

MINUTES

APRIL 14th, 2015

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, April 14th, 2015, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Richard Keeley

Councillors:

Rino Long

Harry MacPhail

Michel Ouellette

Renaud Ouellette

Arthelin Rossignol

John Bellefleur

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

Renaud Ouellette / Rino Long,

that the agenda is accepted as received. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Arthelin Rossignol / Harry MacPhail,

2015-025 that the minutes from the February 16, March 10 and March 30, 2015 meetings, which copies were distributed to council members, are adopted as received. Carried

CLOSED SESSIONS

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the reading of items from closed meetings held on March 2, 9, 16 and 30, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	2
Thanks	5
Complaints	0
Request for financial support	4
Request for support (other than financial)	4
Offer of services, land or other	1
Misc. information (GNB, federal, other)	5
Response to a municipal enquiry	2

2015 03 07: Canadian Cancer Society – request to proclaim Daffodil Month. Mayor Keeley proclaims April as Daffodil Month.

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2015-026 that the correspondence is accepted and distributed as requested. Carried

DRINKING WATER

The potable water analyses for March 2015 were received showing « potable water » results.

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2015-027 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

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Minor hockey season has ended. Congratulations to the Pee Wee champions.
Congratulations to all Grand Falls hockey teams who have won tournaments during the month.
Registrations are open for spring and summer activities.

STREETS

The Public Works Department is working on street maintenance.
A section of Theriault Street will be closed during spring thaw. Please respect the road closure.
The Department will change the lights on Broadway to LED during the week.
A new snow blower and loader have arrived.

Asphalt at plant – tenders

Arthelin Rossignol / John Bellefleur,

2015-028 That Town Council accepts the lowest tender received from Ray's Paving in the amount of \$109 per ton plus tax for asphalt at plant. Carried

Street resurfacing – tenders

Arthelin Rossignol / Harry MacPhail,

2015-029 That Town Council accepts the lowest tender received from Ray's Paving in the total amount of \$132,150 plus tax for street resurfacing. Carried

ENVIRONMENT

The Town expects a savings of \$3,000 a year by changing lights to LED on Broadway. The new lights will also solve the lack of current on the boulevard. This project is a part of our Green Plan.

The Deputy Mayor reminds everyone that the rainwater barrel and reforestation programs are still available in 2015.

PLANNING

Three variances were approved on the same lot last month.

In March, five permits were granted for a total value of \$63,800.

Reserved road (Dugal Street) – closure

Renaud Ouellette / Rino Long,

- 2015-030 That the Grand Falls Municipal Council start procedures to close a reserved road situated between Dugal and Côté Streets as shown on Schedule A, attached. Carried**

GOLF

Employees are preparing the course. Twelve tournaments are already scheduled in 2015. The club house is open during the week. Council reminds anyone interested that a new junior program will be available.

LIBRARY

A fundraising event is in progress. The drawing will take place on May 8 for a basket worth \$200.

WATER

The new SCADA system is currently being installed and meters at wells 2 and 3 have been replaced.

Over 40 properties have dealt with frozen water pipes this year. The number is high compared to previous years.

Luc Bernier – technologist

Mayor Keeley explains that Mr. Bernier has been working for the Town under contract for some time. The job had been posted and interviews were held at the time he was hired.

John Bellefleur / Renaud Ouellette,

- 2014-031 That the contract position of technologist at Public Works, held by Luc Bernier, becomes a permanent position and that Luc Bernier is named to the said position at the salary and benefits per the pre-established scale. Carried**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Commercial Expo will be held on May 23rd and 24th.
The annual meeting will take place next Thursday.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Minister has not answered the committee's letter yet.
Mayor Keeley notes that the Town continues to support the committee's efforts.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Revenues in the General Fund are at 24.8% and expenses are at 22%.
Revenues in the Water and Sewer Fund are at 24.2% and expenses are at 20.9%.
Council hopes that the auditors will be ready to present their findings for 2014 in May or June.
Council continues to search for savings in every department.

