



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MINUTES**

Monday, June 26, 2023, 6:00 pm

Members Present: Mayor Robert Campbell
Councillor Phyllis Bannister
Councillor Sarah Colwell
Councillor Joe D'Ettore
Councillor John-Wiebe Dykstra
Councillor Jason Gallant
Councillor Nathan O'Blenis
Councillor Stephanie Thorne

Staff Present: Austin Henderson, CAO
Dianne Ayles, Clerk/Treasurer
Scott Landry, Assistant Clerk

Staff Absent: Lorie Paterson, Administrative Assistant
Massimo Caracristi, Regional Director of Recreation and
Wellness
Trevor Douthwright, Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works
Bradley MacLeod, Fire Chief

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: The Agenda be adopted.

Moved by: Councillor Thorne

Seconded by: Councillor Colwell

CAO inquired about a couple of amendments to the agenda. The decision was then made to amend the motion to include some amendments.

MOTION: To adopt the agenda with the following amendments: switch the order of items 4.1 and 4.2. and add one item for discussion in Closed Session of a legal nature (68(1)(f) Local Governance Act).

Moved by: Councillor Gallant

Seconded by: Councillor Thorne

Motion Carried

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

No conflicts declared at this time.

4. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation: Southeast District RCMP, Caledonia Regional Detachment - Cpl. Kevin Glode

Cpl. Glode joined Council to take any questions concerning local policing. He stressed the importance of citizens reporting criminal activity to police. Crime, in general, is up everywhere, including cases of phone fraud. Further discussion touched on the importance of video evidence in investigations, recommending dash-cams in vehicles; and the effectiveness of radar speed signs in areas prone to incidents of speeding.

Councillor John-Wiebe Dykstra joined the meeting at 6:25 pm.

2. Presentation: Food Cycle Science - Impact Canada Food Waste Pilot Program - Kassia Regnier

Joining Council virtually was Kassia Regnier of Ottawa-based company Food Cycle Science on the topic of Food Waste Reduction, with a proposal to partner with the municipality on a environmental impact reduction pilot project in which food waste is reduced through the use of countertop appliance-style "FoodCycler" devices. The presentation was received as information without any decision by Council. Questions and discussion by Council touched on whether or not there would be an economic benefit to such a partnership, given the fact the municipality already has a set tipping-fee with the Eco360 solid waste facility, while it was acknowledged there would be an environmental benefit. More information would have to be gathered before any commitment could be considered. Food Cycle Science partners with 92 municipalities in Canada including, in New Brunswick, Rothesay and Grand Manan.

3. Presentation: Salisbury Public Library - Cathy MacDonald, Library Manager

As it was her first appearance before the current Council, Cathy MacDonald gave an overview of the many services provided by Salisbury Public Library and the wider New Brunswick Public Library Network, including the option of borrowing books by mail, borrowing musical instruments (two guitars and two ukuleles) and board games, also noting the library's reading and children's programs, public access computers, the seminars they host on occasion, and also how they have passes to New Brunswick tourism attractions. It was also announced that the library in Salisbury will be adding a second permanent employee. Further discussion touched on the need for additional space.

MOTION: Enter into a Recess.

Moved by: Councillor Thorne

Seconded by: Councillor Gallant

Motion Carried

RECESS

MOTION: Return to the Regular meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Gallant

Seconded by: Councillor Bannister

Motion Carried

4. May 2023 Financial Statements

Clerk provided Council with an updated Profit-Loss Budget vs. Actual. Overall, Salisbury is at 31.2 per cent of total expenses to date.

5. Tax Rate Differential & Municipal Commission

CAO provided information for Council discussion.

Concerning the Tax Rate Differential Regulation of the Local Governance Act, for which the deadline to provide input passed June 22, Council discussed how this restricts the municipality's control over its own budgets going forward as the regulation contains a 10-year cap on tax rate increases in the former local service districts.

Mayor Campbell referenced this annual five-cent cap, noting that the Province broke its own rule by exceeding that cap with in the inaugural

budget for Salisbury which, as mentioned previously, was delivered to the municipality by the provincially-appointed local governance reform transition facilitator.

The municipality will request clarification that the mandatory regional service commission fees will be kept separate from any cap. Mayor Campbell stated that if this is not the case, if the service commission rate increases were to exceed the five-cent cap it would result in the former Village (now Ward 3) having to subsidize the entire Salisbury region. To Mayor Campbell's suggestion that service cuts could result, Councillor Dykstra said it would limit growth, while Councillor D'Ettore used the term "handcuff" to describe the impact on the municipality going forward.

Meantime, with regards to the New Brunswick Government's Bill 45, its contained Ministerial authority over municipal decision-making has become a primary focus of NB municipal advocacy organizations, as indicated by the provided materials. Council's concerns include the limitations that could be placed on elected Council by the planned new Municipal Commission, and the individual-driven process that could result in the Province overturning municipal by-laws. Councillor D'Ettore is concerned about possible abuse of this by individuals or groups. CAO added such challenges could also prove costly to the municipality.

Concerns raised by Council also included the questioned need for this new legislation if some its safeguards already exist in other forms, and the ambiguity of the Bill's language. Administration will request clarification of Bill 45 from the Department of Environment and Local Government.

6. PPP/Circular Materials Briefing

The purpose of this presentation was to provide Council with information on the PPP (packaging and paper products) program being implemented in New Brunswick.

In the coming months, municipalities in phase one of the PPP/Circular Materials program will be undergoing changes to the collection methods, contracts, etc., depending on where they are and what is currently in place. Where some local governments will be going through this process, Salisbury Administration wanted to brief Council on the program proactively before the roll-out for our area in 2024.

Background: In October 2021, the Government of New Brunswick amended the Designated Materials Regulation under the Clean Environment Act to establish an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging and paper products in the province. The Regulation requires brand owners to develop a Stewardship Plan for packaging and paper products. Producers may designate an agent to carry out their regulatory obligations, including submitting a Stewardship Plan. Circular Materials is the agent in New Brunswick.

On behalf of its brand owners, Circular Materials has submitted to Recycle NB a final Stewardship Plan, which has been approved.

Consistent with the definitions in section 2 of the Designated Materials Regulation, the Stewardship Plan includes the following paper categories:

- Newspapers
- Newsprint (inserts and circulars)
- Magazines and Catalogues
- Directories
- Paper for General Use
- Purchased Posters, Calendars, Greeting Cards and Envelopes
- Other Printed Materials

Packaging and packaging-like products:

- Packaging includes primary packaging, convenience packaging, and transport packaging
- Packaging-like products include single-use products regardless of whether they can be re-used or not

In essence, if municipalities do not sign agreements with Circular Materials, then recyclables (blue bags) will be contracted through Circular Materials on our behalf. Our contracts currently include all waste to be collected.

With an agreement, municipalities with existing contracts have right of first refusal. Circular Materials establishes payments for these municipalities for completing the collection on its behalf.

Zone 1 has a deadline of July 21 to confirm if they will be signing contracts with Circular Materials. This timeline does not apply to our region.

Southeast Regional Service Commission continues conversations for a regional approach as we are in phase 2 of the roll-out program (in 2024). Salisbury has provided requested information (waste collection contract information and values for the contracts).

Circular Materials has also indicated that the current recycling sorting facilities (in our case, Eco360) will continue to be the entity that will receive the recyclables for the next five years.

Additional information is available on the Circular Materials website.

CAO noted that this will impact the blue bag program in the Southeast region and will more than likely affect solid waste collection contracts when they are up for renewal.

5. CLOSED SESSION - Land (68(1)(d) Local Governance Act), Legal (68(1)(f) Local Governance Act)

As stated in Item 2 of the Agenda, an item of Legal consideration was added to the Closed Session.

MOTION: Enter into a Closed Session.

Moved by: Councillor Thorne

Seconded by: Councillor Bannister

Motion Carried

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Return to the Regular Meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Colwell

Seconded by: Councillor Dykstra

Motion Carried

6. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS' STATEMENTS/INQUIRIES

SRS Graduation - Councillor Colwell pointed out that the Salisbury Regional School graduation ceremony was beautiful.

ParticipACTION Community Challenge Update - Salisbury was in third-place in Canada behind Red Deer, Alberta and just ahead of North Grenville, Ontario. Residents were encouraged to remain active as the Challenge enters its final week.

Canada Day - Salisbury's Canada Day event will take place on July 1 at Highland Park, weather permitting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting. (8:38 pm)

Moved by: Councillor Thorne

Seconded by: Councillor Bannister

Motion Carried

Chair

Clerk