



Rural Municipality of Belfast (RMB)

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

COUNCIL MEETING - AGENDA

Wednesday, November 15, 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	Ashley Feschuk
Guest Presenter:	Native Council PEI Elder - Stevenson Joe	

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

Item Order of Business

1. **Call to Order** – Council Meeting to be called to order by Mayor Gillis at 7:00 PM. Mayor Gillis will introduce Native Council PEI Elder - Stevenson Joe, who will present the Rural Municipality of Belfast Council’s first ever Land Acknowledgement Statement. This statement will also be read out for every RMB Council subsequent meeting.

Native Council PEI Elder - Stevenson Joe:

“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.”

Mayor Gillis: Many thanks, to Native Council PEI Elder - Stevenson Joe for helping our municipality recognise the Mi’kmaq history, lands and acknowledgement in a respectful manner – thank you very much.

2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest** – Do any members of Council have a conflict of interest with any items on today’s Agenda?
3. **Clarification of Voting Procedures** (*presented by CAO - Bob Brooks*) – Recently, the CAO was asked to clarify the voting procedures that RMB uses (per the *Municipal Government Act*). On any motion, Council is asked to Vote: Yes or No. Should any Councillor wish to Abstain - they have that right and may ask to make it known to the Chair that they would like to Abstain; regardless, as per the MGA (see Page 39 of the MGA - 2nd Edition Resource Handbook), any vote to Abstain, is still counted as a vote in the affirmative. If a Councillor says nothing during a vote; their answer will also be taken in the affirmative. There is nothing in the MGA that says every Councillor must speak to every issue, they may remain silent if they wish.

On any vote, Council has a right to ask for a recorded vote, before the actual vote; in that instance and only in that instance, will an individual (identified) vote count be taken. Otherwise, in any vote that is taken, it is recorded: how many voted Yes, how many voted No, (and if requested - how many voted to Abstain). When publicly reporting on any initiative; it will only be reported as to whether the majority of Council supported the initiative, whether the majority of Council did not support the initiative, and/or whether Council gave unanimous support of an initiative. Regardless, Council is reminded that all Council meetings are livestreamed on Facebook, and the public are able to see and hear the actual voting of Council members on any issues.

4. **Approval of Agenda** – Any other suggested Agenda Items for today’s meeting? *(to be placed under Item 14)*

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____
to adopt the agenda as presented/amended.
Votes for: ____ Votes against: ____ Result: _____

5. **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) **Belfast Area Watershed Group - Sherry Pelkey** would like to speak to Council about the next draft of the Official Plan and Development Bylaw.
b) ??? _____

6. **Adoption of the October 18, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes** *(previously distributed; all changes incorporated).*

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2023 Council Meeting as presented.
Votes for: ____ Votes against: ____ Result: _____

7. **Business arising from the October 18, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes** *(already addressed in today’s agenda – no other items).*

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

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

- i. **Provincial Credit Union Account Balances @ November 6, 2023:**

a. Share Acct 001	\$5.35
b. Chequing Acct 010	\$31,241.54
c. Gas Tax (CCBF) Acct 011 <i>(for approved projects)</i>	\$97,135.74
d. Reserve Savings Acct 020	\$37.21
e. Gas Tax (CCBF) GIC Acct 040 <i>(for approved projects)</i>	\$52,016.24
f. Reserve Savings GICs; Acct 041 & 042	\$66,288.49

(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*	\$31,288.49

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

5. Remaining Funds in ShopBelfastPEI Program	\$523.01
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(There are also 12 T-shirts left to be sold or gifted)

CAO – Other Matters dealt with/involving the CAO:

b)/c) No further progress on the **Wellness Centre** issue or the **Warming Centre MOUs** issue at this time. The CAO will, however, continue to work on these two items.

9. **Progress Report of the Amalgamation Sub-Committee (ASC)** (*presented by ASC Chair – Councillor Bryson*). Councillor Bryson will provide an update on the progress the ASC has made to-date. The recent Draft Minutes from the 1st ASC meeting (November 1st) is attached for Council's information.

Additionally, it was discovered that the process the ASC was actually undertaking, was the process of **"Annexation"** (*adding unincorporated Communities into the RMB boundaries*), not the process of **"Amalgamation"** (*combining two or more Municipalities to create one larger municipality*). Hence, the ASC is recommending a Sub-Committee name change to Council, to better reflect its role.

