

Minutes



Regular Meeting

January 19th, 2026

DATE OF MEETING

7:00 PM

TIME

Mayor Eagles

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY

IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Tom Eagles, Deputy Mayor Gary Harding, Councillor Joanne Michaud, Councillor William Eagles, Councillor Sharon DeWitt, Councillor Tony Wright, Councillor Laurie Barry-Kinney, Patty St. Peter, CAO/Clerk, Amanda Jenkins McAskill, ASO

Mayor Eagles stated, “We begin today by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqey. These territories are covered by treaties of peace and friendship of the Wolastoqey people first signed with the British Crown in 1725.”

OPENING PRAYER

Mayor Eagles lead the meeting in the Lord’s Prayer.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Eagles noted an addition to “New Business” - 13(d) Capital Renewal Funding Program.

RESOLUTION: Approval of agenda with the addition of 13(d) Capital Renewal Funding Program - Councillor Eagles, Councillor DeWitt

Carried 202601-01

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION: Approval of Regular Meeting December 15th, 2025 – Deputy Mayor Harding, Councillor Wright

Carried 202601-02

PUBLIC HEARING REZONING STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING for Monday, January 19th:

PROPERTY: PID’s 65195414, 65195406, 65195398, 65195448, and 65195455, Cedar Street, Plaster Rock

REZONING: Mixed Development Zone (MD Zone) to Residential 4 (R4 Zone)

Public Hearing:

The District of Tobique Valley wishes to rezone 65195414, 65195406, 65195398, 65195448, and 65195455 from Mixed Development Zone (MD Zone) to Residential 4 (R4 Zone). The purpose of this rezoning is to ensure that future development complements the surrounding neighborhood. This zone limits permitted main uses to single-detached dwellings to maintain the residential character and cohesion of the neighborhood

The statutory notice for the public hearing was posted on the District of Tobique Valley website on December 15th, 2025. The Planning Review and Advisory Committee will review this application at their January 28th meeting.

We will now proceed to the public hearing. Any person wishing to speak may do so now. Please state your name and address when it is your turn to speak.

Mayor opened the floor.

First Call for Comments.

Second Call for Comments.

Third Call for Comments.

Mayor closed the floor. You also have an opportunity to submit written comments. The deadline date for your comments is February 3rd, 2026. They can be provided to council through our district office or through the Western NB Service Commission.

BY-LAW 2025-08 – DISTRICT OF TOBIQUE VALLEY – A BY-LAW RESPECTING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EMERGENCY MEASURES PLAN.

A by-law of the District of Tobique Valley respecting the establishment and implementation of an emergency measures response plan pursuant to section 10(A) of the Local Government Act of New Brunswick.

A summary reading of the proposed draft By-Law 2025-08

By-Law No. 2025-08 – Emergency Measures Plan (EMO Plan) establishes the framework for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery in the District of Tobique Valley. It replaces the previous Community Disaster Planning By-Law and empowers the Council-appointed **Director** and the **Emergency Measures Action Committee** to develop, maintain, and implement the EMO Plan, including operations at the **Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)**. The by-law defines procedures for declaring a **state of local emergency**, outlines the powers and responsibilities during such emergencies—including property use, evacuation, essential services, and mutual aid agreements—sets out remuneration for staff, provides indemnity protections, establishes enforcement mechanisms, and authorizes penalties for violations. It ensures compliance with the **Local Governance Act 2017** and the **Emergency Measures Act RSNB 2011**, while repealing the previous disaster planning by-law.

RESOLUTION: To accept the Third reading of By-Law 2025-08 – District of Tobique Valley – A By-Law Respecting the Establishment and Implementation of an Emergency Measures Plan – Councillor Barry-Kinney, Deputy Mayor Harding

Carried 202601-03

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE VILLAGE OF PLASTER ROCK RURAL PLAN BY-LAW 20A-11

BY-LAW # 20A-11 - A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE VILLAGE OF PLASTER ROCK RURAL PLAN BY-LAW # 20A - Pursuant to Section 117 of the *Community Planning Act*, the Council of the District of Tobique Valley enacts the following amendments to Rural Plan By-law # 20A.

