

# Village of New Maryland Council

20 November 2024

**Present:** Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee  
Councillor Laurie Pearson  
Councillor Alex Scholten  
Assistant Clerk Maggie Kitchener  
Deputy Mayor Mike Pope  
Councillor Tim Scammell  
Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud

**Absent:** CAO/Clerk Cynthia Geldart



## **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 Mariet van Groenewoud 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 16 October 2024 be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **4. Disclosure of Interest**

No *Disclosures of Interest* were declared.

## **5. Presentations**

There were no presentations.

## **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:

- ❖ October 17: Capital Region Service Commission (CRSC) meeting to discuss proposed amendments to the budget (*Councillor Scholten attended*);
- ❖ October 18: Fall Frolic event hosted at New Maryland Elementary School (NMES), which saw excellent turnout, and the fireworks display was particularly impressive;
- ❖ October 22: CRSC Oversight Committee meeting;
- ❖ October 24: CRSC Special Meeting to vote on the budget;
- ❖ October 26: pumpkin carving event held at the New Maryland Centre (NMC), with special thanks to Dana Demmings for the generous donation of pumpkins;
- ❖ November 4: PNM Zoomers monthly meeting;
- ❖ November 5: CRSC monthly meeting where Dr. Russell presented on aligning healthcare policy with regional needs, followed by a presentation by Executive Director Alyssa Long of the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation;

- ❖ November 6: Observed Take-a-Student-to-Work Day, where Mayor Wilson-Shee's grandson spent the day shadowing her in the role of Mayor; he found the full agenda both engaging and informative;
- ❖ November 7: Remembrance Day Service at the NMES (*Councillor Scholten and Fire Chief Farrell attended*);
- ❖ November 7: Remembrance Day Service at Fredericton High School (FHS); Councillor Pearson laid a wreath on behalf of the Village at the early service, while Deputy Mayor Pope represented the Village at the second service;
- ❖ November 8: Military Appreciation Night hosted by the Fredericton Red Wings at the Grant Harvey Centre;
- ❖ November 11: Remembrance Day Service; which was a resounding success due to the efforts of all involved; the event saw excellent turnout (*all members of Council attended*);
- ❖ November 12: Fredericton's Health Care Summit held at St. Thomas University; Minister of Health, John Doran, presented, followed by a presentation from Alyssa Long of the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation; Mayor Wilson-Shee had the opportunity to speak with Minister Doran following his presentation;
- ❖ November 13: Parliamentary Breakfast with MP Jenica Atwin at the Crown Plaza in Fredericton;
- ❖ November 14 and 15: travelled to Campbellton with CRSC CEO John Smith to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Regional Service Commissions (RSCs) of New Brunswick, the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB), and the Association Francophone des Municipalités du Nouveau-Brunswick (AFMNB) meeting; the event featured networking opportunities and discussions on fiscal reform, communication practices within the RSCs, advocacy roles, and the presentation of resolutions adopted at the Annual General Meeting of both associations;
- ❖ November 18: New Maryland Heritage Association (NMHA) meeting;
- ❖ November 19: FHS Varsity Basketball Spirit Night and Bleacher Commemoration, where a short program acknowledged the sponsors who contributed to the new bleachers; and
- ❖ November 20: was honoured to attend a special ceremony where Cindy Pope was awarded the prestigious YMCA Peace Medallion; Cindy was recognized for over twenty years of selfless dedication to numerous organizations and fundraising initiatives; she was supported by her husband, Deputy Mayor Pope, and their two daughters, who proudly witnessed her receive this well-deserved recognition.

### **9. Comments by Members of Council**

Deputy Mayor Pope reported that he attended the Remembrance Day Service at Fredericton High School (FHS), highlighting that the event was exceptionally well-organized and executed. He further emphasized that the service was entirely student-led, from planning to execution, and was very well-received by all attendees. Deputy Mayor Pope also expressed his gratitude to Mayor Wilson-Shee for attending the award ceremony for his wife, Cindy Pope. He remarked that the award was a significant honor, and Cindy was deeply appreciative of the recognition.

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

- October 17: Capital Region Service Commission (CRSC) meeting as an observer, where discussions on the proposed 2025 budget were held among members
- October 19: Stuff-A-Bus Campaign in support of the Fredericton Community Kitchen's efforts to address student hunger; the event, supported by local supermarkets, resulted in a substantial amount of food and funds being raised;
- October 29: New Maryland Lion's Club (NMLC) meeting;

- October 30: Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB) Municipal Reform Committee meeting, where fiscal reform was a key topic of discussion;
- October 30: UMNB Executive Meeting;
- October 31: Agricultural Sector Strategy Stakeholder Engagement session, where factors impacting the commercialization of the agricultural sector were discussed; the session offered valuable perspectives from farmers to retailers on how various levels of the chain can support the sector;
- November 7: NMLC Food and Toy Drive organizational meeting; this was one of several planning meetings leading up to the Food and Toy Drive taking place in the Village from 2 December 2024 to 5 December 2024, with Santa visiting each neighborhood, and the distribution scheduled for 7 December 2024;
- November 12: attended a Council meeting in Hampton to express gratitude to Councillor and former Mayor Ken Chorley for his over 12 (twelve) years of dedicated service on the UMNB Board, during which he represented municipalities across the province; and
- November 14: Municipal Committee of the Coalition of Creative Citizens meeting to discuss the status of municipal reform and, particularly, municipal fiscal reform as we transition into a new government; with over \$200 million (*two hundred million dollars*) in funding promised for municipalities during the recent election, the committee is eager to see how these commitments will materialize under the new government.

#### **10. Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)**

There was no report to read into the record.

#### **11. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Committee**

Deputy Mayor Pope provided an update on the Emergency Response Plan Committee (ERPC) activities.

- The ERPC met on Monday, 28 October 2024 with 14 (fourteen) members present. The meeting began with the introduction of new members and welcome of returning members. 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 New Maryland Lions Club and PNM Zoomers.
- Several critical issues were discussed, including updates to communication systems, training requirements, and planning for future exercises. Key topics discussed included:
  - Voyent Alert system: Deputy Mayor Pope encouraged residents to sign up to receive alerts from the Village;
  - private Facebook groups: pros and cons for emergency communication;
  - Voyent Alert signage;
  - 72-Hour Emergency Magnet: a suggestion to distribute magnets with QR codes to help residents access emergency information; and
  - training courses.
- A tabletop exercise was planned, with scenarios including fuel spills, school incidents, evacuations, weather-related wildfires, and airplane crashes. The exercise will be designed for simplicity and availability of key participants, using slide decks to guide discussions. It was agreed that the exercise should be designed to be straightforward, ensuring that key players are available. The use of slide decks with detailed scenarios was also proposed to facilitate structured discussions and collaboration.
- The next steps for the ERPC will be to ensure that all ERPC members will be registered for Voyent Alert by 31 December 2024, and a tabletop exercise is to be scheduled, with specific topics and scenarios to be finalized. Fire Chief Farrell will coordinate with key organizations to provide guest speakers at upcoming meetings, offering insight into their roles, responsibilities, and emergency

preparedness.

- The Emergency Response Plan Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 25 November 2024. **MOVED BY** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the adoption of the Emergency Response Plan Committee report as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## **12. Project Reports / Updates**

### **12. (i) Recreation & Leisure Services Department**

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

- She reported that the Recreation Coordinator represented the Village of New Maryland at the Communities in Bloom Conference/Symposium in Charlottetown, PEI, from 24 October 2024 to 27 October 2024. The event was attended by over 170 (one hundred seventy) participants from 7 (seven) countries, including the United States, Ireland, Italy, and Canada. At the awards banquet on 26 October 2024, the Village was awarded 4 (four) out of 5 (five) blooms and received an overall score of 76.25% (seventy-six point two five percent), with a special mention of the St. Mary's Church Rehabilitation project. Staff were delighted with the results, particularly given it was the Village's first participation in over 15 (fifteen) years.
- Special thanks were extended to the Communities in Bloom committee members, including Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee, Michelle Sawler, Dave Dunbar, Kirk Billings, Nancy St. Croix, and Audrey Harper, as well as community participants involved in the judges' tour in July.
- The Village's annual Remembrance Day service, despite adverse weather, was a moving tribute to military members and was held at Victoria Hall Park. Councillor Alex Scholten was the Master of Ceremony (MC) this year and did a wonderful job. Staff thanked all Council members, military personnel, clergy, service groups, as well as our talented soloist, bugler, bagpiper, and drummer for their contributions. We also had a large and appreciative crowd at the New Maryland Centre for our luncheon. The event culminated in a successful luncheon at the New Maryland Centre, with staff assisting with logistics and setup. It takes many hands and hundreds of hours of preparation to facilitate the annual Remembrance Day ceremony.
- The following holiday events were highlighted:
  - the annual Candlelight Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on Thursday, 21 November 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Victoria Hall Park with music by the New Maryland Elementary School Grades 3 (three) to 5 (five) Choir; Fire Chief Harry will ensure Santa arrives for a visit; residents were invited to join staff and Council for hot chocolate, apple cider and festive treats after the tree lighting;
  - the 5th (fifth) annual Christmas Lights Challenge will run from Monday, 25 November 2024 until Friday, 06 December 2024; residents can nominate homes for cash prizes by submitting photos and street addresses to michelle.sawler@vonm.ca; judging and awards will take place the week of 09 December 2024;
  - the annual Wreath Making workshop will be held on Saturday, 30 November 2024 and is fully booked, though a cancellation list is available;
  - the New Maryland Heritage Association will be hosting Christmas in the Village on Sunday, 01 December 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Mary the Virgin Church located at 373 New Maryland Highway; admission is free and donations of non-perishable food items and new toys for the Lions Club Food and Toy Drive are appreciated; and
  - the annual New Maryland Lions Club Food and Toy Drive is the signature event for the New Maryland Lions Club; the Drive will take place over 4 (four) evenings this year; the important dates to remember include:
    - Photos with Santa will be held at Victoria Hall on Sunday, 24 November 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at a cost of \$5 (*five dollars*) per scene to a maximum cost of \$20 (*twenty dollars*); this is also a fundraiser for the Food and Toy Drive; and

- the Food and Toy Drive will run from Monday, 02 December 2024 to Thursday, 05 December 2024; the Village will share the details for each night of the Food and Toy Drive as they become available.
- Councillor Scholten provided additional comments on the Food and Toy Drive, highlighting the significant volunteer effort that has contributed to the event's success. He noted that the overwhelming generosity of the community has enabled the Drive to support many individuals each year, and this year, with anticipated increased demand, the support will be even more crucial. Councillor Scholten expressed that the community's contributions are particularly heartening and set a positive tone for the upcoming holiday season. He confirmed that a list of preferred donation items has been shared on social media, and mentioned that parade routes, along with any potential changes, will also be posted. He stated further that the Voyent Alert system will be utilized to keep residents informed with real-time updates about the event.
- Councillor Pearson 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 02 December 2024;
  - Stretch and Strengthening classes take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.;
  - 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 20 November 2024;
  - the Book Club meets every 4th (fourth) Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the boardroom and the next meeting will be held on 28 November 2024; the book for discussion will be *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston;
  - the weekly Painting Group meets every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; bring your own supplies;
  - the next Potluck Social will be held on 21 November 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the New Maryland Centre with guest speaker Andre Maclean scheduled for 7:00 p.m.; the topic will be *Backyard History and the Amazing Life of Elizabeth Beard*;
  - 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; and
  - a monthly newsletter highlighting PMN Zoomer members and activities is available; to sign up for the newsletter, or to learn more about PNM Zoomer activities, please visit the Village website or email at [pnmzoomers@gmail.com](mailto:pnmzoomers@gmail.com).

**MOVED BY** Councillor Laurie Pearson and **seconded by** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud the adoption of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department report as presented.

