

Village of New Maryland Council

18 December 2024

Present: Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee
Councillor Laurie Pearson
Councillor Alex Scholten
CAO/Clerk Cynthia Geldart

Deputy Mayor Mike Pope
Councillor Tim Scammell
Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud
Assistant Clerk Maggie Kitchener

Guests: Robin Hanson and daughter, plus 2 residents attended



1. Call to Order

Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the acknowledgement that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik and Mi'kmaq people and that we should live and work on this land in relationships of peace, friendship and mutual respect. She explained that the meeting was being recorded for broadcast.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell that the agenda be approved as distributed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Alex Scholten that the minutes of the regular session of Council of 20 November 2024 be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOVED BY Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell that the minutes of the Public Information Meeting of 27 November 2024 be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. Disclosure of Interest

No *Disclosures of Interest* were declared.

5. Presentations

Robin Hanson attended to donate a painting to Council that he created based on the entrance of the New Maryland Adventure Trail. He shared that his 2 (two) grandsons love to play ball, and while at the New Maryland Center (NMC) ballpark, he was struck by the beauty of the flower arrangements. Robin mentioned he enjoys discovering the "7 Wonders of the World" locally. Mayor Wilson-Shee and Council thanked him on behalf of the Village.

6. Proclamations

There were no proclamations.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to read into the record.

8. Mayor's Comments

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

- ❖ November 21: the annual Tree Lighting Event was held with excellent attendance; a detailed report will be provided in the Recreation Report; the line-ups for Santa's visit continue to grow each year, and the weather was cooperative (*Councillors Scholten, Scammell, van Groenewoud, and Pearson were in attendance, while Deputy Mayor Pope sent his regrets*);
- ❖ November 24: First Responders Appreciation Night hosted by the Fredericton Red Wings at the Grant Harvey Centre;

- ❖ November 27: the 31st (thirty-first) annual Muriel McQueen Fergusson Foundation Award Ceremony at Government House; established in 1992, this award recognizes exceptional contributions to the elimination of family violence in Canada; the Honourable Dr. Lyne Chantal Boudreau, Ph.D. was the recipient of this year's award; her guiding principle, "Talk about us, not without us, but with us" informs all of her actions;
- ❖ November 28: met with Don Fitzgerald, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Capital Region Service Commission (CRSC);
- ❖ November 28: presented Dana Demmings with a plaque of appreciation for his support, on behalf of the NM Lions Club;
- ❖ November 29: the CRSC Staff Party at Oakland Lodge and the Nasonworth Baptist Church Christmas Dinner at Victoria Hall;
- ❖ November 30: wreath-making seminar at the New Maryland Centre (NMC), which was met with great success; 3 (three) sessions were held with excellent participation;
- ❖ December 1: the Christmas Open House at the New Maryland Heritage Place (St. Mary the Virgin Church), sponsored by the New Maryland Heritage Association (NMHA), was well-attended (*Councillor van Groenewoud attended*);
- ❖ December 2: met with the Honourable Cindy Miles, MLA for Hanwell-New Maryland;
- ❖ December 2: PMN Zoomers monthly meeting, featuring the session "Great Forestry is Good for New Brunswick," organized by Robert Fawcett on behalf of the Irving family; the event was held at Hanwell Place;
- ❖ December 3: CRSC Board meeting followed by a hot turkey dinner at the Delta Hotel;
- ❖ December 3: volunteered with the NM Lions Club during their Food and Toy Drive; although Mayor Wilson-Shee was only able to participate for one evening due to prior commitments, she expressed her gratitude for the overwhelming generosity of the community; the drive continues to focus on assisting families in need during the Christmas season; Mayor Wilson-Shee noted the predicted rise in the cost of feeding a family of 4 (four) in 2024, which may exacerbate financial difficulties for already struggling households; she has requested that the NM Lions Club add this issue to the agenda for discussion in the New Year;
- ❖ December 4: Annual Holiday Reception held at Hazen Park Centre;
- ❖ December 5: the Base Commander's Holiday Reception, entertainment was provided by the 5CDSB Pipes & Drums and Highland Dancers;
- ❖ December 6: National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women event at Government House which was a deeply moving occasion (*Deputy Mayor Pope attended*);
- ❖ December 6: Annual Village Christmas Banquet, where Deputy Mayor Pope was recognized for his 10 (ten) years of service with a commemorative pin; Councillor Pearson was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances (*Councillors Scholten, Scammell, van Groenewoud, along with staff and Committee members were in attendance*);
- ❖ December 7: Christmas Dinner Party hosted by Opal Family Services at Porter's Diner;
- ❖ December 11: New Maryland Elementary School (NMES) Christmas Concert;
- ❖ December 11: Hanwell Rural Community Christmas Celebration;
- ❖ December 12: participated as a judge for the NM Christmas Challenge, alongside Councillor Scammell, Fonda French, and Recreation Coordinator Michelle Sawler; 9 (nine) decorated homes were toured;
- ❖ December 14: Oromocto Galeria 10th (tenth) Annual Customer Appreciation Event;
- ❖ December 16: Recreation Coordinator Michelle Sawler and Mayor Wilson-Shee visited the winners of the Christmas Lighting Challenge;
- ❖ December 17: volunteered with staff member Audrey Harper at the Annual Volunteer Fire Fighters Christmas Dinner;

- ❖ December 18: CRSC Board meeting concerning transfer of funds; and
- ❖ December 18: CRSC Oversight Committee meeting.

Mayor Wilson-Shee concluded her remarks by welcoming back Cynthia Geldart CAO/Clerk and extending her gratitude to Jeff from Rogers for his dedicated service in recording the Village's formal Council meetings. Mayor Wilson-Shee acknowledged that Jeff has consistently attended every scheduled session without fail. She also wished everyone a joyful holiday season and all the best in 2025. She encouraged residents to stay safe, stay healthy, and be kind to one another.

9. Comments by Members of Council

Deputy Mayor Pope remarked that during the Village's Christmas Banquet, he had the honor of presenting Mayor Wilson-Shee with her 20 (twenty)-year service recognition pin. He commended her for this significant achievement and expressed gratitude for her dedication and passion in serving the Village.

Councillor Scholten provided an update on the meetings and events he participated in since the last Council meeting:

- congratulations and gratitude were extended to the NM Lions and Leo Clubs for once again organizing their annual Food and Toy Drive, which receives strong support from the residents of the Village; he noted that months of planning had gone into this event, and the efforts were well worth it;
- the Food and Toy Drive included 4 (four) nights of Santa and his helpers visiting residents across all subdivisions from 2 December 2024 to 5 December 2024;
- hampers were filled with food items, including turkeys, fresh vegetables, and other grocery essentials; thanks to the community's tremendous support, each hamper was generously overflowing; the collected toys were also plentiful, with tables full of gifts for children;
- Distribution Day, held on 7 December 2024, was a heartwarming success; the collected food and toys were distributed to approximately 150 (one hundred fifty) families in need, as well as to various support groups and service agencies in the area that assist people in need; Councillor Scholten remarked that based on the reactions of the recipients, the campaign made a profound difference in their lives; while the effort was considerable, seeing the gratitude of those in need made the hard work truly worthwhile;
- the success of the event would not have been possible without the support of the following organizations and individuals:
 - Fredericton High School (FHS) Kat's Kitchen volunteers;
 - FHS Student Representative Council (SRC), including Deputy Mayor Pope's daughter, Alex;
 - FHS varsity football team, who assisted with heavy lifting on 7 December 2024;
 - NM Fire Department, including Fire Chief Farrell;
 - RCMP officers, who accompanied the parade and helped with traffic control;
 - NM Scouts and Cubs;
 - Faith Baptist Church, which generously provided their gymnasium for sorting and distribution efforts; and
 - the countless other individual volunteers who participated in the collection efforts or assisted with sorting at Faith Baptist Church;
- each hamper was valued between \$200 (*two hundred dollars*) and \$250 (*two hundred fifty dollars*), and additional toys were donated to Greener Village;
- Councillor Scholten noted that many residents had expressed to Council that the Food and Toy Drive is one of their favorite aspects of being a part of this community; their generosity during the event was deeply appreciated and heartwarming;

- he acknowledged the many sponsors who contributed food, toys and funds, recognizing that this event would not have been possible without their support; and
- the Food and Toy Drive is now in its 29th (twenty-ninth) year, and Councillor Scholten emphasized the importance of recognizing the continuous dedication of the NM Lions Club volunteers, past and present; he commended the Lions Club for embodying their motto, "We Serve" each year and expressed gratitude for their commitment to this important community initiative.

Councillor Scholten concluded his comments by wishing everyone a happy holiday and prosperous season.

Councillor Scammell welcomed back Cynthia and wished everyone a merry Christmas and happy holiday.

Councillor Pearson noted that she volunteered with sorting for the Food and Toy Drive and is proud of the number of students who volunteered. She welcomed back Cynthia as well.

10. Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

Councillor Pearson provided an update on the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) activities.

- ❖ She reported that the PAC met on 9 December 2024. Due to a lack of new business, no meeting was held in November.
- ❖ The building permit totals for October and November generally illustrated a positive trend for the level and type of construction activity toward the end of the construction season. The nature of these projects was varied and highlights included renovations to the RCMP outpost within the Village office, installation of a new wheelchair ramp for Victoria Hall, and a foundation construction permit for a 10 (ten)-unit stacked townhouse development at 7 Atkinson Lane.
- ❖ The 2024 year-to-date totals to the end of November amounted to 120 (one hundred twenty) permits, approximately \$17.6 million (*seventeen point six million dollars*) in construction value and approximately \$126,000.00 (*one hundred twenty-six thousand dollars*) in permit fee revenue. The record high totals for the estimated value of construction and permit fee revenue were largely influenced by 9 (nine) new home constructions, the 7 Atkinson Lane stacked townhouse development, and the building permit for the new Village water treatment plant and booster station as the final elements of the Sunrise Wellfield Development Project.
- ❖ The committee reviewed and adopted their scheduled meeting dates and the specified application deadline dates for the 2025 calendar year.

MOVED BY Councillor Laurie Pearson and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the adoption of the Planning Advisory Committee report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Committee

Councillor Alex Scholten provided an update on the Emergency Response Plan Committee (ERPC) activities.

- He explained that the ERPC met on 25 November 2024 with 14 (fourteen) members present. The Committee consists of representatives from staff, NB Emergency Measures Organization (NB EMO), Amateur Radio Club, Ambulance NB, Anglophone West School District, Canadian Red Cross, Faith Baptist Church, Horizon Health Network, York Sunbury Ground Search and Rescue, RCMP and volunteer groups such as the NM Lions Club and PNM Zoomers.
- The meeting began with a presentation from representatives of the Canadian Red Cross. Yves Paradis, a long-time volunteer with the Canadian Red Cross, presented on the organization's roles and responsibilities. He highlighted key topics including: a video on the St. Andrews wildfire evacuation, which involved over 400 (four hundred) residents; the history and principles of the Canadian Red Cross, emphasizing its global humanitarian mission and the 7 (seven) Fundamental Principles; insights from the New Brunswick Personal Disaster Assistance Teams (PDAT); and the "Be Ready" workshop, which

encourages residents to prepare emergency plans. The importance of individuals creating emergency plans and maintaining emergency kits at home, work and in vehicles, as well as post-emergency considerations, such as maintaining property ownership and insurance documentation for evacuation events were also discussed.

- Staff recommended streamlining emergency registration processes, including the use of the Canadian Red Cross registration forms. Since the meeting, staff have received copies of these forms and will review them to determine which is most appropriate for Village purposes.
 - A review of the emergency response totes used by ERPC members at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) took place. Members reviewed tote contents for accuracy and functionality and noted that various items would require updating. Staff have been working on updating documents and obtaining new items.
 - ERPC members were reminded to complete their Criminal Records Check and submit them as soon as possible.
 - The Emergency Response Plan Committee's next meeting is scheduled for 23 January 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- MOVED BY** Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope the adoption of the Emergency Response Plan Committee report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. Project Reports / Updates

12. (i) Recreation & Leisure Services Department

Councillor van Groenewoud provided an update on the activities of the Recreation & Leisure Services Department.

