

MINUTES

DECEMBER 15th, 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, December 15th, 2015, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Richard Keeley

Councillors:

Michel "Rocky" Ouellette
Jean-Paul Proulx
Arthelin Rossignol

Harry MacPhail
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

Harry MacPhail / Arthelin Rossignol,

that the agenda is accepted as received. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Renaud Ouellette /Jean-Paul Proulx,

2015-108 that the minutes from the November 10, 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 from closed meetings held on November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2015.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	5
Thanks	3
Complaints	0
Request for financial support	1
Request for support (other than financial)	1
Offer of services, land or other	0
Misc. information (GNB, federal, other)	5
Response to a municipal enquiry	0

Harry MacPhail / Michel Ouellette,

2015-109 that the correspondence is accepted and distributed as requested. Carried

DRINKING WATER

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

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2015-110 that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC – motions and new business

Mayor Keeley explains the proposed motions and gives people the opportunity to address Council. No questions or comments are received from the public.

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Sporting and cultural activities to come are mentioned as well as sports tournaments. The 2016 tourist guide and calendar are being designed. Albert Devost, sculptor, has been retained to sculpt a new Malabean woodcarving. Happy Holidays to all.

WATER

New water mains were installed on Chassée Street and West River Road. Council congratulates the employees for services rendered in 2015.

PLANNING

The Department gave 13 permits in November for a total value of \$409, 280. The next meeting of the Planning Advisory Committee is tomorrow.

REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

The Commission's 2016 budget was discussed at the last meeting. Increases are anticipated in general services, coop services, planning and solid waste. The planning section no longer affects Grand Falls as we manage our own planning department.

POLICE

Citizens are reminded that parking along roads is prohibited during the winter. The Police Department will set-up inspection roadblocks during the holidays. The Department asks that drivers be careful and take conditions into account. Officers appreciate the support received from residents.

Police cruiser

Harry MacPhail / John Bellefleur,

2015-111 That the tender received from Violette Ford Inc., in the amount of \$29,000 plus tax, for a V6 all-wheel drive 2016 police cruiser is accepted. Carried

Other prices received: Ford	\$27 900 V6 (2WD)
Chrysler	\$32,950 V8 (AWD)
	\$31,037 V6 (2WD)

GOLF

A few golfers were on the course last Saturday during the nice weather.
The pro shop will be open weekdays to sell merchandise and 2016 season passes.
Happy Holidays to all.

GRAND FALLS CENTRAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORP.

The Corporation welcomes the new business Annie Distribution multi-menu.
Councillor Proulx gives a brief account of last Saturday's Christmas parade. It was a success with approximately 2,000 spectators and the visit with Santa Claus after the parade.
Councillor Proulx thanks everyone involved including the media, Town and volunteers.
Happy Holidays to all.

FIRE

Firefighters answered to 8 calls in November.
Elections were held during the last meeting. Ricky Albert and Aldéo Cyr were elected captain and Daniel St-Amand, lieutenant.
Chief Kavanaugh addresses the assembly concerning best practices to avoid fires during the holidays.
The Chief thanks Council, department heads and employees for their cooperation during the year.
The Chief and councillor Proulx wish Happy Holidays to all.

STREETS

A break was repaired on Reservoir Street.
Councillor Bellefleur gives an example of the information contained in reports generated by the digital speed signs. In one week 17,413 vehicles used Tobique Road.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Young Entrepreneur and Business of the Year Awards gala will be held in February.
The Mayor's supper will take place in either January or February.
An agricultural expo is being organised for 2016. The project will be launched during the January Town Council public meeting.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Thanks to the CAO, the Treasurer and to the cooperation of each department head, 2015 budgets are in good standing.
Thanks also to the Town Council for taking sound financial decisions throughout the year.
Deputy Mayor Ouellette explains that the majority of funds placed in reserves are mandated by the Province and are compulsory.

Mayor Keeley notes how careful the CAO is with budgets. Projects continue to be realised and services are maintained while the debt diminishes. The Downtown revitalisation project will begin in 2016. The Mayor mentions that the Town could be debt-free within 10 years if it stopped borrowing in order to invest in the community.

Neither the water and sewer tax nor the property tax will increase in 2016. The debt ratio was 13.3 % in 2015 and will be 12.9 % in 2016. All this was accomplished with a very low increase (.26%) in the tax base thanks to the increase in the 2016 provincial unconditional grant. The formula to determine the grants currently works well for Grand Falls.

2016 budget – water and sewer

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2015-112 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 \$1,766,050 and expenses of \$1,766,050. Carried

2016 transfer to reserves

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

- 2015-113 that the amount of \$ 45,000 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the reservoir. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

- 2015-114 that the amount of \$ 5,000 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Water and Sewer Operating Reserve Fund. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Michel Ouellette,

- 2015-115 that an amount of \$ 102,500 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Non-vesting Future Employee Benefits Fund - water and sewer. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2015-116 that an amount of \$80,000 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operating Fund to the Water and Sewer Operating Reserve Fund for equipment. Carried

2016 budget – general fund

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

- 2015-117 that the amount of \$10,629,093 is the total operating budget of the municipality, that the amount of \$7,767,378 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

Transfer to reserves

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2015-118 that the amount of \$245,489 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the Non-vesting Future Employee Benefits Fund – general. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

- 2015-119 that the amount of \$ 81,704 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the General Capital Reserve Fund for equipment. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Michel Ouellette,

- 2015-120 that the amount of \$ 60,000 be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the General Operating Reserve Fund. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

- 2015-121 that the amount of 5 000 \$ be transferred from the General Operating Fund to the Operating Reserve Fund for the municipal complex. Carried

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Mayor Keeley attended the public consultation a few weeks ago. The region's preoccupations concerning emergency services and the number of beds at the Grand Falls hospital were shared with the Vitality Network. The region now waits for the provincial decisions which will be communicated in the spring of 2016.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GFCBDC Inc. – 2016 budget

The Deputy Clerk reads the 3rd reading of By-law 74 to adopt the 2016 GFCBDC Inc. budget.

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

2015-122 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopts the 3rd reading of By-law 74, *A Municipal By-law to approve the operating budget of the Grand Falls Central Business Development Corporation Inc.* as read. Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Special Olympics – presentation

Mayor Keeley presents a \$500 check to the Special Olympics' Northwest coordinator, Maurice Rivard.

By-law 17 – Water and Sewer Services

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the first reading in whole and by title of By-law 17.

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol, that Municipal Council adopt the first reading of By-law 17 for Water and Sewer Services as read. Carried

The Deputy Clerk reads the second reading of By-law 17 by title.

Arthelin Rossignol / Harry MacPhail, that Municipal Council adopt the second reading of By-law 17 for Water and Sewer Services as read. Carried

Mayor Keeley refers to section 26 regarding plumbers who interfere with municipal infrastructure. Interfering with infrastructure is prohibited as this could cause damages and legal actions to be taken.

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

Sewer management plan

A management plan in case of power loss has been drawn up between Grand Falls and Saint-André in order to support the latter.

Holiday wishes

Mayor Keeley and the Deputy Mayor wish Happy Holidays to all while reminding everyone that this is the last Christmas in this Council's mandate.

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Martin Bérubé

Mr. Bérubé notes the good participation of the public at the Remembrance Day ceremonies. He also mentions that the sound system should be improved and he thanks the Air Cadets for their participation.

Mr. Bérubé asks why the benches were taken out of the bandstand. Mayor Keeley informs him that it was done to discourage loitering.

INTERVENTION BY THE MEDIA

Brunswick News – requests 2015 tourism statistics. The department head will make those available.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Richard Keeley
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Secrétaire municipale adjointe /
Deputy Clerk