

MINUTES

DECEMBER 16th, 2014

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Grand Falls Municipal Council was held in the council room at the Grand Falls Town Hall at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 16th, 2014, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Richard Keeley

Councillors:

John Bellefleur

Jean-Paul Proulx

Renaud Ouellette

Arthelin Rossignol

Harry MacPhail

Michel Ouellette

Jacques Lafrance

As well as the CAO-Clerk Peter Michaud and the Deputy Clerk, Lise J. Ouellette.

PRAYER

The meeting begins with the Lord's Prayer.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Jean-Paul Proulx / Arthelin Rossignol,

that the agenda is accepted as received. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

John Bellefleur / Michel Ouellette,

2014-086 that the minutes from the November 18, 2014 meeting, which copies were distributed to Council members, are adopted as received. Carried

CLOSED SESSIONS

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the reading of the closed meeting items from meetings held on November 3, 17 and 24, 2014.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	8
Thanks	2
Complaints	0
Request for financial support	3
Request for support (other than financial)	0
Offer of services, land or other	2
Misc. information (GNB, federal, other)	6
Response to a municipal enquiry	3

Harry MacPhail / Arthelin Rossignol,

2014-087 that the correspondence is accepted as presented and distributed as requested. Carried

DRINKING WATER

The potable water analyses for November were received showing « potable water » results.

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2014-088 that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC – motions and new business

Mayor Keeley explains the proposed motions. No questions or comments are received from the public.

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE

Police Force members encourage people to be careful during the Holidays.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

2015 Tourist Guide

Michel "Rocky" Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

2015-089 that the Grand Falls Town Council accepts the price of \$2,400 plus tax received from Boum Distribution et Marketing for 15,000 tourist guides. Carried

Monthly report

Miscellaneous activities and hockey games planned for December are mentioned.
The 2015 tourist guide is in progress.
The cultural society will present a diner theater on February 14. Tickets are currently on sale.

STREETS

The new playground off Reservoir Street is 85% completed. Mayor Keeley thanks the Public Works employees for their contribution.

Council reminds citizens that it is unlawful to push snow onto streets.

WATER

Please be careful of water hydrants when clearing snow.

Transfer to reserves

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2014-090 that the amount of \$ 45,000 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the reservoir. Carried

John Bellefleur / Renaud Ouellette,

2014-091 that the amount of \$ 5,000 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Water and Sewer Operating Reserve Fund. Carried

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2014-092 that an amount of \$ 2,500 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Non-vesting Future Employee Benefits Fund - water and sewer. Carried

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2014-093 that an amount of \$85,000 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Water and Sewer Operating Reserve Fund for equipment. Carried

2015 budget – water and sewer

Renaud Ouellette / John Bellefleur,

- 2014-094 that under paragraph 189 (4) of the *Municipalities Act*, the total operating budget of the Water and Sewer Department for next year will include revenues of \$1,796,938 and expenses of \$1,796,938. Carried

REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION – Planning

Five permits, evaluated at \$63,710, were given in November. A total of 216 permits were given in 2014 to date, for a total evaluation at \$6,051,811.

Land Use Planning Department

Council reminds citizens of Grand Falls and Drummond that the new department will be in operation on January 5, 2015 at the Grand Falls municipal building. Offices have been prepared for the two new employees and the Mayor's office was moved to accommodate them.

418 High Street

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

- 2014-095 that the case file for 418 High Street be closed given that the property has been repaired to the Municipality's satisfaction. Carried

Policy 2014-04

Renaud Ouellette / John Bellefleur,

- 2014-096 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopts policy 2014-04 entitled *Grand Falls Planning Advisory Committee Administrative Policy*. Carried

Planning Advisory Committee – members

Renaud Ouellette / Jacques Lafrance,

- 2014-097 that the Grand Falls Town Council name the following members to the Grand Falls Planning Advisory Committee: Renaud Ouellette (3-year term), Lise Ouellette (2-year term), Rachel Dionne (2-year term), Guy Cyr (1-year term) and Jean-Réal Michaud (3-year term). Carried

100 Broadway Boulevard

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

- 2014-098 that the file concerning a zoning infraction at 100 Broadway Boulevard be closed given that the required work has been completed. Carried

9 Church Street

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

2014-099 considering that the existing situation at 9 Church Street in Grand Falls, Victoria County, NB concerning the firewood that is stored at a distance of less than one meter from the northern side yard property line contravenes subsection 39.4.5.1 (Landscaping) of the *Grand Falls Zoning By-law #1900*;

Be it resolved that the Town of Grand Falls designate, authorize and name Éric Gagnon to act for and in the name of Council to carry out by-laws in the existing situation at 9 Church Street in Grand Falls pursuant to the municipal authority described below;

**Be it also resolved that said designation includes the following:
-92 (1), 94 (1), 95 (1) and 98 of the *Community Planning Act* in order to enter upon the property, request court orders from the Court of Queen's Bench and begin proceedings in Provincial Court;**

Be it also resolved that the designated person is authorized to retain legal counsel in order to undertake the desired proceedings to ensure conformity with the infringed by-law;

Be it also resolved that said authorizations, designations and nominations continue until they have been limited or revoked by Council. Carried

ENVIRONMENT

Concerning the LED lights project, 18 exterior lights were changed to LED at the Town Hall. 85 lights will be changed on the boulevard as soon as weather permits. We have estimated a savings of 1,500 kW per month thanks to these changes. In addition, the LED lights on Broadway will solve a long-standing lack of current at that location.

As for the reforestation project, 319 new trees were planted along Tobique Road and Main Street as well as at other locations in town. Thanks to the Environmental Trust Fund and CN Eco-Connexion programs.

The Green Plan has been completed. Follow-ups will need to be maintained. Erosion in high risk zones continues to be monitored.

A new heating system was installed at the municipal garage offices. This should lower heating costs.

In 2015, plans are to continue changing exterior lights to LED, to build a retention pond on Everard H. Daigle Boulevard to control surface water and install motion detectors in lift stations.

Council encourages citizens who own woodstoves to participate in the new Woodstove Change out Program that will be offered by the NB Lung Association starting in January 2015. The Association will offer a \$250 rebate plus \$50 from the Town to change to a newer, more efficient woodstove.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2014 budget

A light surplus is predicted in the 2014 general operating budget. Council is proud to say that it continues to fund street repairs and maintenance from the general operating fund instead of borrowing to do so. The Town also repaid \$1,628,813 on the debt during the year.

2015 meeting schedule

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2014-100 that Town Council's monthly meetings be held on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. except the June and December meetings that will be held on the 3rd Tuesday and the January 2015 meeting that is cancelled. Carried

Transfer to reserves

Renaud Ouellette / Jacques Lafrance,

- 2014-101 that the amount of \$145,489 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the Non-vesting Future Employee Benefits Fund – general. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

- 2014-102 that the amount of \$ 50,000 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund for equipment. Carried

2015 budget – general fund

Renaud Ouellette / John Bellefleur,

- 2014-103 that the amount of \$10,498,982 is the total operating budget of the municipality, that the amount of \$7,748,700 is the mandate of the municipality for next year, and that the tax rates are \$1.4700 and \$1.4450. Council hereby orders and prescribes that the mandate be levied by the Minister of Environment and Local Government on taxable real property assessments pursuant to the *Assessment Act* and being inside Grand Falls limits. Carried

Council notes that the 2015 budget was increased by 2.1% compared to the 2014 budget without increasing taxes. The debt ratio in 2015 will be 13.4%.

GOLF

The course and club are closed for the winter.
Letters have been mailed concerning memberships for 2015.
The Club will offer a \$50 rebate on memberships for members who refer new members to the club.

LIBRARY

Please note that opening hours are available on the library Website and also on the doors.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORP.

There was good participation from the public to the Christmas parade. Thanks to all volunteers.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters responded to seven calls in November.
Results from the last elections are announced. Pat Kavanaugh, Michel Leblanc and Gilles Leblanc were elected to the board of directors.
The Department encourages everyone to be cautious and avoid fires during the Holidays especially households with natural Christmas trees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

By-law 61 – Planning Advisory Committee

The Deputy Clerk reads the 3rd reading of By-law 61.

Arthelin Rossignol / Jean-Paul Proulx,

2014-104 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopts the 3rd reading of By-law 61, *A By-law to establish a Planning Advisory Committee for the Town of Grand Falls* as read. Carried

By-law 74 – GFCBDC Inc. budget

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading of By-law 74.

Renaud Ouellette / Jacques Lafrance,

2014-105 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopts the 3rd reading of By-law 74, *Municipal By-law to approve the operating budget of the Grand Falls Central Business Development Corporation Inc.* as read. Carried

NEW BUSINESS

RCMP presentation

RCMP Assistant Commissioner, Roger Brown, makes a special presentation to Marco Levesque and Luc Martin, members of the Grand Falls Police Force, in appreciation for their support during the shootout in Moncton last June.

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

2014 in review

Mayor Keeley thanks the Congrès mondial acadien and Council for a successful 2014.

2015 wishes

Council wishes everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy 2015.

Christmas trees

On January 5th and 6th, municipal staff will pick-up Christmas trees left by the side of the road.

2015 special garbage pick-up

Special pick-ups in 2015 will be on January 13 and 14, May 26 and 27 as well as October 27 and 28.

Employee appreciation

Councillor Lafrance expresses his appreciation for the event and notes the good participation from employees.

Reception / reputation

The Deputy Mayor thanks residents for the warm welcome offered to visitors during the CMA and other activities. He encourages people to continue their efforts since it encourages visitors to return.

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Charles Kavanaugh

Fire Chief Kavanaugh wishes Happy Holidays to all and reminds people to unplug extensions.

The Chief thanks everyone who supports the lottery and clarifies the changes that were done to it.

Mayor Keeley thanks the chief and firefighters for their community service.

MEDIA INTERVENTION

Questions are asked on the following subjects:

The number of construction permits given in 2014 is lower than the average.

The price asked by the RSC in 2014 was \$260,000. The budget for the Municipality to offer the service in 2015 is \$173,000.

Questions are asked about the reserve for the water reservoir. This reserve is mandated by the Province.

The tree nursery is still a project planned by the Environment Committee.

The Municipality remains open to the possibility of a second phase to the green plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Arthelin Rossignol / Renaud Ouellette, that the meeting is adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Carried

Richard Keeley
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk