SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AGENDA

September 22, 2026, 6:30 PM
Municipal Office, 82 Main Street, Rexton, NB, E4W 5N4

1. Call to Order.

Actual Start Time: _____

2. Attendance.

Chair:

Council (In Person):

Council (Virtual):

Council (Absent):

Clerk:

Staff:

Others:

3. Approval of Agenda of the Special Meeting on November 9, 2026.

Motion 110926.01
BE IT RESOLVED that the council of Five Rivers approves the agenda, as submitted by the clerk, for its special meeting of council on November 9, 2026.
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

4. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest.

5. Business Arising from Prior Meeting.

a. **2027 GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET**. Our 2027 general operating budget is due by Nov 15 (municipalities may submit later if they notify the Department of Local Government). The following sections provide key points about the general operating budget.

SURPLUS. General revenue for 2027 reflects a $206,000 surplus carried from 2025. In a normal year, the surplus should be close to $0, so revenues and expenditures for 2027 should be set with the understanding that we will not have this extra revenue in future years.

TAX RATES. The chart below shows various tax rates and implications to revenue for our four taxing authorities (or areas). Note that the province's stabilizer drops all four rates by 5.22%, and would provide incremental revenue of $316,000, while perpetuating large differentials in former LSDs. The administration proposes an adjusted stabilizer, to:

(a) support tax rate parity in former LSDs,
(b) build capital reserves, and
(c) maintain and/or enhance administrative services, environmental health services, environmental development services, and protective services.

AREA	CURRENT	100% STAB	50% STAB	ADJUSTED STAB
Rexton	$1.3985	$1.3255	$1.3620	**$1.3550**
Richibucto Parish	$0.7025	$0.6658	$0.6842	**$0.7025**
Weldford	$0.7755	$0.7350	$0.7553	**$0.7500**
Harcourt	$0.8025	$0.7606	$0.7813	**$0.7500**
Incremental Rev	**$585,000**	**$316,000**	**$446,989**	**$451,000**

MULTIPLIER. For 2026, Five Rivers set a multiplier of 1.550, which is applied to commercial and industrial properties. For 2027, we propose a marginal increase to 1.575, which will still be lower than most municipalities in New Brunswick, including most municipalities in Kent County.

STAFFING REMUNERATION. The proposed 2027 staffing plan has a 3.6% COLA adjustment plus a transition to 100% benefits coverage (no employee co-pay). Our insurer notes that most municipalities are at 100%, including most in Kent County. Funding has also been allocated for staff recognition and clothing/footwear.

COUNCIL REMUNERATION & TRAINING. Under our current policy, council remuneration would be increased by 3.6% based on the last 12 reported months of the New Brunswick Consumer Price Index. The difference between 0% and 3.6% is about $2000. Council training,

development, and seminar cost have been reduced from $17,500 to $7500. These funds mainly cover conference attendance (UMNB, FCM, etc.).

ADMIN & FINANCE SYSTEMS. Allocations have been made for PurelyHR software (for timesheets, used by KRSC) and EScribe software (for public meeting management). An allocation of $25k has been made for financial management consultation and training, to advance financial standards and practises, to improve forecasting, reduce the need for professional accounting support, and to support a transition in 2028 to better financial software that would reduce manual processing relating to cheques, payables, and expenses.

GRANTS. The budget for grants (sports, cultural, education, environment, community, and other) has been increased from $27,500 to $40,000.

RCMP. The cost for RCMP services increased by 4.7% (matching the stabilizer), equating to an increase of just under $49,000. The total cost for 2027 is $1.089M.

FIRE PROTECTION. The total cost for both fire departments is just under $1.1M. The chart below shows the breakdown.

GROUP	BHFD	RFD	Total
Fire Protection	-$298,616	-$239,550	-$538,166
Transfers to Own Reserves, Funds & Agencies	-$147,000	-$75,000	-$222,000
Debt Charges	-$155,764	-$181,300	-$337,064
	-$601,380	**-$495,850**	**-$1,097,230**

♦ Basic fire protection services (stipends, insurance, station & building, firefighting equipment, etc.) for both departments will cost $538k, up slightly from $533k in 2026.

♦ Transfers to reserves & funds are down for 2027 to $222k from $250k in 2026. In 2027, the budget includes $150k for earmarked reserves and $72k for a compressor and other capital items for Beersville/Harcourt. In 2026, $250k had been allocated to a capital fund to pay for the new Rexton fire truck.

♦ Debt repayment charges for 2027 are $337k, up slightly from $332k in 2026. This is because a new debenture was set up for the Rexton Fire Department, while a smaller debenture will be paid off and retired in Dec 2026.

KRSC, SOLID WASTE, COST SHARING. The 2027 KRSC budget is $757k, up from $677k in 2026. It includes $416k for solid waste (up from $369k in 2026) and $110k for cost sharing (Kent North & St. Louis pool). Planning services are $158k for 2027, up from $134k in 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS. Allocations for patching and sidewalks have been increased slightly.

The private contract for snow and ice removal has estimated to increase by 5% (pending a contract extension), taking it from $259k to $271k (driven in part by fuel costs).

RECREATION & CULTURAL. The proposed budget for recreation and cultural services in 2027 is $669k with staffing costs, $368k without. This is up from $553k in 2026. The main drivers of this increase include costs for heat and electricity, a new provision for Bonar Law Park property taxes ($15k), and an $8500 increase for the Roots & Rivers festival.
TOURISM PLAN. $20,000 has been budgeted for a tourism plan (to cover the cost of the Glenn Group Proposal).

SEWER FEES ON MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS. To increase utility revenue, sewer fees for municipal buildings have been increased to $2000 each for six municipal buildings.

FISCAL SERVICES. Debt charges will decrease slightly for 2027, from $437k this year to $401k next year. Reserve allocations have been increased significantly, to $463k from $164k. The 2027 allocation includes new $75k allocations for each fire department and a $313k allocation for non-fire. In addition, a $72k allocation has been made to pay for the new compressor for Beersville, as well as other capital purchases.

NEW & ENHANCED PROVISIONS. New or enhanced provisions have been made for:
civic awards, civic relations, municipal publications (including newsletters), streetlights (by area), asset management, an angel tree donation, and trail & greenspace development.

DECISIONS FOR COUNCIL

- Approval of proposed property tax rates (with/without adjustments).
- Approval of proposed multiplier on commercial/industrial property tax rates (with/without adjustments).
- Approval of proposed council remuneration (with/without adjustments).
- Approval of GENERAL SERVICES (A) budget (with/without adjustments).
- Approval of PROTECTIVE SERVICES (B) budget (with/without adjustments).
- Approval of TRANSPORT SERVICES (C) budget (with/without adjustments).
- Approval of ENVIRON DEVELOPMENT SERVICES (D) budget (with/without adjustments).
- Approval of REC & CULTURAL SERVICES (E) budget (with/without adjustments).
- Approval of FISCAL SERVICES (F) budget (including reserves, with/without adjustments).

Motion 110926.02
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the property tax rates as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.03
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the proposed multiplier of [$1.575] on commercial and industrial property tax rates as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.04
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves that council remuneration be increased by 3.6% as per the 12-month average of the New Brunswick Consumer Price Index for the most recently reported months.
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.05
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the proposed general services budget as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.06
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the protective services budget as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.07
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the transportation budget as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.08
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the environmental development budget as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.09
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the recreation and cultural services budget as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.10
Whereas council is required to approve a general operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the fiscal services budget as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

b. **2027 UTIILITY OPERATING BUDGET**. Like our general operating budget, the 2027 utility operating budget is also due to the province by Nov 15. The following sections provide key points about the general operating budget.

PENDING LAGOON PROJECT. The engineering firm CBCL has estimated that it may cost up to $4.5M to restore our wastewater lagoon to standard operation. Even if we receive a large grant, we would still be likely be left to cover up to $900k of that cost, which for a 20-year debenture would translate into an annual payment of $55k or more. In addition, other upgrades may be required to one or more of our old lift stations (we have 6). This means that we need to increase our revenue and build our reserves to help cover these costs.

BASE RATE. For 2026, we increased our base rate for sewer service to $465. This change increased our annual revenue by about $35,000. For 2027, we propose that the base rate be increased to $495, or approximately 6%, to increase annual revenue by about $10,000.

INSTITUTIONAL RATE. To further increase revenue, we propose that the institutional rate be changed to a per student rate of $135. The municipality of Champdoré has implemented this rate. This change would increase annual revenue by about $80,000.

FISCAL SERVICES. By increasing revenue and holding labor allocations to a minimum,

we could move $165k into capital reserves to help pay for future infrastructure projects. It would also give us room to borrow if necessary.

DECISIONS FOR COUNCIL

♦ Approval of proposed base rate (with/without adjustments).

♦ Approval of proposed institutional rate (with/without adjustments).

♦ Approval of FISCAL SERVICES (G) budget (with/without adjustments).

Motion 110926.11
Whereas council is required to approve a utility operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves a base rate of [$495] for wastewater service.
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.12
Whereas council is required to approve a utility operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves a wastewater user fee of $135 per student for institutions.
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

Motion 110926.13
Whereas council is required to approve a utility operating budget for 2027, be it resolved that council approves the fiscal services budget as proposed [with the following adjustment(s)].
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

6. New Business.

a. N/A.

7. Closed Meeting.

Motion 110926.14
To exit open session and go into closed session.
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

a. Local Governance Act, Section 68(1)(c), information that could cause financial loss or gain to a person or the local government or could jeopardize negotiations leading to an agreement or contract.

Motion 110926.15
To exit closed session and return to open session.
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

8. Motions Arising from Closed Meeting.

a. **Motion 110926.XX**
Be it resolved that…
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.

9. Date of Next Meeting(s).

a. Regular Meeting: November 10, 2026.

b. Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting: November 24, 2026.

10. Adjournment.

Time: _____

Motion 110926.16
To adjourn meeting of Council.
Moved by _____ | Seconded by _____.