

MINUTES

DECEMBER 18th, 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, December 18th, 2012, following the notices required by the Act.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor :

Richard Keeley

Councillors :

Jacques Lafrance
Arthelin Rossignol
Jean-Paul Proulx
Renaud Ouellette

John Bellefleur
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 dedicated to the residents of Newtown, Connecticut.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Jean-Paul Proulx / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-086 that the agenda is accepted as presented. Carried

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

John Bellefleur / Harry MacPhail,

2012-87 that the minutes from the November 13th regular meeting, 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 November 13, 19 and 26 as well as December 3rd and 10th, 2012.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	3
Thanks	6
Complaints	
Financial aid requests	4
Aid requests (other than financial)	
Offers of service, land or other	
Misc. information	4

Jean-Paul Proulx / Jacques Lafrance,

2012-088 **Move that the correspondence be accepted as presented and distributed as requested. Carried**

DRINKING WATER

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

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-089 **that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried**

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE

An operation took place in November with the collaboration of the police and other public safety agencies. The speeding problem along Madawaska Road continues.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Past and future activities and tournaments are mentioned. Please see the website for a listing of future activities. Congratulations to the winning teams during the hockey tournaments. The administration office of the CEPSC will be closed from December 24th to 26th as well as December 31st and January 1st.

The revitalisation project for the tourism centres is on time.

Don't forget to vote for the Readers Digest competition of the best destination in Canada.

The contest ends tonight at midnight. We are actually 3rd in Canada.

The activities organised by the cultural society are mentioned.

The municipality raised \$6,924 for the Tree of Hope with its breakfast last November. The sponsors are named and thanked including the town and the CEPSC.

LIBRARY

A new librarian, Danielle Chavez, has been hired.

Free computer courses will be offered. Please register at the library.

FESTIVAL

A summary of the annual meeting is given. Both the festival and tractor pull made profits this year. Samuel Desjardins remains as president of the festival.

FIRE

There were six call outs last month as well as the election of the Captain, Lieutenant and Secretary-treasurer.

The Chief took part in a conference in Fredericton on November 23rd.

A plaque was given to Councillor John Bellefleur in honour of more than 20 years of service as a fireman. He was also named honorary fireman.

The Chief wishes to remind people to be careful with wood burning appliances, Christmas trees and overloaded plugs this time of year.

DOWNTOWN

Santa Clause arrived last Sunday in collaboration with the Fire Department. Over 350 gifts were distributed to kids. The activity was a great success.

Thanks and congratulations to the people responsible for the downtown decorations.

WATER

Sewer lines have been cleaned. Citizens are asked to be careful what they send in the sewers.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE

Discussions were held with the regional board concerning the cost to our citizens who travel to Edmundston for dialyses.
Miscellaneous services now available in Grand Falls will be explained to citizens by the hospital administrator shortly.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

A meeting was held on December 12 to plan Suicide Prevention Month activities next February.

FALLS VILLA

A grant has been received from the Social Development Department to replace the roof of the Nowlan Residence and for the purchase of equipment at the manor.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Many committee meetings were held concerning the 2013 budgets and the general insurance contract.

Turkeys

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-090 that the tender received from Grand Falls Super Store in the amount of \$1.49 a pound plus tax for the purchase of turkeys is accepted. Carried

Other prices received: Foodland	\$1.99 and \$2.49 a pound
Sysco	\$2.09 and \$2.53 a pound

Policy 2012-01 – alcoholic beverage use

Jacques Lafrance / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-091 that Municipal Council adopts policy 2012-01 on alcoholic beverage use as presented. Carried

2013 budget – general fund

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

2012-092 that the amount of \$10,056,324 is the total operating budget of the municipality, that the amount of \$ 7,491,294 is the mandate of the municipality for next year, and that the tax rates are \$1.45 and \$1.4250. Carried

Council notes that there will be no tax increase in 2013. Mayor Keeley clarifies that our tax rate is 6¢ lower than the average rate for municipalities in New Brunswick and that the 2013 budget was increased 1.414% in all. This was managed notwithstanding the new unconditional grant formula which decreased the amount for Grand Falls by \$27,000 and property assessments which have not increased at the same rate as past years in the municipality. These are all factors that contribute to decreasing municipal funds.

2013 budget – water and sewer fund

Renaud Ouellette / Jacques Lafrance,

2012-093 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 \$1,754,164 and expenses of \$1,754,165. Carried

It is noted that there will be no tax increases in 2013 for water and sewer.

Transfer to reserves

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

2012-094 that the amount of \$155,321.57 be transferred from the general operating reserve fund for sick days to the non-vesting future employee benefits fund- general. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-095 that the amount of \$55,000 be transferred from the general operating fund to the non-vesting future employee benefits fund – general. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / John Bellefleur,

2012-096 that the amount of \$ 345,000 be transferred from the general operating fund to the general capital reserve fund for equipment. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

2012-097 that the amount of \$ 34, 110.21 be transferred from the water and sewer operating reserve for sick days to the non-vesting future employee benefits fund - water and sewer. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-098 that the amount of \$ 7, 755 be transferred from the water and sewer operating fund to the water and sewer capital reserve fund for equipment. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

2012-099 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 / Jacques Lafrance,

2012-100 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 / Harry MacPhail,

2012-101 that an amount of \$ 2,500 be transferred from the water and sewer operating fund to the non-vesting future employee benefits fund - water and sewer. Carried

General insurance

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

2012-102 that the tender received from Cowan Insurance in the amount of \$202,632 with \$15,000 deductible is accepted. Carried

Other prices received:	BFL Canada	\$274,170 (\$25,000 deductible)
	Cowan	\$221,396 (\$5,000 deductible)
	Cowan	\$199,114 (\$25,000 deductible)

The Mayor explains the tender process and the law governing the process.

Insurance broker

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2012-103 that Alliance Assurance is named the municipal insurance broker for a two-year term starting in January 2013 with the possibility for a one-year renewal.
Carried

PLANNING COMMISSION

The planning commission, as we know it, will be dissolved as of December 31st, 2012. Tasks and files will be transferred to the Northwest Regional Services Commission on January 1st, 2013. We trust that the new commission will be able to offer the same services at lower cost without causing our citizens additional traveling for said services.

Twenty three permits were issued within the municipality in November for a total value of \$1.6 million.

Perth Truck Stop sign

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2012-104 Considering the existing situation on Ouellette Street in Grand Falls, Victoria County, New Brunswick (property of F. McClure & Sons Enterprises Ltd. PID 65210932) concerning the installation of a free-standing sign contravening Section 44.8 (Standards specific to all signs) of the Town of Grand Falls Zoning By-Law.

It is moved that the following individuals are authorized, designated and named under the municipal authority described herein to act for and in the name of Council to ensure that by-laws are enforced in the existing file for the property with PID 65210932 situated on Ouellette Street in Grand Falls:

Michel Lang and / or Jean-François Cyr

It is also moved that the above-noted nominations include the following: 92 (1), 94 (1), 95 (1) and 98 of the Community Planning Act in order to enter upon the property, request Court of Queen's Bench orders and to start proceedings in Provincial Court;

It is also moved that the nominated individuals are authorized to retain the services of a lawyer to start the necessary legal proceedings to ensure conformity with the by-law being infringed;

It is also moved that the authorizations, designations and nominations herein continue until they are limited or cancelled by Council. Carried

Powers of the by-law enforcement officer

Arthelin Rossignol / John Bellefleur,

- 2012-105 Considering that Council has adopted miscellaneous by-laws;

Considering that the municipality must see to the enforcement of said by-laws;

It is moved that the following individual is authorized, designated and named under the municipal authority described herein to act for and in the name of Council to ensure that by-laws are enforced: Jean-François Cyr

It is also moved that the above-noted nomination includes the following: 92(1), 93 (1), 94 (1) and 98 of the Community Planning Act in order to enter unto any property, issue orders, request orders from the Court of Queen's Bench and start proceedings in Provincial Court;

100.2 (b), 101, 102.1 (1) and 190.01 (3) of the Municipalities Act to issue tickets, start proceedings in Provincial Court, enter upon any property at all reasonable times and issue notices for dangerous or unsightly premises, and;

14 of the Police Act in order to issue tickets as the by-law enforcement Officer;

It is also moved that Jean-François Cyr proceed per the files received from the municipal CAO and municipal policies;

It is also moved that the authorizations, designations and nominations herein continue as long as the individual works for the municipality or are limited or cancelled by Council. Carried

87 Evangeline Street – zoning amendment

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

2012-106 Considering that Council has received a request from Miss Nancy Lebel (for Michael Caron, actual owner) to operate a financial advisor office on the ground floor operated by Miss Lebel and a two bedroom apartment located on the second floor occupied by a person other than Miss Lebel. The said property is located on the lot with PID 65009516 and located at 87 Évangéline Street;

