



Minutes

Meeting of Alma Village Council

May 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm – Multipurpose Building

PRESENT:

Andrew Casey – Mayor

Susan MacCallum – Deputy Mayor (via Zoom)

Tiffany Bowron – Councillor

John Ereaux – Councillor

Hanna Downey – Clerk/Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Casey called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Bowron* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* **THAT** the agenda be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Bowron* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* **THAT** the minutes of March 21, 2022, be approved. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Bowron* and seconded by *Councillor Ereaux* **THAT** the Council of the Village of Alma accept the Financial Statements for the months of March, 2022 and April, 2022 for both the General Operating Account and the Utility Account. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

RCMP REPORT

Mayor Casey welcomed A/Cpl. Dwayne Woodman to the meeting. A/Cpt. Woodman advised that criminal charges in the area are minimal. Activity in the area consist mainly of traffic violations and occasionally assisting the Fundy Park Rangers with missing persons. *Councillor Ereaux* asked if there are any updates on the collective agreement retroactive pay for RCMP members; A/Cpl. Woodman stated he is not privy to that information. *Councillor Ereaux* asked if there are any systematic plans for an increase of police presence this summer, especially on long weekends; A/Cpl. Woodman said there are no particular plans in place. He stated the Village could reach out to Sgt. Patterson for a traffic unit request for any upcoming events or long weekends. *Mayor Casey* thanked A/Cpl. Woodman for his presentation.

PRESENTATIONS

Laura Leger, Project Manager - Englobe Corp. Ms. Leger presented the Village of Alma Climate Change Adaptation Plan Final Report. Ms. Leger reviewed the following three main goals of the adaptation plan: To provide a global understanding of climate change so the Village can better manage potential risks; to propose a list of adaptation measures and strategies that could be implemented for various initiatives; and to follow Provincial guidelines.

PRESENTATIONS – cont'd

Ms. Leger reviewed the following main categories of impacts of climate change for the Village of Alma:

- Change in average temperatures,
- Increasingly intense precipitation and extreme weather events, and
- Sea level rise and storm surges.

Ms. Leger reviewed the following adaptation measures that were developed to assist the Village of Alma to cope with climate change:

1. Emergency Measures
 - Update the Emergency Response Plan, simulate a catastrophic event, inform residents of emergency measures.
2. Land Use Planning
 - Identify underdeveloped areas, coastal erosion, and riverbank stabilization, promote the protection of natural areas, promote forest fire prevention.
3. Infrastructure (Municipal)
 - In-depth study of storm sewer system, implementing design criteria for storm/sewer systems, offer an incentive for backwater valves, generators (incl. a plan to access fuel), address areas identified in the *Risk Analysis*.
4. Infrastructure (Buildings/Homes)
 - Educate (best practice guidelines) for developers, install generators and air conditioning in critical sites, consider cost benefits of upgrading at-risk infrastructure.
5. Public Awareness
 - Educate residents.

Recommendations - Ms. Leger reviewed recommendations that include forming a committee to monitor and report on the implementation of the adaptation plan, follow up annually to verify that the measures are still appropriate and to determine if any measures should be removed, improved, or added.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Ereaux** and seconded by **Councillor Bowron** **THAT** the Council of the Village of Alma adopt the Village of Alma Climate Change Adaptation Plan Final Report prepared by Englobe Corp. on March 1, 2022. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Councillor Ereaux thanked Ms. Leger for all her work throughout and completing this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Casey – Roadwork update on Routes 114 & 915. **Mayor Casey** stated that the shoulder work on Route 114 is now complete, except for one area near the 3400 block which requires extensive reconstruction as half of this section of highway was washed out during February's rainstorm. **Mayor Casey** advised that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure has the tender for roadwork posted with a completion date for the end of June. The Administrator added that there will be a set of traffic lights installed by the end of this week on Route 114 in Alma to allow for approximately one thousand feet of one-lane traffic. **Councillor Ereaux** asked if we have any updates on maintenance plans for Route 915; **Mayor Casey** stated that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure has published their 3-Year Capital

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont'd

Investment Plan, the *Road Ahead Plan*, which include ditching/shoulder reconstruction, levelling, and resealing to various portions of Route 915 from New Horton to the Village of Alma limits planned between 2023-2025.

Mayor Casey - Southeast Regional Service Commission. *Mayor Casey* advised that there was a presentation by Kelly Taylor of Urban/Rural Rides at the March 29 meeting. Ms. Kelly explained that they have an opportunity to purchase thirteen (13) accessibility vehicles through the Federal government funding stream for rural transportation initiatives. The group is looking to acquire thirteen (13) custom vehicles, one for each entity in the Southeast region and stationed at key locations in the Southeast. It was decided by consensus that the grant application move forward.

Mayor Casey – Local Governance Reform. *Mayor Casey* stated that an Entity 42 naming subcommittee was formed, who then launched a process to collect public feedback to provide to the Elected Officials Advisory Committee. The results from the public consultation showed a clear plurality for the entity to have a name with Fundy, including a recommendation from the naming subcommittee. **Councillor Ereaux** attended the Elected Officials Advisory Committee naming meeting on April 27; *Mayor Casey* was not able to attend but advised the name “Albert” was decided upon by the committee. *Mayor Casey* stated that a lot of feedback was received concerning why the name Fundy was not used after it having been a clear choice based on the public consultation and the recommendation from the naming subcommittee. Transition facilitator, Chad Peters, called an emergency naming meeting on May 12 where the Elected Officials Advisory Committee did not reach consensus. Mr. Peters told the committee that he would take time to reflect and seek advice on options. Mr. Peters announced to the Elected Officials Advisory Committee on Monday, May 16, that he submitted the name “Fundy Albert” to the province for approval.

Councillor Ereaux stated that although the new legal entity will be registered as Fundy Albert, this community will still be known as Alma. Civic 911 addressing and postal addresses will remain the same for Alma residents.

Councillor Ereaux stated that the Village of Alma has released four (4) amalgamation bulletins so far, and other than the update of the name submission for the entity to the province for approval, there is no other information to release at this time. **Councillor Ereaux** stated there may be information to come following budget meetings in June.

Councillor Bowron – Fundy National Park is getting ready to open for the 2022 season on May 20. The openings during the May long weekend include: Headquarters, Cannontown, Chignecto, and Lakeview Campgrounds, the golf course, accessible dock and trail leading to the dock at Bennett Lake. The pool and Pointe Wolfe Campground will open on June 24. Visitors can expect this season to be the closest to normal since 2020, with the Park operating at full capacity. Visitors are also asked to respect the guidance of public health authorities and to follow all signage and direction from Parks Canada employees. Details of the 2022 Summer offer will be shared in the coming weeks in their upcoming stakeholder newsletter and on their Facebook page – stay tuned!

MacLaren Pond Accessible Medicine Trail is opening on June 24! The western section of the trail was temporary closed in recent years. As part of a trail enhancement project, Fundy National Park’s Asset Management team rehabilitated the trail by removing the western section of the trail tread from the riparian and flood zone and replacing it with a new section of natural surface trail and boardwalk with two new lookout platforms overlooking the pond. This will

COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont'd

encourage ecological and conservation gains while improving the front country offer by providing a trail that is more easily accessible to those who have mobility and visual impairment challenges. To complement the Medicine Trail theme, Indigenous-themed interpretive features are expected to be installed next year. An official opening of the trail will take place later in June, stay tuned for more details!

Shepody Trail Re-opening Event in Riverside-Albert on June 4: Parks Canada is delighted to participate in the reopening of the Shepody Trail in Riverside-Albert and will be on site to support the event on June 4 with interpretation activities from 1:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come say hello to our friendly staff and Parka!

Restoration work has started on Dickson Falls Trail. The Trail Restoration team started restoration work on the Dickson Falls Trail. This two-year project will allow Fundy National Park to re-open the Dickson Falls loop by providing a new safer alignment for the back loop. The new alignment will provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all park users and will improve the ecological integrity of the park ecosystems by reducing environmental impacts. Additionally, the Trail Restoration team will be conducting other restoration work on the abandoned section of the Dickson Falls Trail, which had become unstable due to erosion and an increase in the water level of the brook.

