



Minutes

Meeting of Alma Village Council

March 21, 2022, at 7:00 pm – Multipurpose Building

PRESENT:

Andrew Casey – Mayor

Susan MacCallum – Deputy Mayor

Tiffany Bowron – Councillor

John Ereaux – Councillor

Hanna Downey – Clerk/Treasurer

A public presentation was held by non-profit organization Guardian Ecology at 6:30 pm. **Mayor Casey** welcomed presenter, Keith MacCallum, who provided an update on the Village's multi-year knotweed eradication project. Mr. MacCallum reviewed the 2021 results of the project and presented the 2022 season plan. Mr. MacCallum acknowledged support received on the project from the Village of Alma, Friends of Fundy, and the New Brunswick Invasive Species Council. Mr. MacCallum offered a public Q & A period which resulted in a lot of interaction from participants. Mr. MacCallum will provide the Clerk with upcoming volunteer opportunities to share with Alma residents when they become available. **Mayor Casey** thanked Mr. MacCallum for his presentation and his work on the eradication project.

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:**

- **Mayor Casey** to provide an update on Route 114 & Route 915 roadwork.
- Removal of Agenda Item 7, “*Motion for application to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation*”.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor MacCallum** and seconded by **Councillor Bowron** **THAT** the minutes of February 22, 2022, be approved. **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 February 2022 for both General Operating and Utility Accounts. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

PRESENTATIONS

Nathalie Gallant, Executive Director – CBDC. Mayor Casey welcomed Ms. Gallant to the meeting. Ms. Gallant provided an informative presentation on various loan products, loan criteria, benefits, and other programs available through the not-for-profit organization CBDC (Community Business Development Corporation). Ms. Gallant encouraged attendees to reach out to her with any follow-up questions and to share her contact information with the public: nathalie.gallant@cbdc.ca or toll-free 1-800-925-6677.

RCMP REPORT

The Administrator advised that she had been in contact with Sgt. Tamara Patterson and that Sgt. Patterson intends to attend April's council meeting. *Councillor Ereaux* asked if an update has been received on the RCMP backpay; per *Mayor Casey*, no.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Casey – Roadwork update on Route 114 & 915. *Mayor Casey* stated that although he has been speaking with Mike Holland and the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on several occasions, he has not been able to obtain a timeline for the repair work. *Mayor Casey* stated that he has put forward a formal request to have DTI accommodate repairs to the residents on the Forty-Five Road whose properties were damaged as a direct result from the ineffectiveness of the culverts during February's rainstorm.

Mayor Casey - Southeast Regional Service Commission. *Mayor Casey* advised there was no meeting held in March.

Mayor Casey – Local Governance Reform. *Mayor Casey* announced that Council will be hosting a public meeting on March 23, 2022, at the Alma Activity Centre at 6 pm. *Mayor Casey* stated the purpose of the public meeting will be to update the residents of Alma on the process of amalgamation. *Councillor Ereaux* advised that Council's questions which were answered by the Department of Local Government and Local Governance Reform are now on the village website. Further to that, *Councillor Ereaux* advised there is an editorial from the Times and Transcript on the website, along with Council's offer of rebuttal to that editorial. *Amalgamation Bulletin Number 3* is also available on the village website. *Councillor Ereaux* stated that information will continue to be uploaded to the website as it becomes available. *Councillor MacCallum* added that Council had an encouraging meeting with Mike Holland today and the request was made to Mr. Holland to assist Council in obtaining a meeting with Minister Daniel Allain.

Councillor MacCallum – Alma Fire Department. Fire department chief, David Rossiter, reports that things have been pretty quiet over the last month. There have been discussions about rescinding the Fire Department's Covid-19 policy now that restrictions have been lifted in the province, but we have decided to hold off until we can be certain that another covid variant or increasing cases of Omicron don't cause the government to reinstate some restrictions.

Councillor MacCallum – Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Laura Leger, project lead from our engineering firm Englobe, submitted the Village of Alma Climate Change Adaptation Plan to the province by the March 1st deadline. With very little notice and a very tight timeline, many members of the climate change committee provided great advice and suggestions to Laura on how to improve the draft report, for which the council is grateful. Approval of the final document is scheduled to be on next month's council meeting agenda.

Councillor MacCallum – Alma! Committee. Eight of the twelve Alma! Committee volunteers were able to attend a committee meeting on February 25th. Since many projects are contingent on the funding decision from the Federal Celebration and Commemoration Reopening Fund, the committee decided to wait until after the April 1st funding announcement before proceeding with more in-depth plans. The projects that the committee would like to undertake this year include beautification, our regular holiday festivals and events, and a

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont’d

fundraising cookbook and calendar. **Beautification:** Bob Osbourne from Corn Hill Nurseries has submitted a quote to plant native grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees in five areas of the village with a focus on low maintenance, pollinating species. His quote exceeds the village’s budget for this item but the committee is recommending that the village undertake as much as is financially possible. Beautification is an investment.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Bowron** and seconded by **Councillor Ereaux** **THAT** the Council of the Village of Alma accept the recommendation from the **Alma! Committee** on the landscaping plan prepared by Corn Hill Nurseries. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Cookbook: *The Spring Newsletter* included an ask for recipes to be submitted by April 15th to be considered for inclusion in this fundraising initiative.

Calendar: The CCRC is not planning to create its annual local wildlife and landscapes calendar this year. The work has fallen to one person and it has become too onerous. Given that 2022 is the last year when our local villages will exist as villages and given that we have all been through a lot of turmoil due to covid for the last two years, the Alma!Committee considered this to be an excellent opportunity to celebrate our local heroes and raise some funds for projects/events at the same time. **Councillor MacCallum** and Catherine Rhyno will be speaking to the CCRC Board tomorrow to pitch a calendar partnership. Photos will feature our firemen, fishers, and park staff. We may also include outgoing mayors and public works staff. The calendar’s potential working title is “Celebrating Our Local Heroes: Hot, Wet and Wild in Albert County”.

Alma!Committee Chair, Paula Horvath, and **Councillor MacCallum** took part in a Zoom call with FNP employee, Cory Gaudet, and two representatives from the International Dark-Sky Association on March 4th. Fundy National Park is going to pursue an International Dark Sky Park designation and the Alma!Committee will be discussing the pursuit of an International Dark Sky Community for Alma as one of the agenda items for the next committee meeting on Friday, April 8th.

Councillor MacCallum – Other. For anyone interested in a local investment opportunity, the Grassroots CED Investment Co-operative is hosting a CED Investor Tax Credit webinar call tomorrow from 2:00-3:30 pm via Zoom. You can register through the <https://www.grassroots.coop/> website.

WATER REPORT

The Administrator reported that the wellhouse upgrades are completed. Alma’s Water Operator, Andy, has some tweaking with the program numbers but doesn’t anticipate any problems. Mr. Morrissey expressed his appreciation to Council for making this improvement happen.

The Administrator advised that Englobe provided a water exploration budget summary and reviewed the following recommended next steps for water exploration:

- Construction of new well pad at site “B”
- Test well drilling at site “B”
- Drilling the third test well near the most promising of the two (2) test wells
- Conduct down-hole video of test wells

Englobe project engineer, Laura Leger, continues to provide updates regarding progress on the land to Council as well to the landowner.

CLERK REPORT

The Administrator advised there were no building permits issued in February.

The Administrator advised that household waste collection may need to be postponed next week. Residents will be notified of any changes through the village website and Facebook page.

CLERK REPORT – cont'd

Administrator advised that the Alma!Committee is seeking recipe submissions to be included in a cookbook fundraiser. Submissions should be directed to villageofalma@gmail.com by April 15, 2022.

The Administrator advised that SEED funding has been approved for up to 12 weeks.

The Administrator advised that the Celebrate Canada Funding Grant has been approved for \$2,520 for the 2022-2023 year.

The Administrator advised that someone from the Albert County Chamber of Commerce can provide details on the benefits of membership at the April meeting.

The Administrator advised that the fleet launch date has been updated on the village website.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Administrator received the following:

- Letter of request from the graduating class of 2023 to the use of the Activity Centre on June 20th for the prom; per Council, yes as long as they are aware they would be required to clean up afterwards.
- Sponsorship letter from the ACCC 5th Annual Business Excellence Awards on May 14, 2022.
- Donation of books from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; the Administrator suggested these books be used as prizes at an event or activity.
- Letter of request to sponsor the Albert County Tourism Association.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Bowron*

THAT the Council of the Village of Alma purchase a 2022 Membership from the Albert County Tourism Association for \$100.00 plus HST. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

- Albert County Tourism Association AGM will be held on March 23, 2022, at 2 pm.
- Letter of request to purchase advertising space for Connecting Albert County.

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux*

THAT the Council of the Village of Alma purchase advertising space as a business supporter for Connecting Albert County in the amount of \$150.00. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

PAYING OF BILLS

The Clerk advised that all bills have been paid. *Councillor Ereaux* asked if the Administrator could highlight purchases for unbudgeted items or unusual costs at future council meetings.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Opportunity for residents to ask questions to members of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor MacCallum* **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer