

MINUTES

DECEMBER 19, 2017

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. on Tuesday, December 19th, 2017, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors:

Rino Long

Renaud Ouellette

Jean Maurice Gagnon

Michel Ouellette

Jean Réal Michaud

Denise Lagacé Rioux

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest is reported.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Michel Ouellette /Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2017-126 That the agenda is accepted as received. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Renaud Ouellette/Denise Lagacé Rioux,

2017-127 That the minutes from the meeting held on November 14th, 2017, which copies were distributed to council members, are adopted as received. Carried

CLOSED SESSIONS

The Deputy Clerk reads the items discussed during closed meetings held on November 14, 21 and 28, 2017.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	1
Thanks	3
Complaints	1
Request for financial assistance	2
Request for assistance – other than financial	2
Offer of services, land or other	0
Misc. information (GNB, federal, community...)	3
Answer to a municipal request	1

Rino Long / Jean Réal Michaud,

2017-128 That the correspondence report is accepted as read. Carried

DRINKING WATER

The potable water analyses for November 2017 were received showing « potable water » results.

Renaud Ouellette / Michel Ouellette,

2017-129 That the potable water analysis received for November 2017 are received and filed. Adopted

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Councillor R. Ouellette thanks everyone for their presence as well as the CAO and the staff. He gives an overview of the projects accomplished in 2017 including the reconstruction of the boulevard, a retention pond, the lighting at the garage and others. He notes the provincial and federal governments' contributions to the majority of these works. The Town has invested close to 5 million in its infrastructure and equipment this year.

Collective agreement

Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2017-130 That Town Council accepts and signs the 2017-2023 collective agreement as negotiated with CUPE local 886. Carried

Both parties proceed to the signature of the agreement.

ENVIRONMENT

In 2017, the committee organised the Spring Clean-up. The lights and boilers at the municipal garage were changed. Also, 224 trees were planted in 2017 with the help of the Reforestation Program. Residents are encouraged to apply again in 2018.

PLANNING

The miscellaneous incentives have encouraged construction. 261 permits for a value of 12 million were given. Residents are reminded to obtain a building permit or pay a fine.

FIRE

Councillor M. Ouellette notes the important work done by the firefighters including training, courses and their collaboration during municipal activities. Thanks to the firefighters for their fantastic work.

The next big project will be the construction of a new fire hall.

JEUX DE L'ACADIE

Preparations continue. The COFJA visited Fredericton and will visit Miramichi. They are still registering people interested in volunteering during the 2019 games.

FARMER'S MARKET

The last two years have been the best for the Grand Falls market. The manager, Lynne Bourgoin Thériault, does great work. The Councillor M. Ouellette thanks the executive committee.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Councillor Gagnon mentions the projects realised in 2017 including the water park, the purchase of the sports complex, the renovations to Centennial Park and the tube slide.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Long reads an e-mail of appreciation addressed to the management team. He thanks the CAO for his participation in the contract negotiations for local 886 and the police association. His involvement prevented the need to hire a professional negotiator.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor Long reiterates the steps taken to conserve oncology services in Grand Falls. He feels that the Vitalité Health Network lacks respect and compassion towards patients from Grand Falls and invites the population to rise up and demand better services.

POLICE

The Police Department saw the appointment of a new Police Chief and Deputy Chief in 2017. Councillor Michaud notes the good long and short-term vision of the department. There is a good structure and culture within the department. An agreement was recently reached with the Saint-André Rural Community on policing services. We are waiting for provincial approval.

Francis Bernier – probation

Jean Réal Michaud / Rino Long,

2017-131 That the probation for Francis Bernier with the Grand Falls Police Force has ended successfully. Carried

Éric Cassista – probation

Jean Réal Michaud /Denise Lagacé Rioux,

2017-132 That the probation for Éric Cassista with the Grand Falls Police Force has ended successfully. Carried

René-Pierre Bossé – probation

Jean Réal Michaud /Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2017-133 That the probation for René-Pierre Bossé with the Grand Falls Police Force has ended successfully. Carried

Denis Bourgoin – probation

Jean Réal Michaud /Denise Lagacé Rioux,

2017-134 That the probation for Denis Bourgoin with the Grand Falls Police Force has ended successfully. Carried

Constable – hiring

Jean Réal Michaud / Michel Ouellette,

2017-135 That Francis Bernier is promoted to the position of constable per the collective agreement starting January 1st, 2018. Carried

Jean Réal Michaud / Renaud Ouellette,

2017-136 That Félix Delasablonnière is promoted to the position of constable per the collective agreement starting January 1st, 2018. Carried

Part-time police officer – hiring

Jean Réal Michaud / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2017-137 **That Alain Rioux is hired as a part-time police officer for the Grand Falls Police Force with the salary, benefits and probation period per the collective agreement. Carried**

CENTRAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the December 9th activities and to those who participated in the parade.