Purchasing Policy – revision (R4)

Modifications include a \$500 purchasing limit for some employees.

Rino Long / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2015-032 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the revision of Purchasing Policy 2004-02 (R4) as presented. Carried

Financing request

Rino Long /Renaud Ouellette,

- 2015-033 It is resolved that the Clerk, Treasurer or Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation a Municipality of Grand Falls debenture in the principal amount of \$431,000 on such terms and conditions as are recommended by the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, and be it resolved that the Municipality of Grand Falls agrees to issue post-dated cheques payable to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation as and when they are requested in payment of principal and interest charges on the above debenture. Carried

Financing request

Rino Long /Renaud Ouellette,

- 2015-034 It is resolved that the Clerk, Treasurer or Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation a Municipality of Grand Falls debenture in the principal amount of \$607,000 on such terms and conditions as are recommended by the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, and be it resolved that the Municipality of Grand Falls agrees to issue post-dated cheques payable to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation as and when they are requested in payment of principal and interest charges on the above debenture. Carried

NEW BUSINESS

By-law 70 – amendment 2015-01

The Deputy Clerk reads the first reading of amendment 2015-01 in title and in full. This amendment will give contractors the opportunity to respect their snow clearing contracts.

Renaud Ouellette / Rino Long, that the Town Council adopts the first reading of amendment 2015-01 to By-law 70 as read. Carried

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the second reading in title.

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol, that the Town Council adopts the second reading of amendment 2015-01 to By-law 70 as read. Carried

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

Municipal budgets

Mayor Keeley reiterates that Council is studying every department's operating budget. The Provincial Court closure will bring about additional costs to the Town. In addition, a new proposal by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure requires that Towns provide 25% of the cost to asphalt designated highways. Savings must be found to make up for these new obligations without raising taxes.

Provincial Court

Council has written a letter to the Justice Minister requesting details concerning the decision to close the Grand Falls Courthouse as well as details concerning the savings expected by doing so. This information will help Council evaluate the situation and propose alternatives. Council also requested that the Province review its decision as it is unacceptable to our citizens, community associations and Town Council.

Mayor Keeley comments on the difficulties, in general, faced by rural regions in New Brunswick.

Indoor soccer

Mayor Keeley explains the request he received that Grand Falls build an indoor soccer facility. The Town does not have the financial capacity to undertake such a project on its own. It would need to be a regional project.

Cost sharing

The Mayor explains that the amount of \$1,100,264 in the municipal budget is entirely dedicated to operating the CEPSC, compared to yearly revenues of \$355,000. The difference is completely financed by Grand Falls residents. Steps will be taken to ensure a percentage of participation by outside users in the future.

Mayor Keeley mentions that it is very difficult for municipalities to remain efficient and sustainable while competing against lower tax rates outside municipal boundaries.

Spring cleaning

The Mayor encourages everyone to demonstrate their civic pride by picking up garbage along our streets.

Play – G-String

The Deputy Mayor reminds everyone of the play that will be presented by a local group this Saturday and next Sunday.

Cyclists

Council requests that cyclists wear their helmets and respect the safety of pedestrians on sidewalks.

Bilingualism – Fredericton

Deputy Mayor Ouellette objects to comments made by the mayor and a councillor from Fredericton regarding bilingualism. He believes council should discuss this further.

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mario Côté

Mr. Côté presents a copy of a letter sent to the minister of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting access to the Ron Turcotte Bridge. He claims to have obtained verbal permission from the minister and requests permission from council to use the roads leading to the bridge.

Mayor Keeley requests the minister's approval in writing before proceeding in this matter.

INTERVENTION BY THE MEDIA

Cost sharing – the Mayor explains that no specific amount is targeted.

Courthouse closure – Council has requested a meeting with the minister and is waiting for a reply. The Town has written a letter, requested a meeting and offered alternatives. Members of the public are free to take other measures.

ADJOURNMENT

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol, that the meeting is adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Carried

Richard Keeley
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk

Schedule A

