



Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)

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

COUNCIL MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, June 21, 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
Public:	3 in person, 99 on Facebook Livestream	

Please Be Aware: RMB Council Meetings are Livestreamed to facebook.com/belfastpei

Item Order of Business

- 1. Call to Order** – Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Gillis at 7:02 PM.
- 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest** – No members of Council declared a conflict of interest with any items on today's Agenda.
- 3. Approval of Agenda** – Any other suggested Agenda Items for today's meeting? – *(a number of additional items were added to the Agenda and placed under Item 19)*

Moved by **Deputy Mayor Docherty** and seconded by **Councillor Carter** to adopt the agenda as amended.
Votes for: 6 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**
- 4. Public Presentations (if any)** – There were no requests for any public presentations.
- 5. Adoption of the May 17, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes** *(previously distributed; all changes incorporated)*.

Moved by **Councillor McGivern** and seconded by **Councillor Gamble** to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2023 Council Meeting as presented.
Votes for: 6 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**
- 6. Business arising from the May 17, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes** *(already addressed in today's agenda – no other items)*.
- 7. Adoption of the June 7, 2023 Special Council Meeting Minutes** *(previously distributed; all changes incorporated)*.

Moved by **Councillor Bryson** and seconded by **Councillor Carter** to approve the Minutes of the June 7, 2023 Special Council Meeting as presented.
Votes for: 6 Votes against: 0 Result: **Carried Unanimously**

8. **Business arising from the June 7, 2023 Special Council Meeting Minutes** (*already addressed in today's agenda – no other items*).

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

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

i. **Provincial Credit Union Account Balances at May 5, 2023:**

a. Share Acct 001	\$5.35
b. Chequing Acct 010	\$76,222.44
c. Gas Tax (CCBF) Acct 011 (<i>for approved projects</i>)	\$44,543.74
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

(Consisting of: – *if Strategic Plan approved as presented*)

1. RMB Expansion Reserve	\$25,000.00
2. Emergency Preparedness Reserve	\$5,000.00
3. 2 nd Warming Ctr Generator Reserve	\$5,000.00
4. Remaining*	\$30,438.49

*(*Remaining Reserve amount to be considered during Annual Budget Deliberations)*

RMB Revenues and Expenditures are on track for 23/24. Community Grant payouts started in April and will continue throughout the year. MRSB will work on the RMB Year-End documents in July towards RMB's Annual Audit. Council noted that during the Strategic Planning Session, costs for RMB sponsoring its own movie night was not discussed. The CAO committed to bring that discussion forward in the 24/25 Budget Deliberations.

10. **2023/24 – 2026/27 Strategic Plan (Consideration/Amendments/Adoption)** (*presented by CAO Bob Brooks*) – On June 7, 2023 a Special Council Meeting was held to hold a public Strategic Planning Session for RMB. The goal was to create the next (the 2nd) Strategic Plan for the Municipality; this one: a four-year plan to cover the fiscal years 2023/24 – 2026/27. A 4-Year Strategic Plan that will cover the Vision, Mission and Action Items, as considered and directed by the current members of Council during its term of office.

A Starting Draft was placed on RMB's Website for public review and comment, then Council considered each component and line item of the Draft Strategic Plan, to present a revised Plan (*attached*) for consideration and approval at tonight's Council Meeting. All changes to the Starting Draft are highlighted in red for clarity. The public were given an additional 10 days to review the 2nd draft – no concerns were raised from the public.

Comments from Special Council Meeting Chair – **Lynn Docherty, Deputy Mayor** of RMB – the Deputy Mayor made a special note of thanks to Mayor Gillis for providing his input in advance, as he was going to be away, then also logging in for the Facebook livestream. Thank you, Mayor Gillis, – very much appreciated. The Deputy Mayor then went on to make the following statement:

"It is extremely important to utilize an opportunity as a Municipal Council to set long and short-term goals for our community. It is for the betterment of our Municipality and future generations. Long-term: having a vision, and where we essentially want to be as a community, financially and progressively. Short-term: having a peripheral viewpoint, seeing opportunities in real time, plans, ideas, wants and needs. Working together as a Council, as a team, shows initiative and unity.

We know what we are doing, and we have a genuine outlook. Strategic Planning is setting a platform, and as a Council, we are that platform. We are doing the hard work, spending time, making plans, and being the voice. All very important roles to fill.

Strategy transpires as solutions. Solutions are the endgame”.

During the Council discussions of the Strategic Plan, a **Point of Order** was called by **Councillor Bryson** – the **Point of Order** was called due to **Councillor Kinnee’s** remarks about the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA) and actions within the Strategic Plan that would adhere, or not, to the MGA. Council was advised that this item and its ramifications would have to be discussed **In-Camera**, and that Council would need a motion to have this item be placed last on the Council Agenda, should they wish to discuss it.

Moved by Councillor Bryson and seconded by Deputy Mayor Docherty to place “Adherence to the MGA” as an In-Camera Item on today’s Agenda, just before Adjournment.

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

Council completed its discussions of the Strategic Plan, then proceeded to vote approve the Strategic Plan as presented.

Moved by Councillor Carter and seconded by Councillor Gamble to approve the *Strategic Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27 Vision and Roadmap* as presented.

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

11. **Saltwire Flyer Distribution** (presented by Administration, Ashley Feschuk) – Saltwire continues to collaborate with RMB on a regular basis. Here are the finalized locations for the Flyer Boxes and Trees in the RMB: Wood Island Tourist Centre (Box), Belfast Rec Centre (Box), Coopers Corner (Box), Camp Road Mailboxes (Flyer Tree), Greys Road Mailboxes (Flyer Tree), End of Pond Road Mailboxes (Flyer Tree), and RTE 24 end of Valleyfield Road Mailboxes (Flyer Tree). Setup will begin at these locations as early as next week. The goal is to start the flyer pickup at all locations by July 15, 2023.
12. **Facebook Livestreaming** (presented by Administration, Ashley Feschuk) – Ashley noted that the livestream service continues to grow in popularity with hundreds of views each week, and that Ashley is researching ways to improve the sound and video quality. RMB is also looking into the best mechanism for video delivery of the service, utilizing an RMB-owned system, rather than Ashley’s personal Cell. Thankyou to all the livestream viewers and the Town of Souris for tuning in. Report to follow...
13. **Website Updates/Improvements** (presented by Administration, Ashley Feschuk) – Ashley continues to ask for public events so she can update the website calendar. If you have an event or photos you would like to share, please email them to ruralmunicipalityofbelfast@gmail.com
14. **Wellness Centre Progress/Updates** (presented by CAO Bob Brooks) – Bob has been in discussions with the Belfast Community Development Corporation (BCDC); originally the plan was to look at a new building development that could house a Wellness Centre, a new Arena, an Emergency Warming Centre and other components. BCDC has invited the CAO and the Mayor as the Council Representative, to attend future meetings that might see an alternative plan. The new concept could now involve the refurbishment of the current Belfast Rec Centre, rather than a new build. RMB will continue to update Council and the public as discussions progress.

15. **Community Pantry Update** (presented by CAO Bob Brooks and Councillor Katherine Bryson) – As a Rotarian, CAO Bob Brooks recently worked with the Rotary Club of Charlottetown to provide the Community Pantry with some Food Hampers to help with the ever-increasing demand. It was also suggested to Bob, that he should encourage the Community Pantry to apply on the regular proposal calls for support that the Rotary Club of Charlottetown provides. Bob will consult with the Community Pantry on the application in advance, so that when the calls go out, they will be ready. A further Community Pantry update was provided by Councillor Bryson who stated that there has been increased demand and improvements have been made c/o Kier’s Vinyl Siding, to secure the structure to the ground. The structure was elevated and an additional step added to make it safe, this work was completed by Randy Visser. Council raised the question of wheelchair accessibility - Councillor Bryson will raise the issue at the next Community Pantry meeting. Councillor Bryson also mentioned that there is a Children’s Summer Food Program to help Families over the summer months. More information on this program can be found at: www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/news/childrens-summer-food-program-open-for-registration
16. **Belfast Days Update** (presented by Deputy Mayor Lynn Docherty) – Deputy Mayor Docherty provided an update on the very popular **Belfast Days Community Event** that is scheduled for this **June 23rd, 24th and 25th**. The full weekend calendar of events was detailed in her update and can be found on the RMB website. Council expressed their appreciation for all her hard work toward this fabulous community event.
17. **Official Community Plan and Development Bylaw Update** (presented by CAO, Bob Brooks) – Now that the Strategic Planning Process has come to a close, RMB can now concentrate on the completion of the Official Community Plan and Development Bylaw, planned for the Fall. Bob has already been in discussions with the Development Officer who will help RMB with our “PEI rural municipality” perspective and is ready to proceed when we’re ready. Bob has also been in contact with Fotenn Consultants to get the process started again, toward completion and who are also onboard with the Council-preferred timelines.
18. **An acknowledgement of Pride Month** – Councillor Bryson read a quote that has gone viral on the internet in honour of Pride:
- “#Pride is important because somewhere out there is a confused teenager who still thinks maybe being dead is better than being gay and that’s not ok.”*
- Councillor Bryson stated that Pride is more of a Season of Celebration and wanted to take the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Pride.
19. **New Business for the Agenda** (as discussed in Approval of Agenda, Item 3 above)
- a. **Community Supports** – Councillor Bryson has finalized a list for our office, that offers contact information for residents who may need additional support. The list will be sent to Council as a reference tool and a copy will be kept at the RMB office. The list will be edited and made available to the public via FACEBOOK in the near future.
 - b. **Graduation** – Councillor Bryson congratulated all the 2023 Graduating Students from Belfast Consolidated School and Montague Regional Highschool. **Congratulations!** RMB is proud of you.
 - c. **School Buses** – Councillor Bryson informed Council of an ongoing issue with drivers speeding past local school buses when the lights are flashing and children are entering or exiting the vehicle. She is very concerned for the safety of the Belfast children and would like to escalate her concerns in writing to Minister of Education and the Minister of Justice. The idea of installing security cameras on buses was brought up and will be included in the letters to the various Ministers. Council agreed with that action and Councillor Bryson will submit an initial draft letter to start the RMB process.

- d. **Ferry** – Councillor Carter raised the concern about the recent Ferry closure; presumably until at least July 10th, 2023, and the impact it is having on local businesses. The closure not only impacts Belfast but has far reaching impacts across the Island. Councillor Bryson is asking our Local Member of Parliament for Emergency Federal Assistance and Support on this matter. Both Councillor Carter and Councillor Bryson, would like RMB to ask the Provincial government to provide emergency support to businesses to ease the financial burden of this closure – Council agreed. In the meantime, Councillor Bryson is organising a ‘Buy Local’ Campaign to support Local Businesses during this time period. RMB will assist with some of the marketing materials, and Councillor Carter will submit an initial draft letter to start the RMB process.
- e. **Bus (Transit System)** – Councillor Carter would like to see an extension of transit system to include the Belfast area. The CAO gave some background on the Island’s Bus Transit plans and will touch base with the Province to determine next steps.
- f. **Snow Fencing at Pinette Park** – Councillor Carter inquired about the installation of snow fencing in the Pinette Park. Mayor Gillis suggested that it may have been installed to increase safety in the area since the fencing and some shoreline was destroyed by Fiona. The CAO will check with BCDC for an update.

20. **Next Meetings:**

- a. **Regular Meeting of Council** - scheduled for Wednesday, August 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Upstairs Hall at Wood Islands Market.
- b. **Official Community Plan and Development Bylaw Process Resumption** – *to be determined*

21. **Motion to move In-Camera to discuss “Adherence of the Municipal Government Act (MGA)”**

Moved by Councillor Carter and seconded by Councillor Gamble to move In-Camera to discuss “Adherence to the MGA”.

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

As In-Camera items are Confidential; the public and Administration (except the CAO) were asked to leave the meeting and the Facebook livestream was also shut down. No minutes are taken and no decisions are made in the In-Camera meetings.

22. **Motion to move out of In-Camera**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Docherty and seconded by Councillor McGivern to move out of In-Camera.

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

There were no motions to present as a result of this In-Camera item.

23. **Adjournment** – As there was no further business...

Moved by Councillor Gamble to adjourn the meeting at: 9:37 PM

Ashley/Bob

Minutes Approved on: _____

Mayor Garth Gillis

CAO Bob Brooks

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