

MINUTES

JULY 14, 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, July 14, 2015, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Richard Keeley

Councillors:

Rino Long

Michel Ouellette

Jean-Paul Proulx

Harry MacPhail

Jacques Lafrance

Renaud Ouellette

John Bellefleur

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest is mentioned by councillors.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Council observes a moment of silence before the start of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Michel "Rocky" Ouellette /Rino Long,

that the agenda is accepted with the addition of a motion concerning by-laws 93 and 1900 at item 11.4. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Renaud Ouellette /Jean-Paul Proulx,

2015-056 that the minutes from the June 16, 2015 meeting, which copies were distributed to council members, are adopted as received. Carried

CLOSED SESSIONS

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the reading of items discussed during the closed meetings held on June 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	11
Thanks	2
Complaints	1
Request for financial support	1
Request for support (other than financial)	3
Offer of services, land or other	1

Misc. information (GNB, federal, other)	9
Response to a municipal enquiry	1

Harry MacPhail /Jacques Lafrance,

2015-057 that the correspondence is accepted and distributed as requested. Carried

DRINKING WATER

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

John Bellefleur /Rino Long,

2015-058 that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC – motions and new business

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

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TRUCK AND TRACTOR PULL

The event was successful and included participants from far and wide. The Committee wishes to thank municipal employees for their help.

WATER

Water main breaks were repaired on Tobique Road and Chapel Street. Employees have been busy with festival activities.

FESTIVAL

The festival was a success and benefited from great weather. There were more than 70 participants in the parade. The organisers wish to thank municipal employees for their help.

POLICE

No incidents were reported during the festival. Council thanks the police officers, firefighters, ambulance drivers and volunteers for their services during the festival.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

People are encouraged to support our baseball and softball teams.

Activities at the R.T.C. Department are mentioned.

An official opening was held for the playground on Reservoir Street. Thanks to the Richelieu Club, municipal employees and provincial government for their part in the new park.

Everyone is invited to the induction of Louis (Disc) Ouellette and Hermel Godbout into the Grand Falls Sports Hall of Fame on September 19th.

Tourist centers and the campground are busy.

People are reminded that the Ron Turcotte Monument will be unveiled on July 19th at 1:00 p.m. on Broadway Boulevard.

PLANNING

The Deputy Mayor reminds residents that a permit is required for construction even if the RSC office is closed. Come meet a Land Use Planning employee for more information.

179 Main Street – unsightly premises

Renaud Ouellette /Rino Long,

2015-059 That the unsightly premises file at 179 Main Street is considered settled and closed. Carried

ENVIRONMENT

The committee will meet next week to discuss the following files: landscaping of vacant lots on Main Street and Tobique Road; LED lights and heating at the garage.

GOLF

The weather has been great and users are happy. Thanks to the maintenance staff for their great work.

There have been three tournaments so far this July.

There is still room available for the 8 to 15 golf clinic.

FIRE

Firefighters responded to four calls in June.

Some firefighters participated in the NWFA tournament at the end of June.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Good comments were received about the state of the boulevard.

The street lamps have been cleaned.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Finance Committee will meet in July for the semi-annual audit.

At the end of June, in the general fund, revenues were at 50.4 % and expenses at 48.8 %. In the water fund, revenues were at less than 50% and expenses at 41%.

Gas tax plan – revised

Rino Long / Renaud Ouellette,

2015-060 That the Council accepts the document entitled “Municipality of Grand Falls Five Year Capital Investment Plan (2014-2018)” which was revised on July 9th, 2015. Carried

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SERVICES

There will be a public meeting on July 15th at 7:30 p.m. in St-Léonard. There will also be a meeting on September 2nd in Grand Falls to discuss provincial cuts. Many municipalities from the region are members of the committee and English-speaking as well as native communities will be invited also.

We are waiting to meet Minister Horsman concerning the courthouse closure. The Committee questions why the region is losing provincial services. 90% of services are now centralized in Edmundston and more are being moved. The Municipality appreciates the infrastructure grants received but our citizens deserve a fair share of services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

By-law 93 amendment 2015-01, Municipal Plan – 3rd reading

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the third reading, by title, of amendment 2015-01.

Renaud Ouellette / John Bellefleur,

- 2015-061 that the Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2015-01 to By-law 93 *A By-law amending the Municipal Plan of the Town of Grand Falls.*
Carried

By-law 1900 amendment 2015-01, Zoning – 3rd reading

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the third reading, by title, of amendment 2015-01.

Renaud Ouellette / Rino Long,

- 2015-062 that Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2015-01 to By-law 1900 *A by-law amending the Zoning By-law of the Town of Grand Falls.*
Carried

By-law 2 amendment 2015-01, procedures – 3rd reading

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the third reading, by title, of amendment 2015-01.

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

- 2015-063 that Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2015-01 to By-law 2 *Procedural by-law of the municipal council of Grand Falls.* Carried

Minister's approval

Renaud Ouellette / Rino Long,

- 2015-064 that the Town Council requests the approval from the Minister of Environment and Local Government for the 2015-01 amendments to by-laws 93 and 1900. Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Miss Grand Falls 2014

Miss Grand Falls 2014, Emma Dufresne, is invited to sign the visitors' book and the Mayor presents her with a gift in appreciation for having represented Grand Falls during her reign.

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

Ron Turcotte Monument

The unveiling of the monument will be one of the biggest celebrations in Grand Falls in recent memory. The Phil Comeau documentary on Ron Turcotte's life will be shown at the Grand Cinema 3 on Sunday at 11:00 a.m. free of charge.

Tractor pull and festival

Mayor Keeley congratulates everyone who worked for the tractor pull and the festival. He notes the presence of the Cuban Ambassador and thanks Senator Pierrette Ringuette for bringing the Ambassador to Grand Falls.

Airport

Mayor Keeley will be present at a meeting concerning the airport on July 15th. He is disappointed with developments to date and specifies that the Town's intention is not to support one airport over the other but that the St-Léonard Airport must remain open. The RSC has refused to manage the airport and considers this matter closed.

Fire ban

Councillor Long informs of the provincial fire ban in place.

New telephone system

Councillor Long explains the new system when calling 475-7777.

PUBLIC INTERVENTION

Martin Bérubé

He questions that the prayer was abolished. Mayor Keeley explains the Supreme Court decision.

Mr. Bérubé mentions that building permits increase building assessments. The Deputy Mayor counters that assessments are regularly evaluated and that values will increase whether a building permit was issued or not.

Mr. Bérubé reminds council of important grants received from governments for projects such as the Malabean Center. The Mayor recognises and appreciates these grants but remains of the opinion that government services must be shared.

He questions the delay with the monument unveiling that was scheduled for June. The Mayor explains that the Town decided to hold the unveiling at the same time as the Turcotte's 50th wedding anniversary when their family will be in town.

Mr. Bérubé requests that the Turcotte Bridge be repaired. It is explained that the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure prohibits the Town from working on DTI infrastructure.

He expresses that he is against the Cataract baseball team name change. Council is unaware of this.

Yvon Levesque

He does not understand and objects to the prayer being abolished. He insists that Council ask the Supreme Court if we should abolish the Canadian anthem that reads: "God keep our land..." The Mayor explains that the Supreme Court judged that the prayer goes against Human Rights and that Supreme Court decisions automatically become law. He explains that the change to a moment of silence respects the freedom of people to pray to whomever they wish should they wish to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

Renaud Ouellette /Jacques Lafrance, that the meeting is adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Carried

Richard Keeley
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk