

Village of New Maryland
Council
19 May 2021

Present: Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee Councillor Paul LeBlanc
 Councillor Mike Pope Councillor Tim Scammell
 CAO/Clerk Cynthia Geldart

Guests: Laurie Pearson
 Mariet van Groenewoud
 Ben Soke and family members Michele Berry, Xander Soke and Rachel Johnston

Absent: Deputy Mayor Alex Scholten



1. Call to Order

Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and shared a reminder that the Council meeting is video-recorded for broadcasting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Councillor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell that the agenda be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOVED BY Councillor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell that the minutes of the regular session of Council of 21 April 2021 be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Disclosure of Interest

No *Disclosures of Interest* were declared.

5. Presentations: To Ben Soke

Mayor Wilson-Shee presented Ben Soke, a resident of New Maryland, with a Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding baseball talent and skills as a right-handed pitcher/middle infielder and for his acceptance to the Muskoka Outlaws Baseball Academy in Ontario.

6. Proclamations

Mayor Wilson-Shee proclaimed Disability Awareness Week from 30 May 2021 to 05 June 2021.

7. Correspondence

The following correspondence was read into the record by CAO/Clerk Cynthia Geldart as per the request of Mayor Wilson-Shee:

- a copy of the Resolution passed by Council in support of a 9-8-8 national crisis hotline to the Hon. John Williamson MP, the Hon. Jenica Atwin, MP, the Hon. Patti Hajdu, Federal Minister of Health, Jeff Carr, our local MLA and Ian Scott, Chairperson/CEO of CRTC Canada;
- a letter of gratitude from residents in Castle Acres thanking our Public Works Supervisor Rockland Miller, Councillor Paul LeBlanc, and former Councillor Gisèle McCaie-Burke for their exemplary

public service and the assistance they provided in December 2020 when the residents had issues with their private wells;

- a request from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to submit an updated 5-year plan for the Municipal Designated Highway Program; and
- a letter from a resident concerning the use and regulation of pesticides on private lawns within the Village.

8. Meetings and/or Special Events Attended by Mayor Wilson-Shee

Mayor Wilson-Shee provided an update of the meetings and events that she attended since the last Council meeting:

- April 28: Ignite Fredericton Annual General Meeting (AGM) via Zoom (*Deputy Mayor Scholten & Councillor Pope also attended*); Councillor Pope (representing the Village) and Deputy Mayor Scholten will remain as Directors on the Ignite Fredericton Board;
- May 04: Presentation via Teams to Mr. Graves and his grade 4 students at New Maryland Elementary School (NMES) regarding the role of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors;
- May 10: shared birthday wishes with longtime Village resident Kurt Ferworn on behalf of Council, staff and residents; and
- May 18: Local Governance Reform Public Engagement session via Zoom with the focus on Structure and Finance, with moderator Chad Peters and 137 participants registered.

The Mayor also took the opportunity to read a letter she received from a resident expressing appreciation to Public Works Supervisor Rockland Miller, Councillor Paul LeBlanc and former Councillor Gisèle McCaie-Burke for their exemplary public service.

9. Comments by Members of Council

No comments were brought forward.

10. Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC has not met since the last Council meeting.

11. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Committee

The ERP Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

12. Project Reports / Updates

12. (i) Recreation & Leisure Services Department Updates

Councillor Paul LeBlanc provided an update of the Recreation & Leisure Services Department activities as detailed in the summary prepared by Michelle Sawler, Recreation Coordinator.

He reported that after a one-year hiatus, staff were pleased to reintroduce the spring newsletter which was mailed out to residents the first week of May. Copies are also available at the Village office and an e-version can be found on our website. In addition to updates from the Recreation & Leisure Services Department, the “Village News” includes information from several departments as well as municipal projects and events.

The provincial government “*Guidance for the Operation of Summer Camps During COVID-19*” and “*Frequently Asked Questions for Summer Camps*” documents were released on 06 May 2021. Although the maximum number of campers allowed each week remains at fifteen (15), the overall guidelines are less restrictive than last year and staff will be able to reintroduce a number of activities, crafts, water games and cooking activities into the Day Camp program this summer. Day Camp registration begins on Monday, 17 May 2021 for Village residents and Tuesday, 18 May 2021 is open registration. All of the camp details including the registration form and weekly camp details are posted on our website. A reminder was shared that all camps will be held at the New Maryland Centre and outside grounds again this year.

The hiring process for Day Camp staff is now complete. We are very pleased to welcome to new counsellors, Emily Haynes and Abigail Dickinson, who join returning counsellors Jacob Amon and Kristen Macintosh. Our Day Camp Supervisor, Kelsey Embleton, began working full-time at the Village on 03 May 2021 and she is finalizing Day Camp planning and program details. All of our staff are excited and looking forward to nine weeks of fun, active and safe Day Camps.

Councillor LeBlanc explained that we are pleased to re-offer the Counsellor in Training (CIT) program for 2021. An application form is available on the Village’s website and applications will be accepted until Friday, 28 May 2021. A meet and greet is scheduled at the New Maryland Centre on Wednesday, 02 June 2021 from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and applicants will have the opportunity to meet some of our Day Camp staff and learn about the CIT program. Details have been shared on social media and on our website. For more information, please contact Michelle Sawler at the Village office.

The Village offers its sincerest congratulations to the New Maryland Elementary School (NMES) for its recent recognition from Inclusion Canada. NMES was awarded the *National Inclusive Education Achievement Award*. Considerations for the award included the school’s vision of inclusion, inclusive instructional practices, provision of accommodations, student advocacy and recognition of student voice, celebration of differences, supports and intervention for student behavior, and use of available assistive technology. Councillor LeBlanc offered congratulations to teaching staff Melissa Garrett, Tom Patterson and Elise Deering, who will receive individual awards on 27 May 2021 during a virtual ceremony. Bravo and well done NMES staff, students, and administration.

The Village’s beautification program is underway with the flower beds at the school and Village buildings cleaned out, edged and fresh mulch applied. The hanging baskets and planter pots have been planted and will be set out in late May or early June. In honour of the 30th anniversary of incorporation of the Village this year, the circle bed at the Village entrance will be planted with a large “30” in orange marigolds, surrounded by purple wave petunias and a border of dusty miller. Our staff have installed the benches along the New Maryland Highway, and the clean-up and maintenance of the parks and playgrounds has begun with the arrival of our summer students.

The tennis nets, beach volleyball court and the batters cage netting have all been installed. Hand sanitizer units were installed at the basketball and tennis courts and portable washrooms with hand sanitizer units have been placed in Village parks, the New Maryland Centre and Athletic Park. Work has also begun on the community garden, with an anticipated opening of late May, and staff will soon begin preparing the baseball and soccer fields for a tentatively opening scheduled for the first week of June.

With the ongoing pandemic impacting so many of our celebratory events again this year, the Village would like to honour our 2021 high school graduates with a section on our website dedicated to honoring them.

Councillor LeBlanc explained that Village residents who would like high school graduates to be included on our *Grad Celebration Page* should send their name, photo, and school to michelle.sawler@vonm.ca. In addition to our website, we will also feature our graduates on our Facebook & Twitter pages during the month of June.

We are very pleased to announce that our grant application to ParticipACTION was successful and we received \$1,000 (*one-thousand dollars*) towards the Community Better Challenge. Sidewalk stencils have been purchased and will be painted on our sidewalk along the New Maryland Highway later this month, which we hope will encourage lots of walkers, joggers, bikers, skateboards, and strollers. Starting on 01 June 2021 we are encouraging our residents to download the ParticipACTION “app” for their phone (or they can log their activities on the ParticipACTION web site) and log thirty (30) minutes of activity for each of the thirty (30) days of June. The Village is “competing” with communities all over Canada. Any activity counts, just select New Maryland and your activity will go towards our cumulative total, with a chance to win prizes from ParticipACTION. Additional details will be shared with residents as well as the NMES community later this month after the Community Better Challenge is officially launched.

Councillor LeBlanc concluded his report by sharing the following highlights of activities from the PNM Zoomers:

- PNM Zoomers meet the first Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. The next meeting is scheduled for 07 June 2021 and will be the last meeting until the fall.
- Stretch and strengthening classes take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and the final class will be held on 27 May 2021.
- The PNM Zoomers are offering a scholarship for university and high school students enrolling in or enrolled in geriatric or related fields. Application forms are available on the Village website under “50 plus” and applications are due on 30 June 2021.
- Annual memberships are now due for 2021. The cost for membership this year is \$20.00 (*twenty dollars*) and the membership forms can be found on the Village website under the “50 plus” tab.
- The PNM Zoomers publish a monthly newsletter which is available via e-mail. To subscribe to their e-mail list, please contact them at pnmzoomers@gmail.com.

MOVED BY Councillor Paul LeBlanc and **seconded by** Councillor Mike Pope the adoption of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department report. **MOTION CARRIED**

12. (ii) Public Works Department Updates

Councillor Tim Scammell provided an update of the Public Works Department activities as detailed in the summary prepared by Rockland Miller, Public Works Supervisor.

He explained that Village staff investigated eleven (11) public works reports during the month of April 2021. The reports were regarding flooding during major rain events, water shut-off and culvert inspection requests, and concerns about potholes. The reports were investigated to the satisfaction of residents and staff.

The speed radars have been reinstalled and are located throughout the Village to collect data regarding the speeds and volume of traffic. Staff evaluate the data to identify trends and times of day when motorists may be travelling above the posted speed limit. 3D Silhouette child signs are also being utilized to remind motorists to slow down. Radar data collected within the last month observed speeds in the 85% percentile of between 44 km/hr and 49 km/hr on MacIntosh Drive, Bradshaw Drive, Sunrise Estates Drive, Crown Avenue and Atkinson Lane. The posted speed limit on Village streets is 40 km/hr and in the vicinity of the

elementary school is 30 km/hr. Councillor Scammell reminded residents of the importance of respecting the speed limit and the need to be watchful for pedestrians and students walking to the school.

Public Works staff have been busy this spring monitoring and cleaning storm sewer systems during the spring rain events, preparing equipment for summer maintenance, and performing equipment maintenance on the water and sewer systems. The street sweeping project has been completed by the contractor and staff expressed their appreciation for the cooperation and patience of residents during that process.

The Public Works Department has hired four (4) students to assist with maintenance throughout the Village and we are pleased to offer this summer employment opportunity to the students in our area.

The Village's municipal water system is checked daily and sampled weekly. Village Council and staff would like to remind residents on private well water to have their water tested regularly for coliform and e-coli bacteria. Sample bottles and collection procedures can be picked up at the Village office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, with the exception of holidays.

Councillor Scammell concluded his report with reminders of the following upcoming events:

- **No-Mow-May:** This year the Village will be participating in No-Mow-May. A number of communities are encouraging their residents to either **not** mow their lawn during the month of May or to leave part of their lawn in its natural state. The idea behind this movement is to help pollinating insects, including butterflies and bees. Food can be scarce for these insects in May and dandelions are one of the few flowers that can provide them with nectar. The Village will refrain from mowing certain areas that will not impact operations or public safety.
- **Tree Mulching:** Tree mulching began on Monday, 17 May 2021 and will continue until all areas of the Village have been covered. Residents are reminded to comply with the size restrictions for piles of brush, which is 8 feet x 4 feet x 4 feet, and that only one pile of brush per property is permitted.
- **Water Main Flushing:** This project began on Tuesday, 11 May 2021 and will continue for the next few weeks. The flushing removes loose sediments and mineral deposits from the water system. The flushing will be performed between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday. People living in or near the area being flushed may notice discolored (turbid) water during these times and should check their water before doing laundry or preparing food. If water discoloration persists, please contact the Village Office and Public Works Department at 451-8508 or after hours at 471-1985.
- **Spring Leaf Collection:** The collection is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 on the east side of the New Maryland Highway and on Thursday, 27 May 2021 on the west side of the highway. Please see the Village's website for more details.

MOVED BY Councillor Tim Scammell and **seconded by** Councillor Paul LeBlanc the adoption of the Public Works Department report. **MOTION CARRIED**

12. (iii) Finance Department Motions

Councillor Tim Scammell reported that he had three (3) motions to bring forward.

The first motion was to adopt the Audited Financial Statements and Councillor Scammell explained that the accounting firm of Grant Thornton LLP had presented the draft statements to Mayor, Council and senior staff at the Council-In-Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 12 May 2021. The *Local Governance Act* of NB requires an official motion of Council to adopt the statements.

MOVED BY Councillor Tim Scammell and **seconded by** Councillor Mike Pope the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland adopt the 2020 Village of New Maryland Audited Financial Statements as prepared by the chartered accounting firm of Grant Thornton LLP and as reviewed by Council on 12 May 2021. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The next two motions relate to the temporary transfer of funds from the Reserve Funds to the Operating Funds. Two debentures come up for renewal on 27 May 2021. The first debenture is from the 2011 Subdivision Paving Project under the General Operating Fund with a renewal amount of \$773,000 (*seven hundred and seventy-three thousand dollars*) for five years. The second debenture is also from 2011 and is for the Water Tower Project under the Water & Sewer Operating Fund, with a renewal amount of \$577,000 (*five hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars*) for ten years.

MOVED BY Councillor Tim Scammell and **seconded by** Councillor Mike Pope the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland, transfer from the General Capital Reserve Fund (Account # 0626 1015-021) to the General Operating Fund (Account # 0626 1013-181) the amount of \$773,000 (*seven hundred and seventy-three thousand dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOVED BY Councillor Tim Scammell and **seconded by** Councillor Paul LeBlanc the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland transfer from the Water & Sewer Capital Reserve Fund (Account # 0626 1018-839) to the Water & Sewer Operating Fund (Account# 0626 1014-176) the amount of \$577,000 (*five hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. (iv) Development Services Department Updates

Councillor Mike Pope provided an update from the Development Services Department as detailed in the summary prepared by Rob Pero, Building Inspector/Development Officer.

He reported that due to the reported Covid-19 cases and exposure notifications for the local region at the time, the lack of new business on the meeting agenda, and no strong rationalization to consider the meeting as being “essential”, the 03 May 2021 meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee was cancelled.

The developer, Centennial Heights Development Ltd., is nearing completion of the installation of municipal services and roadway base gravels for Centennial Gardens Subdivision - Phase 3. The project is comprised of nineteen (19) fully serviced residential building lots on Kimberley Street and Boxwood Lane.

The April 2021 Building Permit Summary reported thirteen (13) permits relating to home renovations, pool and deck installations, and the new construction of two (2) new garden homes on Lynda Lane in the Orchard’s Edge development. The total estimated value of construction for April was approximately \$1.2 million, generating just over \$8,700 in permit fee revenue. The year-to-date estimated value of construction of over \$1.6 million is approximately four (4) times higher than for the same period in 2020.

The project for the *Route 101 Urban Design Standards and Public Realm Guidelines* is moving forward. The consultants, Upland Planning and Design, have completed their initial consultations with key stakeholders and are currently working on a “Design Priorities Paper”. The document will be distributed in the near future to the project Steering Committee and Council for initial comments. Due to the current pandemic response situation in Nova Scotia, the consultant’s planned visit to the Village and the schedule for

in-person community consultations will be delayed by a month or two, however Upland's project manager remains confident about the eventual timely completion of the final deliverables. Further updates will be provided to Council as the project work plan progresses.

MOVED BY Councillor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the adoption of the Development Services Department report. **MOTION CARRIED**

12. (v) Administration (CAO/Clerk's Office) Updates

Councillor Mike Pope explained that the following information was shared by our Chief Administrative Officer to provide updates on a number of administrative and operational items.

The municipal election was held on Monday, 10 May 2021, however due to the COVID-19 protocols in place in other areas of the province, the election results will not be announced until Tuesday evening, 25 May 2021. This creates a very unique situation for Council and we want to ensure our residents that we continue to work on the daily operations, projects and goals identified by Council in our Strategic Plan and in our 2021 budget.

Although we do not anticipate any interruptions to the services we provide, residents may have noticed that we did not proceed with final readings of our Procedural By-law. The initial motions for that by-law were brought forward last month but will need to wait until the new Council is sworn-in before enactment is finalized.

Once the election results are announced, we will make plans for the Swearing-In Ceremony for our members of Council to take their Oath of Office and those plans will be shared with the public once finalized. Councillor Pope explained that the five (5) Councillors, including himself, were elected by acclamation. There will be three (3) Councillors continuing on as elected officials, and two (2) residents will be new to the Council table. The position of Mayor is the unknown factor at this time with Mayor Wilson-Shee being challenged for the role. We all welcome Laurie and Mariet to Council and look forward to their fresh ideas and perspectives that they will bring to the table.

We would also like to acknowledge Councillor Paul LeBlanc and thank him for his thirty (30) years of dedicated service to our community. Councillor Pope explained that although Paul did not want a public recognition, it was important to note that he will not only be missed in Council Chambers; some of our staff have worked with Paul for twenty (20) years and want to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the guidance and advice he has provided them over the years.

Our Chief Administrative Officer also confirmed that she will ensure Council is involved in a rigorous orientation process. The orientation is not only beneficial to the new members of Council but also provides a great educational opportunity for those Council members returning as elected officials. Topics for review will include provincial legislation, financial status and regulations, by-laws, procedures, policies, status of projects, and much more.

A reminder was shared that our provincial government is currently working through a Municipal Reform Process. This process will have a significant impact on local governance throughout the province and residents are encouraged to be informed and participate in the public consultation component. The province has a dedicated website containing a Green Paper and other information, and public input has been requested through a survey. To complete the survey, please visit the website at www.gnb.ca/vibrantNB.

Councillor Pope concluded his report by reminding residents that if they have questions regarding any projects or services provided by the municipality, to please contact Council members, the Village office or our Chief Administrative Officer. If we are unable to answer your questions, our CAO will reach out to the experts who have the information you need. Our senior staff are available to meet with residents and explain the details of projects and we strongly urge you to contact the Village directly if you have any questions at all.

MOVED BY Councillor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the adoption of the Chief Administrative Officer's Administration report as presented.

Discussion: Members of Council expressed their appreciation and acknowledged the dedication of Councillor Paul Leblanc during his thirty (30) years on Council. **MOTION CARRIED.**

13. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Councillor Tim Scammell explained that the adoption of the Treasurer's Report fulfills a municipal requirement under provincial legislation and introduced a motion to adopt the report.

MOVED BY Councillor Tim Scammell and **seconded by** Councillor Paul LeBlanc the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved*** That the Treasurer's Report be adopted as follows: payments made in the month of April 2021:

- from the General Operating account by cheques and direct payments **\$350,049.00** (*three hundred and fifty thousand and forty-nine dollars*);
- from the Water & Sewer Operating account **\$75,561.16** (*seventy-five thousand, five hundred and sixty-one dollars and sixteen cents*);
- *and* from the Water & Sewer Capital account **\$86,007.14** (*eighty-six thousand and seven dollars, and fourteen cents*).

MOTION CARRIED.

14. Public Input / Inquires

No comments or questions were brought forward by members of the public.

15. New Business

There were no New Business items brought forward.

16. Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next formal Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 7:30 p.m. with the location to be determined.

17. Motion for Adjournment

MOVED BY Councillor Paul LeBlanc *for the final time* and **seconded by** Councillor Mike Pope to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Geldart
CAO/Clerk

Judy Wilson-Shee
Mayor

Cynthia Geldart
CAO/Clerk