

**Community Centrum: Grand Bay Room – Broadcast for the Public**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Merrifield called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**2. Acknowledgement of Treaty Land**

*We respectfully acknowledge that Grand Bay-Westfield exists on the traditional Wolastoqey (WOOL-US-TOOK-WAY) land.*

*The lands of Wabanaki (WAH-BAH-NAH-KEE) people are recognized in a series of Peace and Friendship Treaties to establish an ongoing relationship of peace, friendship and mutual respect between equal nations.*

*The river that runs by our town is known as Wolastoq (WOOL-LUSS-TOOK), along which live Wolastoqiyik (WOOL-US-TOO-GWEEG) - the people of the beautiful and bountiful river.*

*We, the staff and elected representatives, pay respect to the elders, past and present, and descendants of this land.*

**3. Mayor's Comments**

**4. Record of Attendance**

Mayor Merrifield, Deputy Mayor Toole, Councillor McIntosh Lawrence, Councillor Day, Councillor Balcomb, Councillor Balemans, and Councillor Burpee in attendance.

**Regrets:**

**Staff Attendance:** James Barrington, Troy Gautreau, David Taylor, Bruce Gault, Gary Clark, Broc Belding, Hannah Chen and Nicole Kelly

**Guests:**

**ADOPTED**  
November 27, 2023

**5. Agenda Approval**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield approve the Agenda of November 14, 2023, as presented.

Motioned by: Councillor Balemans

Seconded by: Councillor Balcomb

Carried

**6. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest**

None

**7. Public Hearings/Presentations/Delegations/Petitions**

a) Presentation of community grant funding to fall 2023 recipients.

b) RCMP Q2 Report – A/Sgt. Jullie Rogers-Marsh

**8. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**a) Regular Council Minutes of October 23, 2023**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield adopt the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2023, as presented.

Motioned by: Councillor Burpee

Seconded by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Carried

**b) Email Poll: Dirt Road Christmas Parade**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield ratify the email poll: Dirt Road Christmas Parade.

Motioned by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Seconded by: Councillor Burpee

Carried

**c) Email Poll: YMCA Glenn Carpenter Camp**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield ratify the email poll: YMCA Glenn Carpenter Camp.

Motioned by: Councillor Balcomb

Seconded by: Councillor Balemans

Carried

**d) Email Poll: Remembrance Day Service Road Closure**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield ratify the email poll:  
Remembrance Day Service Road Closure

Motioned by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Seconded by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Carried

**9. Unfinished Business**

**10. By-Laws**

**a) By-Law No. PS-004: Dangerous & Unsightly Premises By-Law**

**First Reading (by title):**

**By-Law No. PS-004: Dangerous & Unsightly Premises By-Law**

Motioned by: Councillor Burpee

Seconded by: Councillor Balemans

Carried

**Second Reading (by title):**

**By-Law No. PS-004: Dangerous & Unsightly Premises By-Law**

Motioned by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Carried

b) **By-Law No. PD-011: Building By-Law**

**First Reading (by title):**  
**By-Law No. PD-011: Building By-Law**

Motioned by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Seconded by: Councillor Burpee Carried

**Second Reading (by title):**  
**By-Law No. PD-011: Building By-Law**

Motioned by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Seconded by: Councillor Burpee Carried

c) **By-Law No. PD-0012: Development Incentive Program**

**First Reading (by title):**  
**By-Law No. PD-0012: Development Incentive Program**

Motioned by: Councillor Burpee

Seconded by: Councillor Balcomb Carried

**Second Reading (by title):**  
**By-Law No. PD-0012: Development Incentive Program**

Motioned by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Seconded by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence Carried

d) **By-Law No. PW-002: Respecting Snow and Ice Control**

**Third Reading (by title):**  
**By-Law No. PW-002: Respecting Snow and Ice Control**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay Westfield Table this item until the meeting November 27, 2023.

Motioned by: Councillor Balcomb

Seconded by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Carried

**11. New Business/Recommendations**

**a) Snow and Ice Control Plan**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield adopt the revised Snow and Ice Control Plan dated November 2023, for immediate effect.

Motioned by: Councillor Balemans

Seconded by: Councillor Burpee

Carried

**b) Budget 2024: Capital**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield move that the 2024 Capital Budget, in the amount of \$1,810,000, be adopted as presented.

Motioned by: Councillor Balcomb

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Carried

**c) Budget 2024: General Operating**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield approves the following:

- The sum of \$8,462,962 be the total operating budget of the local government of Grand Bay-Westfield for the 2024 fiscal year.
- The sum of \$7,546,629 be the Warrant to the local government for the 2024 fiscal year.
- The tax rate for Ward 1 will be \$1.31 for the 2024 fiscal year.
- The tax rate for Ward 2 will be \$0.6759 for the 2024 fiscal year.
- The levying by the Minister of Local Government and Local Governance Reform of said amount on real property liable to taxation under the Assessment Act within the local government of Grand Bay-Westfield.

Motioned by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Seconded by: Councillor Balcombe

Carried

**d) Budget 2024: Sewerage**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield adopt the 2024 Sewerage Utility Budget, reflecting total revenue of \$709,659 and total expenditures of \$709,659. With the sewerage user rate of \$370 per unit, effective January 1, 2024.

Motioned by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Seconded by: Councillor Burpee

Carried

**e) UMN B AGM Resolutions**

**Tourism Accommodation Levy Applicable to Short-Term Rental Properties**

Whereas pursuant to municipal reform initiatives, the Government of New Brunswick has mandated new responsibilities for local governments including regional tourism promotion which is to be implemented and conducted through regional service commissions; and

Whereas the cost of this new mandated responsibility is to be borne by the local government entities in each regional service commission; and

Whereas pursuant to section 10(1)(m.1) of the Local Governance Act. Chapter 2017,c.18 (the LGA), a local government may make by-laws for municipal purposes respecting a tourism accommodation levy which by regulation 101.1 of the LGA is defined to include "a tourism accommodation levy to be paid by guests of lodging establishments within the territorial limits of the local government"; and

Whereas pursuant to Regulation 101.1(8), a local government that imposes a levy shall use the proceeds of the levy collected for tourism promotion and development which may include a local government's payments to regional service commissions for their share of regional tourism promotion which would thereby reduce the financial burden on those local governments to pay for such a new mandated responsibility; and

Whereas the tourism accommodation levy regulation does not include the specific

application of a levy to those accommodation properties listed on online accommodation platforms like those operated by Airbnb and VRBO which gives those operators an unfair advantage over hotels and other accommodation providers that are subject to the levy; and

Whereas municipalities have also expressed concern regarding the shortage of rental housing and the impact short-term rentals have on their housing stock, charging an accommodation levy on such properties as a means to address the impact these rentals might have on housing stock that might otherwise go to longer-term rentals would be beneficial; and

AND WHEREAS local governments are ill-equipped to locate or track short-term rental properties or rentals on those online accommodation platforms within their territorial limits and therefore, have limited ability to extend the tourism levy to those short-term rental properties listed on those online accommodation platforms; and

Whereas other provinces such as British Columbia, Quebec, and Alberta have implemented regulations extending the application of their tourism levies to short-term

rental properties listed on online accommodation platforms like Airbnb and VRBO thereby generating additional revenue to pay for tourism promotion and development,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The UMN advocate to and request that the Government of New Brunswick amend the sections of the LGA dealing with tourism accommodation levies so that the application of such levies would specifically extend to all short-term rental properties listed on online accommodation platforms like those operated by Airbnb and VRBO.
2. The UMN advocate to and request that the Government of New Brunswick work with online accommodation platforms including Airbnb and VRBO to create a system whereby tourism accommodation levies can be collected by those companies as part of their rental service agreements and then remitted to the local governments in which those properties operate to be used for tourism promotion and development.
3. That UMN advocate to and request that the Government of New Brunswick

create a central registry to ensure that all short-term rental properties operating within the province are registered with the province so that municipalities may better understand how many short-term rental properties are operating within their jurisdiction, who manages those properties and the impacts such short-term rental properties may have on the availability of rental housing stock.

