



Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)

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

COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Upstairs Hall, Wood Islands Market

In Attendance:

Council:	Mayor Garth Gillis (Chair)	Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty
	Councillor Katherine Bryson	Councillor Trisha Carter
	Councillor Billy Gamble	Councillor James Kinnee
	Councillor Charley McGivern	
Administration:	CAO Bob Brooks	Ashley Feschuk
Guest Speakers:	John Rousseau (Chair of WIADC)	Bill Droust (Project Officer)
Public:	5 Persons	Online: 125 Livestream Views (at time of drafting Minutes)

Please Be Aware: RMB Council Meetings are Livestreamed to [facebook.com/belfastpei](https://www.facebook.com/belfastpei)

Item Order of Business

1. **Call to Order** – Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gillis at 7:00 PM.
2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest** – No conflicts of interest with any items on today's Agenda were declared.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – Any other suggested Agenda Items for today's meeting? *(Six additional items were added to the agenda and placed under Item 12)*

Moved by Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty and seconded by Councillor Carter to adopt the agenda as amended.

Votes for: 6 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

4. **Wood Islands Rejuvenation Project** *(presented by CAO Bob Brooks)* – Following the April 19th presentation from the Wood Island and Area Development Corporation (WIADC), some Council members asked if WIADC could be invited back to hopefully answer some follow-up questions. While some members of Council have seen the full presentation, others have not. RMB's previous Council were consulted on the entire DRAFT vision for the area, and were also asked to support one of the components. Specifically, the immediate repairs to the Wood Islands Lighthouse; a project required regardless of whether the overall vision came to pass or not. RMB supported the Lighthouse repairs with a grant through the Canada/PEI Infrastructure Secretariat – a project due to be complete by March 31, 2024.

In a response letter, WIADC committed, that the overall DRAFT vision for the Wood Islands Area Rejuvenation, was only at the very beginning stages of consultation and that they are not at the approvals process yet.

The questions WIADC was asked to provide further information on are as follows (*response letter attached*):

- What was the time period for the consultation process for the **Wood Islands Strategic Development Plan**?
- How were the area residents involved and/or invited to attend the consultations?
- Which government organizations were involved in the consultation process for that Plan?
- Is there more public consultation planned for this Project? Or has it already been approved?
- The report that the Federal Government commissioned entitled: **The Transportation Assets Risk Assessments (TARA) - Wood Islands Ferry Terminal PEI** - Did the government accept the findings of that report? And/or use the results of that report in their consultation/approval process? and
- Who is on the current Board of Directors of WIADC?

Fortunately, Mr. John Rousseau (Chair of WIADC), was able to cut his trip to Montreal short, to enable him and his guest; Mr. Bill Droust (Project Manager), to attend this Council Meeting to present the responses, and answer any other questions that Council might have.

A question-and-answer period for Council was accommodated by Mr. Rousseau and Mr. Droust for Council's additional questions they had for clarification; while WIADC also talked about the exciting Multi-Organizational and Multi-Governmental project that will see a large area of the Wood Islands Waterfront Rejuvenated to past and future glory/prominence. It was confirmed by WIADC that this planned vision/project was only in the initial planning phase and that there is still lots of time to hear feedback from all interested parties and municipal residents before any approvals or the physical work can begin. Mr. John Rousseau and their Board of WIADC also extended an invitation to have a representative from RMB, attend their WIADC Board meetings, to be able to gather information on dates and details of this project moving forward.

RMB thanked WIADC for being here in person, along with several of their Board members to offer RMB transparency and insight on this Vision/Project. RMB also committed to post any public consultation opportunities on this vision on the RMB website, so that residents and Council can follow the process and progress as it transpires. Regarding an RMB Representative at the WIADC Board meetings, RMB will discuss that during the Strategic Planning Session.

5. **Public Presentations:**

- a. **Wade Czank (District Manager - Saltwire Network)** – Mr. Czank announced that three flyer-boxes and four flyer-trees will be distributed within the Belfast area, which will replace the current residential delivery system. The goal of the new system is to address public concerns and reduce plastic waste. 292 residents currently receive the flyers. Notices will be sent to residents informing them of placement/implementation of the new system, with a target date of June 15th. In cooperation with Canada Post, the flyer boxes will be placed beside the local Super-box Site locations; and for the flyer-tree locations, Council was asked if they could provide some suggestions of preferred locations. Locations will be reviewed and Saltwire will inform the municipal residents. It was agreed that Council would send its suggestions to RMB Administration (Ashley Feschuk) by 12:00 Noon on May 18th by email, who would then pass on the suggestions to Mr. Czank to determine the final destination of the new flyer-tree boxes.
- b. **Lloyd MacDonald (re: Deep-Well Drilling)** – Mr. MacDonald expressed his concerns about the deep-well drilling happening in the Belle River area off the Trans Canada Highway. About the potential of the shelf drying up and the lack of consultation with the residents from the Province, and whether Council knew about the situation?

While RMB was not consulted by the Province about what was going on, Councillor Carter did know about the situation because her father had been looking into it. Councillor Carter will arrange a meeting to discuss Mr. MacDonald's concerns, who would like further information on the rules and regulations about how this is being done and how much water is going to be used.

