments made to committees (solid waste, planning etc.,).

Local Government Reform: **Mayor Casey and Deputy Mayor MacCallum** met with the Dept. of Local Government Minister Daniel Allain and MLA Mike Holland on August 5th, 2021 regarding local government reform.

Mayor Casey and Deputy mayor MacCallum advised the Ministers that Alma residents were concerned about rumours they were hearing of Alma amalgamating with Riverview. The



Ministers advised that was not on the table. They understand that a small rural village would not be well served by a distant and large urban centre. The Ministers advised the mayor to engage with the mayors of Riverside-Albert and Hillsborough.

Also:

-They could not answer questions about what the new governance structure would look like but they did say current Council would all finish their terms to Spring 2025 and run for re-election in the new entity.

-They confirmed that there would be no further discussion or consultation once the white paper was released (scheduled for this Fall).

-They asked us for the top 3 issues in Alma - (1) a new water source, (2) high speed internet, and (3) a winter offer.

-Without being able to give specific details they talked about potential cost savings and efficiencies that would come with amalgamation and the benefits of additional property tax income from the LSDs. The latter will be phased in gently.

-Minister Holland was especially concerned about communication of the final plan and wants all of the villages and LSDs to be on board and delivering the same message.

After the meeting August 5, 2021 the Dept. of Local Government released “What Was Heard Report” from the recent Local Governance Reform initiative it states: “In fact, several local leaders have identified that they want to be part of the solution. They have voiced that the status quo is not an option, and that progressive change is required. These local leaders have been asked to dialogue with their constituents, on a path forward.

Examples of community restructuring projects that are being contemplated at the local level include:

The village of Alma, village of Riverside-Albert and village of Hillsborough and the local service districts of Hillsborough, Harvey, Hopewell and Alma. Alternatively, discussions to restructure the above- mentioned communities with the town of Riverview have also occurred. The white paper will be released this year and once released all changes will come into effect in 2025.

Councillor Bowron reported the following details:

Fundy National Park:

2021 Season Recap

Fundy National Park welcomed many new and returning visitors this season following last year’s unusual and difficult times. The park was operating at full capacity with most of its staff returning to work (some are still working from home). Some programs and interpretation activities were offered in person again and it felt like things were as close to normal as it could get.

Overall visitation from May to end of August was up 40% from the same period last season, with over 200,000 visitors. This season’s visitation number was still down 13% from 2019, although overall still a good turnout. Campsites were booked almost to capacity most weekends - especially accommodations and serviced sites. Details of the Park’s fall offer and an overview of the winter will be shared in the coming weeks.



Paving Project in the Headquarters Area

Work is underway in the Headquarters Area of Fundy National Park to resurface the Chalet and Bunkhouse/Service roads. The asphalt surface of these roads has been deteriorating and requires rehabilitation.

The work includes:

- Stripping the current asphalt and road base layer of both roads, then re-laying and compacting the gravel base, repaving the new asphalt and repainting the lines; and
- Removing three light pole islands on Chalet Road and adjusting storm water and wastewater entrances to the new road surface.

All services and facilities in the area will remain open and accessible during the roadwork, including the maintenance compound, camping, golf and use of the playground. Some road interruptions may occur and disturbances are expected, such as noise, dust and dirt.

The work is expected to take approximately five weeks to complete.

The MacLaren Pond Medicine Trail

The MacLaren Pond Medicine Trail will be closed in September and October for rehabilitation in creating a more accessible trail and adding a short boardwalk. Future enhancements will include expanding the trail's interpretation elements, to highlight specific plant species and their traditional medicinal properties.

Councillor MacCallum reported the following details:

Alma Volunteer Fire Department

All is quiet as per fire chief David Rossiter.

Climate Leadership Course for Elected Officials/Climate Caucus

This group took a summer hiatus although some calls were conducted and used as a forum for elected officials to discuss climate issues affecting them directly (e.g., wildfires and heat waves in Canada's western provinces). The group calls start up again later this month with topics that include watershed resilience, fossil fuel divestment, and C40 membership (the largest global alliance racing to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2030). Councillor MacCallum will take part in as many of these sessions as her schedule allows.

