

THE COMMUNITY OF THREE RIVERS
MINUTES
December 18, 2024, 6:30PM

Present

Mayor	-	Peter Saunders
Councillors	-	Angela Silverthorn
	-	Dennis Murphy
	-	Karen Hall-Middleton
	-	Luke Lymburner
Staff	-	Sandra Kelly, Janice Conley

Call to Order Mayor Saunders called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm and asked for any additions to the agenda.

Agenda It was moved by Councillor Lymburner that the agenda be approved with one addition in Correspondence at the request of Councillor Silverthorn. Seconded by Councillor Murphy. MOTION CARRIED
197-2024

Conflict of Interest There was no conflict of interest declared.

Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2024

Councillor Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes of December 4, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Councillor Hall-Middleton. MOTION CARRIED
198-2024

Presentations No Presentations

Business Arising from The Minutes

Library Update

1. Library Needs Assessment

- Councillor Silverthorn discussed the 2023 Library Needs Assessment, the Library Act and the By-Laws for the local library board. She placed emphases on the importance of clarifying the procedure for appointing members to the local library board.

2. Next Steps

- Councillor Silverthorn proposed calling a meeting with existing library board members in the new year to discuss strategies in moving forward.

New Business

Decorative Lights Main Street – Councillor Hall Middleton raised the issue of repairs to the decorative lighting on Main Street. The replacement cost was estimated to be \$1400-\$1500 per head and there are 6 lights in total to be upgraded. Potential concerns were noted in that the new light heads may not be compatible with the existing fixtures.

Action: Fixtures will be inspected to determine if new light heads are a viable solution.

Street Light Corner of Main and Old Post Road Councillor Hall-Middleton requested the installation of a new streetlight on an existing pole at the corner of Lower Main Street and the Old Post Road to improve safety for drivers and pedestrians.

Action: Staff will contact NB Power to have installation completed

Motion to Transfer Funds from General Operating to General Capital

Councillor Murphy made a motion that The Community of Three Rivers transfers \$250,000 from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund for 2024 to be used for future capital projects. Seconded by Councillor Lymburner.

MOTION CARRIED
199-2024

Motion to Transfer Funds from Sewer Operating to Sewer Capital

No transfer of funds for 2024.

Motion to Reimburse Rezoning Fees

BACKGROUND: April 19th, 2023 by law 60-B was enacted by The Council of The Community of Three Rivers to amend the Village of Petitcodiac’s Zoning Map within the rural plan By-Law 60. The amendment saw a rezoning of PIDs 70581020 and 70686258 from Rural Area to Residential.

Motion

Councillor Murphy made a motion that The community of Three Rivers reimburse the \$1500 fee paid by 718704 NB Ltd for the rezoning application for PIDs 70581020 and 70686258 from Rural Area to Residential. It was requested this be done in support of the Rural Plan policy to maintain and enhance residential character, to direct future residential development and to apply zoning based on the level of sewer servicing. Seconded by Councillor Silverthorn.

MOTION CARRIED
200-2024

Public Safety Days

Mayor Saunders announced that the Regional Service Commission (RSC) has been tasked with organizing Public Safety Days this year in Petitcodiac, Riverview, and Tantramar. The Petitcodiac event will take place on May 31 at the Petitcodiac Arena and will involve the communities of Salisbury, Elgin, and Petitcodiac. Mayor Saunders has already met with local fire departments to coordinate their participation, while the RSC will coordinate other emergency services.

Motion to Transfer Library Funds to Capital Account

BACKGROUND: September 2024 funding was received from the Governance Reform Implementation Fund in the amount of \$46,233 to help with costs in setting up a new library for The Community of Three Rivers.

Motion:

Councillor Murphy made a motion that The Community of Three Rivers transfer the sum of \$33,691.78 from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Fund. This amount represents funding received from the Province under the Governance Reform Implementation Fund, intended to support the development of a new library in The Community of Three Rivers. The original funding of \$46,223 has been adjusted to account for fees associated with engineering studies conducted on 22 Price Street as a potential library site. Seconded by Councillor Silverthorn.

MOTION CARRIED
201-2024

Motion to Amend Adoption Sewer Budget 2025
motion to amend was not required.

Due to notification from the Province, a

Motion to Transfer Funds from Gas Tax Account to General Operating – Railway Avenue Sewer Upgrade & Chipseal of Route 890

Councillor Murphy made a motion that The Community of Three Rivers transfer \$30,875.74 from the Gas Tax Fund to the General Operating Fund to cover engineering costs for the Railway Sewer Upgrade project AND the municipalities 5% portion of the expenses for the chipseal project on Route 890 completed by DTI in 2024. Seconded by Councillor Lymburner.

MOTION CARRIED
202-2024

Motion to Transfer Canada Community-Building Funds (CCBF) from the COTR General Operating Fund to the COTR CCBF Fund

BACKGROUND: The Community of Three Rivers received the first half of the 2024-2028 allocation of the Canada Community Building Funds. This transfer represents unused funds from the allocation.

Motion:

Councillor Murphy made a motion that The Community of Three Rivers transfers \$105,379 from the General Operating Fund to the Canada Community Building Fund Account. This amount represents unused funds from this year's allocation as part of the 2024-2028 funding. Seconded by Councillor Silverthorn.

MOTION CARRIED
203-2024

Correspondence

Phone Connectivity Issues Ward 3

Councillor Silverthorn received a letter from a resident in Ward 3 expressing concern about their phone service. The resident reported that after upgrading their internet service to fiber, they lost their landline and now rely solely on Voice Over Internet for phone service. During power outages, they lose all phone service. They were not informed of these issues prior to the upgrade. Additionally, the resident noted that their area lacks cell phone coverage. Councillor Silverthorn will check with EMO to see if there is any recourse as the lack of communication during a power outage is a safety issue.

Department Reports

Ward 1 Councillor Hall-Middleton reported:

- First North River Baptist Church will partner with other churches from The Community of Three Rivers in a series of choir presentations over the holiday season
- The Community Appreciation Event was held Nov 24, 2024 and was well attended.
- Christmas Shopping Party was held on December 12, 2024 and was also well attended. It was noted numbers were down from last year. Discussion was had on potential improvements for next year's event.

Maple Street Park

- Work continues to install boards at the outdoor skating rink
- They are looking for used skating equipment to leave in the warming shelter for all to use

EMO

- A community meeting was held Nov 27, 2024 with NBEMO where discussions included risk assessment, updates to existing manuals, setting up a volunteer auxiliary group and planning for the logistics of a mass evacuation in case of emergency.

Ward 3 Councillor Silverthorn reported:

PSSC

- Attended a meeting and discussed a focus moving forward for the group with bullying and drugs being two key areas of interest

Beautification

- Seasonal flags have been ordered for downtown Elgin

Public Works & Transportation, Sewer Councillor Lymburner reported:

- Christmas décor has been setup
- Sterling plow truck having electrical issues, Mac plow required repairs also
- Winter maintenance contracts were distributed to staff for review and signatures
- Employee has begun the training towards an air brake endorsement
- Camera inspections on the sewer line on Pollett River Road beginning tomorrow

Public Safety Discussed earlier in the meeting (Public Safety Day May 31st, 2025)

Recreation Councillor Murphy reported:

- Festival of Lights Parade was a huge success this year with over 40 entries. The new parade route was an improvement.
- Dec 20th Annual Light Tour
- Dec 22nd Free Skate and Festive Sweater event at the arena
- The 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Arena will be held February 16th at the arena
- Arena
 - had some issues with the new dehumidifier that have since been resolved
 - An Asset Report has been done on the condition of the ice plant at the arena. Work is being done on finding costs and potential funding sources for its replacement.

Finance Nothing to report at this time.

Environmental Health Nothing to report at this time.

Residential & Industrial Development Nothing to report at this time.

EMO Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Library Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Regional Service Commission Mayor Saunders reported he and Councillor Murphy attended a recent meeting to discuss regional growth and the potential effects of the new Federal reductions on immigration. They also had a presentation from the Chamber of Commerce to discuss survey results on issues including quality of life, regional economy, municipal services, immigration and affordability.

General Government Nothing to report at this time.

Passing of Accounts

Community of Three Rivers General Operating Fund

Councillor Murphy made a motion to pay the bills from The Community of Three Rivers General Operating Fund up to December 18, 2024, in the amount of \$273,009.39. Seconded by Councillor Hall-Middleton.
MOTION CARRIED
204-2024

Community of Three Rivers Sewer Operating Fund

Councillor Murphy made a motion to pay the bills from The Community of Three Rivers Sewer Operating Fund up to December 18, 2024, in the amount of \$18,187.72. Seconded by Councillor Lymburner.
MOTION CARRIED
205-2024

Adjournment Councillor Murphy made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Saunders

Clerk Janice Conley