

Reference #: 2019-002

January 4, 2019

**VIA EMAIL**

Sabine Dietz  
28 High Marsh Road  
Sackville, NB E4L 1K2

Dear Sabine,

**Re: Location of New Ambulance Building**

Thank you for your letter of December 16, 2018.

As you know, the proposal for a new ambulance facility on Robson Avenue proceeded through a rezoning process back in the spring of 2018. The rezoning was approved by Council, and the amending by-law was registered in June. This process included a statutory public hearing, which includes public input into the rezoning process where several of the concerns raised in your letter were noted. With the rezoning process complete and new facility under construction, reversing the decision to locate the facility from the present position is no longer an option.

As you may also know, Ambulance NB issued tender for a new facility back in 2017. This tender included specific criteria and geographic locations for new facility that provided efficient access to the TransCanada Highway, as well as surrounding communities. Therefore, the general location of the facility was pre-determined by Ambulance NB and the Town had no role in assessing or deciding on the general locations that it identified. With any potential development the Town works with perspective developers to assist them and throughout that consultative process we certainly provide all the information that we have on current conditions and factors. However, at the end of the day, management of their risk assessment, and the decision to proceed is entirely up to them.

As you rightly noted, the Town's current hydrographic map was adopted in 2013. Since then Council has reviewed its Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law, but in the absence of new provincial maps, maintained the 8.9 flood risk elevation. We recently became aware that 2017 LiDAR data was available and have since asked the Southeast Regional Service Commission to review this data and if needed to propose any changes to the hydrographic zone, with particular attention to the area covered by the Exit 506 Land Use and Functional Planning study completed by Ekistics

Planning and Design earlier this year. Pending the results of this analysis, Council may want to further evaluate our existing Municipal Plan and Zoning By-law – both in terms of mapping and development requirements/restrictions.

As a municipality, we must manage risk as best we can, given that we are open to liability in a variety of service areas. In the event of a 1:100-year storm being forecast, we must plan for where our assets can best be situated. Similarly, I suspect Ambulance NB will mobilize their resources to be able to continue to deliver services to communities.

Again, thank you for taking the time to express your concerns in writing. We look forward to seeing the results of the mapping being undertaken by the Southeast Regional Service Commission, what suggestions they have as a result, and importantly, what it means for our community. We will certainly be in touch with you should it warrant a change to our planning documents.

Yours truly.



John Higham  
Mayor

Cc: Hon. Carl Urquhart, Minister of Public Safety  
Hon. Jeff Carr, Minister of Environment and Local Government  
Megan Mitton, MLA, Memramcook-Tantramar  
Sackville Town Council  
Phil Handrahan, CAO  
Lori Bickford, Planner, Southeast Regional Service Commission