- ❖ She reported that the Tree Lighting event held on 21 November 2024 saw an exceptional turnout, with ideal weather conditions. Appreciation was extended to the 1st (first) New Maryland Cubs for their assistance with the candle lighting and program distribution, to the Grade 3 - 5 (three to five) NMES Choir under the direction of Charlene Evans, and to Carter and Riley Bungay for their role in assisting with the countdown and serving as Santa's helpers. Appreciation was extended to Fire Chief Harry Farrell for facilitating Santa's arrival from the North Pole via Fire Truck. The mild weather contributed to a large and appreciative audience, and several members of the Council were in attendance. Special recognition was also given to Recreation Foreman Kirk Billings and Community Facilities Manager Nancy St. Croix for their efforts in preparing and beautifying the event space leading up to the Tree Lighting.
- ❖ The wreath-making workshop on 30 November 2024 proved to be both festive and successful, with nearly 80 (eighty) participants and 70 (seventy) wreaths created across 3 (three) sessions. Gratitude was extended to Mayor Wilson-Shee for leading the sessions, and thanks were expressed to the participants who generously donated toys, cash and non-perishable food items to the Food and Toy Drive. A post featuring updated pictures from the event was shared on social media, which garnered over 23,000 (twenty-three thousand) views.
- ❖ On behalf of the NM Lions Club, thanks were extended to all individuals and groups who supported the Food and Toy Drive this year. The additional evening added to the parade schedule in recent years has allowed the parade to visit all the Village's subdivisions and conclude earlier than in previous years. Families enjoyed the music and the visit from Santa, while the community's generosity and support of the event were evident. Donations of food, toys, and financial contributions will assist many families in having a more joyous Christmas. Appreciation was also extended to the many volunteers and community groups who helped make the event a success.
- ❖ The judging team had the pleasure of driving through the Village to admire the Christmas decorations and visit the homes that participated in the 5th (fifth) annual Community Christmas Lights Competition. This year, 9 (nine) homes entered the competition, and a map of the participating homes, along with the winning entries, will be posted on the website and social media. 1st (first) place was awarded to the Daigle family (131 Bradshaw Drive), 2nd (second) place to the Lessard family (137 Sunrise Estates Drive), and 3rd (third)

place to Breanna Logan (116 Confederation Avenue). The Clark W. Griswold Judges' Choice Award was given to Edlyn Laxamana (11 Stonehurst Avenue).

- ❖ Residents were reminded that the final open gym and co-ed adult volleyball sessions for 2024 took place at NMES this past weekend. User groups will conclude this week for the Christmas break, with activities resuming the week of 6 January 2025.
- ❖ The upcoming Snow Much Fun contest is scheduled to begin the week of 13 January 2025, pending the arrival of additional snow. Residents are invited to submit photos of their snow creations for a chance to win a weekly prize. The contest will run for up to six weeks, providing a fun opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and engage with the winter season. Further details will be provided in the New Year.
- ❖ Councillor van Groenewoud concluded her report with the PNM Zoomers activities and program highlights as follows:
 - monthly meetings are held on the 1st (first) Monday of the month at 10:00 a.m., and the next meeting will be held on 6 January 2025;
 - Stretch and Strengthening classes take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; classes resume 7 January 2025;
 - the Craft Club meets every other Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and the next meeting will be held on 8 January 2025;
 - the Book Club meets every 4th (fourth) Thursday at 11:00 a.m. and the next meeting will be held on 23 January 2025; the book for discussion will be *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee;
 - the weekly Painting Group meets every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; the next get-together will be held on 8 January 2025; and
 - PNM Zoomer memberships are available for the period from January to December, with an annual fee of \$20.00 (*twenty dollars*); membership forms are now available for 2025 and can be found on the Village website.

MOVED BY Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Councillor Alex Scholten the adoption of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. (ii) Public Works Department

Deputy Mayor Pope provided an update on the activities of the Public Works Department.

- He advised that the ban on overnight parking on Village streets is now in effect. As per the Traffic and Parking By-law No. 63-2022 section 3.04(c) *No person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle on any street or public space, in the "Winter Period" between the hours of midnight and 7:00 a.m. of any day, or leave any vehicle unattended during periods of snowfall, on any street or highway so as to interfere with snow removal operations.*
- The fire hydrants have been drained and staked for winter. Council and staff would like to encourage residents to participate in the adopt-a-hydrant program during the winter months by keeping hydrants clear of snow. Any assistance in that regard is greatly appreciated. We would like to sincerely thank the residents who have actively assisted in keeping fire hydrants clear of snow in previous seasons.
- Public Works staff will be assisting the NM Scouts in their annual Christmas Tree pick-up, which is planned for Saturday, 11 January 2025. The trees are collected and hauled to the Wastewater Treatment Plant site for chipping and disposal in the spring. The NM Scouting group will be removing boughs from some of the trees to use for winter camping activities. They appreciate any donations they receive.
- To continue to receive Canada Community-Building funding (formerly Gas Tax Fund), a 5 (five)-year capital investment plan must be adopted by Council. The current program (Gas Tax Fund) concluded in 2024.

- Council reviewed the Village of New Maryland Five Year Capital Investment Plan for the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) 2024-2028 at the 11 December 2024 Council in Committee meeting and has agreed to move forward with the plan as per the recommendation of the Public Works Supervisor.
- Deputy Mayor Pope concluded his comments encouraging residents to stay informed by visiting the Village's website, Facebook page, and Twitter (X) feed.

