



Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)

Mayor: Garth Gillis; Chief Administrative Officer: Bob Brooks; *Incorporated 1972*

COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Upstairs Hall, Wood Islands Market

IN ATTENDANCE:

Council:	Mayor Garth Gillis (<i>Chair</i>)	Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty
	Councillor Trisha Carter (<i>Regrets</i>)	Councillor Katherine Bryson
	Councillor Billy Gamble	Councillor James Kinnee
	Councillor Charley McGivern	
Administration:	CAO Bob Brooks (<i>Regrets</i>)	Ashley Feschuk (<i>Acting CAO</i>)
Guest Speakers:	RCMP – Staff Sergeant Robinson (<i>Regrets</i>)	
	Rural Outreach Project (Peers Alliance) Angela DesRoches & Tessa Rogers	
Public Attending:	Josh Lewis – Reporter (Eastern Graphic)	
	Sherry Pelkey – Exec. Director (BAWG)	
	Andy Henry – Council Alumni, President (BAWG)	
	Facebook livestream 238 views after 12hours (and counting)	
	10 people watched the livestream in real time.	

***Please Be Aware: RMB Council Meetings are Livestreamed to facebook.com/belfastpei
Livestream Comments are not monitored in real time during the Council Meeting.***

Item Order of Business

1. **Call to Order** - Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gillis at 7:00 PM.

“In the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge that the land upon which our organization stands is unceded Mi’kmaq territory. Epekwitk (PEI), Mi’kma’ki, is covered by the historic Treaties of Peace and Friendship. We pay our respects to the Indigenous Mi’kmaq People who have occupied this Island for over 12,000 years; past, present, and future.”

2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest** - No members of Council declared a conflict of interest with today’s Agenda.

3. **Approval of Agenda** - Any other suggested Agenda Items for today’s meeting? (*four additional items suggested which were placed under Item 16*)

Moved by **Councillor McGivern** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Docherty** to adopt the agenda as amended.

Votes for: 5 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

4. **RCMP Report for the Month of May** (*presented by Acting CAO Ashley Feschuk*) Staff-Sergeant Robinson sent his regrets to Council for being unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict at the last minute. The number of situations slightly higher and Belfast is maintaining the lowest incident rate compared to neighbouring Municipalities. Copies of the monthly RCMP Reports are available to review on the RMB website www.ruralmunicipalityofbelfast.com
5. **Guest Speaker - Rural Outreach Project (Peers Alliance)** – The objectives of this meeting were to define harm reduction outreach, to provide a summary of harm reduction

initiatives (statistics), to describe outcomes and learnings from the PEER Led Rural Outreach Project and to provide an overview of the current Rural Outreach Project. No decisions were made as this was a strictly information session for RMB Council. A full copy of this presentation is available on the RMB website www.ruralmunicipalityofbelfast.com and a livestream of the presentation can be found on the RMB Facebook page www.facebook.com/belfastpei

6. **Public Presentations (if any)** – There were no public presentations.
7. **Adoption of the May 15, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes** (*attached - previously distributed; all changes incorporated*).

Moved by **Councillor Gamble** and seconded by **Councillor Bryson** to approve the Minutes of the May 15, 2024, Council Meeting as presented.

Votes for: 5 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

8. **Business arising - May 15, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes** (*addressed in today's agenda*).
9. **Adoption of May 22, 2024, Special Council Meeting Minutes** (*attached - previously distributed; all changes incorporated*).

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Docherty** and seconded by **Councillor McGivern** to approve the Minutes of May 22, 2024, Special Council Meeting as presented.

Votes for: 5 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

10. **Business arising – May 22, 2024, Special Council Meeting Minutes** (**None**).
11. **CAO Report** (*supplied by CAO - Bob Brooks*)

a) **Financial/Variance/Planning Report**

i. **Provincial Credit Union Account Balances @ June 3, 2024:**

a. Share Acct 001	\$5.44
b. Chequing Acct 010	\$63,967.43
c. Gas Tax (CCBF) Acct 011 (<i>for approved projects</i>)	\$70,840.73
d. Reserve Savings Acct 020	\$37.61
e. Gas Tax (CCBF) GIC Acct 040 (<i>for approved projects</i>)	\$52,016.24
f. Reserve Savings GICs; Acct 041 & 042	\$68,897.01

(Breakdown as approved)