Partnering with the village engineering firm, Englobe, Alma was successful in securing an Environmental Trust Fund grant of \$30,000 to create a climate change adaptation plan.

The first required step is to create a steering committee that will work with Englobe throughout the project. The purpose of the committee is to help shape the final plan by attending project meetings, public/stakeholder engagement meetings, and reviewing the draft report to ensure it accurately reflects the climate-related concerns in the village. The project will run from September 2021 until March 2022 when a final report will be presented to council. Councillor MacCallum would like to thank Bob Rochon, Steve Chrysostom, William MacCallum, Lee



Warnock, and Alma staff and council members for taking on this committee work.

Alma committee

An enthusiastic group met last month to start planning for the October 14th fleet launch event. It was decided that with October 14th falling mid-week it would be best to hold activities on Thanksgiving weekend. Businesses have all been contacted to gauge their interest and operating hours so we can communicate correct information to residents and visitors. The fleet will launch between 5:15 and 5:30 am on Thursday, October 14th and we hope to provide breakfast sandwiches, hot coffee and bagpipes to send them on their way. Possible weekend events include a sea shanty musical group, fireworks, the lobster plunge challenge, a Fundy Flutes workshop and sale, a farmers' market, a paint night, a sand castle building competition, a church service, themed meals and drinks at local restaurants, talk to a fisherman/learn how to crack a lobster session(s), Thanksgiving turkey dinner at Tides, and site decorating, pumpkin carving and fleet launch themed interpretive activities in the park. We hope to meet again this week to create a draft agenda.

Website update

David from Panchroma will have a preview ready in 2 to 3 weeks. At that point, he expects everything will be working and we can make decisions about anything that needs to be fine tuned. In the meantime, Clerk/Treasurer Kim has discovered how to load documents and make changes to the current (old) website.

Water Report

Mayor Casey advised that due to the lightening storm and power failures was the reason the village was on a boil order.

Old Business

Water Exploration: *Mayor Casey* announced the village is waiting for landowner approval to drill and once that is completed the drilling commence this Fall. Mayor Casey announced that after this third well is drilled there probably will not be anymore money. However, Federal and Provincial Government is keen to help the village.

Noise By-law 63A: *Councillor Ereaux* announced that at the next meeting we will have at least a draft by-law to present.

Clerk Report: Kim Beers reported the following

1. There were three building permits issued in June
PID 05038690 – New single dwelling unit - Value \$221,771
PID 05074190 – Two new cottages - Value \$170,000
PID 00610378 – New 5 foot chain-link fence - Value \$2,832
2. There was one building permit issued in July
PID 00610121 – New set of stairs with guard rails/hand rails - Value \$500.00



3. There were no building permits issued in August
4. The 2 concrete ramps located at the main entrance of the activity centre and the concrete pads from the sidewalk to the retail and public washrooms is completed. Thanks to the funding that was received from the inclusive community recreation infrastructure grant through department of tourism, heritage and culture
5. By-law enforcement update: Officer Daniel Lacourse and public works will be around the village tomorrow afternoon to distinguish where to place no parking signs. The by-law enforcement officers are currently working on unsightly/dangerous premises and working with the property/land owners.
On August 13th the enforcement officers had a report of a dog running at large, the enforcement officers were able to capture the dog and find the rightful owner.
On Sept 4th while patrolling an individual pulled a no-parking sign out of the ground and damaged the sign. The enforcement officers were unable to take action as they did not witness this take place and the damage is under \$5,000.00. Also,
6. There will be a flu clinic offered in Alma on Monday Oct 25th and Tuesday October 26th from 2 to 6 pm at the Alma Activity Centre
7. The village of Alma in partnership with the Alma Rink Committee applied for a \$80,000 grant through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative to do much needed repairs to the rink. The village was advised that the results will be announced after the election.
8. Spoke with the NBSPCA and they still do not have an Executive Director in place and this is the reason of the hold up. He is trying to get it done as soon as he can.

New Business

By-law #101 a by-law relating to dog control: *Mayor Casey* reported the 1st and 2nd readings were done at a special Council meeting July 19, 2021.

