

TOWN OF SAINT ANDREWS

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2024, 6:30 p.m. W.C. O'Neill Arena Complex Council Chambers

A. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

A Regular Meeting of the Town of Saint Andrews Council was held on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:30 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, Steve Neil, and Darrell Weare.

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

Electronic Attendance: Councillor Marc Blanchard

B. LAND RECOGNITION OF THE PESKOTOMUHKATI NATION

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: 361 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Heenan Seconded by Councillor Neil

That the Agenda for the 241104 Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented.

Amended

Motion: 362 - 11/24

Moved by Deputy Mayor Akagi Seconded by Councillor Bennett

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews under Presentations adds MLA Kathy Bockus to present the King's Coronation Medal to Suren Yoganathan.

9 – 0 Carried

Motion: 363 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Heenan Seconded by Councillor Neil

That the Amended Agenda for the 241104 Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented.

9 – 0 Carried

D. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

E. PRESENTATIONS

1. Community Appreciation Awards 2024

F. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Minutes of the 241001 Public Hearing of Objections to By-Law No. 24-04, Heritage Conservation By-Law, Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Motion: 364 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Heenan

Seconded by Councillor Harland

That the Minutes of the 241001 Public Hearing of Objections Meeting to By-Law No. 24-04, Heritage Conservation By-Law on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. be adopted.

9 – 0 Carried

2. Minutes of the 241001 Special Meeting of Council on the 2025 Budget, Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 6:45 p.m.

Motion: 365-11/24

Moved by Councillor Harland

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Akagi

That the Minutes of the 241001 Special Meeting of Council on the 2025 Budget on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 6:45 p.m. be adopted.

9 – 0

Carried

3. Minutes of the 241007 Regular Council Meeting, Monday, October 7, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Motion: 366 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Neil

Seconded by Councillor Heenan

That the Minutes of the 241007 Regular Council Meeting on Monday, October 7, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. be adopted.

9 - 0

Carried

4. Minutes of the 241009 Special Council Meeting 2025 Budget, Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Motion: 367 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Harland

Seconded by Councillor Hirtle

That the Minutes of the 241009 Special Council Meeting on the 2025 Budget on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. be adopted.

9 – 0

Carried

5. 241021 Public Hearing of Objections Meeting to By-Law No. 24-05 BIA Levy, Monday, October 21, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Motion: 368 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Blanchard **Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Akagi

That the Minutes of the 241021 Public Hearing of Objections Meeting to By-Law No. 24-05, BIA Levy on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. be adopted.

9 – 0

Carried

6. Minutes of the 241021 Regular Council Meeting, Monday, October 21, 2024, 6:45 p.m.

Motion: 369 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Gumushel Seconded by Councillor Neil

That the Minutes of the 241021 Regular Council Meeting on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6:45 p.m. be adopted.

9 – 0 Carried

7. Minutes of the 241028 Special Council Meeting on the 2025 Budget, Monday, October 28, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Motion: 370 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Harland

Seconded by Councillor Gumushel

That the Minutes of the 241028 Special Council Meeting on the 2025 Budget on Monday, October 28, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. be approved.

9 - 0

Carried

G. COMMUNICATIONS

H. STAFF REPORT/FINANCIAL REPORT, PWPS241101, RE241101, EBC241101, PWPS241103, PWPS241102, RE241102, FA241124, PWPS241105, PWPS241104, PCD241101, FA241126, FA241127

Motion: 371 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Bennett

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Akagi

That Council accepts all the Staff Reports and Financial Reports as presented.

9 – 0

Carried

- I. INTRODUCTION, CONSIDERATION AND PASSING OF BY-LAWS AND MOTIONS
 - 1. Economic Development, Business, & Culture Committee Councillors Hirtle and Weare
 - 1. By-Law No. 24-04, Heritage Conservation By-Law Call for First Reading, EBC240902

Read by Mayor Henderson by Title for First Reading.

Council noted that several residents have approached Councillors with concerns about this By-Law. Staff and Council are following up on these concerns.

Motion: 372 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Hirtle

Seconded by Councillor Heenan

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews removes the designation of the Cottage Craft Building as a Local Historic Place.

9 – 0 Carried

Motion: 373 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Hirtle

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Akagi

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews removes the designation of the O'Brien House Building as a Local Historic Place.

9 – 0 Carried

Motion: 374 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Hirtle

Seconded by Councillor Harland

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews removes the designation of 312 Montague Street Richard Keay Residence as a Local Historic Place.

9 – 0 Carried

Motion: 375 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Hirtle

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Akagi

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews grants leave for First Reading to By-Law No. 24-04, Heritage Conservation By-Law for the Town of Saint Andrews

9 – 0 Carried

2. Community Assistance Grant Request for 2025 Winter Warmer Festival, EBC241103

Motion: 376 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Weare

Seconded by Councillor Heenan

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews supports the Winter Warmer Festival 2025 with a Community Assistance Grant of \$500.00 and that funds will come from the 2025 Budget.

9 – 0 Carried

3. Community Assistance Grant Request 2024 Christmas By-the-Sea, EBC241102

CAO Spear noted they are currently a Committee of Council and we do the formal bookkeeping. They are asking for a transfer of \$2,000.00 to the Committee funding. They had a request to move the lighting to warm white, which they are purchased ahead of the funding. Mayor Henderson asked if they purchasing these lights for the Town for the future? CAO Spear noted yes. Council agreed to funding for Christmas By-the-Sea with \$1,600.00 from the

Community Assistance Grant Fund and \$400.00 from the Tourism Accommodation Levy.

Motion: 377 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Hirtle

Seconded by Councillor Heenan

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews supports the Christmas By-the-Sea Committee with a Community Assistance Grant of \$______, for 2024.

Amended

Motion: 378 - 11/24

Moved by Deputy Mayor Akagi

Seconded by Councillor Gumushel

That the Council of the Town of Saint Andrews supports the Christmas By-the Sea Committee with a Community Assistance Grant of \$1,600.00 and \$400.00 from the Tourism Accommodation Levy for 2024.

9 - 0

Carried

2. Finance & Administration Committee - Deputy Mayor Akagi

1. Discussion on the Town of Saint Andrews 2025 Budget, FA241125

CAO Spear noted that at the last meeting, Council went over capital items and it had been requested that staff go through our second round on what is really important versus what can be deferred for another year. Referenced documents with the updated Capital Budget were provided to Council.

Buildings and Structures

On the recommendation of staff the following projects we think can be deferred but just understand that under normal circumstances if money wasn't an issue should be completed but are not at the point where service needs to be stopped or playing has to be stopped:

- Tennis Courts are still reparable we just upped the operational budget a bit for more fill and stuff - \$615,000.00.
- The Curling Club floor is going to be due for replacement sometime in the next few years - \$970,000.00.
- Court House painting for now we've set that aside, we are losing a grant on that (\$30,000.00), the building is in rough shape but could probably go another summer while we figure out the longevity and plan for the Court House - \$270,000.00.
- Shoreline protection project William Street tied into the Wharf project \$150,000.00.
- Welcome Centre heat pump second tenant is leaving so door can be left open and a fan put in the room.
- Arena renovation of lobby washrooms they are in rough shape but can be deferred for another year.
- Youth Centre cabinetry and play station \$3,600.00.

 The Library heat pump can probably get money back, so would probably add it back in.

Council asked if there was a way to use the additional Courthouse grant funding for additional repairs. Clerk Nopper noted the funds had to be spent by the end of October. Council asked if we can look at getting grants for the curling rink floor and the tennis courts. Council asked staff to speak with the grant writer from the Regional Service Commission. Staff noted they will review grant opportunities and set a meeting with the grant writer.

New Capital

- Surveillance cameras not necessary can be deferred and purchased over time increments.
- New washroom building by Town Hall most of the funding came from the Development Fund, depending on the visioning exercise can sit on that for a year
- Portable stage trailer deferred; tied into Market Square visioning exercise and somewhat the Court House visioning exercise - \$37,000.00

CAO Spear noted that the last budget presented showed \$7.8 million in Capital requests now dropped to \$5.7 million, and long-term debt was originally \$2.8 million down to \$1.685 million. Debt did not go down as fast as the Capital as we had grants worked into the funding that has gone away. Council mentioned first time capital was \$7.8 million now at \$5.7 million. The worksheet shows 5.1 million. CAO Spear indicated there was a calculation error on the worksheet. Will update years 2 - 5 on capital projects once get Council feedback. See effects on tax rates in the future. Council thanked staff for their proposals. This dictates the long-term debt of the Town, this is borrowing for capital. CAO Spear noted we can go through 2025 projects one by one or await direction. Can do a quick summary and if anyone has questions, I can stop and discuss it.

