

MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of Council was held April 11, 2022, at 7:00 PM with Mayor Campbell presiding. Councillor Gallant was absent. All other members of Council and Clerk were present.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Councillor Hamer and seconded by Councillor Colwell that *'The Agenda be approved with the addition of a Closed Meeting for a Legal issue at the request of Councillor Thorne.'* MOTION CARRIED

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Councillor Colwell declared a conflict for items 5 and 6 under Correspondence.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor O'Blenis and seconded by Councillor Thorne that *'The Minutes for the Council Meeting held on March 28 be approved.'* MOTION CARRIED

RCMP REPORT

Sgt. Tamara Patterson, detachment commander of Southeast District RCMP Caledonia Region Detachment, was in attendance to provide an update to Council.

Alternate Policing Service – Asked previously by Councillor Hamer about a mystery alternate policing service on patrol issuing tickets, it was explained that these would be Public Safety peace officers, who wield a comparable level of policing authority in the province. Their presence has become more noticeable in a number of communities during the pandemic. The New Brunswick RCMP contract is through the Department of Justice and Public Safety. Council expressed an interest in inviting a representative of NBDJPS to a Council meeting to explain more about its role in policing.

Copper Thefts – Citing the recent break, enter and theft (of copper wiring) from Salisbury's baseball field lighting building, Mayor Campbell commented on the ease of selling scrap metal in New Brunswick. He added that he had been in contact with other communities and is calling for the implementation of an identification policy when individuals attempt to pawn scrap metal.

Neighbourhood Watch – With the intention to form a new Neighbourhood Watch, a public meeting at the Salisbury Lions Club is envisioned by Councillor Hamer in cooperation with RCMP partners, although a date has not been set.

Access to RCMP Dispatch – RCMP members' after-hours access to their own central dispatch is limited to the same system that is used by the public. Council will reach out to New Brunswick's Commanding Officer to express its frustration with this, asking for better access to dispatch for RCMP members on the front lines.

Clearance Rates – It was explained that there are many factors that affect clearance rates, including but not limited to New Brunswick being a Crown Approval province; that is, a Crown Prosecutor will not proceed with a case if it is unlikely to result in a conviction, as well as the fact that if a victim does not wish to proceed with a complaint, then it will not be followed through with in the majority of cases, the exception being domestic cases.

All-Terrain Vehicles – Asked by Councillor Thorne what the impact is on RCMP when a community permits limited use of streets by ATV users, a concept that is under consideration in Salisbury, Sgt. Patterson responded that the difference is not noticeable where this is in place.

SCAN – Safe Communities and Neighbourhoods – Following lengthy discussion as to the types of crimes and reports out of the Salisbury region, SCAN was brought up by Sgt. Patterson. SCAN, or Safe Communities and Neighbourhoods, is a program run by New Brunswick Public Safety. It was explained that services provided by SCAN, described as an extra layer on top of that provided by the RCMP, could be a benefit to the community. For example, SCAN can, through a civil process, investigate and shut down properties regularly used for illegal activities. Clerk's Office will reach out to SCAN with an invitation to attend a future meeting of Council.

Mayor Campbell and Council thanked Sgt. Patterson for joining them.

MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Printed report was submitted in advance of the meeting by the Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works, and read into the public record by Councillor Colwell:

Theft at Ballfield Lighting Control Building - On March 30th, an NB Power meter reader discovered the theft of electrical wiring in the ballfield lighting control building. RCMP were notified and arrived on scene shortly after the discovery and conducted an investigation. The Village of Salisbury's insurance company was also notified of the theft. After discussions with NB Power and electrical contractor Roadway Systems, it was determined that full replacement of controls and wiring should take place. A quote for replacement of lighting controls was obtained from Roadway Systems. The quote came in at \$13,814.88 plus HST. Concerns were raised by NB Power, Roadway Systems, and Village staff that the existing electrical building is dated and in poor condition. Village staff were advised to consider a new electrical building before installing new electrical controls. Village staff will investigate costs for a new building and will bring forth a recommendation to Mayor & Council.

DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL RECREATION AND WELLNESS REPORT

Nothing to report.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Railway Trestle (Bridge)

Nothing to report.

By-Law Review

Council to review draft of new Procedure By-Law provided by the Clerk.

MacDonald Road Property

Mayor Campbell and Councillor O'Blenis to bring recommendations to a future meeting.

All-Terrain Vehicles

In advance of the possible creation of a by-law, a survey was posted online at www.salisburynb.ca to gauge public opinion on ATVs using designated streets in the Village of Salisbury as a means of accessing services. Councillor Colwell reported there have been approximately 400 surveys submitted and 31 emails. The survey will stay up until before the next meeting of Council on April 25.

New Fire Truck

The Village's application to the Municipal Capital Borrowing Board (MCBB) of the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government's Community Financing Branch, for the purchase of a new fire tanker truck for Salisbury Fire Rescue, was heard at the April 11 meeting of the MCBB. It was recommended by Councillor Hamer to remove this item from the agenda since these are the early stages of what will be a lengthy process. Clerk to advise when there are any updates.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Brad MacLeod appeared before Council to submit a Salisbury Fire Rescue report for the first quarter of 2022.

Chief MacLeod reported fire calls were down 50 per cent from January to March. There were three fires during this period – a chimney fire, a car fire, and a skid steer fire. Meantime, in early April there were two large garage fires.

Motor vehicle accident calls were up 60 per cent during the first three months of the year due to storms and Winter road conditions. Photos provided included three from accident calls that all occurred on the same day. Further to that eventful day, Chief MacLeod added the driver in one of the MVAs has since joined Salisbury Fire Rescue.

Regarding personnel, there were two departures from the fire department during the first quarter, and the one addition already mentioned.

Coming up, Salisbury Fire Rescue has its annual Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive on April 15 and 16, collecting donations at two locations in Salisbury.

Mayor Campbell expressed appreciation for everything the fire department does, noting there seems to be more accidents now than ever. Chief MacLeod added collisions with animals are common this time of year, and that grass fire season begins soon.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were discussed by Council with remaining correspondence placed on file:

Southeast Regional Service Commission/Plan 360 – Building Permit Report, March 2022

The lone Salisbury building permit issued by Plan 360 last month was for a single dwelling with an attached garage.

JMA Armstrong High School Yearbook Committee – Request for donation/advertisement

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor Hamer that *'The Village of Salisbury purchase a 2022 JMA Armstrong High School Yearbook quarter-page advertisement for \$150.'* MOTION CARRIED

Clerk explained that Council has honoured this funding request for several years now.

NB Transportation and Infrastructure / Minister Jill Green – Road Ahead Plan 2022-2024

Citizens are urged to view the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure's The Road Ahead three-year plan online, as it contains roadwork in Salisbury in 2024. However, no mention in the document of the Route 112 bridge over the Petitcodiac River is reason for concern for Council. Mayor Campbell plans to send off a letter with regards to this, noting the poor condition of the surface of the bridge and its unknown condition underneath.

Meantime, it was pointed out by Councillor Hamer that the reduction in allowable tonnage on the bridge in two years' time would impact on the new fire truck planned for Salisbury Fire Rescue.

Salisbury Naturalist Club / Connie Colpitts – Notification that Club has voted to disband

Letter received from Connie Colpitts of the Salisbury Naturalist Club advised of the club's intention to disband; however, members will remain active by continuing to maintain Tree Swallow and Bluebird houses off Government Road at the wastewater treatment facility and do the annual Christmas Bird Count. The Club thanked Council for its financial backing and support over the years.

Council requested the Clerk's Office write a letter to Connie Colpitts thanking her and the Naturalist Club for all they have done for the Village of Salisbury over the years and invite her to attend a future meeting of Council for a personal show of appreciation.

Councillor Colwell left the meeting at this time due to a conflict of interest.

Friends of the Salisbury Petitcodiac Flyers – Batting Cage Fundraiser – Request for donation

Council received a grant request from the Friends of the Salisbury Petitcodiac Flyers to support their Batting Cage Fundraiser, for which \$11,991.60 of the needed \$16,000 has been raised. During discussion it was noted that the Village donates annually to minor baseball in the form of service-in-kind each Summer, having staff do all facility maintenance as well as paying the power bill for the overall facility. The Village is also facing new expenses related to recent electrical shed vandalism and theft. Council considered a donation. However, Council tabled its decision for more information on the physical specifications of this batting cage, as well as on the question of liability with regards to injury or responsibility with regards to damage to the batting cage. Councillor Thorne said the agreement between the Village and baseball association would need to be amended to outline clear expectations with regards to responsibility. In the meantime, the Village's department heads will be asked to gather specific information in advance of the next meeting of Council.

SMS Grade 8 Student Parent Committee – End of Year Dance – Request for donation

The Parent Committee for the 2022 Grade 8 Class at Salisbury Middle School requested a grant of \$500 from the Village of Salisbury to support their end-of-year celebration dance to be held at Blueberry Hill Farms. Following lengthy discussion, the request was denied. With other important needs of greater priority around the community, Council decided against setting a precedent of issuing grants for graduation events. Mayor Campbell noted that the Village donates to the JMA Armstrong High School Grad Class each year, using bursaries as an example, but not directly to a prom event. Councillor Hamer said the Provincial Education Department should be looking after its schools, as they are not a municipal responsibility. Councillor O'Blenis noted that the Village is investing in other areas to support young people, using the pool and sports as examples.

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor O'Blenis to *'Have a recess.'* MOTION CARRIED

RECESS

It was moved by Councillor O’Blenis and seconded by Councillor Hamer to ‘*Return to the regular meeting.*’ MOTION CARRIED

Councillor Colwell rejoined the meeting.

Canadian National / Senior System Manager, Environmental Assessment Luanne Patterson – 2022 Vegetation control plans

CN advised the municipality of its vegetation control intentions this year. Council requested the Clerk’s Office, as has been the practice for several years, send another letter to CN advising of Council’s opposition to any spraying of track herbicides within the Village limits due to the fact residents of Salisbury are on private wells.

Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance / Project Leader Brittany Cormier – Request for support for No-Mow May campaign

Council expressed support for the No Now May movement and requested the Department of Infrastructure and Public Works designate a section of municipal lawn somewhere, perhaps the front lawn of the Village Office, as a no-mow zone during the month of May.

NB Education / Minister Dominic Cardy – Response – Condition of Salisbury schools

Mayor Campbell received a letter from the Education Minister in response to His Worship’s March 22 letter regarding the poor condition of schools in Salisbury. The response from Dominic Cardy does not commit to a new elementary school for the Village, only stating its position of eighth on the pan-provincial priority list. The response letter further states that the new elevator being constructed in the current elementary school could be salvaged and moved to another facility should a replacement school eventually be approved. Mayor Campbell noted that he has also discussed all of this with school district administration and a representative of the District Education Council and will continue to press the issue in upcoming meetings.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Southeast Regional Service Commission Board of Directors – Attended SERSC Board meeting on March 29. He has been named to its Economic Development Steering Committee. Also spoke highly of a presentation to the board by the executive manager of Urban/Rural Rides, asking the Clerk to invite her to attend an upcoming meeting of Salisbury Village Council.

Local Governance Reform – The March 30 meeting of the transition advisory committee included its recommendation for a name for the Entity 33 government region. Entity 33 includes the Village of Salisbury, portions of the Salisbury Local Service District, portions of the Moncton LSD, portions of the Coverdale LSD, and portions of the Elgin LSD. The transition committee is suggesting Salisbury be the overall name for the region under the municipal designation of Town. The deadline to submit a name to the Province is May 16. It was noted that communities within this new larger region; for example, places such as River Glade, Colpitts Settlement, and Boundary Creek, will still retain their names and identities, and that the governance entity is just that – a larger system of government. It was further added that a public meeting to explain this and address any questions will take place on the evening of April 21 at Salisbury Lions Club, hosted by the transition facilitator.

Meantime, households in the region will be receiving a mailout with information on Entity 33. Also, Clerk was asked to arrange for a new map of Entity 33 that can be put up at the Village Office. Clerk also informed Council that the Village website has a Frequently Asked Questions section added under the Government Reform tab.

Village Chief Administrative Officer – Took part in March 30 CAO hiring committee meeting.

Southeast District RCMP – On April 5, took part in Southeast District RCMP Engagement and Priority Setting call with five other mayors in the region.

NBDTI The Road Ahead – Discussed earlier.

Salisbury Elementary School – On April 7, met with SES Principal Denis Bourgeois and staff, discussing their facility needs and what they do. Mentioned earlier that he had also met with Anglophone-East School District and District Education Council representatives.

Illegal Dumping – There is evidence of illegal dumping on municipal property at 37 Kay Street. This is unacceptable and will be dealt with. No Dumping signs will also be posted.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor O'Blenis

Local Governance Reform – Attended March 30 Entity 33 transition committee meeting at which naming was discussed. Confirmed for Councillor Hamer that there would be no change to fire department coverage in 2023.

Highland Park Washroom and Splash Pad – In hopes of cutting costs, a proposal is being put together for a pre-fab washroom building, which would include all mechanical elements for the splash pad. Councillor Hamer expressed opposition to using consulting engineering for this project, suggesting it be done entirely in-house through a smaller Request for Proposals geared toward local contractors. It was explained that engineering is required for the mechanical and plumbing plans with regards to the splash pad's requirements, including the need for underground storage tanks with filtration technology. Council asked staff for an updated cost estimate. The project is under the former Gas Tax Fund, now known as the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Councillor Thorne

Summer Students – Has been working with Council and staff on a competitive wage scale for Summer hires. Noted that all mowing and beautification labour efforts will be tasked to youth employed by the Department of Infrastructure and Public Works, while Summer staff employed with the Department of Recreation and Wellness will focus solely on Summer programming.

ParticipACTION – The ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge will take place in June, as it did in 2021 when Salisbury's final ranking nationally was 28. Activities are being planned.

Soccer – Plans for local minor soccer will be announced by late May. Residents are asked to please not go onto the soccer field next to the schools. This is due to extensive work on the soccer field in 2021 and Spring being a critical time for growing. They are still waiting for word from the school district on whether or not the field will be available for use this Summer.

Community Days – The plan is for Salisbury Community Days, August 18-21, to be fully in-person this year after mostly virtual events in both 2020 and 2021.

Work Week Length – A couple municipalities in Southeast New Brunswick are piloting four-day work weeks this May-September. A benefit to the community would be, due to longer work days, extended business hours for municipal departments. To see if this would be feasible, department heads have been asked to return next meeting with a plan. Mayor Campbell suggested waiting first for the hiring of a Chief Administrative Officer.

Councillor Colwell

All-Terrain Vehicles – ATV survey posted at <https://salisburynb.ca/> has resulted in a great deal of feedback, much of which has been positive, but also some great constructive feedback. All concerns will be taken into consideration when Council members propose a new by-law related to the use of streets by ATV users. The final day for the survey will be April 22.

Development – Discussions regarding potential new development have been very exciting.

Councillor Gallant

Absent.

Councillor Hamer

Nothing to report.

CLERK'S REPORT

Support for Ukraine – A local artist was hired to paint sunflowers on some of the windows at the Village Office as an expression of support for Ukraine following it being invaded by Russia. Mayor Campbell has been working on setting up a public evening event in celebration of standing united with Ukraine. His hope was to have a date to announce by the end of the week.

It was moved by Councillor Colwell and seconded by Councillor Thorne to ‘*Enter into a Closed Meeting.*’ MOTION CARRIED

CLOSED MEETING – Legal.

It was moved by Councillor O’Blenis and seconded by Councillor Thorne to ‘*Return to the Regular Meeting.*’ MOTION CARRIED

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 25, 2022.

Mayor Campbell noted that he will have to join this meeting remotely as he will be in Halifax at that time.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor O’Blenis to ‘*Adjourn the meeting.*’ MOTION CARRIED (9:28 PM)