Councillor MacCallum – Alma Fire Department. Fire Department Chief, David Rossiter, reports that there is nothing new to report.

Councillor MacCallum – Alma! Committee. The committee met on April 8, however, since the chair wasn't able to attend the meeting and the committee is still waiting on the funding decision from the Federal Celebration and Commemorative Reopening Fund, there isn't much to report at this time. Beautification: Catherine Rhyno asked Bob Osbourne from Cornhill Nurseries to trim some costs from his original quote to match the funds the Village Council approved at the March 2022 meeting for landscaping. The work is expected to start sometime in June. Calendar: The CCRC is interested in partnering with the Village on this project, but we haven't been able to set a preliminary meeting date yet. CCRC's, Audrey Campbell, will be sending an email shortly so we can get things rolling. Canada Day: The Village has received a grant and the committee will put together a draft schedule of events at our next committee meeting on Friday, May 20.

WATER REPORT

The Administrator reported that the wellhouse upgrades are completed and that Englobe Corp. submitted the final results to the Department of Health on May 4.

IT WAS MOVED by ***Councillor Bowron*** and seconded by ***Councillor Ereaux*** that **WHEREAS** the actual cost for the pumphouse upgrades was more than initially quoted, the Council of the Village of Alma agree that the Administrator be so authorized to transfer the sum of \$4,485.00 from the Utility Capital Account to the Utility Operating Account and to transfer the sum of \$221.39 from the Utility Capital Account to the General Operating Account to cover the balance of this capital expense item. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

Mayor Casey advised that the preliminary drilling of three (3) test wells is now complete on PID 05008818 (wells #22-12, #22-03, #22-02). ***Mayor Casey*** advised that we are currently waiting for confirmation of funding approval to complete the required 72-hour pump test in order to complete the exploratory phase of the project. ***Mayor Casey*** explained that following the 72-

WATER REPORT – cont'd

hour pump test, the final concept and any potential treatment requirements will be better understood.

Councillor Ereaux stated that he has received feedback from residents relating to their concern of maintaining the integrity of Alma's current water system throughout the transition of the new entity. **Councillor Ereaux** stated that water is clearly of high priority for the Village Council, as well as ensuring that nothing gets lost in the transition in terms of daily water system management.

The Administrator advised that as a part of the application process for funding for Phase 2, a preliminary feasibility study was sent to the Department of Environment and Local Government. The purpose of this requirement is to provide details of any alternative options to obtain a water source for Alma. The result of this study is that a connection to Fundy Park's water system could be more costly and has several unknown factors including the Park's interest in such an arrangement. **Councillor Ereaux** asked if those results could be shared with Council; per the Administrator, yes.

Mayor Casey advised that the engineer for the SERSC has also reviewed Phase 2 of the plan prepared by Englobe Corp. and commented that it is a "Cadillac" of systems. He advised that he may be able to review the plan further to determine if he can locate any cost saving options.

CLERK REPORT

The Administrator advised there was one (1) building permit issued in March valued at \$47,200, and one (1) building permit issued in April valued at \$96,750.

The Administrator advised that in addition to funding approval for 12 weeks of SEED funding for a summer student, we were also successful in receiving funding approval from Canada Summer Jobs for 8 weeks of funding for a summer student.

The Administrator advised that she applied for a \$10,000 grant from the Inclusive Community Recreation Infrastructure Fund for an accessibility upgrade to the washroom facilities at the Activity Centre.

The Administrator read a letter of request to sponsor the Caledonia Dragon Boat team.

IT WAS MOVED by **Councillor Bowron** and seconded by **Councillor Ereaux** **THAT** the Village of Alma sponsor the 2022 CRHS graduating class and the Caledonia Dragon Boat Team at the Greater Moncton Dragon Boat Festival in the amount of \$150.00. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

The Administrator advised that she received a sponsorship request for the Rising Tide Trails & Tunes Festival, which is taking place August 6-14, 2022. The draft schedule for the festival include events in Alma on August 6-8 & 13-14. Sponsorship levels amounts vary from \$300-\$1,000+. Council stated they will revisit the request at the June Council meeting.

