

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 11th, 2012

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, September 11th, 2012, following the notices required by the Act.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor :

Richard Keeley

Councillors :

Jacques Lafrance
Michel Ouellette
Arthelin Rossignol
Renaud Ouellette

Rino Long
John Bellefleur
Jean-Paul Proulx
Harry MacPhail

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

PRAYER

The meeting begins with the Lord's Prayer which is dedicated to the victims of 9/11.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Arthelin Rossignol / Jacques Lafrance,

2012-053 that the agenda is accepted as presented. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Renaud Ouellette / Rino Long,

2012-54 that the minutes from the August 14th, 2012, regular meeting and the August 27th and September 4th 2012, special meetings, which copies were distributed to Council members, are adopted as received. Carried

CLOSED SESSIONS

The Deputy-Clerk proceeds with the reading of the closed meeting items from meetings held on August 13, 20 and 27 as well as September 10.

DRINKING WATER

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

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-055 that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE

The Police Department requests that drivers slow down in school zones and respect bus stops.

Irma Lavrijsen and Ricky Michaud – probation

Jacques Lafrance / Arthelin Rossignol,

**2012-056 after having successfully completed their probationary period on August 23, 2012, that the constables Irma Lavrijsen and Ricky Michaud be hired full time.
Carried**

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

The pool and LaRochelle centre are closed for the winter. The campground will close next weekend and the Malabean centre the first weekend of October.

Total visitors in 2012 were 15,639 while there were 17,645 in 2011.

Congratulations to the swim team and Cataract baseball. The baseball team are provincial champions.

Coming attractions are mentioned including the induction ceremony for the Grand Falls Sports Hall of Fame on September 23rd.

Citizens are encouraged to call the office of the cultural society to obtain information on future activities. The office has reopened after being closed for the summer.

The Tour of Hope will be in our region on September 17 in support of the Tree of Hope organisation.

VISUAL ARTS SYMPOSIUM

The lithography and calendar sales are going well. The financial campaign will start in the next few weeks.

STREETS

The Department is finishing summer projects and preparing for winter.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Thirty permits were given in August, a value of \$2,018,350.

The first meeting of the Municipal Plan Review Committee was held. Public consultation hearings will be held as there will be zoning amendments in accordance with the land stability study.

ENVIRONMENT

The erosion site close to Hilltop Lane was visited. The municipality will cancel the surface water pipe there this week. We will also be working with NB Power in the future to protect the slope.

FINANCE

It is noted that expenses were at 70% at the end of August. Spending will be monitored from now until the end of the year. The Finance Committee will conclude an exercise shortly to determine end-of-year projections and adopt corrective measures as needed.

Michèle Gagnon – permanent appointment

Renaud Ouellette / Rino Long,

2012-057 That Michèle Gagnon be hired to the position of Engineering technologist at the Grand Falls Public Works Department starting on October 1st, 2012 with a salary in accordance with scale A of said position as described in the salary scale and benefits in accordance with policy number 2006-10 Working Conditions. Carried

Financing request

Rino Long / Renaud Ouellette,

2012-058 Resolved that the Clerk and/or Treasurer and/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 \$579,000 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 agree 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

SPORTS

Good results continue with the Grand Falls Golf Club. The membership is the highest it's been since the municipality has been managing the club.

Two tournaments will be held shortly.

LIBRARY

The summer camp closed on August 16th. Thank you to the firefighters for their implication in the camp closing ceremony and to the library for their good work once again.

FIRE

Firefighters answered ten calls in August and participated in an evacuation exercise at the Town Hall.

The smoke detector verification campaign takes place in September.

FESTIVAL

The annual meeting will be held on November 20th at 7 p.m.

DOWNTOWN

Thanks to the town and seasonal employees for the maintenance of the boulevard.

WATER

The Department is finishing summer projects and preparing for winter.

FALLS VILLA

Forty people are on the waiting list. The operating cost continues to rise and maintenance is required on certain buildings.

AFMNB

Shale gas is the primary subject of discussion at this time. The association has prepared recommendations.

SUICIDE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

The protection of future generations is imperative. Bullying must stop.

UMNB

The annual meeting will be held from September 28th to 30th. The discussions and transition continue concerning the local governance reform.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Main Street zoning – next meeting

The next meeting concerning this zoning modification will be held on September 24th.

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

Congratulations, acknowledgements and miscellaneous messages

Mayor Keeley thanks the contractors who were implicated in street maintenance this year.

Service and asphalt installations on Rioux and Morrissey Streets are completed.

McCain Foods has been re-opened for the past few weeks. Council wishes a good harvest to all farmers.

Council congratulates and thanks Suzanne Légère who is a good ambassador for the town with her many picture galleries.

Thériault Street

The street may remain open as a tryout this winter.

Federal electoral boundaries

Mayor Keeley made a presentation at the hearings in the name of the three regional municipalities. The group proposes the status quo for boundaries in our region.

PUBLIC INTERVENTION - other

Yvon Levesque

Mr. Levesque questions the municipality's transparency given the changes in the monthly meeting dates, i.e. the December meeting in 2011. Council informs the public that the December 2012 meeting will also be held on the 3rd Tuesday.

Michel Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-059 that the Grand Falls Town Council regular meeting in December 2012 be held on the 3rd Tuesday, December 18th, 2012. Carried

Mr. Levesque also questions that no correspondence is brought to the regular meetings.

Mayor Keeley assures him this subject will be discussed by Council. He notes the fact that the municipality must now abide by the Right to information and Privacy protection Act.

MEDIA INTERVENTION

Victoria Star

In answer to a question by Madeleine Leclerc, Council advises that the tenders for phase II of the tourism infrastructure renovation project will be opened on September 20th. Local contractors are encouraged to tender. The project should be finished in May 2013.

Mayor Keeley informs that there is a link to the land stability study on the municipal web site.

Mrs. Leclerc questions the proposed land purchase from Northern Construction. Mayor Keeley announces that after discussion and reflection, Council has arrived at a partnership agreement with Northern Construction and Broadway Place. The Town plans to use the land as a green / community space for the time being which will help control surface water in the region also. The municipality will purchase the land through its operating budget. There will be no capital loan.

Concerning the fire station, an expert will be hired to study the regional Fire Department needs, which will help Council in its future decision concerning the fire station.

The Cataract

Councillor Renaud Ouellette explains the work that will be done next to Hilltop Lane concerning surface water.

The journalist questions Michèle Gagnon’s role. He is informed that she will assist the Department manager in preparing plans, monitoring water quality and with necessary projects in environment. She will also be certified in the application of herbicides and pesticides.

ADJOURNMENT

Rino Long / John Bellefleur, move that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Carried

Richard Keeley, Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette, Deputy-Clerk