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the adoption of the Public Works Department report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Alex Scholten the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland, as per the recommendation of the Public Works Supervisor, approve the document entitled Village of New Maryland Five Year Capital Investment Plan for the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) 2024-2028 to be adopted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. (iii) New Maryland Fire Department (NMF):

Councillor Scammell explained that he had a motion to bring forward for the NMF.

- ❖ Each year, during the annual budget process, the Fire Department allocates \$40,000 (*forty thousand dollars*) to the General Capital Reserve Fund, specifically for the replacement of essential firefighting equipment, including breathing apparatuses and bunker gear. This fund is also cost-shared with the Sunbury York South Rural Community, which contributes 37.44% (*thirty-seven point forty-four percent*) of the total amount in recognition of the fire protection services we provide in that area.
- ❖ The current transfer of funds will be used to replace 5 (five) sets of Bunker Gear, totaling \$37,237 (*thirty-seven thousand, two hundred thirty-seven dollars*). This purchase is necessary to replace outdated gear that no longer meets current safety standards for interior firefighting, ensuring our firefighters are protected while performing their duties.
- ❖ The selected supplier for this purchase is Safety Source Fire, based in Fredericton, NB. Their gear meets all the required safety specifications, providing the necessary protection for our firefighters during emergency response operations. This investment ensures both the safety and operational readiness of the team.

MOVED BY Councillor Tim Scammell and **seconded by** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland transfer from the General Capital Reserve Fund (Acct # 0626 1015-021) to the General Capital Fund (Acct #0626 1020-875) \$37,237 (*thirty-seven thousand, two hundred thirty-seven dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. (iv) Finance Department:

(a) Motions to Transfer Funds:

Councillor van Groenewoud explained that as part of the year-end process, it is the recommendation of the Treasurer to approve the following amounts to be transferred:

- \$154,000 (*one hundred fifty-four thousand dollars*) from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund;
- \$185,000 (*one hundred eighty-five thousand dollars*) from the Utility Operating Fund to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund; and
- \$55,000 (*fifty-five thousand dollars*) from the General Operating Fund to the General Operating Reserve Fund.

MOVED BY Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland transfer from the

General Operating Fund (Acct # 0626 1013-181) to the General Capital Reserve Fund (Acct #0626 1015-021) \$154,000 (*one hundred fifty-four thousand dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOVED BY Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland transfer from the Utility Operating Fund (Acct # 0626 1014-176) to the Utility Capital Reserve Fund (Acct #0626 1018-839) \$185,000 (*one hundred eighty-five thousand dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

MOVED BY Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland transfer from the General Operating Fund (Acct # 0626 1013-181) to the General Operating Reserve Fund (Acct #0626 1015-013) \$55,000 (*fifty-five thousand dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

(b) 5-Year Capital Plan:

Councillor van Groenewoud explained further that at the 13 November 2024 Council-In-Committee meeting, a copy of the Village of New Maryland's 5-Year Capital Plan was presented and reviewed. It was recommended that Council approve the adoption of the Village of New Maryland 5-Year Capital Plan as attached and Council agreed to that.

MOVED BY Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland adopt the Village of New Maryland 5-Year Capital Plan as attached hereto. **MOTION CARRIED.**

13. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

MOVED BY Councillor Laurie Pearson and **seconded by** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Treasurer's Report be adopted as follows: Payments made in the month of November 2024: from the General Operating account by cheques and direct payments **\$522,848.91** (*five hundred twenty-two thousand, eight hundred forty-eight dollars and ninety-one cents*); from the Water & Sewer Operating account **\$76,513.26** (*seventy-six thousand, five hundred thirteen dollars and twenty-six cents*); from the General Capital account **\$14,662.50** (*fourteen thousand, six hundred sixty-two dollars and fifty cents*); and from the Water & Sewer Capital account **\$126,570.66** (*one hundred twenty-six thousand, five hundred seventy dollars and sixty-six cents*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

14. Public Input / Inquires

No input and/or inquiries were brought forward.

15. New Business

(i) Presentation of the 2025 Budgets:

Deputy Mayor Pope presented the 2025 General Operating, Utility and Capital Budgets for the Village of New Maryland. The budget speech shared by Deputy Mayor Pope is attached.

2025 General Operating Budget: **MOVED BY** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the sum of \$7,154,250 (*seven million, one hundred fifty-four thousand, two hundred fifty dollars*) be the total operating budget of the Village of New Maryland, that the sum of \$6,681,880 (*six million, six hundred eighty-one thousand, eight hundred eighty dollars*) be the Warrant of the Village of New Maryland for the ensuing year, and that the tax rate for the Village of New Maryland be \$1.2036 (*one point two zero three six dollars*). The Council orders

and directs the levying by the Minister of Environment and Local Government of said amount on real property liable to taxation under the *Assessment Act* within the local government of The Village of New Maryland.

