



**TOWN OF SAINT ANDREWS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**October 1, 2024, 6:45 p.m.
W.C. O'Neill Arena Complex Council Chambers**

A. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

A Special Meeting on the 2025 Budget of the Town of Saint Andrews Council was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. with the following members present:

Mayor Brad Henderson, Deputy Mayor Kate Akagi, Councillors Mark Bennett, Marc Blanchard, Kurt Gumushel, Annette Harland, Lee Heenan, Jamie Hirtle, and Darrell Weare.

Chris Spear, CAO/Treasurer, Paul Nopper, Clerk - Senior Administrator, and Alexander Gopen, Senior Planner, Southwest New Brunswick Service Commission.

Absent - Councillor Marc Blanchard and Steve Neil.

B. LAND RECOGNITION OF THE PESKOTOMUHKATI NATION

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 325 - 10/24

Moved by Councillor Heenan

Seconded by Councillor Harland

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews approves the 241001 Special Council Meeting Agenda as presented.

9 – 0

Carried

D. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Deputy Mayor Akagi Conflict of Interest with Charlotte County Alternative Transportation.

E. PRESENTATIONS

1. Community Assistance Grant Presentation - Sharon McGladdery, President, Charlotte County Alternative Transportation

Deputy Mayor Akagi left the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Akagi returned to the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Sharon McGladdery, President of the Charlotte County Alternative Transportation (Dial-a-Ride). This is our first time asking for funds over \$3,000.00 from the Town. We started operations in 2006 with 1,800 rides and grew to over 7,000 rides pre-Covid. As of 2023, we were providing over 8,000 rides a year. These rides are done by volunteers and we have up to 27 drivers with 5 being our main drivers with over 5,000 km of rides a year. Many rides are going to medical appointments in Saint John. There is a ton of mileage on a personal vehicle going to support this program and those who use it. We are in our busiest year in 2024 with over 7,000 rides up to the end of September and we anticipate passing 8,000 rides again this year. We are asking for support for our dispatch persons. Our dispatching of drivers has grown exponentially and we cannot do it with just one

dispatcher. In late 2023 we managed to get a part-time dispatch and then were able to get funding to make this full time in 2024. Some members personally payrolled her position until we got grant funding. We are asking for \$3,500.00 from each municipality to help cover her wage and help to support our grant applications. If we lose this dispatcher, we cannot maintain the service levels that we have. The other request is for \$1,500.00 to support the ongoing maintenance of the wheelchair van. It is a third-hand vehicle from 2011 and is the only vehicle we have that can carry a motorized wheelchair. The MV1 vehicle is great but it is showing issues due to age and use. We are working with the Regional Service Commission on getting funding through the Rural Transit Fund to get four more wheelchair buses that would be owned and maintained by the Province and that we can rent from them. In the interim, we are trying to keep the van on the road.

Council thanked Mrs. McGladdery for the presentation and all the efforts made by Dial-a-Ride in supporting residents of Charlotte County. Getting residents to medical appointments is an important resource in our communities. It is good to see the RSC participating in supporting Dial-a-Ride. Council asked about rides for employment and schooling. Mrs. McGladdery noted that Dial-a-Ride supports different ride programs, not just for medical, but to get residents to training and education necessary to improve themselves. Dial-a-Ride has also helped with students getting to Drivers Education Training. Without our support, that student would not have a licence today. Now that student is in university and excelling. Council asked if Dial-a-Ride applies for Federal grants. Mrs. McGladdery noted they apply for Provincial and Federal grants when they are available to support the program.

2. Community Assistance Grant Presentation - Sandi Omson, Chairperson, Charlotte County Archives

Sandi Omson, Chairperson, Charlotte County Archives. I am thanking the Town for being great landlords and excellent support for building repairs, maintenance, etc. The Mission of the Archives is to collect, preserve, and conserve, through archival best practices, the pre-eminent collection of significant documents relating to the evolving history and culture of Charlotte County. We actively engage the public through research, education, and outreach including school groups, summer camps, and tours of the Court House and Gaol. In 2024, we have seen over 2,300 tourists to the facilities and for the Archives. We are a volunteer run, not-for-profit corporation, entirely dependent on raising funds to maintain our operations. The request to Council is for support for tourism services we are providing at the Court House for the general public in the summer and shoulder seasons. Tourism includes guided tours of the Court House and Gaol, ghost walks, and paranormal investigators. We do pursue grants Federally and Provincially to offset costs of students for these tours. Grants are limited and we can only hire students for the funding we receive. Budgets were provided to Council as an overview of the costs to operate. The request from the Town in 2025 would be \$7,900.00 to support three students offsetting their funds against grants. A 5-year concept budget projection was provided to Council for consideration.

Council thanked Mrs. Omson for the presentation. Council asked if the Archives apply for grants Federally and Provincially. Mrs. Omson noted that they do seek all types of grants, from project grants to student funding grants. Council noted that staff handle grants for the heritage buildings and that the Archives is looking for operational support. Mrs. Omson noted that they are seeking support in the operational shortfall for tourism operations. Council noted a donation campaign that was just completed and that you received funds from J. Donovan Law recently. Mrs. Omson noted that was a donation of \$7,500.00 to go to ongoing Archives work and to support their full time Archivist. These funds were not earmarked for tourism initiatives. Council asked how long tours have been given at the Court House by the Archives. Mrs. Omson noted that they have been given over the last

decade. Deputy Mayor Akagi recalled that tours have been given for decades leading back to the 1960's. CAO Spear asked if the New Brunswick Archives supports in any funding or advice for the Archives. Mrs. Omson has noted support in archival projects but only on specific projects. CAO Spear asked if the Archives was working with any tour groups to get more people to the facility, for example, from the cruise ships in Saint John. Mrs. Omson noted they are in frequent communication but want to drive more tour buses to their location in 2025. CAO Spear noted that they should reach out to the Tourism department at the Regional Service Commission for more support. Council asked if they did not receive funding for operation 7 days a week, with the funding they have, how many days would they operate. Mrs. Omson noted 5 days a week or to whatever the funding model they have would be. Council asked if the Archives had received any funds or applied for any funds from Explore St. Andrews. Mrs. Omson noted they had not as most of the funding was for marketing and promotions but open to working with them. Council noted that if they wanted to review the Tourism Accommodation Levy By-Law and make modifications to funding allocations they could do so. Council and the Archives discussed the washroom at the Court House and the ability for the Town to put this under another budget for consideration. Council noted they would review during budget discussions.

3. Community Assistance Grant Presentation - Steve Saunders, Chair, Katy's Cove Inc.

Steve Saunders, Chair, Katy's Cove Inc. Katy's Cove Inc. was incorporated and founded in 2018. We have a lease agreement for the use of Katy's Cove with the Algonquin Resort until 2039. We have a Board consisting of 9 members from the community including the Manager of Recreation for the Town. Our founding principles of Katy's Cove Inc. include; we cannot borrow money, we must operate from donations and grants, admission to Katy's Cove is free to the public, and we are committed to being fully accessible. In 2024 we hosted an opening gala which was well attended, hired our first employee in years, visiting families got to enjoy a unique experience in Saint Andrews, we started work on being able to host events including weddings, and we are in continued talks with InnVest to acquire the land at Katy's Cove. The Town supported Katy's Cove with lawn mowing, garbage removal, technical advice and support, especially for the water gates, and a grant of \$15,000.00 to cover operating costs. Financial challenges we are faced with include operational costs for buildings, insurance, maintenance, and staff, and capital expenditures including landscaping and dock structures. We are requesting continued in-kind support for garbage, lawn mowing, and gate operations. We are requesting a grant of \$20,000.00 to assist with operation costs.

Council thanked Mr. Saunders for the presentation. Council asked what the need for staff was and why there is a request for two staff members. Mr. Saunders noted that they need the staff to help keep the Cove clean and for the purposes of selling canteen items. Council asked if there were any security concerns with the Cove and is there a plan for security cameras. Mr. Saunders indicated that there is no one with a direct line of sight on the Cove and that they would like to install cameras for the safety and security of facilities. Council asked if there is a plan to bring back a swim program to the Cove. Mr. Saunders stated that was the hope with additional staff as well but need them to be Red Cross certified. This service probably will not be available next year but hoping to offer it in the future.

4. Community Assistance Grant Presentation - Fiona Connelly and Amanda Beaubien, St. Croix Blades Speed Skating

Fiona Connelly and Amanda Beaubien, volunteers of the St. Croix Blades presented to Council requesting an assistance grant to help with bridge funding for the Club. The club has a 25-plus-year history in the community. The sport focuses on self-improvement and beating personal best times

while improving fitness. The Club offers Learn to Skate programs up to Competitive programs for speed skating. It was noted that this is a different type of sports program in the region versus hockey. There are four levels of skater development with Levels 1 and 2 being Learn to Skate programs and Levels 3 and 4 being more at the Competitive levels. Skaters in higher levels support those in lower levels and help to train and build confidence. Most skaters are from Saint Andrews but do draw in skaters from all over Charlotte County. The programs are open to all ages, youth, adults, and seniors. Many skaters participate in the Learn to Skate program and also play hockey. The request to Council is for \$3,000 in funding to help bridge the club as it has new volunteers and looks to grow and start new fundraising opportunities. Funding would help with operational costs, equipment replacements and upkeep, and support for coaching development.