Considering that Section 66 of the said act prescribes that Council must ask the Commission for its opinion on the said by-law project;

Considering that Section 68 of the said Act prescribes the publication of public notices relative to the adoption of such a by-law;

It is resolved that:

a) in accordance with section 66 of the Community Planning Act, Council requests in writing to the Planning Commission to get its opinion on the said by-law project within thirty (30) days of the request;

b) That a by-law amending the Zoning by-law no. 1900 be written to amend from R2C zone (residential multifamily dwelling) to AI (Integrated development with terms and conditions) the lot with PID 65009516;

c) That Council publish a notice in the La Cataracte and The Victoria Star newspapers in accordance with Section 68 of the Community Planning Act, advising of its intention to amend the Zoning By-Law;

d) That a public meeting be held at the Grand Falls Town Hall on February 12th, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. to study the received objections. Carried

ENVIRONMENT

Special garbage collections in 2013 will take place on January 8 & 9, May 28 & 29 and October 29 & 30.

Christmas trees will be picked up by town employees during the week of January 7 to 11. The regular garbage pick-up during the Holidays will be on December 26th for both wards.

UMNB

The association is working mostly on the new unconditional grant formula.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

By-law 74 - 2013 budget, GFCBDC

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with 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.

It is noted that one objection was received from a downtown merchant.

Arthelin Rossignol / Jean-Paul Proulx,

**2012-107 that the Municipal Council adopts the third reading of By-law 74 as read.
Carried**

NEW BUSINESS

By-law 75 – fire protection

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the first reading in full and by title of amendment 2012-01 to By-law 75 A by-law concerning fire protection in the town of Grand Falls.

Jean-Paul Proulx / Renaud Ouellette,

that the Municipal Council adopts the first reading of amendment 2012-01 to By-law 75 as read. Carried

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the second reading of amendment 2012-01 to By-law 75.

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

that the Municipal Council adopts the second reading of amendment 2012-01 to By-law 75 as read. Carried

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

Regional fire service study

Mayor Keeley explains the study that is proposed for the region. We are still waiting for Saint-André to decide if they will participate. He reiterates that this project has nothing to do with municipal amalgamation and that the study could help identify a location for the next fire station, plan purchases etc.

Bilingual signage

With the WAC 2014 fast approaching, the Mayor is being asked the municipality's opinion on bilingual signage. He asks that local entrepreneurs respect their clients who are mostly bilingual. Signage remains their choice and should be influenced by the market.

The current Council was not mandated by the citizens to legislate on this matter. However, Council encourages bilingual signage and the Mayor reminds that there are funds available from some agencies to help cover costs for new signs.

Regional Services Commissions

François Picard is the commission's new manager. Mayor Keeley calls for calm within the current employees of the planning and solid waste commissions for the time being. We still don't know where the manager's office will be.

Council – 6 month anniversary

Mayor Keeley thanks Council for their work and confidence in him. He likes the job of Mayor and thanks everyone involved.

Northern Construction and Broadway Place – purchase of land

The documents should be signed in the near future.

Office closure

Administration offices at the municipal building will be closed from December 24th, 2012 to January 1st, 2013, inclusively. A phone number will be available for emergencies.

Snow on sidewalks

Council asks the media to remind citizens not to push snow onto sidewalks or in the roads as this is against municipal regulations.

Holiday wishes

Council wish Happy Holidays to citizens and employees.

PUBLIC INTERVENTION - other

Claude Gagné

Mr. Gagné informs Council about an accident that happened at the shopping mall exit. He requests that the municipality take steps to diminish the number of accidents at this location such as limiting exits to right turn only.

Mayor Keeley mentions that this has been requested in the past but was refused by the shopping mall. He proposes that the municipality obtain legal advice in this matter.

MEDIA INTERVENTION

L'Étoile (Cataract)

Mr. Goulet requests more information concerning the commemoration of the War of 1812. The Mayor explains that the activities in general will take place on March 2nd and 3rd, 2013, in collaboration with the Winter Carnival.

Mr. Goulet also asks if the museum will be moved to the Malabean Tourist Centre. Mayor Keeley informs that it will not. An interpretive centre will be built in the tourist centre.

Acadie Nouvelle

The journalist remarks on the speeding problem along Madawaska Road. A meeting will be held with interested parties to discuss solutions.

ADJOURNMENT

Arthelin Rossignol / John Bellefleur, move that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
Carried

Richard Keeley, Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette, Deputy-Clerk