Council asked what is the debt ratio of the town now. CAO Spear indicated that at this time we are at 4% and if we do these projects it will take you to 6% in year two and once the debt for the Wharf kicks in in two years will jump 10 - 12%. None of these projects have been cancelled except the Curling Club and the tennis courts are just waiting for Council pleasure on that. Everything else is stuff that needs to be done. I was plugging the numbers into the budget, both tax zones the tax rates could potentially be lowered. The total cost of assessments went up by 10% and going to lower the overall mill rate to get the 3%. I did see a report from Service New Brunswick and new construction accounts for 3% of growth. High-end math could potentially have tax increases, but in theory, tax bills could be flat. Council noted that will be case by case and does not mean individual homes with spike protectors, etc. CAO Spear noted that staff have a meeting with Service New Brunswick on the 18th and have a discussion with 10% increases year to year, so why 9% including 3% growth. Council spoke about the spike protector, and what happened, did assessments go up again in the Wards? Something has to give, limited inventory on certain prices of homes. Up 50% in

a couple of years for a lot of homeowners, at some point that is going to have to stop. Lowering the mill rate is something we can do. Inflation is inflation, when the houses go up here so do all the bills around here all the construction people are tied up and people are busy which is good, but costly to residents. CAO Spear reminded Council that we cannot forget about the increasing debt we either defer stuff do you take a little more of an increase to keep the debt low or do you cut projects, it's a finite balancing act. Give the new government a chance to see new funding formulas, etc. The other concern or question, there will be a federal election in the next 11 months or before then, federal funding usually drives provincial funding could be stalled for two years depending on processes.

Council discussed going through this line by line, or staff proposal for deferred projects realizing that as you defer projects it is just compounding. If all these things really need to be done, then if we defer them it is just going to be harder days ahead. With the Wharf project the debt ratio is extremely high for the Town of Saint Andrews. Are there still things you want to question? Looking for Council to give some direction or if it looks good, let's move ahead. Council noted that tf we go line by line and only save \$40,000 that is not going to make that much difference. We do have a real problem with structural projects, i.e. curling club rink. Windows are needed but they are not million dollar projects. If we cut projects out, they will be added on to next year as well. We understand the debt of the Town but if you keep removing things there is nothing left. Then we don't have anything left. We have to find a balance between yea and nay. Council noted the main concern is compounding issue down the road and future Council's to consider. Do not want an insurmountable challenge especially early in their tenure. We do not think we need to go line by line. Inflation does not go the other way. If we push these things forward, then we are looking at inflationary costs in the next couple of years. One thing I worry about, scraping the barrel to throw a few things off this budget onto 2026 There are things we can push off, but should we really push them off. A significant amount of debt we are throwing into 2026. To be fair to the future Council, we should be aware. Can we or are we doing it because we have to?

CAO Spear said that everything is proposed now because we really, really should. Skipped a page, it is the Transportation Network.

Transportation Network

We have cut two infrastructure projects out this year:

- Harriet Street between Queen and Water, infrastructure work everything around it has been replaced, it's doable it has not had that many leaks in the past year. We can continue to repair it. Savings in paving costs - \$62,000.00
- Champlain Avenue infrastructure savings \$97,000.00
- Prince of Wales upgrade. This is the big one that needs to be settled. In discussions with CBCL we could potentially lose 9 trees up there. With the work that's going to be done, some of the roots will be moved that could affect them, cut and stuff in order to do the work. There is a potential to lose a fair amount

of trees. The road itself should be asphalted, \$652,000.00, it's in very rough shape. Passable but as one of our main avenues in town especially for the Kiwanis Campground, tourists and walkers the street itself should be taken care of one way or the other. The question is are you going to add the 1.5 metres of trail at the detriment of some of those older trees or leave the trees. The trees are senior and there is still a concern of tree death. Either pay \$625,000.00 to resurface the road or \$446,000.00 to get a 1.5 metre trail. We need that trail in order to get the funding.

Council indicated that it is difficult to have this discussion at budget time. It makes sense, but infrastructure spending is something that you plan for years in advance and something we should have in our Asset Management Plan and we should know at all times what is coming up in the next year. Not at budget time, it should be an ongoing plan. Things fall in place if addressed on a regular basis whether it is monthly, quarterly, etc. To be put in the position of having to make these decisions over a period of a couple of weeks just seems not the rational way to do it. Council spoke to the Prince of Wales Street project and that we have kicked that down the road a few times. Not sure when we last went through the asset management system. We did sit down with the Asset Manager and went through all the streets. We have deferred this due to cost. Hate to lose any of those trees through there but it is quite unsafe and frankly, that aside, just pointing out we have known this for a while now. Council further discussed the realities of Asset Management. We could next week if we want we could and talk about the transportation network for 2026 or 2027. Debates and challenges on this, being candid, to do our asset management file, we are going to hit our debt ratio. Even though it's planned we can not do it because we're going to hit the number if we do not have some support from other levels of government. Figuring out fiscal reform is important for the province and we are better off than others in terms of debt. Current funding models are not working and going to fail. We have infrastructure the cost of replacing it far exceeds what it originally cost to put it in. This one was pumped forward a couple of years due to grant funding that will make it cheaper if we do it on our own in a few years. It will be required. Now the bad side of this there will be some significant concern in the community because this will require us to knock down at least 9 of those trees on Prince of Wales. We know a lot of people in the community would say let them have their lifecycle. As much as the trees are valuable, is it worth the extra money and if we replace on our own, the trail would not be completed. It is an active transportation a lot of people walk the town every morning. It is still a relatively safe space and limited pedestrian accidents over the years. This one, no matter what you do, if you don't do it you are going to pay more later. If we do it we will have a significant amount of people in the community who are upset that Council cut those trees. This is one of those items we saw deferred from two years ago; deferred to 2025. The exact same process we have been doing of deferring. Now this has come forward again so it needs to be dealt with and that is the problem with deferring things. Wonder if we can set up a time with the Asset Manager for a quick walk to show us which trees are going down. Just so we can visualize

what that street would look like without those trees. If you say that one's gone that one's gone, we would feel a lot better about Council's decision when we can actually see the impact on that street. The following meeting it can be a very quick conversation. It makes sense to get the side trail and the road done cheaper than what it would cost for us in a couple of years to just get the road done. But what is the impact of that trail? Trees are important to a lot of people in this community. It is a beautiful street. We should plant extra trees if we lose those. We have the responsibility to keep this community green as well. I value the exercise to see the impacts on the streets. Staff please arrange.

CAO Spear noted there are a couple of projects on here that should be covered by the Tourism Accommodation Levy:

- Renovations of washrooms at Town Hall should be spent from that. These are used mostly by visitors. They are tourist washrooms.
- Parking lot by the trail system. We're putting that in for the trail but we're putting it in for visitors that come to our community. We have enough parking for residents when no tourists are here. We are putting in additional parking for the future for visitors who come here in the summer. Perhaps that funding can come from Tourism Accommodation Levy to build the parking lot. If we have a revenue source it should be paying for it is my opinion.

CAO Spear noted that when he set up the funding model I already picked those two projects to be paid from the TAL. Will represent the funding model to Council. Council agreed that TAL should cover tourism related items. Council noted that the we need a project at Indian Point for raising and protecting to mitigate against climate change. We do not have a cost estimate for that. Town staff, do we have a general idea and what are we looking at there. We are talking about deferring a lot of different things, but there are some things that are going to need to happen. This needs to be one that happens. It is to protect major infrastructure in our Water Treatment Plant. Seen some of the flood risk models from the province and that is a point of weakness. CAO Spear indicated that we had a plan with a \$1.5 million minimum to do that work to raise it a full metre to protect the inground infrastructure and maybe widen the road a little. Clerk Nopper indicated that one of the items that was addressed by staff was the AIM shoreline restoration project that we were looking at that would show private and public natural infrastructure repairs so with that going ahead that would also help tailor a project for the Point and we could reapply for funding that was already out. CAO Spear indicated that we have a ten year plan that Mr. Acton has worked on for 8-10 years. Most Council's review at budget but we can bring back quarterly for Council review. Just seeing what is easier for Council. Council was opted to maybe add a Finance and Administration Committee and then have a quarterly meeting and review budget have a quarterly conversation. If we had a quarterly meeting with Councillors, there would be some value in that. Big takeaway from this is that we have this plan, we have a grant writer, let's give them this presentation and say these are the priority ones we want you to

go out and write some grants for us. To have some external support trying to find some of these challenges that we have We have to get proactive in finding other levels of government funding for our projects. Our Asset Management Plan tells us we are going to be in trouble.

Council spoke about he Ross Museum, and they have \$42,000 in requests that are budgeted and they had less than 2,000 visitors here. Can you remind us how much we get each year from the Ross Trust? CAO Spear indicated about \$32,000 which only partially covers operations. It does not cover any capital. Previous Councils heavily debated the future of the museum. It was an active conversation. To your point it is a heritage building in the community, but with less than 2,000 visitors and the donations were about \$1,000 perhaps we need to look at another model to run it. Council noted that more discussion is need about heritage assets and how they tie in with the Courthouse project. Council debated the heritage aspect of the community and noted they need to make a decision on the identify of the community as a heritage community and the best way to promote that.

CAO Spear - The numbers for the Blockhouse are for the property not just the structure. It's a fantastic spot to get a great view of the town and the water. Great they are accessing the land, doing picnics and watching things. but probably only a fraction of the people visit the fort.

Mayor Henderson - It is inviting, it's the location, it's got a vibe to it. The kids like the cannons, people stop by, etc. Sunny day in Saint Andrews most people not going into the museum. One of the items you hear, people think it is a family collection of the Rosses, and only a family collection of the Rosses, but that is not all it is. There are changing displays. Fundamentally a lot of museums do well having a mixed collection of items. Most museums have financial difficulties and challenges around visitation and donations. Museums across the province are either struggling or being subsidized. They are relying on government grants and other things to continue to operate. Some are managed better than others.

Utility Capital

CAO Spear noted it has always been in my plan over the winter to do a 5 - 10 year plan of capital assets. The utilities are probably more important than the general as have to recover it through user fees. There's a lot of work that should be done in there. Some things we've put off for now to get us through next year -

- Metered consumption starting this fall. Hopefully in the next few weeks we'll have the bills out.
- Champlain Avenue deferring to 2026 \$858,000.
- Plan to do Prince of Wales near the Algonquin \$550,000
- Harriet Street \$400,000 deferred
- Plan to do Carleton Street \$125,000

- Water Treatment facility we're still continuing the meter programs \$50,000. We're looking at replacing some of the larger meters. They'll probably generate enough revenue in updating those meters to offset the cost.
- Add cameras at the Sewer Lagoon \$6,000
- Originally \$2.1 million worth of capital purchases it's down to \$801,000
- Original long term debt was \$895,000 now it's \$141,000
- Projects there that probably should be done, could be done but an extra year will not hurt services to residences along those lines.

Council asked about the dam at Chamcook Lake, the wheel that is there, is it a fixed structure. CAO Spear noted that originally there were logs there - 10 x 10 rail ties that could be dropped in. Because of the level of water that was coming down, and the water levels to the landowners were getting high, several years ago they removed all of them, so water is at the level it is now. They could be added back in to bring up the water levels. There are not any concerns with the water. Winter is coming and the levels should go up. The dam had a structural report done about 8-10 years ago there was a little work done to it, so physically it's in pretty good shape. Department of Environment and Local Government did a report about 3 years ago and there were no concerns. We can control the water level but have not done much in the last few years because of significant rainfalls. It's not through town consumption causing the decrease of the lake water level. Lack of significant rainfall since the 1st of July. The dam itself is structurally fine. There's a manual system for putting in the gates. Will speak with staff to install timber to bring up water levels. It is the first time in years and years that the level is this low. It's not what we would call critical, but it is low for what we should be.

- 3. Public Works & Public Safety Committee- Councillors Bennett and Neil
- 4. Recreation & Environment Committee Councillors Gumushel and Blanchard
- 5. Planning & Community Development Committee Councillors Harland and Heenan
- J. NEW BUSINESS
- K. QUESTION PERIOD
- L. COUNCILLORS' AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Akagi - There will be a drum and rattle workshop on November 16th. The poster is on the Town website. Call or email Kate Akagi to register. Call ASAP as we need to know the numbers. There are only 20 spots in the morning and afternoon.

Deputy Mayor Akagi - Have a great Remembrance Day. Remember to get to the Anglican church early to get a seat.

M. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Henderson - Again I would like to congratulate the Bayside Golf Course volunteers there is a number of them that were recognized, Cindy Kohler, Gregor Neil and David Lord for their contributions to the community.

N. CLOSED SESSION

Motion: 379 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Gumushel Seconded by Councillor Neil

At 8:23 p.m. Council moves into Closed Session per the Local Governance Act, Section 68 (1)(d) the proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land.

9 – 0 Carried

Motion: 380 - 11/24

Moved by Councillor Harland Seconded by Councillor Bennett

At 8:48 p.m. that Council returns to Open Session.

9 – 0 Carried

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: 381 - 11/24

Moved by Deputy Mayor Akagi Seconded by Councillor Gumushel

At 8:49 p.m. that the meeting be adjourned.

9 – 0 Carried

Brad Henderson, Mayor

Paul Nopper, Clerk Senior

Administrator