It was moved by **Councillor MacCallum** and Seconded by **Councillor Bowron** for the clerk to read the third and final reading of Bylaw 101, a by-law relating to dog control. **Motion Carried.**

The clerk read By-Law 101 by title, A bylaw relating to relating to dog control.

It was moved by **Councillor Ereaux** and Seconded By: **Councillor MacCallum** that whereas By-law 101, a by-law relating to dog control has been read in its entirety and given first and second reading previously, that it be given its third and final reading and hereby enacted by the Village of Alma. **Motion Carried.**

By-law #102 relating to the repeal of by-laws:

It was moved by **Councillor MacCallum** and Seconded by **Councillor Bowron** for the clerk to read the first reading by title of By-law# 102 - a by-law relating to the repeal of by-laws. **Motion Carried.**

The clerk read By-Law 102 a first time by its title.



Moved By: *Councillor Bowron*
Seconded By: *Councillor MacCallum*
Motion Carried.

It was moved by *Councillor MacCallum* and Seconded by *Councillor Bowron* for the clerk to read the second reading by title and entirety of By-law# 102 - a by-law relating to the repeal of by-laws. **Motion Carried.**

The clerk read By-Law 102 a second time by title and entirety.

Moved By: *Councillor Bowron*
Seconded By: *Councillor MacCallum*
Motion Carried.

By-law # 100 a by-law relating to traffic and parking in the village of Alma:

The clerk advised Council that this new by-law #100 a by-law relating to traffic and parking in the village of Alma is replacing by-law # 99 that was adopted July 19, 2021. The clerk discovered in the filing cabinet a by-law with the same number. Upon speaking with Dept. of Local Government the clerk was advised a new number would need to be assigned and the original by-law repealed.

It was moved by *Councillor MacCallum* and Seconded by *Councillor Bowron* for the clerk to read the first reading by title of By-law# 100 - a by-law relating to traffic and parking in the village of Alma. **Motion Carried.**

The clerk read By-Law 100 a first time by its title.

Moved By: *Councillor MacCallum*
Seconded By: *Councillor Ereaux*
Motion Carried.

It was moved by *Councillor MacCallum* and Seconded by *Councillor Bowron* for the clerk to read the second reading by title and entirety of By-law# 100 - a by-law relating to traffic and parking in the village of Alma. **Motion Carried.**

The clerk read By-Law 100 a second time by title and entirety.

Moved By: *Councillor MacCallum*
Seconded By: *Councillor Ereaux*
Motion Carried.

Snow removal tender: Mayor Casey advised that Thane Mallory resigned from doing snow removal for the village. The village issued a snow removal tender that was advertised on August 26th with the last day to receive submissions was September 13th at 1:00 pm. The village received two bids.



Gas tax top up: Mayor Casey announced that there is a one time 2020-2021 top up from the Canada Community-Building Fund for \$14,879.00. This allocation is to be invested in municipal infrastructure or capacity building projects.

Correspondence

Kim Beers advised the following correspondence was received:

- Thank you letter from bursary winner Jacob Wilbur
- Request for donation from the Bennett and Albert County Health Care Foundation for the upcoming Eric K. Steeves Charity Golf Tournament. Council discussed the request and decided not to donate this year.
- Jane Chrysostom – No parking signage. Email was received from Mrs. Chrysostom asking about the return/replacement of the no parking sign that was removed from the space between 8580 and 8576 Main Street in October 2020. Mayor Casey advised that Maritime Enforcement Services will be around the village on Tuesday September 21st and will give recommendations on where to place the no parking signs. Mayor Casey will speak to public works about installing the sign between 8580 and 8576 Main Street.
- Thank you letter from Friends of Fundy Rising Tides Trails and Tunes event.
- Letter received from Megan Downey regarding garbage not being picked up. Email was received from Ms. Downey asking why garbage collection stopped without notice at her residence on School Street. Mayor Casey apologized that notice should have been given. The reason garbage is not being picked up is due to all rental units are deemed commercial and there is no garbage pick up for Airbnb rental units. Residents who have no garbage due to Airbnb can apply in writing to the clerk requesting off season garbage pickup.

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 MacCallum adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.



Mayor Andrew Casey

Kim Beers, Clerk/Treasurer