



GMRSC - MEETING Minutes – 2023-9
Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission
September 13, 2023

The Chairperson, Art O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Item 2023-9-1 Record of Attendance

Members present:

Mayor, Art O'Donnell
Mayor, Ernest Robichaud
Mayor, Adam Lordon via Zoom
Mayor, Kevin Russell
Lynn Gregan, Rural District Representative
Dustin Munn (Alternate) via Zoom

Also present:

Wilson Bell, Chief Executive Officer
Sharon Williston, Recording Secretary
Shawn Cripps, CFO
Ron Gaudet, DELG, Local Services Manager
Larry Allain (Alternate RD) via Zoom
Justin Forbes, Director of Operations
Krista Chase, Economic and Labor Force Development Coordinator
Melanie Rousselle, SWS Manager via Zoom
Colleen Acker, Transportation Coordinator
Sylvia Rousselle, Communication Development Coordinator
Tara Ross Robinson, CAO Alnwick via zoom
Mike Noel City Manager via Zoom
Jeff MacTavish, City via Zoom
Mary Hunter – via Zoom
Margie Lyons– via Zoom
Ben Champoux, Consultant
Nathan Delong, Miramichi Leader

Item 2023-9-02: Approval of Agenda

Moved: K. Russell
Seconded: E. Robichard

Resolved, *“that Agenda 2023-9 be approved as circulated.”*

Carried

Item 2023-9-03: Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None Declared

Item 2023-9-04: Approval of Minutes of August 17, 2023 Board Meeting

Moved: L. Gregan
Seconded: K. Russell

Resolved, *“that the minutes of the GMRSC Meeting 2023-8 be approved as circulated.”*

Carried

Item 2023-9-05: Labor Force Study Presentation

Consultant Ben Champoux presented the summary of his findings from the recently completed regional labor force survey. The labor force survey collected data on current workforce conditions and future needs from regional employers. The results illustrate the evolving economy and what’s needed for employers to achieve full economic potential.

Some highlights from the presentation were:

- 101 businesses were surveyed and 69% confirmed they plan to hire new staff in 2023.
- Impact of retirements in the area businesses in Miramichi could lose more than 500 workers.
- 3 out of 10 jobs will be filled by someone living outside of Miramichi.

Mayor Adam Lordon stated the need to recruit more employees internationally. He said it seems all roads lead back to the need for housing and federal funding.

Moved: A. Lordon
Seconded: L. Gregan

Motion, *“To receive the results of the Labour Force Regional Survey as presented.”*

Carried

Item 2023-9-06: GMRSC Notice regarding MOU with the City of Miramichi

Wilson Bell, CEO presented the GMRSC notice regarding the MOU with the City of Miramichi.

The Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (GMRSC) and the City of Miramichi entered an MOU in 2023 for the provision of Regional Economic Development and Regional Tourism Promotion services. The term of the MOU is five years beginning January 1st, 2023, and ending December 31, 2027.

The Board of the GMRSC is of the opinion that these regional services would be best provided by a regional body. To this end, the GMRSC wishes to establish these services within the regional service commission itself.

DIRECTION:

The direction provided by the Board to the CEO was to explore options to terminate the MOU within the provisions outlined in the agreement.

Section 9

“Either party may terminate this MOU without cause by provision of six (6) months’ written notice, such notice being provided in accordance with the provisions of Section 14.”

Section 14

“All notices, request claims, demands and other communications hereunder must be in writing....to the City of Miramichi, City Manager.”

The GMRSC Board can make a motion to terminate the MOU at the September 13th, 2023, meeting. Thus, the MOU would be terminated in 6 - months, March 13, 2024.

Section 15

Alternatively, the MOU can be amended:

“No change or modification of this MOU shall be valid unless it is in writing and signed by each party.”

If both parties agree to terminate the MOU earlier than March 2024, then perhaps this could occur at the end of 2023.

The City Manager was consulted and informed that the GMRSC is considering cancelling the MOU. He responded that the matter is straightforward, and the Commission should send a motion stating its intention to the City for its consideration.

Mayor Adam Lordon shared that he was happy with supporting economical development and tourism. Wanted a mutual decision without any conflict. Hopes to work as a board to model a regional marketing organization to handle tourism (actual marketing staff/company).

He also said that he is not committing to the proposed budget of \$533,000 for tourism promotion net cost of 198K with funding. It is going to be a process. Voting on this today does not mean I am committing to this number.

Moved: K. Russell

Seconded: L. Gregan

Resolved, “That, as per Section 9 of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission hereby gives written notice (six-months) to the City of Miramichi of its desire to terminate the MOU effective March 13, 2024 or as per the provisions of Section 15 of the MOU, if the City of Miramichi mutually agrees, to amend and terminate the MOU effective December 31st, 2023.”

Carried

(Nays) – E. Robichaud

ITEM 2023-9-07: GMRSC 2024 Operation and Capital Budget (Draft) – for circulation

Wilson Bell, CEO presented the GMRSC Tax Base and Population of each area. He also presented two funding sources, the Regional Support Fund (anticipated funding request is \$368,406) and the LGR Implementation funding program (anticipated funding request of \$330,188.) Other funding sources per presented as well.

Shawn Cripps CFO presented the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget and an overview of Corporate services and their responsibilities.

Justin Forces, COO presented the presented the Budget Overview of 2024 with pie charts breaking out service allocations for each area. He also presented a Tax Rate Analysis on residential properties.

Mayor Kevin Russell commented on how the Power Point presentation conveyed the budget and highlights in an easier format to understand and now ready to present to his council and go from there.

Moved: E. Robichaud

Seconded: K. Russell

Motion: “That, the proposed 2024 Operating and Capital Budget for the Greater Miramichi Regional Service Commission (September 8, 2023, version) be approved for circulation to the member Municipalities and the Rural District Council; and further a notice to be included that the proposed 2024 Budget will be voted on by the Regional Service Commission at the Commission’s meeting to be held November 1st, 2023.

Carried

ITEM 2023-9-08 – GMRSC Monthly Service Division Reports for June, July and August

Wilson Bell, CEO presented the Corporate Services portion of the report.

Melanie Cripps, SWS Manager presented the Solid Waste Services update for June thru August.

Justin Forbes, COO presented the Building Inspection Services section and Planning Services Update.

Krista Chase, Economical Development, presented the Economic and Labour Development portion of the report.

Justin Forbes, COO also presented the Public Safety Committee update as well as the Transportation update. Also presented the Regional Housing Authority update and advised that there will be a “Housing Forum” tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2023.

Moved: K. Russell
Seconded: E. Robichaud

Motion, “to accept the report as presented.”

Carried

ITEM 2023-9-09 – CEO UPDATE

1. Two vacant positions: Planner and Approvals Coordinator recruitment is underway. Interviews for the Planner position have taken place. No decision yet on a successful candidate.
2. Board Governance Training Session will be held on Wednesday, October 4, at 4 PM. Salmon Museum in Doaktown, Alternates and CAO’S invited to attend (This session has been cancelled)
3. Next Regular Commission Board Meeting – October 25, 2023 @ 5 PM

Moved: L. Gregan
Seconded: E. Robichaud

Motion, to accept CEO update as presented.

Carried

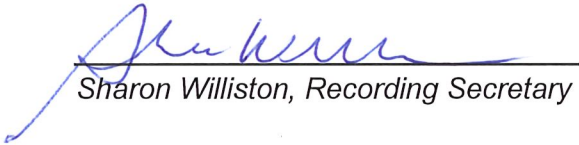
ADJOURNMENT

The next GMRSC board meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on October 25, 2023

It was moved by Kevin Russell to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Sharon Williston, Recording Secretary



Wilson Bell, MCIP, CEO