Village of New Maryland
Council
15 January 2025

Present:	Mayor Judy Wilson-Shee	Deputy Mayor Mike Pope
	Councillor Laurie Pearson	Councillor Tim Scammell
	Councillor Alex Scholten	Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud
	CAO/Clerk Cynthia Geldart	Assistant Clerk Maggie Kitchener
	Fire Chief Harry Farrell	

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 Mariet van Groenewoud and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope that the agenda be approved as distributed. **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Approval of the Minutes
MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell that the minutes of the regular session of Council of 18 December 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
Mayor Wilson-Shee proclaimed the month of January 2025 as Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

7. Correspondence
There was no correspondence to read into the record.

8. Mayor's Comments
Mayor Wilson-Shee wished residents a Happy New Year and provided an update of the meetings and events she attended since the last Council meeting:

- December 19: Friday Caroling;
- December 20: students from the New Maryland Elementary School (NMES), accompanied by their teachers, visited Mayor Wilson-Shee's residence to sing Christmas carols; she expressed her appreciation, noting the students did an outstanding job;
- December 21: special meeting of the Union of Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB) conducted via Zoom; a resolution was voted on regarding the proposed merger of UMNB with the Cities of New Brunswick Association (CNBA); it was a formality for the 2 (two) associations to merge; the benefits of having the 2 (two) associations merge is that it strengthens the collective voice of municipalities;
- January 6: PNM Zoomers monthly meeting;
- January 10: retirement pizza party was held for Recreation Coordinator Michelle Sawler (*Councillors Scammell, Scholten, and van Groenewoud attended*); and

- January 14: farewell event for the Honourable Brenda Murphy and her Honour Linda Boyle was hosted at Government House.

Mayor Wilson-Shee congratulated the 2025 New Brunswick Girls U18 Curling Champions, who will represent the province at the Canadian U18 Curling Championship in Saskatoon from February 16-22, 2025. She was pleased to highlight that Alex Pope, daughter of Deputy Mayor Pope, is a member of the team.

Mayor Wilson-Shee also congratulated Team Canada on winning Gold at the 2025 U18 Women's World Hockey Championship, noting that Ava Wood of Oromocto played a key role in the victory.

Mayor Wilson-Shee recognized January as Alzheimer's Awareness Month, announcing that the Village will fly the Alzheimer's flag at Victoria Hall and illuminate the Village office entrance in blue throughout the month to show support.

9. Comments by Members of Council

Deputy Mayor Pope reported that he was a proud father as his daughter, Alex Pope, and team won the 2025 New Brunswick Girls U18 Curling Champions. They will be representing the province at the Canadian U18 Curling Championship in Saskatoon.

Deputy Mayor Pope commented further that the month of January was Alzheimer's month. He expressed a personal connection to the cause, sharing that his mother has Alzheimer's. He further highlighted the significant and impactful work being carried out by the Alzheimer's Society of Canada across the country.

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

- December 7: participated in a full-day Union of the Municipalities of New Brunswick (UMNB) Board meeting; matters discussed included municipal fiscal reform, Regional Service Commission (RSC) reform, and post-election outreach to new Ministers, including the new Minister of Local Government Aaron Kennedy, who attended the meeting; Minister Kennedy, formerly the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Town of Quispamsis, engaged in discussions with members regarding municipal concerns; members are hopeful that his previous experience will provide valuable insight into the challenges facing municipalities, and UMNB looks forward to collaborating with him to address those issues; there have been subsequent discussions with Minister Kennedy as well, with a focus on fiscal reform;
- December 10: attended a banquet for the Fundraising Campaign Committee of Greener Village's Thrive campaign; to date the committee has helped raise over $9,000,000 (*nine million dollars*) in support of the establishment of a food rescue centre aimed at addressing food insecurity in the region; the committee's work over the past 2 (two) years has been a rewarding experience, and the success of the campaign is a testament to the positive impact it will have on the community;
- December 11: UMNB Municipal Reform Committee meeting;
- December 11: Municipal Committee of the Coalition of Creative Citizens meeting to discuss the ongoing status of municipal fiscal reform and RSC reform;
- December 12: Fredericton Community Foundation Board year-end meeting; the Foundation continues to play a significant role in supporting various local initiatives and organizations, and Councillor Scholten remarked that it has been a pleasure working with this board;
- December 14: UMNB Executive meeting; discussions centered around the merger of the UMNB and the CNBA; and
- January 7: attended the New Maryland Lion's Club bi-weekly meeting.

10. Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)

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

- She reported that Village Council approval was being sought to appoint, by resolution, Village staff member Nathanial Murchison as a Building Inspector, as a By-law Enforcement Officer to authorize him to administer and enforce pertinent Village by-laws, and as a Development Officer to exercise the duties described for a Development Officer under the *New Brunswick Community Planning Act*.
- Effective 03 June 2024, Nathanial Murchison became employed in the position of Assistant Building Inspector/Development Officer, with responsibilities including the administration and enforcement of Village by-laws, and the conduct of Development Officer duties.
- Although a formal appointment of Nathanial Murchison in that capacity is not officially required per the current applicable legislation, it is considered sound practice for Council to formally designate, by resolution, a Development Officer as they will be dealing with the citizens of the Village as well as signing official documents on behalf of the Village and, possibly, representing the Village in the event of appeals of planning decisions or similar proceedings.
- The authorities of persons to administer and enforce Village by-laws enacted under the provisions of the *New Brunswick Building Code Administration Act*, *Local Governance Act, Community Planning Act* and *Police Act* are conferred via the formal appointment of such persons as a by-law enforcement officer. Accordingly, the following Resolution of Council was prepared for formal consideration.

MOVED BY Councillor Laurie Pearson and **seconded by** Councillor Mariet van Groenewoud the following Resolution of Council: ***WHEREAS*** the Council of the Village of New Maryland has enacted by-laws under and pursuant to the authorities of the *Building Code Administration Act, SNB 2020, Chapter 8;* the *Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, Chapter 18*; and the *Community Planning Act, SNB 2017, Chapter 19;* ***AND WHEREAS*** it may, from time to time, be necessary for orders to be issued pursuant to an Act when an individual has contravened or failed to comply with an Act, a by-law or regulation under an Act, or failed to comply with terms and conditions; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland hereby appoints, effective immediately, Nathanial Reece Murchison as a Building Inspector, as a By-law Enforcement Officer and as a Development Officer pursuant to the Acts noted above for the purposes of administering and enforcing the by-laws of the Village of New Maryland, and respective amendments thereto; and, ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT*** the Council for the Village of New Maryland hereby directs that Nathanial Reece Murchison be designated as a person authorized to make application, or commence proceedings, on behalf of the Village of New Maryland, to Courts of competent jurisdiction in relation to matters arising under the *Building Code Administration Act, SNB 2020, Chapter 8,* the *Local Governance Act, SNB 2017, Chapter 18*, the *Community Planning Act, SNB 2017, Chapter 19*, the *Police Act, SNB 1977, Chapter P-9.2*, and by-laws enacted pursuant to these statutes; and, ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT*** these appointments, authorizations and designations shall continue until Nathanial Reece Murchison ceases to be an employee of the Village of New Maryland, or until this Resolution is rescinded by Village Council, whichever comes first.

Discussion on the motion: Councillor Scholten welcomed Nate to the team. Mayor Wilson-Shee commented that she has received positive feedback from residents regarding their interactions with Nate. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Committee

No report was presented for the Emergency Response Plan Committee.

12. Project Reports / Updates

12. (i) Recreation & Leisure Services Department

Councillor Scholten explained that this report will be Recreation Coordinator Michelle Sawler's final report for the department as she has announced her retirement and thanked Michelle for her services. Councillor Scholten provided an update on the activities of the Recreation & Leisure Services Department.

- He reported the Snow Much Fun contest is currently on hold until more snow arrives. Depending on the weather and the timing of hiring a new Recreation Coordinator, the program may be hosted later this winter.
- The weather has affected the viability of establishing the outdoor rink. More snow and sustained colder temperatures are needed before preparations for the outdoor rink can begin. For those curious about what is involved in preparing the outdoor rink(s) for the season, a detailed write-up on the process has been created by staff. This information can be found on the website at https://vonm.ca/living/recreation-programs/recreation-parks-facilities/.
- A Senior's Valentine's Tea is scheduled for Thursday, 13 February 2025 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Additional details will be shared later this month.
- The next Babysitter course is scheduled for Friday, 7 March 2025 at Victoria Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost is $60 (*sixty dollars*), and registration is limited to 20 (twenty) participants. Registration is now open, and details have been shared on the website and social media.
- Regularly scheduled activities resumed at the New Maryland Elementary School (NMES) last week. A reminder that Open Gym is held on Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and the Co-ed Adult Volleyball sessions run on Saturday and Sunday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The cost for each of these activities is $4 (*four dollars*) per visit. For the winter session, a new indoor soccer program is offered on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. until April. Additionally, several birthdays and mini basketball tournaments are booked over the next 2 (two) months. All weekday evenings are fully booked until March Break.
- Councillor Scholten concluded his 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 3 March 2025;
    - Stretch and Strengthening classes take place every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; classes resumed 7 January 2025;
    - Craft Club meets every other Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and the next meeting will be held on 22 January 2025;
    - 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;
    - Painting Group meets every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; participants are required to bring their own supplies;
    - potluck socials are scheduled every other month in the Senior Centre at 6:00 p.m., with a guest speaker at 7:00 p.m.; the next social is scheduled for 20 February 2025 and the speaker is to be determined; and
    - PNM Zoomer memberships are available for the period from January to December, with an annual fee of $20.00 (*twenty dollars*); and
    - for residents who would like to learn more about Zoomer activities, please visit the Village website or email the Zoomers at pnmzoomers@gmail.com.

MOVED BY Councillor Alex Scholten and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Scammell the adoption of the Recreation and Leisure Services Department report as presented.

Discussion on the motion: Mayor Wilson-Shee remarked that plans for the Senior's Valentine Tea are progressing well. The event will feature live music, a light lunch, and engaging games. She emphasized that, due to limited space, registration is required to attend, and drop-ins will not be permitted. **MOTION CARRIED.**

12. (ii) Public Works Department

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

- Public Works staff investigated 74 (seventy-four) reports in 2024. This represents a 27% (*twenty-seven percent*) increase over the previous 2 (two) years. The following is a summary of the reports investigated:
  - 16 (sixteen) percent related to culvert repair;
  - 16 (sixteen) percent related to a municipal water issue which included discoloured water, water meter repair, water leaks, etc.;
  - 12 (twelve) percent of the reports related to tree or brush issues, including broken branches to brush collection;
  - 10 (ten) percent of the reports related to snow clearing operations, clearing of streets, sidewalks, and snowplow damage from clearing operations;
  - 9 (nine) percent of the reports involved drainage issues such as blocked culverts, flooding, and poor ditch drainage;
  - 7 (seven) percent of the reports related to parking issues such as parking on the street; and
  - the remaining 30 (thirty) percent involved a variety of issues such as a bear sighting, sewer back-ups, landscaping, sign repair, construction, and garbage collection.
- Staff are pleased to report that the majority of the reports concluded with expressions of gratitude and compliments from the residents involved.
- Public Works staff continued their efforts to ensure the Village's infrastructure functioned properly, providing safe drinking water and ensuring wastewater was treated so as to not pose a risk to the environment. The following is a list of projects Public Works staff worked on throughout 2024:
  - resurfaced sections of 2 (two) streets and conducted asphalt repairs on other streets;
  - repaired or replaced 21 (twenty-one) driveway culverts;
  - planted 18 (eighteen) trees along Bellflower Street and 2 (two) along Spirea Street;
  - installed a new back-up generator at the Operations Building;
  - purchased a new truck and plow for the Transportation Department; and
  - purchased a new zero-turn mower for the Transportation Department.
- The Sunrise Wellfield Development was the largest and most exciting project for the Village. In 2024, construction began on the new water treatment plant in the Sunrise Estates subdivision , along with a new booster station along the highway. This wellfield development will provide redundancy for the Village's existing water system as well as allow further development in the Village. The Sunrise Wellfield Development project would not have been possible without financial support from the Federal and Provincial governments.
- With winter weather upon the Village, motorists are reminded to allow extra time and maintain greater stopping distances when slippery conditions may exist, keeping speeds to the posted 40 (forty) km/hour speed limit and remaining mindful of pedestrians using crosswalks and walking along streets without sidewalks.
- Residents were reminded 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.*
- Public Works staff assisted the New Maryland Scouts in their annual Christmas Tree pick-up held on Saturday, 11 January 2025. The trees were collected and hauled to the Wastewater Treatment Plant site for chipping and disposal in the spring. The New Maryland Scouting group will be removing boughs from

some of the trees to use for winter camping activities. They also appreciated the donations they received during the collection.

- The winter weather this season has been relatively mild with minimal snow. Should this change, Council and staff encourage residents to participate in the Adopt-a-Hydrant program by keeping hydrants clear of snow. Any assistance in this regard is greatly appreciated. The Village also sincerely thanks residents who have helped keep hydrants clear of snow in the past.

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

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

Fire Chief Harry Farrell provided a summary of his quarterly report for October, November and December 2024.

- The report indicated a total of 21 (twenty-one) fire calls, with a total of 156 (one hundred fifty-six) firefighting hours.
- There were 5 (five) calls within Village limits with the top three being 1 (one) vehicle fire, 1 (one) electrical fire, and 2 (two) fire alarms.
- There were 16 (sixteen) calls in the Sunbury York South Rural Community, and no mutual aid calls.

Fire Chief Harry Farrell provided a summary of his yearly report for 2024.

- The report indicated a total of 70 (seventy) fire calls, a decrease from 83 (eighty-three) calls in 2023, with a total of 579 (five hundred seventy-nine) firefighting hours.
- There were 31 (thirty-one) calls within Village limits.
- There were 36 (thirty-six) calls in the Sunbury York South Rural Community, and 3 (three) mutual aid calls.

MOVED BY Councillor Tim Scammell and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Mike Pope the adoption of the New Maryland Fire Department Quarterly and Year-End Reports as presented by Chief Farrell. **MOTION CARRIED.**

13. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Alex Scholten the following Resolution of Council: ***Be It Resolved That*** the Treasurer's Report be adopted as follows: Payments made in the month of December 2024: from the General Operating account by cheques and direct payments **$1,792,966.32** (*one million, seven hundred ninety-two thousand, nine hundred sixty-six dollars and thirty-two cents*); from the Water & Sewer Operating account **$1,513,189.04** (*one million, five hundred thirteen thousand, one hundred eighty-nine dollars and four cents*); from the General Capital account **$96,302.56** (*ninety-six thousand, three hundred two dollars and fifty-six cents*); and from the Water & Sewer Capital account **$695,521.31** (*six hundred ninety-five thousand, five hundred twenty-one dollars and thirty-one cents*). **MOTION CARRIED.**

14. Public Input / Inquires

No input and/or inquiries were brought forward.

15. New Business

16. Date, Time and Location of Next Meeting

The next formal Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 19 February 2025 at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chamber.

17. Motion for Adjournment

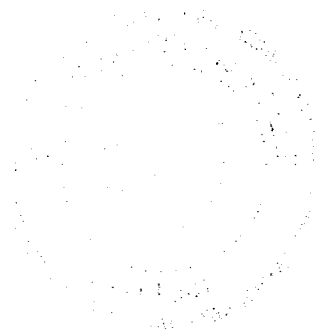
MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Mike Pope and **seconded by** Councillor Alex Scholten to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Kitchener
Maggie Kitchener
Assistant Clerk

Judy Wilson-Shee
Mayor

Cynthia Geldart
CAO/Clerk

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