RESOLUTION: To accept the First reading of By-Law 20A-11 – A by-law to amend the Village of Plaster Rock Rural Plan By-Law #20A – Councillor Wright, Councillor DeWitt

Carried 202601-04

RESOLUTION: To accept the Second reading of By-Law 20A-11 – A by-law to amend the Village of Plaster Rock Rural Plan By-Law #20A – Councillor Barry-Kinney, Councillor Wright

Carried 202601-05

Committee Reports

Mayor Eagles

Regional Service Commission

Attended meeting January 16th, about the Upper River Valley Hospital. In attendance were the board of directors, 8 physicians, Dr. Singh Ranger, surgeon, met with the Premier, Minister of Health, Deputy Minister of Health and the CEO of Horizon.

Presented a couple of solutions for the URVH to the Premier

- Autonomy
- Hospital to be Regional

RSC – Public Safety

Had a few break-ins in the area. We have experienced one ourselves in our storage shed, stole a kayak and life jackets.

UMNB

No Report

Deputy Mayor Gary Harding

Public Works

- Paint blade on backhoe
- New solenoid on salter for pickup
- New cylinder on loader
- New alternator on trackless
- Repaired service line on Fraser St.
- New bearing on conveyor on plow truck
- Received generator for well house on December 8
- New solenoid on park brake on loader
- New chain on snow blower on trackless
- New panel installed on bottom of garage door
- Repaired broken belt on blower at lagoon
- New battery cable on trackless
- New auger on snow blower on trackless
- Plowed/Salted 21 times this month
- 8 Samples this month all acceptable results

Addition: Generator at the well house will be operational by spring as a cement block, electrical, and propane inspection needs to be completed.

New submersible pump at well #1 to take place on a shaft turbine

Tobique Forestry Advisory Committee

Next forestry meeting is January 27th.

Cemetery Committee

No Report

Councillor Laurie Barry-Kinney

Policy & By-Laws

No report

Pond Hockey

No report

Economic Development – Tourism

Met with the Glen Group on December 18th to discuss plans moving forward. Completed a walk-through of the Nature Trail and collaborated on selecting a theme for future development. A follow-up meeting is planned within the next couple of months.

Councillor Tony Wright

Parks, Community Development & Facility Maintenance/Community Development Committee

Recreation:

- The Christmas event lineup was a wonderful success across the community. The Christmas Parade saw an excellent turnout, with a wide variety of festive floats, an exact count was difficult as several joined at the last minute. The Best Decorated Float award was presented to Groupe Lebel, while Best in Theme Float went to 3 Brooks Villa. During the parade, Councillors also selected the Best Decorated Business, which was awarded to Plaster Rock Guardian.
- The Meet Santa event was well attended and enjoyed by many families. Home Acres Farms baked cookies for the children, and Northumberland kindly donated milk and yogurt, adding to the festive experience.
- The Baked Cookie Contest was a big hit, with winners receiving gift cards. The winners' names were announced on Facebook.
- The final event of the Christmas season was the Seniors Social, which had a fantastic turnout. Megan Witherly provided a delightful selection of sweets, and the afternoon was filled with good company and cheerful caroling, bringing the Christmas celebrations to a warm and joyful close.
- The Thriftmas Sale was a success, and participants shared their enthusiasm about returning should another event be held in the future.
- Men's Shinny kicked off on January 4, 2026.
- Our Snowshoe Club will begin on January 7, 2026, and interest is already building with several participants registered.
- Laser Tag excitement is coming this February, more details to be announced soon.
- Athletic and community nomination advertisements for the Wall of Fame have been posted on Facebook, clearly outlining that all submissions must be received by February 25th.

Facility

No report

Pond Hockey

- 12" of ice – so ice prep will start soon.

Addition: Recreation COW meeting January 18th – focused on the upcoming events

Councillor HW Eagles

Fire Department

1 Large Structure Fire at Lebel Planer Mill (Drummond Fire Provided Mutual Aid)
3 Motor Vehicle Accidents
1 Vehicle Fire
1 Flue Fire
1 Residential Carbon Monoxide Alarm

Cemetery

Closed until spring.

Transportation

No Report

Long Term/Palliative Care

No Report

Addition: Senior Care – a steering committee has been formed and a meeting will be scheduled by end of January.

Councillor Sharon DeWitt

For the month of December 2025

MONTHLY	INCOME	EXPENSE
GENERAL	\$257,609.84	\$521,568.68
WATER & SEWER	\$ 24,904.56	\$ 96,840.14
TOTAL	\$282,514.40	\$618,408.82

EMO

Meetings Amanda attended:

- Voyent Alert is active in our area – everyone is encouraged to register
 - There will be planned advertising for 2026 to advertise the importance of this app
 - Policies will be created for the usage of the Public Service Announcement Systems
- EMO response with a resident in Leonard Colony due to a flooding issue
- Documents / Plans are continuously being updated
- Inquired on the following courses through NBEMO:
 - Basic Emergency Management
 - I-200
 - Emergency Operations Centre

Library

- The group from CVCVB will come on Jan. 7th for their monthly craft session with Stephanie. This month will be snowman art with old book pages.
- Lego Club will be held after school on Jan. 13th
- The library board meeting will also be held on Jan. 13th.

- Spice Club's spice/seasoning for January is Celery Seed. We currently have 22 participants. New members are welcome.
- The library Book Club will be meeting on Jan. 22 to discuss "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. New members are always welcome.
- Rug Hooking meets only once this month (on Jan. 20).
- Grade 6 students are participating in Hackmatack (an Atlantic Canada book program) once again this year. They meet monthly to discuss and do activities about a book from the 10 fiction and 10 non-fiction books selected by the program. Sandy was in charge of that program, Stephanie will do her best to keep it going.
- Story Time will return on Jan. 7, after the holiday break.
- There will be an adult craft night on Jan. 29. The craft will be a snowman made out of fabric and embroidery hoops. Registration is required.
- The job ad for a new library assistant was posted internally before the holidays. No update yet in regard to how many applied or when hiring will take place.

Addition:

- Family Literacy Day is January 27th
- Adopt a book program to date has raised \$1386

Education

DFMS

No Report

TVMHS

- Assessment week is this week

Councillor Joanne Michaud

Over the past three years the Mayor has reminded council that when it is our turn to speak on the agenda, we are free to raise any issue we believe warrants discussion. It was with that understanding that I believed the email was appropriate for council to address and brought the matter forward. I apologize for any inconvenience this has caused Council.

Health

The nurse practitioner on our contract is expecting and going on maternity leave mid April.

If Administration continues to be under budget in 2026 as performed in the 2025 financials, along with the nurse practitioners monthly fee, we could offer a Doctor incentive.

RESOLUTION: To offer a Doctor signing bonus for 3 years at \$20,000/year in return for a 3 year commitment in a full-time position. Councillor Michaud, Deputy Mayor Harding

Questions:

- Councillor Barry-Kinney asked if it will be a monthly payment or a one time pay. Councillor Michaud noted it would depend on who it is and if they have to relocate, they may need the one-time payment to help with costs.
- Councillor Eagles noted it is not \$20,000 it is \$60,000 as it is coming out of taxpayers' dollars. Councillor Michaud confirmed it is \$60,000 for the 3 years, \$20,000 per year

Carried 202601-06

Policy & By Laws

No Report

Christmas

We had our final meeting on January 8, 2026. The following items were suggested improvements for next year:

- Have a back-up Parade Marshall in the wings in case of a last-minute cancellation.
- Have the Senior Social through the week, such as the Thursday afternoon prior.
- Matt to make us metal Christmas trees – one big one for the common and several smaller ones for additional decorating.
- Put next year's dates for the parade and tree lighting up on the website now.
- Look at buying lighted pole decorations – perhaps ask businesses to sponsor a pole to “Light up the Town for Christmas” – to be looked at in April of 2026.
- Have the first meeting of the season the first week of September, rather than the third.
- Best Decorated House – there should only be one picture submitted per entrant.
- Best Decorated Business – to be judged on December 20 – announce the winner between Christmas and New Year's.

RESOLUTION: Reports be accepted as submitted and accounts payable – Councillor Barry-Kinney, Councillor Wright

Questions on Reports:

- Councillor Eagles asked if the push is still on with TVCHC even though the RSC is working on the UVRH. Mayor Eagles confirmed Councillor Michaud is working on our community health centre.
- Councillor Barry-Kinney asked if Council has ever thought about searching funding for the 11 acres to build a manor. Councillor Eagles noted his committee is working on a seniors home. Councillor Barry-Kinney mentioned the waiting list for the manor is very long and we are lacking long term care in our area.
- Mayor Eagles noted the 4 street lights on Fraser Street is up and working great.

Carried 202601-07

Chief Administrative Officer

Community & Administration

- Riley Brook Generator update. The generator that was delivered was damaged, so a new one had to be ordered. The plan is to have the generator installed by the end of the month.
- The transfer of ownership of the mobile home on Centennial Court has been completed. The meter and wire will be removed on January 19th. A demolition permit is required to be submitted to the RSC prior to demolition of structure. The intent is to have it completed as soon as time permits/weather.
- Once piece of property has been acquired on MacWright Street. The remaining property to acquire is the piece from Justin Clark. I've followed up my previous email to see when the survey will be able to conduct the work.

Financial

- Budget has been approved by the province
- The utility invoices will be sent out either Monday or Tuesday of next week

By-Law Enforcement

- Advised of Dog Compliant
- Requested update from By Law Enforcement Officer on open property files of; 60 Post Street, 219 Main Street, 84 Main Street.

Meetings

- January 6 – Grant Match
- January 7 – Health & Safety Meeting
- January 12 – RDC Funding Call
- January 14 – Protective Services & Fire Rescue
- January 15 – Information Session Online Data Portal for Drinking Water Quality Results

RESOLUTION: The Chief Administrative Officer report be accepted – Councillor DeWitt, Councillor Eagles

Mayor Eagles asked about the update on the By-Law Officer not received. Councillor Eagles wants to ensure we are getting the services we pay for.

Councillor DeWitt asked about acquiring a permit for demolition. CAO St. Peter confirmed it is a requirement.

Carried 202601-08

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Need to rescind resolution 2025-10-02 that reads - For the purposes of short-term borrowing be it resolved that the District of Tobique Valley make an application with the Royal Bank of Canada for the Everett Lane Lagoon upgrades. Councillor Michaud, Councillor Barry-Kinney Carried – 2025 -10-02

A new resolution Be it resolved that, for the purpose of securing a short-term loan in the amount of \$523,940 the Council of the **District of Tobique Valley** hereby authorizes an application to the **Royal Bank of Canada** to finance the **Everett Lane Lagoon upgrades**.

RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that, for the purpose of securing a short-term loan in the amount of \$523,940 the Council of the District of Tobique Valley hereby authorizes an application to the Royal Bank of Canada to finance the Everett Lane Lagoon upgrades. - Councillor Barry-Kinney, Councillor Wright

Carried 202601-09

New Business

- a) Community Investment Procedure and Application Review – discussions of a deadline, non-profits association, organizations.

Council decided to table this next council meeting after some research.

- b) Industrial Site

Council would like to look at locations for an industrial park. Councillors will inquire on land and table next council meeting.

- c) Personnel Policy –

Councillor Michaud noted the group insurance portion deleted is still relevant and ensure it is noted the employee is responsible to pay their premiums.

RESOLUTION: To accept the personnel policy with the addition of the health benefits being the employee's responsibility to reimburse the District should their sick leave extend their sick days. – Councillor Barry-Kinney, Councillor Wright

Carried 202601-10

d) Capital Renewal Funding Program –

A new funding program from the government and is similar as the Gas Tax Program, however it is a replacement program for assets.

RESOLUTION: To approve the document of the Capital Renewal Funding Program as presented. Councillor Wright, Councillor Michaud

Carried 202601-11

Correspondence:

- a) Thank you from Family Worship Centre for usage of chairs during the Bishop McKillop's Celebration of Life Service.
- b) UMNB President Brittany Merrifield, asking for members feedback for future orientation training topics no later than January 31, 2026.

Next Meeting Date

RESOLUTION: The next Regular Meeting is Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Phil Sharkey Memorial Centre – Councillor Barry-Kinney, Councillor Eagles

Carried 2026001-12

Closed Session – Land

RESOLUTION: To move the meeting into closed session at 8:18 p.m.– Councillor Barry-Kinney, Deputy Mayor Harding

Carried 202601-13

RESOLUTION: To move the meeting to open session at 9:11 p.m. – Councillor Michaud, Councillor Barry-Kinney

Carried 202601-14

Adjournment

RESOLUTION: The meeting adjourned @ 9:11 p.m. – Councillor Barry-Kinney, Councillor Eagles

Carried 202601-15

Tom Eagles, Mayor

Patty St. Peter, CAO/Clerk

