

## **MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2022**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

A regular meeting of Council was held May 9, 2022, at 7:00 PM with Mayor Campbell presiding. All members of Council and Clerk were present.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved by Councillor Colwell and seconded by Councillor Gallant that *'The Agenda be approved with the addition of a Land discussion in the Closed Meeting.'* MOTION CARRIED

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

No conflict declared at this time.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

It was moved by Councillor Gallant and seconded by Councillor O'Blenis that *'The Minutes for the Council Meeting held on April 25 be approved.'* MOTION CARRIED

### **MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

No report filed this meeting. Councillor Gallant commented that road patching and line-painting are both expected to take place soon, based on his May 6 meeting with the Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works. Street sweeping has taken place. Also, various estimates are being obtained for different jobs, and a drainage issue on Maplehurst Drive is being looked into.

### **PRESENTATION – Mike Holland, MLA Albert**

Council met with Albert MLA and Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development Mike Holland, who pledged to fully support the many opportunities faced by Salisbury, which he says has great potential.

Route 112 Bridge – The Petitcodiac River bridge on Route 112 has been reduced to one lane of light-controlled traffic since last Fall. With a projected multi-million-dollar repair cost, MLA Holland said repairs would not take place in 2022 considering the limitations in funding both for the Albert riding and the New Brunswick Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (NBDTI). Discussion touched on the importance of the bridge to the region's tourism potential, suggesting the Salisbury highway exit could be promoted as the Gateway to Fundy, which could open new avenues of funding. Mayor Campbell said he has been in talks with MLA Holland regarding this multi-faceted tourism angle and will make a presentation to Council in the future.

School Needs – Discussion touched on the need for a new elementary school and the need for repairs to the parking lots at the middle-high school complex. MLA Holland stressed his primary focus is a new school with a moderate fix for the parking lots. His executive assistant, Ron Hatfield, interjected that one possibility is to use reclaimed asphalt for parking lot repairs. Mayor Campbell made the point that the two issues are separate, and attention to one should not take away from the other. Councillor Thorne questioned the recent decision by the education department to build an elevator in the aging elementary school, suggesting that investment sends a message that a replacement building is not going to be approved in the near future.

ATV Access to Streets – MLA Holland expressed support for street access for all-terrain vehicles on the explanation that it would not be a free-for-all and would have strict guidelines as to which roads are approved for specific purposes. He urged Council to contact his office as soon as it is ready to proceed so he can help pursue the highway-access permits for the routes that are under the jurisdiction of the New Brunswick government, hopefully in time for this year.

Water Plan – Councillor Hamer raised the need for a municipal water source near their north boundary to service current and future development in the highway area. MLA Holland said a formal water plan is needed since the provincial and federal governments would be involved.

Future Fire Station – MLA Holland expressed support for construction of a new fire hall in Salisbury, which Councillor Hamer explained should begin in another year to year-and-a-half on municipal land on Main Street. On the question of accessing a higher government contribution, Councillor Hamer pointed out that the Provincial government controls the funding. MLA Holland suggested a climate change component in the project would likely help secure funds.

Local Governance Reform – MLA Holland offered to help broker meetings with the various parties involved in municipal reform but insisted he would not get involved directly as it is not his government department. Using NB's current Regional Fire Dispatch as an example of a program being more costly than alternative methods, Councillor Hamer predicts bureaucracy will continue to expand, in turn costing municipalities and individuals more money in service fees and taxes. MLA Holland agreed but said he would have to inquire about the financial impact.

Taxes – MLA Holland offered the advice that Council's top priority should be its taxes.

Route 106 Culvert – Mayor Campbell said he is led to believe that a proper replacement culvert is on order with NBDTI. The culvert suffered a washout during flooding on February 17-18.

Mayor Campbell and Council thanked MLA Holland for meeting with them, after which he again expressed his appreciation for Council and the community, urging Council to reach out to him with written requests that can be filed and followed up on. Further discussion briefly touched on the upcoming gun show at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 31, noting the event was fully booked and is expected to be well attended.

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

## RECESS

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor Gallant to '*Return to the regular meeting.*' MOTION CARRIED

## **2021 FINANCIAL AUDITED REPORT – Janet Ross, Ernst & Young**

Janet Ross, Senior Manager Assurance Services with the Dieppe office of accounting firm EY (Ernst & Young), joined the meeting to present the 2021 Audited Financial Statements. This is the 10th year using Public Sector Accounting Standards, or PSAS, as opposed to the former standards prescribed by the Province (former PNB requirements). As a result, a few adjustments were required. This impacted the financial position and annual surplus.