The Administrator advised there is still an outstanding request to renew the annual membership with the Albert County Chamber of Commerce. **Councillor MacCallum** stated that she is not in favor of renewing at this time because no one from the board has attended a meeting to present the benefits of membership or provide the information on benefits. **Councillor Bowron** agrees.

CLERK REPORT – cont’d

The Administrator advised the Village of Alma 2022 Bursary application is available on the website for graduating students. **Councillor Ereaux** asked if this is something that the new entity will still offer; per the Administrator, that is not known at this time.

The Administrator reminded Council the Alma Rink Fundraiser event is taking place on Saturday, May 21. The event includes live music entertainment, cash bar, and a silent auction – all proceeds to the Alma Recreation Committee for the Alma Rink.

The Administrator advised that the “Better Community Challenge” through ParticipACTION is launching on June 1 and will run until June 30. The kick-off event will take place at the Riverside-Albert Recreation Centre on Sunday, May 29.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Administrator received the following:

- Letter from the Minister of Canadian Heritage stating that since Alma is a current recipient of the Department of Canadian Heritage grants and contributions funding, they are requesting a review and assessment of our current programming and engagement with Russian and Belarusian state partners. The Minister requests the suspension of any activities relating to these two countries or their officials until further notice.
- Letter from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure relating to the *Road Ahead Plan*. The letter states that under the 2022 program for improvements to provincially designated highways in municipalities, DTI is prepared to contribute \$100,000 plus non-recoverable HST for shoulder reconstruction and swale paving on Route 915, including the area from Bucket Hill to Route 114; a distance of 1.1 km. Any project would be required to be tendered and supervised by the Village of Alma.
- The following two (2) quotes from Brown’s Paving:
 - 1) \$32,556.62 which include hand patching potholes on areas of School Street, Fundy View Drive, Elliott Drive, Chignecto Drive, and machine patching the washout area on School Street.
 - 2) \$62,859.94 which include pulverizing, paving, asphalt padding, and milling of sections on School Street, asphalt padding on Fundy View Drive, apron and swale paving to catch basin on Chignecto Drive, pulverize roadway on Chignecto to have existing grades changed to alleviate water from Chignecto Drive from flooding Foster Road, padding of flood damaged section of Chignecto Drive, Foster Road Bridge asphalt padding of flood damaged section and hand patching potholes at Wharf entrance.

Councillor MacCallum asked if the roadwork on School Street will be torn up when it comes time to extend the municipal water service on School Street. **Mayor Casey** stated he will speak with the engineer at Englobe Corp. for their opinion and Council will discuss further.

- A letter from NB First Procurement Strategy for new conditions imposed regarding the procurement of goods and services from CANOE Procurement Group of Canada.
- The Administrator advised she received a response from Minister Daniel Allain regarding the petition that was received by his office on April 5, 2022. The letter confirms that the Department of Local Government and Local Governance Reform is moving forward with the reform efforts as outlined on the Local Governance Reform website. The letter further states that the Department of Local Government and Local Governance Reform believes that this is the best option for long-term sustainability of the region and the province.

CORRESPONDENCE – cont’d

Councillor Ereaux asked that this letter of response from Minister Daniel Allain be posted on the Village of Alma’s website.

- A letter from the Alma Recreation Council seeking support for the continued operation of the Alma rink. Furthermore, the letter requests consideration for support from the Village Council in securing liability insurance for the rink so the recreation council will be able to continue providing recreation opportunities for the Alma community.

The Administrator advised that she is working with the Recreation Council and the insurance provider on this matter.

- An open letter to Mayors and Councillors of New Brunswick from the New Brunswick parents of children with disabilities, children without protection of COVID-19 vaccination, persons with disabilities, immunocompromised individuals, people with vulnerable family members, and supporters. The letter requests that Villages/Cities reinstate pandemic protection measures for all city facilities.

PAYING OF BILLS

The Administrator advised that all bills have been paid. The Administrator noted the following unplanned expenses from April:

Garbage Truck Rental for two (2) days – Village truck was out of commission

Household waste collection laborers for three (3) days – To assist public works

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Opportunity for residents to ask questions to members of Council.

ADJOURNMENT

IT WAS MOVED by *Councillor Bowron* **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer