



**Sunbury-York South Rural Community  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes of the 2023-2026 Term**

**December 17, 2024**

1. **Call to Order** – Mayor Hayward
2. **Roll Call** – Assistant Clerk Cindy Ogden
3. **Approval of Agenda**  
Moved by Councillor Yarom; Seconded by Councillor Noble to approve the agenda.  
  
Moved by Councillor Sheppard; Seconded by Councillor Turner to amend the agenda to combine items 3 and 4 under New Business to a single line item.

Motion Carried
4. **Approval of Minutes Previous** - None
5. **Presentation to Council**
  - a. **Statement from CAO regarding Petitions-**  
After consultation with the lawyer, this is the statement she has been directed to make regarding the claims made in the undated petition submitted to SYSRC by Cory Allen on Nov 18, 2024.
    1. The matrix used to assess the utilization levels of the property owned by the Rusagonis Recreation Council Inc have not been made public there the claim the property is quote “under utilized” lacks any factual support.
    2. Presenting guesses about costs of constructing or renovating privately owned hypothetical structures as if they were established as facts is misleading.
    3. It is standard practice to publish notices in the local newspaper to inform the public. The petition claims that most residents of SYSRC access news and information electronically but there is no evidence to support this. Presenting an opinion as fact is misleading.
    4. As is widely known, Council has never planned to build an 8-million-dollar building. The process a government must follow for capital projects is well defined and includes several publications consultations. To claim that no consultation occurred, when in reality such consultations happen later in the process is misleading and unfounded.
    5. The final paragraph in the petition demands a referendum on the project. Quote “after clearly outlining all costs and reasons they feel the construction project should proceed”.  
It is unfortunate that our office did not receive a single inquiry from the public regarding the loan application. Had the authors of the signatories reached out

with questions we could have insured a cleared understanding of the process and when to expect public consultation.

6. Regarding the petition itself, NB Law does not allow residents to challenge municipal borrowing through petitions. Other Canadian provinces may have laws outlining the requirements for petitions, but SYSRC must follow its own legislation and regulations. To ensure the petition was valid and could be accepted, SYSRC consulted legal council before presenting it to the council and including it into the official record. This step was taken to respect the time and effort of the petition signatories and confirm that the petition met the necessary legal standards.

**b. Coey Allen – Submission of Petition**

Mr. Allen introduced himself and thanked council for allowing him to speak. The spirit of the petition was to let the council know the wishes of the community and certainly wasn't meant to be legal binding thing. Elections NB says we are just shy of 3500 registered voters in Sunbury-York South, and we appreciate the admin worked hard to stop the 8-million-dollar loan application. That was one of the key goals of the petition. It was called a preapproval by council of the municipality, but the municipal lending board did in her email refer to it as a loan application. The other part of the petition is that we hoped council would make more use of the Rec. Centre, thank you Mayor Hayward for attending Sunday nights speaking with the board, and really hope the bridges can be built as that seems to be the wishes of the community. The other thing the petition requested was that any building to be considered be modest or reasonable rents. There were 480 who signed the original petition, that is 14% of the voting population of Sunbury-York South. We also requested any modest building be kept under a million dollars. We gained an additional 235 signatures and that was done through hard work of volunteers. Only 1 person refused to sign the petition and that was because they were related to someone on council. The total number of signatures was 715 or 21% of the voting population. They have received another 104 signatures since the original petition was submitted. The petition really was to convey the wishes of the community to the council.

**6. Conflict of Interest - None**

**7. Correspondence - Resignation Letter from Deputy Mayor Bernard read by Mayor Hayward**

**8. Mayor's Report-**

- Communications Chair Councillor Larry DeLong held a listening session in Ward 1 Nov 26<sup>th</sup> at the New Maryland Rec. Centre. Well attended by residents from both wards

- Attended a talking session Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> there was a meeting regarding responsible forestry management with a focus on balance between the social aspect and financial implications

- The monthly board meeting of CRSC was held on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> resulting in some exciting news announcements coming up in the new year

- Council welcomed its newest member, Matthew Standish. He was sworn in on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

- CRSC Community Development committee meeting rescheduled to Dec 10<sup>th</sup>
- Committee of the Whole meeting held on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> with the focus on the 2025 Budget items
- CRSC finance committee met Dec 16<sup>th</sup> to do a 2024 financial review and to look at next steps for the upcoming year

9. **Committee Reports** - None

10. **Reading of By-Laws** - None

11. **Unfinished Business** – None

12. **New Business (Motions and Resolutions)**

**1. Resolution to Declare Vacant Council Seat**

**WHEREAS** Councillor Joey Bernard, elected to represent Ward 1, resigned on November 14, 2024

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to the Local Governance Act, Section 5-50(1)(c), and Section 51(1), the Council of Sunbury-York South Rural Community is required to declare the seat vacant and initiate the process to fill the vacancy;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of Sunbury-York South Rural Community as follows:

**Declaration of Vacancy:** The Council hereby declares that the seat of Councillor Joey Bernard, representing Ward 1, is vacant as of November 14, 2024 Notification to Elections New Brunswick: The Clerk is directed to notify Elections New Brunswick of the vacancy and to request that the necessary procedures be undertaken to hold a by-election in accordance with the provisions of the Local Governance Act and regulations of Elections New Brunswick.

**2. Election of Deputy Mayor**

Moved by Councillor Turner; Seconded by Councillor Sheppard to nominate Councillor DeLong as Deputy Mayor. Councillor DeLong accepted the nomination

Councillor Yarom put her name forward as a candidate for Deputy Mayor; Seconded by Councillor Noble. Councillor Yarom read a statement as to why she should be considered

The vote was cast, with majority of the votes for Councillor DeLong as Deputy Mayor

**3. Motion to Adopt the 2025 Budget and Transfer Funds to Reserves**

Councillor Standish inquired if it is possible to see the 2024 actual to date numbers to use as a comparable for the 2025 budget lines

The CAO shared her page to show the spreadsheet with the information

Councillor Turner reminded council that the Remuneration By-Law needs amended to vote on the cost of living increases rather than applying it automatically The CAO shared that it would take 2 meetings to amend the by-law, which would bring it into the new year, and the 2025 budget is due now

Councillor Sheppard inquired if council will know the redacted numbers for administration before its time to vote on the 2025 budget

To view and go over the administration numbers, council will have to move into a closed session

Councillor Turner committed with respects to line 2.1.2.1.7 Office Building – Lease, he had requested information and emails on Oct 28 as to why the move, more information on the cost, ect. There was not a resolution or formal vote on the move. He would like the information provided before voting on the 2025 budget  
To discuss this issue, council will have to go into a closed session

**Moved by Councillor Noble; Seconded by Councillor Turner to go into Closed Session at 7:49pm**

**Motion Carried**

**Moved back into Open Session at 8:45pm**

Moved by Councillor Standish: Seconded by Councillor Sheppard to decrease line 2.6.1.1.9 Architectural Plans from \$100,000 to zero

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Turner; Seconded by Councillor Nobel at 9:02pm to extend meeting by 15 minutes

Motion Carried

Discussion continues regarding EMO Services budget Line 2.2.5.9.9

Moved by Councillor Turner; Seconded by Councillor Yarom at 9:17pm to extend meeting by 15 minutes

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Sheppard; Seconded by Councillor Standish to decrease Line 2.2.5.9.9 EMO Services from \$120,000 to \$50,000

3 Yays; 4 Nays – Mayor Hayward, Councillor Noble, Councillor Turner, Councillor Yarom

Motion Defeated

Moved by Councillor Sheppard; Seconded by Councillor Turner to decrease Line 2.2.5.9.9 EMO Services from \$120,000 to \$80,000

6 Yays; 1 Nay – Councillor DeLong

Motion Carried

Councillor Sheppard asked what the interest is on the long-term debt. His understanding was there was just an initial 5% then interest free going forward. So, it is 5% per year?

The CAO said she would have to check; however, she believes it is 5% interest yearly. She will get the information and confirm if correct.

Line 2.1.2.9.9 Other General Administrative Services, consists of \$19,000 WorksafeNB, Communications \$11,000 and \$40,000 for the strategic plan

Moved by Councillor Turner; Seconded by Councillor Sheppard to postpone the budget until after the meeting with the Minister on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> and meet no later than Dec 20<sup>th</sup> to vote on the budget.

Councillor Yarom inquired if it were possible to meet Thursday evening rather than Friday. Council agreed to meet Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Motion Carried

**13. Date of Next Meeting – January 21, 2025**

**14. Motion to dismiss the Regular Council Meeting at 9:35pm**

Moved by Councillor Yarom; Seconded by Councillor Turner

Motion Carried

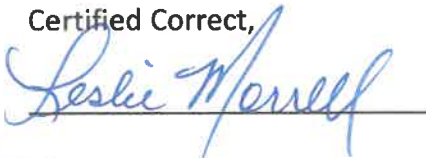
Respectfully submitted by,



Cindy Ogden  
Assistant Clerk



Certified Correct,



for Marjorie Turner  
CAO/Clerk



David Hayward  
Mayor