The audit showed the following results:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
	(Per PSAS requirements)	
<u>General Capital Fund</u>		
Capital Assets	\$ 8,472,536	\$ 8,696,618
<u>General Operating Fund</u>		
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	\$ 114,448	\$ 308,855
	\$ 4,346	\$ (15,772) per former PNB requirements
<u>Utility Capital Fund</u>		
Capital Assets	\$ 3,183,014	\$ 3,049,896
<u>Utility Operating Fund</u>		
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	\$ 1,599	\$ 2,202 per former PNB requirements
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,155	\$ (19,587)
<u>Reserve Funds</u>		
General Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 138,071	\$ 298,408
Utility Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 708,500	\$ 711,118

**Discussion, Questions, and Comments:**

Sewer Arrears – Janet Ross touched on capital assets and sewer fund collectability as key issues. Regarding the latter, it was noted that a small percentage of customers account for most of the problem. Discussion touched on the various options available with regards to collecting arrears.

Net Debt – At \$64,428, the Village is on the healthy side, not carrying a great deal of debt.

Accumulated Surplus – With \$11,682,086 in accumulated surplus or equity, the Village is in a favourable position.

Debt Ratio – Salisbury’s fiscal services ratio of 4.2 per cent is considered low for a municipality, but not low enough, 0-2 per cent for example, to suggest a lack of investment in its assets.

Mayor Campbell and Council thanked Janet Ross for her presentation of the 2021 Audited Financial Statements.

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor Gallant that *‘The Village of Salisbury accept the 2021 Audited Financial Statements as presented.’* MOTION CARRIED  
Mayor and Clerk signed the audited financial statements. Copies to be forwarded to the Minister as required.

It was moved by Councillor Gallant and seconded by Councillor Thorne 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

**DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL RECREATION AND WELLNESS REPORT**

Nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Ballfield Electrical Shed**

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor O’Blenis that ‘*The Mayor and Council of the Village of Salisbury purchase a new Electrical Building for the Salisbury ballfields from Graves Barns & Buildings Ltd. for a price of \$13,700.00 plus HST of \$2,055.00.*’ On the question, it was confirmed for Councillor Hamer that the Village’s insurance will not cover any portion of the purchase of the building, although insurance will cover the equipment contained inside the building. The current electrical building was recently vandalized, with equipment inside stolen. MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**Railway Trestle (Bridge)**

Nothing to report.

**By-Law Review**

Following a recent review session, Council decided against proceeding with a new Procedure By-Law due to local governance reform. The new government entity beginning in 2023 will be required to create its own by-laws. This item will be removed from the agenda.

**MacDonald Road Property**

Mayor Campbell and Councillor O’Blenis to bring a recommendation to Council in June.

**All-Terrain Vehicles**

Councillors Colwell, Gallant, and O’Blenis have reviewed the results of a posted survey gauging the interest in street access for all-terrain vehicle users and will continue to pursue the next steps in the possible creation of a related by-law. It was pointed out by Councillor Colwell that about 70 per cent of the survey responses were in favour of street access. Councillor Gallant commented that the complaints in the survey are manageable.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**NB Commissioner on Systemic Racism, Manju Varma – Invitation to provide written submission in advance of comprehensive review of systemic racism in New Brunswick**

Letter received from New Brunswick Commissioner on Systemic Racism Manju Varma invites Council to provide a written submission in advance of her comprehensive review of systemic racism in the province. It is requested that the submission focus on Council’s thoughts on diversity and inclusion, and offer any concerns and recommendations. Mayor Campbell will prepare a letter for Council’s consideration in advance of the May 31 deadline.

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

The April building permit report submitted by Plan 360 contains only one item for Salisbury -- a two-story house. Council questioned the stated estimated value of \$167,000, saying it seemed too low to be correct. Plan 360 will be asked to clarify.

Service New Brunswick, Hon. Mary Wilson, Minister Re: CANOE Procurement Group of Canada – New conditions imposed regarding the procurement of goods and services

Councillor Hamer said it appears from this letter from Service New Brunswick Minister Mary Wilson that the Provincial government is at odds with the CANOE Procurement Group of Canada, noting he has been advised to remain patient. Salisbury was recently approved for membership with CANOE as a means of procuring goods and services. However, the Province, in keeping with its New Brunswick First Procurement Strategy, strongly encourages municipalities to Think NB when making purchasing decisions.

NB Department of Transportation and Infrastructure – 2022 Maintenance Agreement

The Village's annual maintenance agreement with NBDTI is unchanged from 2021 in that the Province maintains all 24.738 kilometres of NB kilometrage within the Salisbury Village limits, while the Village maintains all 34.319 kilometres of municipal kilometrage. Mayor Campbell to sign and send the 2022 agreement.

Fort Folly Habitat Recovery, Edmund Redfield – Flood damage to restored riverbank

Fort Folly Habitat Recovery (FFHR), which led restoration efforts along the eroding northside riverbank in Salisbury, has been in contact with the Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works regarding damage to the riverbank caused by flooding on February 17-18 as detailed in an April 20 report provided by 5R Environmental Consulting Inc. FFHR will repair the damage over the next several weeks. Project signage was also discussed.

Service NB, Celeste Savoie, Executive Director, Procurement Enablement Re: Exemptions

Enclosed with this letter from SNB Procurement Enablement Executive Director Celeste Savoie is the form issued for entities to submit when using an alternative procurement method. Such public tender award notices must also be posted on the NB Opportunities Network.

**RCMP REPORT**

Councillor Hamer alluded to efforts to launch a new Neighbourhood Watch program with a public meeting planned for June at Salisbury Lions Club involving the RCMP and NB Department of Justice and Public Safety SCAN Unit (Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods).

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

No report this meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Atlantic Wellness Anniversary Celebration – On April 28, attended the Atlantic Wellness 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Moncton, bringing greetings from the Village of Salisbury. Acknowledged the valuable service provided to youth in Greater Moncton, including Salisbury.

Horizon Health Community Action Committee – On May 2, hosted a meeting of the Horizon Health Community Action Committee. Among the many discussion topics were the aging demographic, food security, local mental health resources, youth volunteerism and leadership, and the need for a transition house for youth.

Canada Day in Havelock – Havelock to host a Canada Day celebration as part of its Homecoming events, which are held every four years.

Helping Hands Food Bank – Due to difficult economic circumstances for many families, Helping Hands has seen a significant increase in its needs. The food bank will be invited to attend a future meeting of Council.

Grants – Horizon COIN-G small grants valued at \$1,000 each can now be applied for.

Barn on Main Street – Work on the roof will begin shortly, according to the property owner.

Pharmacy – COVID-19 vaccinations are ongoing at Salisbury pharmacy.

Nurse Practitioner – Nurse Practitioner working out of the Horizon Health office at Salisbury Pharmacy remains very busy. This is such a vital service for the community.

Albert MLA – Last week, met with Albert MLA Mike Holland for their regular meeting.

Housing Symposium – The previous week in Saint John, attended a Housing Symposium at which a number of municipalities were in attendance. The province is facing a housing crisis. Housing prices in New Brunswick have jumped by 34.1 per cent – the highest provincial increase in Canada; whereas, the national average increase is 11.3 per cent. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports the average rent in New Brunswick has seen a year-over-year increase of 8.6 per cent, while the national average is 3.4 per cent.

Economic Development – On May 6, joined the Mayor of Memramcook in a meeting with economic development officers in Moncton, Dieppe, and Riverview. Also met with Mayor of Dieppe.

## **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

### **Councillor Colwell**

Nothing to report.

### **Councillor Gallant**

Nothing to report.

### **Councillor Hamer**

Future Fire Hall – A sign is ready that will indicate the site of the planned new fire hall, and will be installed at the Main Street property sometime in the next few weeks as part of a press event. Neighbours were warmly receptive to the prospects of having a fire station built next door.

### **Councillor O'Blenis**

Nothing to report.

**Councillor Thorne**

Grant for Training – A \$4,000 grant received by the Village of Salisbury will enable the entire Department of Recreation and Wellness to receive training on the topics of physical literacy and learning what motivates children to participate in sports.

Minor Soccer – Soccer registration is underway. The Petittcodiac field will be used again this Summer. The Salisbury field is not available again this year.

Salisbury Lions Pool – Pool registration will begin shortly.

Canada Day and Salisbury Community Days – Met on May 6 with Village Administration staff to discuss plans for Canada Day and Community Days.

**CLERK’S REPORT**

Professional Development – Clerk will be away from the Village Office on May 11-12 for Municipal Money Matters course in Hanwell, New Brunswick.

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

**CLOSED MEETING – Land.**

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

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, May 24, 2022.**

**ADJOURN**

It was moved by Councillor Thorne and seconded by Councillor O’Blenis to *‘Adjourn the meeting.’* MOTION CARRIED (10:35 PM)