



## *Minutes*

### Meeting of Alma Village Council

September 20, 2022, at 7:00 pm – Multi-Cultural Centre

#### **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 7:02 pm.

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

#### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Ereaux* and seconded by *Councillor MacCallum* **THAT** the minutes of August 15, 2022, be approved as circulated. **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 August 2022 for the General Operating Account and the Utility Account. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Page 1** – Business Arising – The Clerk advised that she is working on arranging the contractors to install the access door operators at the Activity Centre from the funds received from the Inclusive Community Recreation Infrastructure Fund.

**Page 1** – Business Arising – The Clerk stated she has obtained a quote for the liability insurance for the Alma Recreation Council. The Clerk stated that she consulted with a lawyer to review the Memorandum of Understanding.

**Page 2** – Committee Reports – *Councillor Ereaux* provided the Clerk with a list of questions for the Transition Facilitator. *Councillor Ereaux* stated they would be put on the website once they are answered.

**Page 3** – Clerk Report - The Clerk advised that Barrett Road was graded and will be graded again before winter to get ready for plowing.

**Page 3** – Correspondence – The Clerk stated the note of appreciation was passed on to the resident.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Mayor Casey* – **Southeast Regional Service Commission.** *Mayor Casey* announced that Interim Executive Director, Roland LeBlanc, is the successful candidate for position of the Chief Executive Officer of the SERSC. *Mayor Casey* stated that he attended the Board of Directors

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont'd**

meeting on August 30, 2022, where there was a presentation on the new mandated services. **Mayor Casey** expressed some concern with new mandated services such as the Regional Social and Community Development services. **Councillor Ereaux** asked how the budget for these services allocated is established; per **Mayor Casey**, it is set using the tax base.

**Mayor Casey – Local Governance Reform.** **Mayor Casey** stated that Clerk, Hanna Downey, was appointed by the Minister of Local Government and Local Governance Reform as the Chief Administrative Officer for Fundy Albert. **Councillor Ereaux** added that Ms. Downey was the successful candidate following an external competition for which none of the elected officials of Entity 42 had any involvement. The hiring process was done through a professional HR firm to ensure an objective, fair and consistent hiring process. The HR firm provided the names of those most qualified to the HR committee. The transition facilitator through the HR committee made the recommendation to the Minister on the candidate they would like to see appointed.

**Mayor Casey** stated that Council had the opportunity to meet with MP, Rob Moore last week to discuss Alma's water exploration project, and amalgamation concerns. **Mayor Casey** stated that Honorable Rob Moore had told the Council that he had contacted Minister Allain to advocate on behalf of Alma, that Alma have more representation in the new entity.

**Mayor Casey** stated that we are currently waiting for directives regarding Infrastructure Canada's (INFC) determination of Impact Assessment Act (IAA) requirements and Consultation Obligations with Canada's Indigenous Peoples for the well and related infrastructure project change. **Mayor Casey** stated that for this project change INFC has indeed identified a duty to consult with the Mi'gmaq and Wolastoqey First Nations in New Brunswick. Correspondence is ongoing.

**Councillor Ereaux** provided a brief update on the most recent meeting of the Elected Officials Advisory Committee. **Councillor Ereaux** stated that the group was successful in reaching consensus relating to the amount of compensation for the new Council of Fundy Albert. **Councillor Ereaux** stated that the recommendation has been sent to the Province for approval. **Councillor Ereaux** stated that there will be an election for Fundy Albert on November 28, 2022. **Councillor Ereaux** stated that there is one more meeting for the Elected Officials Advisory Committee, scheduled for October 5, with a topic of *Budget Discussions*.

**Councillor Bowron – Fundy National Park (FNP).** **Councillor Bowron** reviewed the season recap provided by FNP. FNP reported that they saw their highest overnight visitation yet from May to September. **Councillor Bowron** reported that the upcoming All Nations Pow Wow will be postponed until this Sunday, September 25 due to the expected inclement weather. The event will feature vendors, artwork and crafts, traditional clothing, and performances from Indigenous drummers, singers, and storytellers. **Councillor Bowron** provided a Dickson Falls restoration project update, and an overview of the *Alma Look-Out Revitalization Project* which is located at the look-out point in Headquarters campground. The Alma Look-Out Revitalization Project includes the installation of three new benches, and also involves installing an information tri-panel, having one panel showcasing the recreational areas, local businesses and services that are open during the shoulder season and during the winter months. Council had a brief discussion on who is responsible for managing the information on the tri-panel. **Councillor Bowron** indicated that exact hours of operations are not expected, but rather a general overview of which business are open during the off-season.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont’d**

***Councillor MacCallum – Alma Fire Department.*** *Councillor MacCallum* stated there is no report from the Fire Chief Rossiter. ***Councillor MacCallum*** stated there is a draft Memorandum of Understanding between Parks Canada Agency and the Alma Fire Department that outlines the following objectives:

- The purpose of the MOU is to record mutual understanding on areas of responsibility and collaborative aid between the Parties to optimize collaborative emergency response.
- This document represents a collaborative effort and is intended to provide common references for defining operational policy while recognizing the necessity for each organization to unilaterally define its own internal policy/procedures.
- This document outlines areas for collaboration toward improved response to visitor safety emergencies inside or around the FNP boundary. Each agency/organization is responsible for ensuring that its own policies and procedures are not contradicted by this common document. It is expected that this document will evolve to continually meet the operational needs of all organizations.

***Councillor MacCallum – Alma! Committee.*** *Councillor MacCallum* stated that the committee met in August to firm up details for Fleet Launch 2022 festivities and to finalize quotes in order to make a recommendation to council regarding the distribution of the Celebration and Commemoration Reopening Fund grant. The tentative schedule of events for fleet launch are posted on the following website: [www.almafleetlaunch.com](http://www.almafleetlaunch.com).

The committee recommends that council approve the following purchases:

- (1) Moving the war memorial monument, painting a war memorial mural on the eastern wall of the Canada Post office, erecting a rope fence around the monument area, and planting a memorial garden in that space;
- (2) Fireworks, artists, tent rental/other fleet launch items;
- (3) New garbage and recycling bins for the village;
- (4) Village beautification (completed);
- (5) Seal the concrete pad and build a gazebo outside the multi-purpose building;
- (6) Purchase a tide clock to be placed in the upper peak of the multi-purpose building;
- (7) New benches for the village;
- (8) Hanging flower baskets (completed);
- (9) Updating and repainting of pennant signs; and
- (10) Hydro pole hardware and flags/banners to promote village events and seasons.

Following a brief discussion on the approval of these projects/purchases, it was determined that Council will continue discussions on these items, but the expenses relating to fleet launch events, including fireworks, be approved.

***Councillor MacCallum*** advised the committee meets again on October 5<sup>th</sup> to finalize the fleet launch schedule and on October 6<sup>th</sup> to assign jobs to all of our fabulous volunteers.

## **WATER REPORT**

The Clerk stated that Englobe is providing their professional services to conduct a *Wastewater Treatment Facility and Lift Stations Assessment and Support*. The purpose of the assessment is to provide the necessary support to operate the sanitary treatment system and to develop an action plan to meet our Approval to Operate. This includes an assessment report with deficiency lists for both lift stations and the treatment facility; a list of recommended tasks for the operation and maintenance of the lift stations and treatment facility; a spreadsheet for the

### **WATER REPORT – cont’d**

annual report; and an action plan for NBDELG. The expected value of Englobe’s fees and expenses is \$13,000 plus HST.

The Clerk has not received an estimate from Englobe for the heavy user water audit.

### **CLERK REPORT**

The Clerk advised there were no building permits issued in August.

The Clerk advised there were three (3) Notices of Infractions issued to property owners in June. The Clerk advised that one (1) property owner responded to the Notice and followed up with photograph proof that he is now in compliance. The Clerk stated that the Planner at Plan 360 will be issuing Order to Comply notices to the other property owners.

The Clerk stated that she and *Mayor Casey* took part in a Statement of Public Interest (SPI) Engagement Session on September 14, related to changes in land use planning in NB. It was explained during the meeting that SPIs are meant to support increased communication and shared understanding, consistent planning, and that SPIs will serve to protect the environment, reduce land use conflict and support the efficient use of public funds. *Mayor Casey* expressed his concern of how these changes to land-use planning will result in increased loss of local authority.

The Clerk stated that the week September 25-30 is the first Municipalities Week in NB.

The Clerk stated that she will be attending the UMN Conference in Fredericton on October 7-9.

The Clerk stated she took part in the Budget Portal Engagement Session on August 23.

### **MOTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation a Municipality of Alma debenture in the principal amount of \$34,000 on such terms and conditions as are recommended by the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, and **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Municipality of Alma agree to issue post-dated cheques payable to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation as and when they are requested in payment of principal and interest charges on the above debenture. **IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor MacCallum* and seconded *Councillor Bowron*. **MOTION CARRIED** (unanimously).

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Administrator received the following:

- Letter from a resident reporting repeated parking offences on Main Street, noting that the offences make it hazardous and difficult to navigate exiting their home and business. The letter further states that without enforcement of the village parking bylaws, these practices continue to have a negative impact on safety along Main Street. *Councillor Ereaux* stated that the new entity should have staff empowered to issue tickets in accordance with a by-law infraction. *Mayor Casey* stated that vehicles can also be towed, rather than putting an employee in a situation where they are issuing tickets. *Councillor Ereaux* stated that he will have a closer look at the current by-law for specifications on having vehicles towed.
- Letter from a resident related to a deceased bird found near the Activity Centre. *Councillor Ereaux* wondered if consultation with Parks Canada or Friends of Fundy would be

**CORRESPONDENCE – cont’d**

beneficial. There was a suggestion from the Gallery that efforts are made to collect more data on which species of birds are being found deceased.

**PAYING OF BILLS**

The Clerk stated that except for the RCMP invoice, all bills are paid. The Clerk advised that there was a new mower purchased in August, and a renovation grant provided to the Alma Recreation Council to help pay for repairs to the interior of the building, exterior building steps, supplies, and small pieces of equipment.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Opportunity for residents to ask questions to members of Council.

**IN-CAMERA**

*Local Governance Act 68(1)(j)* labour and employment matters, including the negotiation of collective agreements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**IT WAS MOVED** by *Councillor Bowron* **THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 9:38 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk/Treasurer