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the Sub-Committee Name Change from the **"Amalgamation Sub-Committee"** to the **"Annexation Sub-Committee"**.

Votes for: _____ Votes against: _____ Result: _____

10. **2024 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 2024 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. This motion follows the tradition of having 10 scheduled meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July and December). Council also has the option to call Additional or Special Council Meetings, throughout the year (if required). (Calendar Dates Attached).

Proposed Regular Council Meeting Dates for the 2024 Calendar Year:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) January 17, 2024 | 2) February 21, 2024 |
| 3) March 20, 2024 | 4) April 17, 2024 |
| 5) May 15, 2024 | 6) June 19, 2024 |
| 7) August 21, 2024 | 8) September 18, 2024 |
| 9) October 16, 2024 | 10) November 20, 2024 |

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the **2024 Regular Council Meeting Calendar** as presented.

Votes for: _____ Votes against: _____ Result: _____

11. **Completion of the Official Plan and Development Bylaw** (*presented by CAO – Bob Brooks*). In a recent conversation with members of Municipal Affairs, it was made known to the CAO that possible amendments to the MGA may be out within the next few months. These amendments may affect whether individual Municipal Official Plans and Development Bylaws will be required. This information is delaying the resumption of Official Plans and Development Bylaws discussions and may also affect our funding arrangement with the Canada/PEI Infrastructure Secretariat. The CAO will continue to follow the issue and make Council aware of any progress.

12. **Feedback requested on changes to the *Planning Act*** (presented by CAO – Bob Brooks). On November 7, 2023, the Province sent out an invitation, inviting Island Residents to share their opinion on potential changes to the Provincial *Planning Act* (*invitation attached*). The *Planning Act* governs provincial and municipal planning including how land is used, what structures are permitted within zones, and development in coastal areas. The changes would clarify the appeal process for planning decisions of municipalities and the provincial government.

People can view the proposed changes and provide their input by written submission at: [Proposed Changes to the *Planning Act*: Public Consultation](#) until November 20, 2023.

As this feedback does not require an official RMB position response at this time, the CAO is recommending that Council members take a look at the proposed changes and provide comments at the link provided prior to November 20th (please copy the RMB office and we will keep your input on file to help inform future discussions on the matter). The CAO is also recommending that any residents participating in this Council meeting on line provide comments, if they so wish. RMB will continue to follow this issue.

13. **Upcoming Events Calendar for RMB – (Dec. only)** (presented by Admin - Ashley Feschuk)

- a. **Holiday Tree-Lighting Event** (December 2nd starting at 6:pm) – RMB intends to light up the Wood Islands Market Courtyard, sing Christmas carols, a Snowflake Decorating Competition and Face-painting (competitors can start showing up at the RMB Office at 5:00 PM), Photo Booth, Hot Chocolate and Cider/treats, a visit from jolly St. Nick and more – everyone welcome!
- i. **Council work party to help decorate the Courtyard** - Saturday, November 25th and the 26th (if necessary) starting @ 1:00 PM (Tree will be installed on Friday, November 24th).

- b. **Purple Ribbon Campaign put on by the Wood Islands Women’s Institute** (presented by Admin - Ashley Feschuk)

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

- a) **RCMP Report** (for information only)
- b) **Street Lighting within the RMB municipality and Pinette Park particularly** (for discussion) – (presented by Councillor Gamble, deferred from last month’s Council mtg)
- c) **Wood Islands Ferry Issue – Update** (by Councillor Bryson)
- d) **Community Pantry – Update** (by Councillor Bryson)
- e) **Belfast Home and School - November 2nd Meeting Updates** (by Deputy Mayor Docherty)
- f) **Pinette Boat Launch Slip Correction** (by Deputy Mayor Docherty)
- g) ??? _____
- h) ??? _____
- i) ??? _____

15. **Next Meetings:**

- a. **Tree-Lighting Event** – This years’ RMB Holiday Tree-Lighting Event will take place in the Courtyard in the Wood Islands Market starting at 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 2, 2023. (*Official Program Attached*).
- b. **Reminder – There is No Regular Meeting of Council – scheduled for December 2023** (per the MGA Council Calendar) and the RMB Office closes over the Christmas Break from December 18th through to January 2nd.

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

Moved by _____ to adjourn the meeting at: _____

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