

MINUTES

DECEMBER 17, 2019

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

The Grand Falls Municipal Council held its regular meeting in the council room at the Grand Falls Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17th, 2019, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:
Marcel Deschênes

Councillors:

Denise Lagacé Rioux	Renaud Ouellette
Rino Long	Michel "Rocky" Ouellette
Jean Réal Michaud	

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The councillors report no conflict of interest.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Jean Réal Michaud/Rino Long,

2019-136 That the agenda is as received. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Rino Long/ Denise Lagacé-Rioux,

2019-137 That the minutes from the meeting held on November 13, 2019, which copies were distributed to council members, are adopted as received. Carried

DRINKING WATER

The Town of Grand Falls received potable water analyses for the month of November 2019 showing « potable water » results.

Renaud Ouellette/Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,

2019-138 That the potable water analysis received for November 2019 are received and filed. Carried

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Councillor R. Ouellette mentions the works accomplished by the Department in November including clearing snow around hydrants and replacing a booster pump.

PLANNING

673086 NB Inc. – land transfer (Grand Falls Milling)

Renaud Ouellette / Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,

2019-139 That the Grand Falls Town Council approves the land transfer as indicated on the subdivision plan entitled 678086 NB Inc Grand Falls Subdivision, dated April 29, 2019 and prepared by W. E. Hodges Surveys Ltd. Carried

Town of Grand Falls – land transfer (Grand Falls Milling)

Renaud Ouellette / Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,

- 2019-140 That the Grand Falls Town Council approves the land transfer as indicated on the subdivision plan entitled Town of Grand Falls Subdivision, dated April 29, 2019 and prepared by W. E. Hodges Surveys Ltd. Carried

Denis Gagnon and Nanette St-Amand – zoning amendment

Renaud Ouellette / Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,

- 2019-141 That Council publish a notice on its website and on its Facebook page in accordance with Section 111 of the *Community Planning Act, Chapter 19*, advising of its intention to amend the Zoning By-Law to rezone part of the property having PID 65226003, belonging to Denis Gagnon and Nanette St-Amand, and located at 70 Harrison Street in Grand Falls, NB.

For the purpose of the Zoning By-Law, the zoning changes as follows:

To rezone part of the lot having the PID 65226003, from HC (Highway Commercial) to R2B (Single and two-unit residential).

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure a homogeneous zoning in this residential sector.

That Town Council meet at Council Chambers on February 11th, 2020 at 7 p.m. to study the submitted objections.

That Council request the written opinion of the advisory committee regarding the said amendment.

That the Town Clerk take care, in the name and for the Council, of publishing the public notice prescribed by section 111 of the *Community Planning Act*. Carried

Freeman and Irma Aubin – zoning amendment

Renaud Ouellette / Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,

- 2019-142 That Council publish a notice on its website and on its Facebook page in accordance with Section 111 of the *Community Planning Act, Chapter 19*, advising of its intention to amend the Zoning By-Law to rezone the property having PID 65095556, belonging to Freeman and Irma Aubin and located along Evangeline Street in Grand Falls, NB.

For the purpose of the Zoning By-Law, the zoning is modified as follows:

For the lot having the PID 65095556, modify the zoning from R2B (Single and two-unit residential) zone to R2C (Single and two-unit and multiple residential).

The purpose of this amendment is to ensure that the zoning is uniform to consolidate properties 65095556 and 65095580 to accommodate a multi-unit building of six to eight units.

Council will meet at the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 11th, 2020 at 7 p.m. to study objections to the proposed amendments.

That Council request the written opinion of the advisory committee regarding the said modification.

That the Town Clerk take care, in the name and for the Council, of publishing the public notice prescribed by section 111 of the *Community Planning Act*. Carried

FARMERS' MARKET

Council thanks Anne Sénéchal and her group who raised over \$ 5 000 for the Tree of Hope with a Christmas tree display at the market.
The Christmas market was a success.

FIRE

Thanks to the fire brigade and the 22 firefighters who inspected the smoke detectors in 722 residences. Congratulations.

ADMINISTRATION

Appeals court – Dieppe

Rino Long / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2019-143 **Considering that, in a decision dated June 13, 2019, in the case of Noron Inc. against the Town of Dieppe, the New Brunswick Court of Appeals went beyond its powers by re-writing, of its own volition, by-law 78-5 of the Town of Dieppe concerning water and sewer infrastructure, thus reducing the unit price of the service and this, after having declared said by-law duly adopted by the elected municipal council of Dieppe;**
- Considering that this appeals court decision puts in doubt the degree of respect due to municipal governments as being a democratic institution;**
- Considering that the reach of this appeals court judgement could have a province-wide and nation-wide effect, and risks encouraging courts to thread further onto municipal political terrain;**
- Considering that the Town of Dieppe has requested an audience before the Supreme Court of Canada in the Noron Inc. case to appeal said judgement;**
- It is moved that the Town of Grand Falls supports the request from the Town of Dieppe that this case be heard by the Supreme Court of Canada. Carried**

HUMAN RESOURCES

Appreciation

Councillor Rino Long announces that he will not be a candidate in the 2020 municipal elections. He expresses his appreciation for the population in general, the employees and for workers in the professional services such as nursing homes etc.

Robert Turcotte – retirement

Rino Long/Denise Lagacé Rioux,

- 2019-144 **That the Grand Falls Town Council accepts the retirement notice received from Robert Turcotte dated December 31, 2019. Carried**

POLICE

The police force wishes to remind everyone to be safe during the Holidays such as drink moderately, don't drink and drive and keep doors locked. The Department also asks that handicap parkings be respected.

Thank you to constable Jérémie Boudreau who is active in the community.
Note that counterfeit US \$100 are in circulation.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Thanks to the organizers of the Christmas parade.

FINANCES

Commercial incentive

More information is given about the new commercial incentive, adopted last month.

Purchasing Policy – amendment

Denise Lagacé Rioux/Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2019-145 That Town Council adopts amendment no. 6 to the Purchasing Policy 2004-02 (R4) in order to add a definition for “representative” and a purchasing limit for the Deputy Treasurer. Carried

Fire protection – water costs

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2019-146 That the water costs for fire protection be reduced from \$180,000 to \$160,000 for the year 2019. Carried

Water and Sewer Operation Fund – Capital Reserve Fund for the reservoir

Denise Lagacé Rioux/Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2019-147 That the amount of \$45,000 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operation Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the reservoir. Carried

Water and Sewer Operation Fund – Capital Reserve Fund for equipment

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Renaud Ouellette,

- 2019-148 That the amount of \$42,886.89 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operation Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for equipment. Carried

Capital Reserve Fund – transfer

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2019-149 That the amount of \$76,024.52 be transferred from the Capital Reserve Fund - Non-vesting Future Employee Benefits to the General Operating Fund to help pay the costs of sick days paid out in 2019. Carried

Capital Reserve Fund – transfer

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2019-150 That the amount of \$42,886.89 be transferred from the Capital Reserve Fund - Non-vesting Future Employee Benefits to the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to help pay the costs of sick days paid out in 2019. Carried

Water and sewer budget – 2020

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2019-151 Pursuant to the Local Governance Act, Section 117 (4) the total operations budget for the Water and Sewer Department for next year will include revenues in the amount of \$1,891,526 and expenses in the amount of \$1,891,526. Carried

General budget – 2020

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Renaud Ouellette,

- 2019-152 That the amount of \$11, 027,938 is the total operating budget of the municipality, that the amount of \$8,315, 976 is the mandate of the municipality for next year, and that the tax rates are \$1.50 and \$1.4750. 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

Deputy Mayor Denise Lagacé Rioux thanks all who worked on the budgets. She repeats that there will be no tax hike in 2020 for either property taxes or water and sewer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Municipal plan amendment – presentation

Éric Gagnon presents the amendment requested by Denis Gagnon and Nanette St-Amand at 70 Harrison Street. Three lots will be consolidated in one residential lot.

Zoning amendment – presentation

Éric Gagnon presents the amendment requested by Freeman Aubin along the Évangéline Street to build an apartment complex.

By-law 74 – GFCBDC budget

The Clerk reads By-law 74 for the third time by title

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,

2019-153 That the Town Council adopts the third reading of By-law 74, By-law approving the Grand Falls Business Development operating budget, as read. Carried

Congratulations

Council reiterates its congratulations, expressed at the November meeting, to Mona Gagnon for her quilts and to Marco Levesque, recently hired as Deputy Chief of police.

NEW BUSINESS

Fido Magazine

Council mentions a very positive publication written by Cheryl Smythe concerning Grand Falls. Thanks to the employees who welcomed her during her visit.

Jeux de l'Acadie

Town Council received a plaque from the games' organizing committee. The games were a success thanks to volunteers and municipal employees.

2019 projects – hopes for 2020

The Mayor notes the lack of investment by the Province in our roads and infrastructure. There is little hope that the Broadway project will be completed in 2020.

Lots of work was done with local investors concerning economic development. Some announcements are expected in 2020.

Council hopes that the Province will be more forthcoming in 2020.

Fire station

Plans are going well. Construction should begin in 2020.

OTHERS – Council, public and media interventions

- Council intervention

Municipal building – mortgage: 20 years after construction, the municipal building mortgage is paid in full without tax hikes. The Town is now preparing for the construction of the new fire station.

Councillor R. Ouellette explains the Department of Health regulations concerning boil orders when work affects water infrastructure. Water quality remains excellent and is closely monitored.

Councillor Long thanks the media for their presence during meetings.

Each member of Council wishes Happy Holidays to employees and citizens.

The Mayor mentions that the Town manages a combined budget of approximately 13 million \$ and that Council takes this responsibility seriously. He thanks Council, the administration and the Deputy Mayor for their implication. That the budgets have been balanced for 13 years now is greatly due to the staff.

The Mayor reminds citizens that curbside recycling pick ups begin the third full week of January and that there will not be a garbage pick-up that week. The NWRSC should advise concerning the recycling of metals soon.

-Public intervention

Madeleine Leclerc thanks Council for the work done at the museum.

- Media intervention

A journalist questions the Mayor concerning his intentions for the 2020 municipal elections. Mayor Deschênes plans an announcement next February.

ADJOURNMENT

Denise Lagacé-Rioux/ Jean Réal Michaud, that the meeting is adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Carried

Marcel Deschênes
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk