



Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)

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

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 7:00 PM

RMB Municipal Office, Wood Islands Market

In Attendance:

Council:	Mayor Garth Gillis (<i>Chair</i>)	Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty
	Councillor Katherine Bryson	Councillor Trisha Carter (<i>regrets</i>)
	Councillor Billy Gamble	Councillor James Kinnee
	Councillor Charley McGivern (<i>regrets</i>)	
Administration:	CAO Bob Brooks	Ashley Feschuk
Public:	Joanne Vessey (Fire Dept.) and Richard Hews (Fire Dept.)	

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Livestream Comments are not monitored in real time during the Council Meeting.
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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 in attendance declared a conflict of interest with any items on today’s Agenda.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – As a Special Council Meeting – Members are restricted from adding any other-than-advertised Agenda items.

Moved by **Councillor Kinnee** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Docherty** to adopt the agenda as presented.

Votes for: 4 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

4. **Reserve Funds Bylaw – Second Reading** (*CAO Bob Brooks*) – At the July 30, 2026, Special Council Meeting, Council heard and discussed Reserve Funds Bylaw # 2026-001. Following discussion and amendment, Council gave first reading. This Bylaw now requires second reading and final adoption to go into effect. (*attached*).

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Docherty** and seconded by **Councillor Gamble** to give Second Reading and Adopt Reserve Funds Bylaw # 2026-001 as presented/amended.

Votes for: 4 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

5. **Motion for RMB to be Financing Guarantor for the Firehall Expansion Project** (*CAO Bob Brooks*) – As discussed during the July 30, 2026 Special Council Meeting; to proceed with a financing application of the Belfast Rural Fire Department for the financing of the Firehall Expansion Project, a Motion is now required from RMB. This motion will stipulate to Finance PEI that RMB will be the Guarantor for the financing of the project. The financing ‘Ask’ will be **\$906,500**, as detailed in the *attached* financing detail. \$745,225 will be new financing, while \$161,275 will be bridge financing (acquired funds that will trickle in over 2.5 years). The RMB Motion, will be in the form of a Resolution (*as presented below*):

Resolution # RES 2026-002
Resolution for RMB to be Guarantor for the Firehall Expansion Project

Whereas: The Rural Municipality of Belfast is in support of the Belfast Rural Fire Department's – Firehall Expansion Project, a project that has now been in the works for approximately one and a half years; and

Whereas: The Rural Municipality of Belfast has already provided a contribution toward project estimates; support through the Canada Community Building Fund (100% of notional RMB allocations); and support for the Fire Department Regional Growth Initiative funding allocation, and

Whereas: While the Belfast Rural Fire Department and the Rural Municipality of Belfast continue to search out other funding from other sources, the project has reached a point that Guaranteed financing through Finance PEI is required for progress payments that have already started to flow for payment; and

Whereas: While the Belfast Rural Fire Department is the actual client for the Finance PEI financing, the Rural Municipality of Belfast is required by Finance PEI to be the Guarantor for the financing, as the Rural Municipality of Belfast is the primary source for regular Fire Department funding; and

Whereas: The Rural Municipality of Belfast and the Belfast Rural Fire Department has determined that there is a need to finance up to **\$906,500** (\$745,225 of new funds and \$161,275 for bridge financing for funds to be received) (*as detailed in attachment A*).

Therefor be it Resolved: That the Rural Municipality of Belfast hereby resolves to be the **Guarantor** for the Finance PEI financing of the Belfast Rural Fire Department – Firehall Expansion Project (as required); and

Also be it Resolved: That the Rural Municipality of Belfast hereby resolves to continue to work with the Belfast Rural Fire Department to help find as much additional funding as can be found for Firehall Expansion Project.

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Docherty** and **seconded** by **Councillor Gamble** to adopt Resolution # **RES 2026-002**, a resolution for RMB to be the **Guarantor** for the Firehall Expansion Project, for financing of up to **\$906,500** (*as detailed in attachment A*) with Finance PEI.

Votes for: 4 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

6. **Next Meeting** – Wednesday, August 19, 2026: 7:pm – Municipal Office, Wood Islands.

7. **Adjournment** – As there is no further business ...

Moved by **Councillor Kinnee** to adjourn the meeting at: **7:10 pm**

Minutes approved on: **August 19, 2026**

Signature and Seal on File

Mayor – Garth Gillis

Signature and Seal on File

CAO – Bob Brooks