Council thanked Mrs. Beaubien and Mrs. Connelly for their presentation. Council liked the focus of the program on self-improvement, personal bests, and enhancing the quality of the Club moving forward. Council asked if they had approached other municipalities for support and what was their response. Mrs. Connelly noted that they plan to ask other municipalities but as Saint Andrews is the host community and the majority of participants are from the community, this was the first stop. We are looking at hosting open houses to bring awareness to the club, fundraising initiatives, and finding alternative bridge funding if possible. Council discussed the importance of the sport in the community and how it is a good step to host open houses to increase exposure of the sport to children and others. Council asked about registration costs and how they relate to other communities. Mrs. Connelly noted that the Town has some of the cheapest ice in southern New Brunswick to rent and that they have the lowest registration rates, compared to other clubs in Hampton and Saint John.

5. Community Assistance Grant Presentation - Lesley O'Leary VMES Outdoor Community Space and Classroom

Lesley O'Leary, Principal, and Mandy Workman, Teacher, Vincent Massey Elementary School presentation on support for an outdoor classroom space. Mrs. O'Leary noted that they would like to update the outdoor seating area by the entrance of the school by Carleton Street. Over time this area has become overgrown and unused by students and the community. This was previously a garden space but had to be removed due to some safety concerns. Concept plans were shown for an outdoor classroom space to be developed. The goal would be to create a hands-on learning classroom for students that would include community boards, artboards, garden space, and other learning space items. The school is seeking support both in-kind and/or funding to support the development of the classroom space. Mrs. Workman spoke on the importance of bringing back an outdoor classroom space and the positive outcomes that come from youth interacting with nature, First Nations information, and getting out of the indoor classroom space.

Council thanked Mrs. O'Leary and Mrs. Workman for their presentation. Council noted the importance of VMES in the community and was excited to see a classroom space that would reconnect students with nature and the outdoors. Council noted that this would also make the school a more attractive place for young families wanting to move here and see the assets that the community has supported to ensure the longevity of the school system in Saint Andrews. Council thought this project would build on the outdoor play structures and space available now to residents and visitors.

6. Community Assistance Grant Presentation - Sara Brinkhurst, Executive Director, Sunbury Shores

Sara Brinkhurst, Executive Director, Sunbury Shores presented to Council for an Assistance Grant to support the repairs to the heat pump system at Sunbury Shores. Mrs. Brinkhurst noted that in the summer the heat pumps

in the building stopped working. They were inspected and noted that they were in need of repairs due to the system leaking. We had to strip the basement ceiling to track the leaks occurring. The cost of the repairs is approximately \$6,000. The difficulty without having the heat pumps is that our climate control process for the whole facility does not work. We are asking for the Town's support in covering these costs. We provide programming to youth, adults, and seniors in the community and have some upcoming school programs this fall joining us.

Council thanked Mrs. Brinkhurst and had no further follow-up questions.

7. Community Assistance Grant Presentation - Stratis Gavaris and May Doyle, St. Andrews Pickleball

Stratis Gavaris and May Doyle, from Saint Andrews Pickleball presented to Council for a request of support up to \$7,000 to help cover rental costs of the NBCC gymnasium to host Pickleball. This has become a popular sport among many ages. It is easy to pick up, play, and is very inexpensive. We have paddles and Pickleballs, we just ask that people bring non-marking shoes. Our program is also very social and has been growing over the last several years. Our ask for funding is to help reduce the cost of our ongoing rental of the NBCC gymnasium. For this winter season we will be paying just over \$7,000 in cost for the rental of space. We are hoping for any support Council can provide to help keep the costs of playing Pickleball down for all participants.

Council thanked Mr. Gavaris and Mrs. Doyle for their presentation. Council asked how many participants per day to they get. Mrs. Doyle noted up to 20 on Wednesdays and over 25 on Sundays. We are looking to move to three days a week if possible. We get all types of people playing, some for social, some for competitive, and also have NBCC students playing with us. Council noted that Pickleball is a low-impact low-barrier sport with a great social connection. Council noted the ongoing issues for access to school gymnasiums and the cost of operate them for the public during the weekend. Mrs. Doyle noted they have approached NBCC to look at reducing the cost by 50% of the rentals which are done at other NBCC locations but have not made any headway.

8. Community Assistance Grant Presentation - Laurie Collins, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Debbie Cooper, Program Manager, of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Saint John, Kings, and Charlotte County seeking up to \$20,000 to help with programming and a programming officer for Saint Andrews. We have been providing programming in this area since 2012. Due to the limitations of grants, funding, fundraising, etc., it has been difficult to obtain a sustainable funding model to provide a staff person to this area. We have a mentoring coordinator in both St. George and St. Stephen offering programming to these communities. We raise about 85% of our \$400,000 operation funding through fundraising and grants. We are more than willing to put in extra work to get funds to help support Saint Andrews. We hope to implement an in-school mentoring program between upper year students and elementary school students. We have seen great successes with this program and examples were provided to Council. We would also continue providing the Propel program that is currently operating at the Youth Centre.

Council thanked Mrs. Cooper for the presentation. Council asked for further understanding of the funding model of the Big Brothers Big Sisters. Mrs. Cooper noted that there are 5 branches to the BBBS and that 17% of funding comes from the United Way and the rest is fundraiser, granted, etc. It was noted that Covid changed the processes and programs that they used to use and have since adapted to the new realities. There has been more focus with programming on mental health, mentoring, and identifying other challenges youth face. Council asked if there was a Board that oversees the Saint Andrews area. Mrs. Cooper noted that one of the 5 areas noted is

a Board that represents this area. Council asked how St. Stephen and St. George fund the BBBS and how much funding do they provide. Mrs. Cooper noted she did not have that answer but could be provided by Laurie Collins in follow-up.

F. INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF BY-LAWS AND MOTIONS

1. Report on Funding Requests Over \$3,000 from Community Organizations, FA241018

G. NEW BUSINESS

H. QUESTION PERIOD

I. COUNCILLORS' AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Councillor Hirtle - What was the amount of grant funding that we provided last year?

CAO Spear - We approved \$40,000.00 last year with some funding coming from TALB.

Councillor Hirtle - Can you provide us a breakdown over the last few years as to how much has been spent on Assistance Grants?

CAO Spear - We can provide that for Council reference. Council should keep in mind that the level of support and payments to groups has been based on their ability to raise funds and pay for user support. It is important to review each request individually and the overall affect they have on the community. Sometimes you get in a practice of supporting favourite groups and organizations and do not look deeply into their needs.

Mayor Henderson - There are more organizations struggling and seeing them reach out to municipalities. I will also say, we increased the budget, which might not be a primary service to the community, but these organizations provide service to the community. If we continue to provide funds each year, we will probably see an increase in requests as a result. All are worthwhile requests and Council has tough decisions to make.

Councillor Weare - I have been involved in many organizations over my lifetime; Cubs, Scouts, hockey, figure skating, Girl Guides, etc. We were leaders in those types of things. Never in those 25 years were we asking municipalities for money. We went old-fashioned on fundraising and other money-making events. It is quite shocking to see how many people show up looking for handouts. I know I come from another generation and think differently, but people have to accept responsibility. It is the society in which we live and it is disappearing. It is unreal.

Deputy Mayor Akagi - Yesterday we had Truth and Reconciliation Day with over 300 people there. I would like to thank Paul Nopper and Mervyn Hanselacker for their help in organizing the event. I would also like to thank Judith Moses and Elder Greg Mansfield, a Drum Keeper, for participating in the event. We did the walk around Indian Point and many people participated including those with their drums. We had a couple from Ireland participate, who never experienced this event before, and spoke to me after about how they were educated and thought this was great. Thank you to Council and the public for coming out and remembering those affected by the Residential Schools.

Mayor Henderson - The Truth and Reconciliation Day event was huge the first year and then we saw a decline in attendance, but now back up in numbers. People are reflecting on the day, excellent work, and with the advertising it is drawing a lot of people from Charlotte County to the event. Thank you Deputy Mayor Akagi for all you do and the crosswalks add to the great event.

Councillor Weare - Thank you to Mayor Henderson, Councillors Bennett and Neil, and staff for making the Mayor for the Day and Firefighter for the Day memorable for the kids. They came into the Council Chambers hesitant but left giggling and laughing. I congratulate you on getting a change to educate the youth on the

processes of Council and making it an enjoyable experience for them. The fact they came up with a donation to the Charlotte County Hospital was fantastic. They got a grasp of what Council does and it was most enjoyable to see their smiling faces as they left.

J. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

K. CLOSED SESSION

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 326 - 10/24

Moved by Councillor Bennett

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Akagi

At 8:52 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

9 – 0

Carried



Brad Henderson, Mayor



Paul Nopper, Clerk – Senior
Administrator