Discussion on the motion: Councillor Scholten highlighted that, while the municipal portion of the tax rate has been reduced for the fourth consecutive year by 9.9 (nine point nine) cents, residents will still experience an overall tax increase due to a 10.1% (*ten point one percent*) rise in property assessments. He explained that, although the reduction in the municipal tax rate is beneficial, it cannot fully offset the impact of rising assessed property values. Councillor Scholten noted that annual cost increases, particularly in infrastructure, are placing additional financial pressure on the municipality. He emphasized that 93.4% (*ninety-three point four percent*) of the Village's revenue is derived from property taxes, with 98.6% (*ninety-eight point six percent*) of that coming from residential property taxes, making the tax base highly reliant on residents. As such, any tax rate increases will be borne predominantly by residents. He further stated that while Council strives to be fiscally responsible, continued financial pressure is inevitable. To alleviate this burden, Council must explore options to diversify the tax base, such as encouraging commercial development and increasing residential density. While densification may not be popular with some residents, it would help reduce per capita service costs and help keep tax rates manageable. Councillor Scholten concluded his comments by noting the importance of ongoing collaboration with the provincial government to address the significant infrastructure deficit and rising costs faced by municipalities. He referenced Premier Holt's commitment to supporting municipalities with financial assistance to address these challenges. Council remains dedicated to representing the community and acting in the best interests of residents. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2025 Utility Operating Budget: MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Alex Scholten the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** pursuant to subsection 117(4) of the *Local Governance Act*, the total budget for the Water and Wastewater Disposal utility for the ensuing year would consist of total revenues of \$1,632,972 (*one million, six hundred thirty-two thousand, nine hundred seventy-two dollars*) and of total expenditures of \$1,632,972 (*one million, six hundred thirty-two thousand, nine hundred seventy-two dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

(ii) Development Services Department:

Councillor Scholten provided an update on the activities of the Development Services Department.

- ❖ He explained that in relation to the Rogers Communications proposal to install a 65 (sixty-five)-metre tall self-supported communications tower at 494 New Maryland Highway (PID 75455915), the Proponent had requested from Village Council: 1) the granting of a 10 (ten)-metre wide access easement across Village lands in order to access the proposed installation site; and 2) that a statement of Village Council's concurrence with the proposal be addressed to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED).
- ❖ Pursuant to the Village's Erection of Telecommunications Tower and Antenna Policy, a Public Information Meeting was held on 27 November 2024 during which the Proponent made a presentation on the matter to the attending public and Council.
- ❖ Several attendees spoke in opposition to the proposal. At a Council-in-Committee meeting held on 11 December 2024, Council discussed the verbal and written comments and questions received from concerned residents. Council expressed their dissatisfaction that the Public Information Meeting and other consultations to this point with the proponent, had done little to address fundamental questions from the public or persuade Council that granting of an access easement across Village-owned lands would be in the best interest of other landowners in the immediate area.

❖ At Council's request, the following Resolutions were therefore prepared for formal consideration.

MOVED BY Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland hereby agrees to enter into an Agreement to Grant Easement for a 10 (ten)-metre wide access easement across Village lands in support of *Rogers Communications Inc. Tower Installation Proposal A1731 – New Maryland Central*, comprising of a 65 (sixty-five)-metre tall self-supported communications tower for construction at 494 New Maryland Highway (PID 75455915), and as described in the Public Notification Package, dated 9 November 2024, as prepared by Scott Telecom Services Ltd., agent for Rogers Communications Inc. **MOTION DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOVED BY Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland hereby express their concurrence with the *Rogers Communications Inc. Tower Installation Proposal A1731 – New Maryland Central*, comprising of a 65 (sixty-five)-metre tall self-supported communications tower for construction at 494 New Maryland Highway (PID 75455915), and as described in the Public Notification Package, dated 9 November 2024, as prepared by Scott Telecom Services Ltd., agent for Rogers Communications Inc. **MOTION DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.**

16. Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next formal Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 15 January 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

17. Motion for Adjournment

MOVED BY Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Kitchener
Maggie Kitchener
Assistant Clerk

Judy Wilson-Shee

Judy Wilson-Shee
Mayor



Cynthia Geldart

Cynthia Geldart
CAO/Clerk