6. **Adoption of the April 19, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes** (*previously distributed*).

Moved by Councillor McGivern and **seconded** by Councillor Gamble to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2023 Council Meeting as presented.

Votes for: 6 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

7. **Business arising from the March 22, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes:**

- a. **Pinette Park Boat Launch** – the CAO continues to follow-up on the conditions of the Boat Launch. The Province has received the concern raised by RMB about the effectiveness of the new boat launch and will continue to monitor the situation.

8. **CAO Report** (*presented by CAO Bob Brooks*)

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

i. **Provincial Credit Union Account Balances at April 15, 2023:**

a. Share Acct 001	\$5.35
b. Chequing Acct 010	\$94,085.80
c. Gas Tax (CCBF) Acct 011 (<i>for approved projects</i>)	\$44,546.74
d. Reserve Savings Acct 020	\$36.88
e. Gas Tax (CCBF) GIC Acct 040 (<i>for approved projects</i>)	\$50,501.20
f. Reserve Savings GICs: Acct 041 & 042	\$65,438.49

(for RMB project(s) – to be determined during Strategic Planning Session)

2023/24 Community Grant payouts started in April and will continue throughout the year; the CAO is currently conducting Year-end, and will supply those documents to MRSB (our Auditors) toward our Annual Audit.

9. **Saltwire Flyer Distribution** – RMB continues to follow-up on the issue, and will have another update for Council, next month on the location of the new flyer-trees.

10. **Facebook Livestreaming** – RMB's Livestream has proven to be an effective tool to enhance community awareness and participation. Numbers continue to grow on our Facebook page and feedback from the community via this platform is incorporated into Council sessions.

11. **Website Updates/Improvements** – The implementation of the calendar on the website continues to gain traction with new Belfast events being added weekly. Thank-you to all the residents who have submitted their photos to add to our website photo gallery, keep them coming, we appreciate it!

12. **New Business for the Agenda** (*as discussed in Approval of Agenda, Item 3 above*)

- a) **Federation of PEI Municipalities (FPEIM)** - Councillor Bryson gave her report on her attendance at the recent Annual General Meeting of the FPEIM (*report attached*). Councillor Bryson felt that one of the major take-away topics, was the issue around housing and the population growth predictions for our municipality in the near future. Councillor Bryson also announced that she has an interest in representing the Rural Municipality concerns for Queens County, on the Board of Directors of the FPEIM. A resolution from Council is required:

Moved by Councillor Gamble and **seconded** by Deputy Mayor Docherty to let Councillor Bryson's name stand, to represent the Rural Municipalities for Queen's County on the Board of Directors of the Federation of PEI Municipalities.

Votes for: 6 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

- b) **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** – Councillor Bryson informed Council that she would not be attending the Annual General Meeting in Toronto this year as the cost of accommodations and travel is too high. She looks forward to attending meetings in the future, perhaps closer to home (being mindful of the budget) and reiterated the importance of not only representing the RMB, but also stressed the value of “*having a seat at the table*” to discuss and be aware of issues on a macro scale.
 - c) **Medical Treatment for Belfast Residents** – Councillor Bryson has started to generate a list of Belfast businesses that may be able to assist residents with some financial support during difficult times. These funds may be allocated towards childcare, hotels, bridge passes etc. Councillor Bryson will be in contact with RMB Administration to assist with this and will have an update at our next meeting.
 - d) **Wildfire Concerns** – Councillor Bryson asked if RMB can share the FIONA Hurricane clean-up notifications on the RMB website. This might help with possible wildfire concerns for our area. RMB Administration confirmed that we will.
 - e) **Animal Control** – There have been complaints of dogs at large (running around off leash) in our community. As of now there are no bylaws in place within our Municipality to help control this ongoing issue. Currently all serious complaints re: aggression and injury are handled through the RCMP and subsequently the PEI Humane Society Animal Control Office. The idea of contracting additional help from the Province has proven to be very expensive and ineffective in the past. Council committed to add the Animal Control issue to the Agenda of the upcoming public, Strategic Planning Session on June 7th for further discussion and options.
 - f) **Belfast Historical Society (BHS)** – Mr. John LeLacheur from the Board of the BHS wanted to set the record straight and let RMB Council and residents know that there is NO asbestos in the Croft House. An independent remediation company was hired by the BHS to collect samples and provide a full report. The Croft House was given the all clear and is a safe place, completely free of any harmful materials.
 - g) **Pinette Park Boat Launch** – Mr. John LeLacheur also wanted to raise his concerns about the Boat Launch and the hazardous way it has been revamped. There has been damage done to fisherman’s boats as a result of the rock placement and the steep angle which is making it difficult for them to get their boats back on land and depth of the water there now is a huge concern.
13. **Next Meetings:**
- a. **RMB Strategic Planning Session** - scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM in the Upstairs Hall at Wood Islands Market (*open to the public*).
 - b. **Regular Meeting of Council** - scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Hall at Wood Islands Market (*open to the public*).
 - c. **Resumption of RMB Official Plan and Development Bylaw Discussions** – To Be Announced (*August - December*) (*open to the public*).
14. **Adjournment** – As there is no further business...
Moved by Councillor Carter to adjourn the meeting at: 9:00 PM.

Ashley/Bob