1. RMB Expansion Reserve	\$25,000.00
2. Emergency Preparedness Reserve	\$10,000.00
3. 2 nd Warming Ctr Generator Reserve	\$11,000.00
4. Un-allocated	\$22,897.01
5. (FYI) Remaining Funds in ShopBelfastPEI	\$523.01

b) **Revenues and Expenditures Tracking (2024/25) to May 31, 2024:**

Revenues:	Budgeted	To-Date
i1 – Assessment Income (Commercial & Non-Commercial)	\$377,234	67,502
i2 – GPEI Rink Grant (in)	\$8,500	-
i4 – CCBF (in)	\$92,000	20,695
i5 – Other & BAWG (in)	\$8,363	-
Total	\$486,097	88,197
Expenditures:	Budgeted	To-Date
e1 – Council Remuneration, RMB Payroll, Deductions	\$128,272	20,214

e2 – Travel Allowance	\$1,500	233
e3 – Office Admin (Supplies/Hardware/Lease/Cleaning)	\$20,860	3,654
e4 – Advertising, Promotion & Website	\$2,018	1,312
e5 – Audit, Financial, Bank Fees, Amortization	\$4,715	699
e6 – Insurance, Legal, WCB	\$10,211	-
e7abc – Projects (MEMP/ComPlan/ShopBelfastPEI/Other)	\$3,250	985
e7d – Events (Remembrance/Halloween/Christmas/Other)	\$1,500	-
e8 – Elections or By-Elections	\$500	-
e9 – FPEIM, FCM, Prof Fees, Conferences, Workshops	\$5,467	3,717
e10 – Miscellaneous	\$750	-
e11 – Fire Protection Grant	\$115,000	20,000
e12 – GPEI Rink Grant (out) & BAWG (out)	\$14,863	-
e13 – Community Grants	\$69,900	20,816
i4 – CCBF (out)	\$92,000	20,695
e14 – Contingency	\$1,000	-
e15 – 2 nd Warming Ctr Generator & RMB Share	\$10,814	-
e16 – Warming Ctr Operations (Belfast Rec Ctr/WIADC)	\$2,416	2,416
Total	\$485,037	94,741
	=====	=====
Change in Fund Balance (Net)	\$1,061	-6,544

Revenues, Expenditures and Community Grants are on track after 2nd month of fiscal year. Monthly revenues from PEI Assessment are slightly higher than what was provided to RMB for Budgeting by (\$2,818/mth) and the Negative balance for this month is due to timely Community Grants Payouts.

12. **Official Community Plan and Development Bylaw:** RMB has secured a date with Lands to meet with Council “IN CAMERA” at the end of the regularly scheduled Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday September 18th at 7pm. The “IN CAMERA” portion of this meeting will not be open to the public and is in regards to process-clarification. **Process:** FOTENN has revised the Draft documents, based on the comments heard from the public and Council in 2022 – Now on the RMB Website for further public review. Council will resume public discussions and a meeting has now been confirmed for Wednesday September 25th at 7pm. This meeting will be open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend this discussion.
13. **Annexation Exercise (presented by Councillor Bryson)** The Annexation Sub-Committee (ASC) met on May 1, 2024 to discuss the next steps for moving forward with the Annexation Exercise for RMB. Items discussed included: Funding for the Exercise; Communities Involved (*attached*); Process Parameters with FOTENN; Parallel Process with Community Plan; and possible Timelines. Next public ASC meeting planned for July 3, 2024.
14. **shopbelfastpei Update (Councillor Carter)** Shop Belfast PEI is rolling along nicely. So far, I was able to make promotional clips for the launch, Belfast Tulips, Broken Rock Fossil Shop, Wood Islands Market Liquor & Commissary and Island Pride Garden Company. In the next few weeks the plan is to assist in promoting several other participants on our social media pages. The grand opening of the Belfast lavender labyrinth is on Saturday June 29th at 2pm which RMB staff will attend to show support for this new local business endeavor.
15. **Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) (presented by Acting CAO – Ashley Feschuk) - Hazard Risk Assessment Meeting** Several local organizations have confirmed that they will be in attendance for this meeting and it has been confirmed to go ahead on June 26th @ 7:00 pm, Upstairs at the Wood Islands Market (13056 Shore Road).
16. **New Business for the Agenda (as discussed in Approval of Agenda, Item 3 above)**

- a) **Selkirk Road Concerns – Update** (presented by Deputy Mayor Docherty) A meeting with PEI Engineering Assistant Michael Stewart on May 27th took place on site at the Orwell end of the Selkirk Road and concluding at the end of the junction in Iona. An audit of this road is going forward and photos/measurements were taken. Noteworthy items included flashing lights and the difference in the stop sign placement. The audit will look at speed, traffic counts and width of roads. Some solutions discussed were LED glow in the dark stop signs and painting the road shoulders to help reduce speeds. This process can take time and RMB will continue to provide updates on this ongoing issue.
- b) **Belfast Days – Save the Date** (presented by Deputy Mayor Docherty) Belfast Days is on Friday June 21st – Sunday June 23rd 2024 at Pinette Raceway! A big Thank-you to all this year's sponsors along with the Eastern Graphic for the article written by Kyle Cotton to help promote this year's activities. PEI Community Navigators has also helped to boost this event, thank-you to them as well. The film for Movie night on Friday June 21st has been chosen – Night at the Museum, starring Ben Stiller (rated PG). Fireworks Show is on Saturday June 22nd being produced by Fireworks FX from Halifax. Sunday is harness racing and all proceeds go to Make-A-Wish. The Baroness Ambassador of Make-A-Wish this year is ten-year-old Syrianna De Sousa, she will be in the parade and handing out prizes. Belfast Roadhouse and Lounge, Bar Vela, Iona Sweets and The Sweet Company will all be on-site as well this weekend. There is a full agenda of all the weekend activities located on the RMB Facebook Page and the Belfast Days 2024 Event Page. Thank-you to Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty and her team of volunteers for pulling this all together. This is a great opportunity to come out and celebrate how wonderful our community is, hope to see you there!
- c) **Community Pantry Update** (presented by Councillor Bryson) No formal update at this time however, the need is up again and donations are going out just as quickly as they are coming in. The pantry is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for pick-up or donations drop off. Monetary donations can be made at Vissers office located at 6346 Trans Canada Hwy. Donations can also be made at the RMB office during business hours. Thank-you to all who continue to donate and support those in need in our community.
- d) **Pride** (presented by Councillor Bryson) Happy Pride Month 2024 to everyone celebrating this year! Have a safe and happy Pride Season.
- e) **Federation of Prince Edward Island Municipalities FPEIM Report** (presented by Councillor Bryson) Municipal Infrastructure fund was launched last week however, RMB does not qualify for funding. These funds are only accessible to Municipalities with sewer at this time. State of the Island report is due to be released this Summer 2024. FPEIM is preparing for the annual meeting with Rob Lantz (Housing Minister) this Fall and will be asking and addressing the incentives for restructuring. In the FPEIM Presidents report it was announced that a new communications assistant has been hired for the Summer. The Fostering Resilience program has continued and had their first session – this is open to all CAOs and Councillors who identify as women. The Rural Municipality of Belfast is happy and proud to announce that Councillor Katherine Bryson is the new Vice President of Rural Municipalities for the FPEIM. Congratulations Councillor Katherine Bryson!
- f) **Polly Park** (presented by Councillor Bryson) A concerned resident was inquiring about whose responsibility it was to maintain this piece of land. After some research it turns out the land is privately owned. No further action will be taken on this issue since it seems that the lawn was mowed recently.

- g) **Musicabilia** (presented by Acting CAO – Ashley Feschuk) Crimson Clay The Band will be performing to raise donation funds for PEI Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Inc. (11-3pm) at the 2nd Annual Musicabilia show on Saturday July 20th 10-4pm. This is the first year that there will be live music at the Wood Islands Market, so come and check them out! There will also be a BBQ and music sale happening upstairs. This event is a Wood Islands and Area Development Corporation initiative and admission to the music sale is \$2 – proceeds going to the Wood Islands Lighthouse Restoration Project.
17. **Next Meetings:**
- a. **MEMP – Hazard Risk Assessment Mtg for Council** – June 26, 2024 @ 7:PM – Wood Islands Market Meeting Hall - Upstairs
 - b. **ASC – Committee Mtg** – July 3, 2024 @ 7:PM – RMB Office, Wood Islands Market
 - c. **No Regular Council Mtg for July 2024**
 - d. **Resumption of RMB Official Plan and Development Bylaw Discussions** – Community Meeting September 25, 2024 @7:PM – Wood Islands Market Meeting Hall- Upstairs
18. **Adjournment** – As there is no further business...

Moved by **Councillor Gamble** to adjourn the meeting at: **8:27pm**