COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, February 24, 2025, 6:00 PM

Members Present:	Mayor Rob Campbell Councillor Jason Gallant Councillor Sarah Colwell Councillor Joe D'Ettore Deputy Mayor Nathan O'Blenis Councillor Stephanie Thorne Councillor John-Wiebe Dykstra
Members Absent:	Councillor Phyllis Bannister
Staff Present:	Austin Henderson, CAO Massimo Caracristi, Director of Recreation and Wellness Trevor Douthwright, Manager of Infrastructure and Public Works Kate Doucette, Coordinator of Events and Strategic Projects Scott Landry, Assistant Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was noted Item 4.1 would not take place due to the presenters being unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Their presentation will be rescheduled.

Moved by: Councillor Gallant
Seconded by: Councillor D'Ettore

THAT The Agenda be adopted.

Motion Carried

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Mayor Campbell noted that Conflict of Interest Declaration forms are on the Council Table should any councillor need to fill one out to submit to the Clerk.

4. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation – Horizon Health Community Health Needs Assessment - Amy O'Keefe, Kristin Saunders

   As was stated in Item 2, the presenters were unable to attend the meeting due to illness, so this presentation will be rescheduled to a future meeting of Town Council.

2. Presentation – Zoning By-law Consolidations

   It was explained that Town Council has been working with Southeast Regional Service Commission/Plan 360 planner Lori Bickford on a consolidation of the Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law for the former Village of Salisbury with the Westmorland-Albert Planning Area Rural Plan Regulation, which covers the sections of surrounding former local service districts that became part of the new Town of Salisbury in 2023. This exercise intended to combine the pre-existing regional documents, which were most recently updated independently of one another in 2021 (Village documents) and 2022 (Westmorland-Albert plan), into one consolidated set of documents for the Town of Salisbury as a whole. As stated in the preliminary staff report from Plan 360, even though these plans were separate when created, many of their goals and objectives were consistent with regards to land-use activities, making for an ideal opportunity to undertake this consolidation process.

   Lori Bickford proceeded to highlight the resulting modifications from this consolidation process, as were provided in a document attached to the meeting agenda.

   To describe the roles played by the documents in question, a municipal plan reflects the long-term planning vision that guides a community, while the zoning by-law is the day-to-day development tool.

   One section of note in the zoning document concerned the production of marijuana/cannabis. In the former WA plan, production of cannabis outdoors was permitted in the Rural zoning, while indoor production was not and required a rezoning to an allowable use zone; however, any cannabis production facility in the former Village of Salisbury (now Ward 3), indoor or outdoor, required an Industrial zoning. The proposed consolidation followed the former village plan in that cannabis production, whether it be an indoor facility or outdoors, anywhere in the entire Town of Salisbury would require an Industrial zone designation.

   Following her rundown of the consolidation was the following motion:

Moved by: Councillor Thorne
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor O'Blenis

WHEREAS Council has considered repealing By-law No. 50, “The Village of Salisbury Municipal Plan” and By-law No. 51, “The Village of Salisbury Zoning By-law” along with the portion of the Westmorland-Albert Planning Area Regulation 21-WAP-069-00 that affects properties in the new municipal entity and adopting a new Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law for the Town of Salisbury;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Salisbury directs that the appropriate by-laws be prepared to adopt a Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law for the Town; that the proposed by-laws be referred to the Southeast Planning Review and Adjustment Committee for their views; that the notice of intention requirements of the *Community Planning Act* be fulfilled with respect to the proposed amendments, and sets the Committee of the Whole Meeting on **Monday, March 24, 2025,** at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Office, 56 Douglas Street, Salisbury, NB as the date, time and place for the **Public Presentation** of Council’s intent to amend the Municipal Plan and sets the Committee of the Whole meeting on **Monday, April 28, 2025,** at the Municipal Office, 56 Douglas Street, Salisbury, NB at 6:00 pm as the date, time and place for the **Public Hearing** of consideration of objections to the proposed by-laws.

On the Question, Councillors raised some topics, including tiny homes and garden suites to name two, but it was reiterated by the Plan 360 presenter that this activity was simply a consolidation of the two existing documents as opposed to full planning for a renewed municipal plan, which limits the visioning or re-visioning at this stage.

Motion Carried

3. Presentation – Overview of Salisbury 250

A presentation by Salisbury Events and Community Development Coordinator Kate Doucette provided a detailed overview of the various events held during all of 2024 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the permanent settlement of what is now Salisbury by immigrants from Yorkshire, England. As noted in the presentation, celebrations also made sure to recognize the legacy of Indigenous and Acadian settlers who occupied the land prior to 1774.

4. Presentation – Overview of Financial Assistance for Recreation (FAR) Program in 2024

Provided background noted that 2024 was the first year for Salisbury's Financial Assistance for Recreation program, or FAR, which was established to promote access for residents of the Town to a wide range of

recreational activities by reducing financial barriers to registration costs and associated expenses. A presentation by Recreation and Wellness Director Massimo Caracristi offered the data produced by the FAR program to date. His department requested a change to the FAR policy allowing applications to the registration support funding stream (known as the Registration Assistance Grant, or RAG) to be accepted during the months of April, May, September, October, and January. Currently, RAG applications are only accepted during three of those months, being May, September, and January. However, during discussion this meeting with Council, some Councillors expressed a desire to do away with specific application windows altogether and instead have FAR open year-round for applications. In further discussion to that possibility, it was suggested that funding for FAR become budgeted quarterly to eliminate the possibility, for example, of all of the funding being distributed in the earlier quarters, draining the available budget before later-season activities and programs.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor O'Blenis
Seconded by: Councillor Thorne

THAT Council approves the changes to the FAR policy in principle for ratification at the next meeting of Council.

Motion Carried

5. Crosswalk Study Report

The Salisbury Crosswalk Priority Study, which was completed this past Fall for the Town by engineering consultants Englobe, stemmed from a formal request made last Summer by the Boys and Girls Club of Salisbury for a new crosswalk at Fredericton Road and Kay Street.

It was noted by the CAO that there were also informal requests for new crosswalks at other locations in the downtown area.

Moved by: Councillor Dykstra
Seconded by: Councillor Gallant

THAT Salisbury Town Council direct staff to implement the recommendations in the Salisbury Crosswalk Priority Study.

On the Question, there was brief discussion of other priority new crosswalks, including ones on Main Street near the Library and in the area of an access point to the Town's new trail; that is, the trail that links Highland Park with Parkin Street.

Motion Carried

6. GNB 2025-2026 Budget Submission

As explained by the CAO and in documents provided for Council, the New Brunswick Government is currently accepting submissions in advance of its 2025-'26 budget, allowing an opportunity for continued advocacy by the Town for continued provincial-municipal collaboration. The proposed Town submission requests: (1) fiscal reform to help municipalities; (2) infrastructure investments, specifically replacements of the WM-32 Bridge, the P380 culvert, and Salisbury Elementary School; (3) funding to support municipal housing initiatives; and (4) Provincial funding to improve rural cellular reception and internet connectivity.

Moved by: Councillor Colwell
Seconded by: Councillor Thorne

THAT Council approve the draft letter to the Government of New Brunswick for the 2025-2026 Budget Priorities and direct Administration to send the submission to the Province.

Motion Carried

5. CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session this meeting.

6. MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS' STATEMENTS/INQUIRIES

WinterFest Success - Mayor Campbell thanked staff, Council, and volunteers for their hard work on WinterFest events, which were spread over two separate weekends this month. It was originally planned to have both days of events held during the third weekend of February, but the day-two events, or Family Day events, had to be postponed one week due to a Winter storm.

Former Councillor Ayles - On behalf of the Town, Mayor Campbell expressed condolences to the family of the late Allan Ayles, who recently passed away and who was a longtime councillor for the Village of Salisbury.

Library Milestone - Councillor Thorne shared that this year marks the 45th year of operation for the Salisbury Public Library. The milestone date is in November.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Councillor Thorne
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor O'Blenis

THAT the meeting be adjourned. (7:18 PM)

Motion Carried

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Chair

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Clerk