



Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)

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

COUNCIL MEETING - AGENDA

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 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 James Kinnee
Councillor Charley McGivern
Administration: CAO Bob Brooks (*regrets*) Ashley Feschuk

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 to be called to by Mayor Gillis at 7:00 PM. CAO Bob Brooks sends his regrets due to a family matter, and in his place for this Council Meeting is: Administration – Ashley Feschuk.
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 16*)

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____
to adopt the agenda as presented/amended.
Votes for: ____ Votes against: ____ Result: _____
4. **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) _____
 - b) _____
5. **Adoption of the June 21, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes** (*previously distributed; all changes incorporated*).

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to
approve the Minutes of the June 21, 2023 Council Meeting as presented.
Votes for: ____ Votes against: ____ Result: _____
6. **Business arising from the June 21, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes** (*already addressed in today’s agenda – no other items*).
7. **CAO Report** (*presented by Administration – Ashley Feschuk*)

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

i. **Provincial Credit Union Account Balances at August 8, 2023:**

a. Share Acct 001	\$5.35
b. Chequing Acct 010	\$25,021.10
c. Gas Tax (CCBF) Acct 011 <i>(for approved projects)</i>	\$69,577.74
d. Reserve Savings Acct 020	\$37.03
e. Gas Tax (CCBF) GIC Acct 040 <i>(for approved projects)</i>	\$50,501.20
f. Reserve Savings GICs; Acct 041 & 042	\$66,438.49

(Breakdown as approved)

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*	\$31,438.49

*(*to be considered during Annual Budget Deliberations)*

All RMB Revenues and Expenditures are on track for 23/24 so far. The CAO finalised the costs for the Budget/Strategic Plan approved computer and networking equipment for the 23/24 fiscal year and is underway. Audit documents are complete and will be provided to the Auditor (deadline not until October). CAO has redefined current workload to be in sync with recently approved 23/24 – 26/27 Strategic Plan.

8. **Meeting with local MLA and Speaker of the House, the Honourable Darlene Compton** *(report written by CAO Bob Brooks – for information only)* – On Monday, August 7th, CAO Bob Brooks met with RMB’s local MLA and Speaker of the House, the Honourable Darlene Compton. All in all, this was a very positive introductory meeting and one where the possibility of more future updates and collaboration on common issues was discussed, and will be pursued.

During the meeting, our MLA was brought up to current on the growth of the municipality over the last five years, and the compliance with the *Municipal Government Act*. More specifically, MLA Compton was made aware of the latest RMB Strategic Plan, the large number of activities, and the desire of this Council to be involved in issues of concern to the residents of RMB, including issues that need the cooperation and consultation with other orders of government. Four specific issues were discussed at this meeting:

- i. **A sustainable/reliable two-ferry service at Wood Islands:** MLA Compton was very well aware of this issue and had our letters of concern and the Premier’s support letters in hand. Our MLA was also well aware of the Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce activities in this regard and all the options that they are looking into. I informed our MLA that RMB recently joined the Chamber to closer follow and participate in the Ferry issue. RMB’s position is that, at minimum, RMB is looking for a Sustainable/Reliable Two-Ferry Service for Wood Islands and the Premier’s letters also seem to support that position.
- ii. **The ShopBelfastPEI initiative that was born out of the failures at the Wood Island Ferry Service:** The CAO updated our MLA about the ShopBelfastPEI – local purchase program, that was created due to the Ferries at Wood Islands going out of service on and on. The CAO made a point to talk about how well it is being received and how local residents are stepping up to help fill the void left by the missing tourist visitor segment. The CAO also made a point of thanking the Department of Tourism for its immediate help in this initiative.

- iii. ***A Rural Public Transit Service (Charlottetown; down the Trans-Canada Highway to Wood Islands, and on to Montague:*** MLA Compton was aware of our interest in having a Rural Public Transit Route that specifically covers the RMB service area and beyond. Our MLA has already been in contact with the Department and Minister involved to find out more, and will continue to follow-up.
- iv. ***Drivers Passing Stopped School Buses:*** MLA Compton was also very much aware of the School Bus issue, and mentioned that she would be in touch with the Minister responsible. MLA Compton did say that typically, public information campaigns often start each school year to inform/warn drivers. Our MLA also pointed out, that they have heard lots about the issue lately, especially in the Iona area. The CAO also pointed out that RMB would be more than happy to utilize RMB facilities like our website, Facebook, newsletters, etc. to push that safety message.

RMB will continue to follow these issues with our MLA and other members and orders of government as and when required. Below are the four issues, as presented for discussion by two of the RMB Councillors:

- 9. **ShopBelfastPEI (Local Purchase Program) Update** (presented by Councillor Katherine Bryson and Councillor Trisha Carter) – Councillors will provide an update regarding the Program creation, funding, T-Shirts, and how the Program is being received.
- 10. **Public Transit connection for RMB Area** (presented by Councillor Trisha Carter) – On July 20th, RMB reached out to the Department of Transportation and MLA Darlene Compton to start the lobby for an additional route to the PEI Rural Public Transit System. This additional route would see a bus come from Charlottetown, down the Trans Canada Highway to Wood Islands and the Ferry, then on to Montague for further connections and return. The Department of Transportation and MLA Compton is currently reviewing the request.
- 11. **Drivers Passing Stopped School Buses** (presented by Councillor Katherine Bryson) – On July 27th, RMB reached out to the Department of Education and MLA Darlene Compton to voice RMB concerns about drivers passing unloading School Buses without consequence. No response yet from the Department of Education; however, MLA Compton did respond, and is following up.
- 12. **Wood Islands Ferry Issue** (presented by Councillor Trisha Carter and Councillor Katherine Bryson) – Councillors will provide an update regarding the Ferry issue and the attendance at the Eastern Chamber of Commerce Emergency Public Meeting on the issue, and where we go from here. Additionally, the Mayor’s letters of concern went out to the Premier of PEI and a host of CCs. The Premier did respond. All of Council were provided emails on those letters and responses. CAO Bob Brooks, also received a response from our MLA and Speaker of the House, the Honourable Darlene Compton, who is also following up with a keen interest in the issue. Councillors Bryson and Carter also attended the August 8th Ferry-Issue meeting with the Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce. Both Councillors will provide an update report on that meeting (attached).
- 13. **Saltwire Flyer Distribution** (presented by Administration, Ashley Feschuk) – Saltwire continues to collaborate with RMB on a regular basis. Ashley will provide the latest update.
- 14. **Website Activity and Facebook Livestreaming Update** (presented by Administration, Ashley Feschuk).

15. **Wellness Centre Progress/Updates** (presented by Administration, Ashley Feschuk) – A meeting has been set up for Monday, September 4th between the Belfast Community Development Corporation (BCDC) (Board and Staff); the Belfast Rec Centre (Board and Staff) and RMB (Mayor and CAO). The concept is to get all three parties together to discuss how and/or if, the concept of including a Wellness Centre as part or in conjunction with the current Belfast Rec Centre, is a doable concept. The Mayor and CAO will report on that meeting at the September Council Meeting.

16. **Official Community Plan and Development Bylaw Update** (presented by Administration, Ashley Feschuk) – Now that the Strategic Plan is complete, RMB can now concentrate on the completion of the Official Community Plan and Development Bylaw. RMB has been in discussions with Fotenn to reactivate the process; and the CAO has been in discussions with our selected Development Officer to help RMB complete the process. It is planned to reactivate the public discussions and public process in September, and for as long as it takes. This issue will continue to be a standing Agenda item until complete.

17. **New Business for the Agenda** (as discussed in Approval of Agenda, Item 3 above)
 - a. **Used Needles Found in Public Spaces** (presented by Councillor Katherine Bryson) _____
 - b. **Plan for Upcoming Hurricane Season** (presented by Councillor Katherine Bryson) _____
 - c. **Other?** _____
 - d. **Other?** _____

18. **Next Meetings:**
 - a. **Regular Meeting of Council** - scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 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*

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

Moved by _____ to adjourn the meeting at: _____

Bob/Ashley

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