Motioned by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Seconded by: Councillor Balcomb

Carried

**Removal of social focus mandate from the Regional Service Commission's community development mandate**

Whereas the Government of New Brunswick introduced Local Governance Reform; and

Whereas this reform expanded the roles and mandates of the regional service commissions to include economic development, community development, tourism promotion, regional transportation, cost-sharing on recreation infrastructure, and public safety committees; and

Whereas the three largest commissions - Southeast, Fundy and Capital regions – have been given the Social Focus Mandate (Homelessness, Mental Health and Poverty Reduction), which falls under the Community Development Mandate to partner with the provincial government to ensure the co-ordination of services to address growing community social needs, including homelessness, poverty, newcomer services and mental health; and

Whereas Municipalities are limited with respect to funding and only have limited human resources, that may not have the necessary skillsets nor facilities to assume the responsibilities of the Social Focus Mandate; and

Whereas by downloading these areas of responsibility and associated costs to the municipalities who fund the regional services commissions, the provincial government is clearly abdicating its duty; and encumbering these local governments with further significant financial costs,

BE IT RESOLVED that UMNBC call upon the Government of New Brunswick to remove the Social Focus Mandate from the regional service commissions' Community Development Mandate, including the added costs associated with



their 2024 budgets, OR, if the Government of New Brunswick continues to support the Social Focus Mandate being added to the responsibilities of the Regional Service Commissions, then the Province also agrees to fund the RSC's 100% of the full cost for this added mandate on an ongoing basis.

Motioned by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Seconded by: Councillor Burpee

Carried

### **Municipal Land Grants**

Whereas the province of New Brunswick is experiencing population growth the likes of which we have not seen in decades; and

Whereas consequently one of the issues we are experiencing at the municipal level from this population increase is a lack of housing of all types; and

Whereas the provincial and federal levels of government have recognized the issue and have marshalled financial assistance in an effort to alleviate the situation; and

Whereas most municipalities recognize they need new housing and are willing to access the funding being made available but they might be lacking the land resources required; and

Whereas the lack of available land has therefore become a key deterrent to economic growth, and that the wealth creation and social growth that would arise from municipal land grants could be used to greatly enhance the social fabric of New Brunswick;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities adopts the following motion; that the Government of New Brunswick be requested to grant up to 50 acres of Crown Land to Municipalities within the following guidelines:

- The land be granted within one year of a Municipal request;
- The Municipality provide a plan regarding the number of housing units to be built and the infrastructure required;
- The granted land may only be used for the building of housing;
- The granted land must be used within a 5-year time horizon.

Motioned by: Councillor Burpee

Seconded by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Carried

### **Reliable reception for cell phones New Brunswick**

Whereas cellular reception is not reliable in many regions of New Brunswick; And  
Whereas this problem disadvantages citizens and businesses in these regions; And  
Whereas the current situation may have effects on public safety, education, health care, the quality of life of citizens, the prosperity of businesses and regional growth;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick work in collaboration with the AFMNB and the FCM to lobby governments provincial and federal so that they invest in the development reliable cell phone network for all citizens.

Motioned by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Seconded by: Councillor Balcomb

Carried

### **Sustainable and Transparent Department of Transportation & Infrastructure (DTI) Funding Agreement**

Whereas the province provides municipalities with grant funding towards operational costs of the provincially owned designated highways that run through municipalities; and

Whereas the cost of providing these services has increased significantly over the years but the grant that municipalities have received has changed very little; and  
Whereas DTI funds repairs, maintenance and replacement of designated highways based on their fiscal and timeline priorities with consultation from municipalities; and  
Whereas DTI's process does not align with municipal processes for determining capital budgets; and

Whereas municipal asset management requires a transparent and predictable process to address the ongoing maintenance, repairs, and replacement of designated highways within municipal boundaries,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick advocate with the Government of New Brunswick (GNB) to develop a new funding agreement with a funding formula, based on a per kilometre basis, that is tied to the economic growth of the province as defined by a share of the provincial portion of the HST from the previous fiscal year.

Motioned by: Councillor Balemans

Seconded by: Councillor Burpee

Carried

### **Moratorium on Regional Service Commission Cost Increases**

Whereas the Municipal Reform Process has resulted in a number of added responsibilities to the Regional Service Commissions; and  
Whereas the municipalities, through additional tax dollars, are required to pay for these new services; and  
Whereas Community Funding Grants are being reduced annually, resulting in even fewer municipal resources to pay for these new services,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick advocate with the Government of New Brunswick to place a moratorium on Regional Service Commission cost increases, pending off-setting financial contributions directly from the province.

Motioned by: Councillor Balcomb

Seconded by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Carried

### **Removal of PST/HST on New Apartment Construction**

WHEREAS New Brunswick is experiencing record population growth and evolving demographics with new housing needs; and  
WHEREAS many large and small municipalities in New Brunswick are seeking to respond by increasing their supply of available housing; and  
WHEREAS the cost of construction is a barrier to facilitating local housing construction; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has recently announced it will introduce legislation to enhance the GST Rental Rebate on new purpose-built rental housing,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick lobby the Government of New Brunswick to remove the provincial portion of the HST on new purpose-built rental housing.

Motioned by: Councillor Burpee

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Carried

### **New Revenue Tools for Municipalities**

Whereas the implementation of Phase-1 of local governance reform has resulted in increased areas of jurisdiction and responsibility for New Brunswick's municipalities; and

Whereas these reforms have had a significant impact on the fiscal situation of municipalities

Whereas pressures from a fast-growing population, increasing costs from the effects And mitigation of climate change, and expanded responsibilities through the Regional Service Commissions have created more financial demands on municipalities; and

Whereas these increased responsibilities have not yet come with adequate and respectful levels of funding or funding options; and

Whereas "financing local governance" is one of the four pillars outlined in the provincial government's plan to create vibrant and sustainable communities; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the UMNB urge the province of New Brunswick to implement new revenue tools for municipalities, including but not limited to: vacating property tax room and modernizing the property tax system; provincial-municipal revenue-sharing options; a fairer and more responsible equalization program; and long-term offsets to compensate for new responsibilities carried out by Regional Service Commissions.

Motioned by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Seconded by: Councillor Burpee

**f) MOU Westfield & District Recreation Association Inc.**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield authorize the Mayor and the CAO to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Westfield and District Recreation Association, regarding the installation of a water storage tank at the 4 Corners recreation area.

Motioned by: Councillor Burpee

Seconded by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Carried

**g) Road Closure Proposal 25 Prosser Court**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield approve proceeding with preparing survey and legal documents to enable passing a By-law to close a certain portion of Prosser Court for consolidation of this parcel with the two adjoining properties, PID 3021081 and 458406. All costs to be covered by the applicant.

Motioned by: Councillor Balemans

Seconded by: Councillor Balcomb

Carried

**12. Bills for Payment**

- a) That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield authorize the November 14, 2023 bills for payment as presented in the amount for \$631,984.98.

Motioned by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Seconded by: Councillor McIntosh Lawrence

Carried

**13. Consent Agenda**

- a) UMN B Dues Changes
- b) October 2023 Building Report
- c) PAC Meeting Minutes October 3, 2023
- d) NB Police Association Advertising Request
- e) Grand Bay-Westfield Full Real Estate Report
- f) PAC Memo to Council re Term Expirations

**End Consent Agenda**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield receive and file the consent agenda items for November 14, 2023.

Motioned by: Councillor Burpee

Seconded by: Councillor Balemans

Carried

**14. Council Reports**

**15. Business Arising from Committee of the Whole**

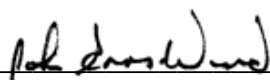
**16. Adjournment**

That the Council of the Town of Grand Bay-Westfield adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

Motioned by: Councillor Burpee

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Toole

Carried



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John Enns-Wind  
CAO



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Brittany Merrifield  
Mayor