*Discussion on the motion:* Councillor Scholten commended Michelle Sawler and the staff for their exceptional work in organizing the Remembrance Day ceremony. He noted that, through his collaboration with Michelle in the lead-up to the event, he witnessed the significant amount of time and effort involved in the preparation. Councillor Scholten also highlighted the participation of two students from New Maryland Elementary School, who recited In Flanders Fields and performed excellently. Mayor Wilson-Shee added that Michelle’s attention to detail, thorough planning, and encouragement for staff involvement were key factors in ensuring the event ran smoothly. Despite the rain, the ceremony had a strong turnout. She commented further that the Christmas in the Village event is weather permitting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

## 12. (ii) Public Works Department

Councillor Scammell provided an update on the activities of the Public Works Department.

- He reported that Public Works staff investigated 11 (eleven) reports during the month of October. The reports were inquiries about parking, culvert repair, water consumption and water quality. The reports are being worked on and will be resolved to the satisfaction of the residents and staff.
- Public Works staff continue with maintenance activities which include:
  - maintenance of green space;
  - preparing equipment for winter maintenance activities;
  - monitoring the stormwater systems and open ditches during rainfall events;
  - performing repair and maintenance on equipment;
  - inspecting sanitary and stormwater systems; and
  - checking and testing water and wastewater systems.
- The public can assist staff by clearing catch basins and ditches of fallen leaves near their property to prevent these structures from becoming blocked.
- There are several speed radars located on municipal streets to collect data and warn motorists if they are driving above the posted speed limit of 40 (forty) kilometers per hour. Staff monitor the data and if any observations raise a concern, that information is forwarded onto to the RCMP for their monitoring.
- The radar data are showing an increase in motorist speeds over the past month.
- As a reminder, the school year has started, there is increased traffic and pedestrians walking along and crossing the streets, please respect the speed limit and be watchful for pedestrians.
- If anyone observes individuals driving at high rates of speed, please contact the RCMP so they can investigate.
- Please be 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.*
- In addition, 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.
- He concluded his comments encouraging residents to stay informed by visiting the Village's website, Facebook page, and Twitter (X) feed.

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

## 12. (iii) Finance Department:

Councillor Scholten explained that at the 16 October 2024 Formal Council meeting, Council passed a motion to transfer funds between reserve and operating accounts. Subsequent to that, an error in an account number was noticed and there is a requirement to correct this. The first motion essentially reverses the original motion made at the last Council meeting, and the second motion correctly identifies the proper account numbers.

**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 transfer from the General Capital

Fund (Acct #0626 1015-021) to the General Capital Reserve Fund (Acct # 0626 1015-021) \$5,000 (*five thousand dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

**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 transfer from the General Capital Reserve Fund (Acct #0626 1015-021) to the General Capital Fund (Acct # 0626 1020-875) \$5,000 (*five thousand dollars*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **13. Approval of the Treasurer's Report**

**MOVED BY** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Treasurer's Report be adopted as follows: Payments made in the month of October 2024 from the General Operating account by cheques and direct payments \$2,225,419.50 (*two million, two hundred twenty-five thousand, four hundred nineteen dollars and fifty cents*); from the Water & Sewer Operating account \$765,488.76 (*seven hundred sixty-five thousand, four hundred eighty-eight dollars and seventy-six cents*); from the General Capital account \$699,648.50 (*six hundred ninety-nine thousand, six hundred forty-eight dollars and fifty cents*); and from the Water & Sewer Capital account \$1,183,759.95 (*one million, one hundred eighty-three thousand, seven hundred fifty-nine dollars and ninety-five cents*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **14. Public Input / Inquires**

No input and/or inquiries were brought forward.

### **15. New Business**

There was no new business brought forward.

### **16. Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting**

The next formal Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 18 December 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

### **17. Motion for Adjournment**

**MOVED BY** Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Councillor Laurie Pearson to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maggie Kitchener*  
Maggie Kitchener  
Assistant Clerk



*Judy Wilson-Shee*  
Judy Wilson-Shee  
Mayor

*Maggie Kitchener*  
Maggie Kitchener  
Assistant Clerk