The year has been very busy with the work on Broadway Boulevard. We now have to get ready for phase II in 2018.

FINANCE

Reserve

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Rino Long,

- 2017-138 **That an amount of \$9,655 is transferred from the Water and Sewer Operations Fund to the Non-vesting Future Employee Benefits Fund – Water and Sewer. Carried**

Reserve

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2017-139 **That an amount of \$45,000 is transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the reservoir. Carried**

Reserve

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2017-140 **That an amount of \$10,000 is transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve Fund. Carried**

Réserve

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Renaud Ouellette,

- 2017-141 **That an amount of \$2,000 is transferred from the Water and Sewer Operation Reserve Fund to the Water and Sewer Operating Fund. Carried**

2018 budget – general fund

Although 2017 was very busy with many projects, the Town maintains good financial health. The Deputy Mayor explains the cut to the unconditional grant in the amount of \$283,283 in 2018 and the reduction of property assessments in the amount of \$72,196 because of appeals that were approved by the Province. All in all, these amounts along with others add up to a \$107,555 budget shortfall in 2018 which explains the 2¢ tax increase.

The Deputy Mayor reminds everyone that in 2001, the tax rate was \$1.3885, which is a 10¢ increase over the last 18 years and of 2¢ in the last four years. The tax rate in Grand Falls remains under the average rate of municipalities our size. A meeting has been requested with the Province concerning the formula for unconditional grants.

Denise Lagacé-Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2017-142 **That the amount of \$10,670,611 is the total operating budget of the municipality, that the amount of \$8,007,373 is the mandate of the municipality for next year, and that the tax rates are \$1.4900 and \$1.4650. 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**

2018 budget – water fund

The tax rate for water remains the same.

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Rino Long,

- 2017 – 143 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 \$1,815,494 and expenses of \$1,815,494. Carried**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Grand Falls Central Business Development Corp. – 2018 budget

The Deputy Clerk does the third reading, by title, of by-law 74 to approve the 2018 operating budget of the Corporation.

Denise Lagacé Rioux / Rino Long,

- 2017-144 That the Town Council adopts the third reading of by-law 74, A municipal by-law to approve the operating budget of the Grand Falls Central Business Development Corp, Inc., as read. Carried**

Ennishone Road – municipal plan and zoning amendment

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading, by title, of amendment 2017-04 to by-law 93.

Rino Long / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2017-145 That the Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2017-04 to By-law 93, By-Law amending the Municipal Plan of the Town of Grand Falls, as read. Carried**

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading, by title, of amendment 2017-05 to by-law 1900.

Renaud Ouellette / Michel Ouellette,

- 2017-146 That the Town Council adopts the third reading of amendment 2017-05 to By-Law 1900, By-law amending the zoning by-law of the Town of Grand Falls, as read. Carried**

Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2017-147 That the approval of the Minister of Environment and Local Government be requested concerning the amendment 2017-04 to By-law 93. Carried**

NEW BUSINESS

Special garbage pick-up 2018

Council informs the public concerning the special garbage pick-ups that will take place in 2018. The information will be posted on the town's website.
Christmas trees will be picked-up by town employees after January 1st.

Monthly meetings – January 2018

There will be no public meeting in January.

OTHERS – Council, public and media interventions

- Council intervention

Holiday Wishes – Each member of Council expresses his / her wishes for Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year as well as their appreciation to their families, the employees and citizens.

The Mayor expressed his pride at the conclusion of a year marked by brilliant accomplishments. He also notes that in the 12 years since the CAO is in office, there has been no budget deficit. He thanks members of the media for their devotion.

- Public intervention

Charles Kavanaugh – The Fire Chief wishes happy, fire free, holidays to all. He thanks the prevention team and mentions that the number of fires diminishes yearly. Thanks to those who support the lottery.

ADJOURNMENT

Jean Maurice Gagnon / Renaud Ouellette, that the meeting is adjourned at 8:30 p.m. Carried

Marcel Deschênes
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk