

Western New Brunswick

Service Commission

Board of Directors

Minutes of the September 20, 2024

WNBSC Office

3143 Main Street, Centreville, N.B.

Board Members In Attendance:

Chair, Tom Eagles, Mayor, District of Tobique Valley
Cindy McLaughlin, Mayor, Village of Southern Victoria
Andrew Harvey, Mayor of Carleton North
Leonard Foster, Mayor, Lakeland Ridges
Tracey DeMerchant, Mayor, Hartland
Trina Jones, Mayor, Woodstock
Lynn Hambrook, Chair, Western Valley Rural District

Regrets:

Absent:

Staff In Attendance:

Katelyn McGrath, CEO
Andrea Callahan, Director of Operations (Recording Secretary)
Joan Kennedy, Finance Manager

Special Guests:

Dr. Jennifer Russell, Executive Director, Institute of Population Health
Samantha McRae, Assistant to the Executive Director – Institute of Population Health

Call to Order:

The Chair, Tom Eagles called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

No conflict of interest was proclaimed by those in attendance.

The meeting began with a presentation from Dr. Jennifer Russell from the Institute of Population Health at UNB in Fredericton.

Dr. Russell led a very informative presentation and conversation on this new initiative and the institute's role in creating meaningful and equitable impacts on population health and their focus on collaborating with partners across the province, country and world.

Recognizing the crisis state of our province's health care, Dr. Russell explained the need to use unique research and experience to better inform the decision makers in rebuilding the current system.

Dr. Russell reiterated that the Board members of the Regional Service Commission should become advocates for changes in our health care system and that a collaborative approach will serve the citizens of New Brunswick and that turning this research into action is the goal.

The Board held a great conversation with Dr. Russell and then she and her assistant left the meeting.

The regular Board meeting resumed.

Motion to accept the updated Agenda

24-0-33

Motion: Tracey DeMerchant

Seconded: Cindy McLaughlin

Motion Carried.

New Business

Motion to increase Visa Credit Card Limit

24-0-34

Resolved that, "the credit limit of the Visa Credit card on the name of the Western Valley Regional Service Commission be increased from \$5,000 to \$15,000."

Moved: Trina Jones

Seconded: Cindy McLaughlin

Motion Carried.

Motion to increase signing authority limit of corporate staff

24-0-35

Resolved that, "the signing authority for corporate staff (any two to sign) be revised from under \$20,000 to under \$40,000."

AND

Resolved that, "for expenditures of \$40,000 and over, the Chairman of the Board of the Western Valley Regional Service Commission must be one of the two signatories."

AND

Resolved that, "the Board Chair be advised via email of all expenditures over \$20,000."

Moved: Andrew Harvey

Seconded: Leonard Foster

Motion Carried.

Draft Budget Discussion

Katelyn presented the draft budget to the Board of Directors. In the Solid Waste budget, she is going to check historical tonnages to see if there are significant changes.

Some members of the Board did not understand the capacity of the Public Safety mandate and that WNBSC staff is working within that mandate to deliver EMO and Public Safety initiatives.

Trina Jones expressed concern that Woodstock is already doing and paying for some of these initiatives to be done through their own police force, so she was concerned that Woodstock is not in need of these services and therefore does not want to pay towards these initiatives. The remainder of the communities do not have a police force to deliver similar initiatives to the schools, etc., so discussion on whether the RSC could use funds to hire members of the Woodstock Police Force to do the education initiatives took place and whether this could logistically work. Trina Jones suggested that the Board revisit this at a later date.

There were concerns expressed regarding the budget for the Economic Development mandate. Katelyn clarified that the previous discussion was to keep the operating budget steady and with RSSF and previous year surplus, the member contribution to the mandate is proposed to be \$0.

The 2025 budget was tabled to be discussed again and approved for distribution at the October 25 Board meeting.

RDMO Discussion

Katelyn asked for input on the Terms of Reference that she had circulated to the Board. It was decided that the Board would revisit this at the October meeting once they have more time to think about the make up of the advisory committee.

Chair, Tom Eagles spoke about Ambulance New Brunswick and asked the Board members if they were aware that there are times that their communities are not being served by Ambulance NB and that they are expecting the local Fire Departments to pick up the slack.

Tom Eagles has met with the Premier's Office and several other politicians to discuss this issue.

Motion to write letter to the Premier and the Department of Justice and Public Safety **24-0-36**

Resolved that, "the CEO will write a letter to the Premier, the Minister of Justice and Public Safety, and all Member of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, expressing the WNBSC Board of Directors' concerns regarding the lack of service coverage of Ambulance NB."

Moved: Trina Jones
Seconded: Tracey DeMerchant
Motion Carried.

Katelyn will forward the letter to each member so that each community can submit a similar letter of concern.

Andrew Harvey mentioned that the District of Carleton North and Hartland had a meeting with Quad NB about shared use of trails within their municipalities and from Perth-Andover to Newburg.

Quad NB is making the application for an agreement to use this trail during the time period of

April 16 to December 14 of each year, similar to how Snowmobile NB has full use of the trails from December 15 to April 15 each year to encourage active living and active transportation.

Motion to go in camera

24-0-37

Moved: Cindy McLaughlin

Seconded: Tracey DeMerchant

Motion Carried.

Motion to go out of camera

24-0-38

Moved: Andrew Harvey

Seconded: Cindy McLaughlin

Motion Carried.

Next meeting will be October 25 at 9 a.m. and will last most of the day.

Motion to Adjourn at 1:32 p.m.

Moved: Trina Jones

Seconded: Andrew Harvey

Signed: _____

Chair, Tom Eagles

Secretary, Trina Jones