

Rural Municipality of Belfast

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

COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Upstairs Hall, Wood Islands Village

In Attendance:

Council:	Mayor Garth Gillis (Chair)	Deputy Mayor Virginia Cooke (<i>sent regrets</i>)
	Councillor Lynn Docherty	Councillor Billy Gamble
	Councillor Andy Henry	Councillor Joanne Vessey
Administration:	CAO - Bob Brooks	Ashley Feschuk
Public:	Two	

Item Order of Business

- Call to Order** – Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Gillis.
- Declarations of Conflict of Interest** – No Council members declared a conflict of interest with any items on today's Agenda.
- Approval of Agenda – Additions?** (*Additional item placed under item 9*)
Moved by **Councillor Henry** and seconded by **Councillor Gamble** to adopt the agenda as amended.
Votes for: 4 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**
- Approval of the October 19, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes** (*previously distributed - all changes received to-date by Council have been incorporated*)

Moved by **Councillor Docherty** and seconded by **Councillor Vessey** to approve the Minutes of the October 19, 2022 Council Meeting as presented.
Votes for: 4 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**
- Business arising from the October 19, 2022 Council Meeting:**
 - Hurricane Fiona** - The PEI Emergency Measures Disaster Claim has now been filed, using the EMO Claim Form; we are now waiting to see how much and what costs will be covered.
 - Emergency Generator** - During the Warming Centre operation, EMO seemed to hint at the possibility of installing generators at various locations on a permanent basis to help be better prepared for the next emergency. RMB is following up regarding a possible generator for our alternate site at Wood Islands. It's reported that the generator at Belfast Rec Centre is now installed. Ashley will follow up with Monica Ross to confirm.
 - Municipal Election Update** - As everyone is aware by now; at the October 21st Nominations deadline, RMB had one Nominee for Mayor and seven Nominees for Councillor.

The very next day on October 22nd, one of the Councillor Nominees (Andy Henry) officially dropped out. That meant ALL the new Council-Elect Nominees were acclaimed; consequently, no election was necessary and the November 7th Election process was cancelled. The new Council-Elect Members received their Orientation Training on November 2nd, 2022. The new Council will be sworn in at the December 7th Council Meeting.

6. **Public Presentations regarding items on today’s Agenda or other items. (Five minutes is allotted for each presentation).**
- a. **A Possible New Community Grant for the 2022/2023 Community Grants Cycle** (Presented by Councillor-Elect Katherine Bryson). (*Current Community Grants Policy was attached for reference*).

Councillor-Elect Bryson raised that the Belfast Community Pantry at Orwell Corner is not a registered not-for-profit yet, nor operating in the RMB area, but that it will have an impact on RMB residents. This organization will also be looking into provincial funding. This is a group she thinks could benefit from the Community Grants Program in the 2023/2024 cycle. Ms. Bryson asked if RMB could raise awareness about the organization and their need for volunteers. RMB could add the information to the RMB Facebook page, and include it on the RMB Website. The CAO also discussed the process used each year for the Community Grants Program to give the proponent a heads-up, as to what needs to be done. The proposed RMB actions was put to a Council vote:

Moved by **Councillor Docherty** and **seconded** by **Councillor Henry** to approve RMB promoting the Belfast Community Pantry initiative on the RMB Website and Facebook page.

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

7. **CAO Financial/Variance Report**

i. **Provincial Credit Union Account Balances at November 4, 2022:**

a. Share 001	\$5.30
b. Chequing 010	\$37,139.90
c. Savings 020 (Reserve)	\$36.58
d. Savings Reserve GIC/Int (<i>\$20,000 moved into a GIC from #010</i>)	\$65,292.50
e. Gas Tax Acct 00011	\$80,402.90
f. Gas Tax GIC (<i>for previously approved projects</i>)	\$50,501.20

Revenues are on track to-date; however, with the cancellation of the November 7th election process, there should be some expenditure savings.

8. **2023 Regular Council Meeting Calendar** – For planning purposes and as required by the *Municipal Government Act*: a regular Council Meeting Calendar must be publicly posted for the upcoming 2023 Regular Council Meetings. This Calendar is posted on RMB’s Website, announced on RMB’s Facebook page, posted on various bulletin boards, included within the Belfast Newsletter, and included within the Annual Belfast Lions Club Calendar.

While this motion follows the tradition of having ten scheduled Regular Council Meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July and December), the new Council may change those dates if they wish, through a public motion. The proposed Regular Council Meeting Dates for the 2023 Calendar Year are as follows:

January 18, 2023	February 15, 2023	March 15, 2023
April 19, 2023	May 17, 2023	June 21, 2023
August 16, 2023	September 20, 2023	October 18, 2023
November 15, 2023		

Moved by **Councillor Vessey** and **seconded** by **Councillor Henry** to adopt the proposed Regular Council Meetings dates as presented.

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

9. **New Business for the Agenda (per Item 3 above)**

a. **Councillor Vessey's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) Binder –**

Councillor Vessey asked about turning in her MEMP Binder; however, as a member of the Belfast Rural Fire Department, the Binder was always intended to stay with the Fire Department. Councillor Vessey agreed to keep the Binder at the Fire Hall.

10. **Appreciation Certificates for 2018-2022 Council Term Members –** The Council Members of the 2018-2022 Council Term had a very special and somewhat different (and additional) challenge to accomplish during their term of office. On top of all their regular duties as Council Members, they also had until the end of their term to make the successful transition into all the requirements of the new ***Municipal Government Act***. This Challenge was not only accomplished successfully, it's reported that they are only one of the few of the Rural Municipalities in PEI that actually achieved that goal.

To commemorate that achievement, and in appreciation of their exemplary public service, each member of Council is being presented with a ***Certificate of Appreciation***.

Well done everyone and thank you!

Pictures were taken of Mayor Garth Gillis awarding Council Members with their Framed Certificates. CAO Bob Brooks presented Mayor Gillis his certificate on behalf of Deputy Mayor Cooke. In her absence, the Deputy Mayor asked if the CAO would read a letter written to Council and Staff – as follows:

Letter to Members of Council, CAO and Staff - November 10, 2022 - Deputy Mayor Virginia Cooke

"Hi everyone:

I regret that I am not present this evening and unable to see and speak to you all in person; however, Bob kindly offered to read my note.

Billy - I am so glad you are continuing on for the next term. I know the stewardship of the woods, greenspace and community are in good hands. Your historical knowledge of the community is so valuable and I enjoyed listening and learning about it.

Andy - You will be greatly missed at the Council table. Your wisdom, experience and dedication to the community and our waterways were and continue to be so admirable. I could always count on you for the number crunching, so a big Thanks from me for that!

Joanne - You, as well, will be missed at the Council table. Your volunteerism and tireless efforts to support and maintain the Fire Department and Pinette Raceway are noteworthy; and your suggestion of a Christmas Tree-Lighting was a really wonderful idea and hopefully it will continue forward next year.

Lynn - Thank you for joining Council when you had the opportunity. I am also happy that you are continuing on for another term. I know you had lots of volunteers; however, it was your relentless energy and vision that restored and rejuvenated Belfast Days which is and will continue to be such a boost to our community spirit and pride.

Garth - Thank you so much for guiding and chairing our meetings with tact, humour and timeliness. I really appreciated your perfect attendance record so that my Deputy Mayor duties were very minimal lol! I am so glad that you are returning as Mayor, as your steady continuation for this upcoming term is going to be highly beneficial as Council moves forward.

Bob - How lucky and fortuitous that you and Lynn chose our community to live in! Your wealth of knowledge and experience at the municipal level was so instrumental for the smooth transition and obligations of our newly formed Council. You have guided us through the process with due diligence, courtesy, patience and the much appreciative treats left at our places around the table! Your excellent choice of two very competent administrative support staff has proven itself over time after time.

Ashley and Jill - A huge Thank you for everything that you do. You both have always gone that extra for our municipality office and the community with so much positivity and energy. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

I want to say that it has been an absolute pleasure to meet and work with all of you during our term together. It is hard to believe that four years has slipped by. Everyone of you has brought to the table, your individualism, knowledge and insight that have guided us through our meetings as we served our community. Thanks to you all.

Take good care...

PS. I still have my outfit for the next Christmas tree lighting if you need an elf!"

A round of applause was given by all.

11. Next Scheduled Meetings:

- a. **First Meeting of the New-Term Council** – scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Hall at Wood Islands Market – for the official swearing-in.
- b. **Regular Council Meeting** – scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Hall at Wood Islands Market.

12. Adjournment – As there was no further business...

Moved by Councillor Henry to adjourn the meeting at: 7:32 PM.

Minutes Approved On: _____

Mayor Garth Gillis

CAO Bob Brooks

Ashley/Bob