



Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)

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

COUNCIL MEETING - AGENDA

Monday, April 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM

Upstairs Hall, Wood Islands Market

- Council: Mayor Garth Gillis (*Chair*) Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty
 Councillor Katherine Bryson Councillor Trisha Carter
 Councillor Billy Gamble Councillor Charley McGivern
 Councillor James Kinnee
- Administration: CAO Bob Brooks Ashley Feschuk
- Guest Speakers: Mr. Jeff Joyce – Northumberland Ferries
 Mr. Keir White – Belfast Community Development Corp. (BCDC)
- Public Speakers: Open...

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 Livestream Comments are not monitored in real time during the Council Meeting.
 Visitors – Please remember to sign in – thank you.***

Item Order of Business

1. **Call to Order** – Council Meeting to be 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** – Do any members of Council have a conflict of interest with any items on today’s Agenda?
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Any other suggested Agenda Items for today’s meeting? (*to be placed under Item 14*)

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____
 to adopt the agenda as presented/amended.
 Votes for: ____ Votes against: ____ Result: _____

4. **RCMP Report for the Month of March** (*Admin - Ashley Feschuk*)
5. **Guest Speaker – Mr. Jeff Joyce – Northumberland Ferries Ltd.**

6. **Guest Speaker – Mr. Keir White – Belfast Community Development Corporation**

7. **Public Presentations (if any)** – (*Members of the public are offered five minutes to make a presentation to Council. After the five minutes are up, the Presenter may ask for an extension – only granted if UNANIMOUS consent of Council is given. Following the presentation, Council may or may not ask questions*)
 - a) ??? _____

8. **Adoption of the March 19, 2025, Council Meeting Minutes** (*attached - previously distributed; all changes incorporated*).

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2025, Council Meeting as presented.
 Votes for: _____ Votes against: _____ Result: _____

9. **CAO Report (CAO – Bob Brooks)**

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

i. **Provincial Credit Union Account Balances @ April 6, 2025:**

a. Share Acct 001	\$5.52
b. Chequing Acct 010	\$94,677.70
c. Gas Tax (CCBF) Acct 011 (<i>for approved projects</i>)	\$57,544.17
d. Reserve Savings Acct 020	\$38.03
e. Reserve Savings GICs; Acct 041	\$48,742.59
(Breakdown as approved)	
1. RMB Expansion Reserve	\$24,656.00
2. Emergency Preparedness Reserve	\$10,000.00
3. Un-allocated	\$14,086.59
4. (FYI) Remaining Funds in ShopBelfastPEI	\$523.01

b) **Revenues and Expenditures Tracking (2024/25) to March 31, 2025:**

Revenues:	Budgeted	To-Date
i1 – Assessment Income (Commercial & Non-Comm)	\$377,234	402,405
i2 – GPEI Rink Grant (<i>in</i>)	8,500	8,500
i4 – CCBF (<i>in</i>)	92,000	45,640
i5 – Other (Gen.) & BAWG (<i>in</i>) & Community Pantry (<i>in</i>)	8,363	61,610
Total	486,097	518,155
Expenditures:	Budgeted	To-Date
e1 – Council Remuneration, RMB Payroll, Deductions	\$128,272	129,036
e2 – Travel Allowance	1,500	1,465
e3 – Office Admin (Supplies/Hardware/Lease/Cleaning)	20,860	22,177
e4 – Advertising, Promotion & Website	2,018	1,961
e5 – Audit, Financial, Bank Fees, Amortization	4,715	5,236
e6 – Insurance, Legal, WCB	10,211	9,610
e7abc – Projects (MEMP/Com.Plan/ShopBelfastPEI/Other)	3,250	2,923
e7d – Events (Remembrance/Halloween/Christmas/Other)	1,500	2,290
e8 – Elections or By-Elections	500	-
e9 – FPEIM, FCM, Prof Fees, Conferences, Workshops	5,467	5,772
e10 – Miscellaneous	750	268
e11 – Fire Protection Grant	115,000	115,000
e12 – GPEI Rink Grant (<i>out</i>) & BAWG & Pantry (<i>out</i>)	14,863	12,850
e13 – Community Grants	69,900	69,900
i4 – CCBF (<i>out</i>)	92,000	45,640
e14 – Contingency	1,000	-
e15 – 2 nd Warming Ctr Generator	10,814	54,009
e16 – Warming Ctr Operations (Belfast Rec Ctr/WIADC)	2,416	2,416
e17 – New Office (New)	0	344
e18 – Dish Washer (ACOA Grant - WIADC) (<i>in/out</i>) (New)	6,100	6,100
Total	491,137	486,997
	=====	=====
Change in Fund Balance (Net)	+\$1,061	+\$31,158

Expenditures and Community Grants are on track after 12 months of the fiscal year. Revenues are more than budgeted, due to the additional monthly GPEI Assessment dollars at (\$2,818) extra per month.

10. **New Municipal Funding Agreement for PEI Municipalities (CAO – Bob Brooks):**
On March 26, 2025, the Director of Municipal Affairs (Christine MacKinnon) informed the RMB about the new GPEI Funding Agreement for PEI Municipalities. Specifically, for RMB, an Annual Grant of \$15,000 will be introduced. These additional funds will be in place for the next two years. Pending completion of the **Municipal Government Act** Review, and the 2026 Statistics Canada Census release, the new funding will be re-evaluated. These additional funds are timely for RMB, as we have just passed our 2025/2026 Budget, where Council directed that we try to find some additional grant funding to help require less funds out of our reserves. RMB continues to search for more grant funding, especially for our new Accessible Deck. Council will continue to receive progress updates.
 11. **Sustainable Two-Ferry Service and Lobby to All Federal Parties (Admin – Ashley Feschuk):** In March of 2025, a Canadian Federal Election was called. Just prior to that call, Premier Rob Lantz announced his support for lowering or eliminating Confederation Bridge Tolls and Wood Island Ferry fees. A concern was raised that one Federal Party might be in favour of cancelling the Wood Island Ferry Service altogether. Consequently, RMB sent a letter (*attached*) to all Federal Parties to secure a written or verbal public commitment for a Sustainable Two-Ferry Service at Wood Islands. Update...
 12. **Cardigan Federal Candidates Debate - Montague - (Admin – Ashley Feschuk):** The Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce recently announced that they will be hosting an All-Candidates Debate for Cardigan on April 16th from 6:pm – 8:pm at the King’s Playhouse, Georgetown – Dedication Hall. Members of Council and Administration have expressed an interest to attend – specifically to push for a commitment from all the Federal Candidates for a Sustainable Two-Ferry Service at Wood Islands. Our regularly scheduled Council Meeting was moved up to today, to allow RMB to be a part of this very important lobby.
 13. **Facebook Update (Admin – Ashley Feschuk)** – Ashley would like to discuss Facebook’s new policy about archiving, as well as an activity report.
 14. **New Business for the Agenda (as discussed in Approval of Agenda, Item 3 above)**
 - a) **Doors Open Downeast (Councillor – Trisha Carter)**
 - b) ???
 15. **Next Meetings:**
 - a. **Regular Council Mtg** – Wednesday, May 21, 2025 @ 7:PM – Upstairs Meeting Hall, Wood Islands Market
 16. **Adjournment** – As there is no further business...
- Moved by _____ to adjourn the meeting at: _____