

MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2016

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, April 12th, 2016, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Richard Keeley

Councillors:

Jacques Lafrance
Michel Ouellette
Renaud Ouellette
John Bellefleur

Harry MacPhail
Rino Long

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 / Michel Ouellette,

2016-033 That the agenda is accepted as presented. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Renaud Ouellette /Rino Long,

2016-034 that the minutes from the March 8th 2016 meeting, which copies were distributed to council members, are adopted as received. Carried

CLOSED SESSIONS

The Deputy Clerk reads the items discussed during the closed meetings held on March 8th, 14th and 21st, 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

Michel Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,
2016-035 that the correspondence report is accepted as read. Carried

DRINKING WATER

The potable water analyses for March 2016 were received showing « potable water » results.

John Bellefleur /Michel Ouellette,
2016-036 that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC – motions and new business

Mayor Keeley explains the proposed motions and opens the floor to comments. No comments are received.

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE

The effects of the court closure are being increasingly felt. The costs associated with attending court, now in Edmundston, have more than doubled. The Police Chief is keeping statistics to show additional costs.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Spring activities are beginning. Registration for summer sports and activities are open at the CEPSC.

Past and future activities are mentioned as well as the local midget and peewee hockey provincial champions.

Some RTC employees will attend the Saltscapes Expo in Halifax.

ENVIRONMENT

The contract to change the downtown lights to LED has been awarded.

A household dangerous waste pick-up will take place on April 30th at the town hall parking lot.

Spring cleaning 2016 will take place on May 7th. To date, five groups are registered. All volunteers who wish to participate are welcome and drivers are asked to be cautious on that day.

PLANNING

Ten permits for construction totaling a value of \$436,350 were given in March.

GOLF

Employees have begun preparing the golf course.

Fifteen (15) tournaments are planned to date. New members are welcome.

WATER

Employees are busy with regular maintenance.

Councillor Bellefleur mentions that there were many water main breaks during the winter.

STREETS

All efforts are going towards keeping the roads in the best possible condition during the spring thaw.

The street sweeper will start cleaning streets tomorrow.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

An agricultural expo will be held at the end of June.

POTATO FESTIVAL

The Bistro and activities usually held on Broadway will be moved to the LaRochelle parking lot because of the construction work planned on Broadway.
 The Tractor pull will take place on June 18th and 19th.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Equipment and hall rental policy – 2016-01

Rino Long / Jacques Lafrance,
 2016-037 That policy 2016-01 entitled “Equipment and hall rental” is adopted as received. Carried

Equipment rental policy – 2009-03

Rino Long / John Bellefleur,
 2016-038 That policy 2009-03 entitled “Location d’équipement et de salles” is repealed. Carried

Accounts receivable – cancellations

Rino Long / Renaud Ouellette,
 2016-039 That the amount of \$9,342.34 is cancelled in miscellaneous Water and Sewer Fund accounts receivable for 2015 and that the amount of \$21,215.27 is cancelled in General Fund accounts receivable for 2015. Carried

The cancelled amounts are caused by bad debts and measures taken to enforce a by-law followed by a declaration of bankruptcy by the landowner.

NEW BUSINESS

PTA wooded park project – presentation

A group of PTA students present their project for the development of a wooded area next to the Thomas-Albert high school. This tourism, social and community project will include a community garden, a maple grove, trails and observation sites, recreation spaces, a hothouse and more.

The next construction phase will be an amphitheatre. The budget for the entire project is approximately \$250,000.

The group requests a partnership with the Town to ensure the park’s operation during the summer months when school is out. Any donation of funds, garbage bins, benches, tables will be appreciated. The request is referred to the Environment Committee.

2015 financial audit

Réal Nadeau, accountant with the firm Nadeau Picard and Assoc. presents the 2015 financial audit results.

According to the fund-based accounting method, the Town has a surplus of \$41,989 in the 2015 General Operations Fund and of \$62,204 in the 2015 Water and Sewer Fund from a combined budget of \$12 million.

The net debt in 2015 was \$10,590,493, a decrease compared to 2014 when the debt was at \$12,716,495. The amount of \$3,710,315 is in reserve.

Mr. Nadeau emphasizes that the Town is in very good financial health.

Rino Long / Renaud Ouellette,
 2016-040 That the Municipal Council accepts the 2015 financial audit as presented. Carried

Important notices via e-mail

Mayor Keeley explains that an e-mail distribution list will be set-up by the town's administration personnel. People interested in being part of this list are invited to inform the Town Hall of their contact information.

Fire on Basin Street

Mayor Keeley emphasizes constable Donald Ruest's as well as the firefighter's and first responder's implication at the March 11th fire.

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

2016 municipal elections

Councillors and the Mayor express their thanks to citizens and the employees for their support during the last four years. Best wishes are expressed to all the candidates. The Deputy Mayor reads a message from Councillor J. P. Proulx, who is absent, thanking citizens, media, employees, his committees and the Council.

Look back at 2012-2016

Mayor Keeley notes the projects, improvements and modifications done by Council during his mandate. These items include:

Tourism renovations worth \$3.4 million, golf course irrigation, two new tot lots, the Turcotte monument and tourism strategy, improvements to the SCADA system, better communications in case of emergencies, purchase of the Northern property and renovations to 142 Court Street, downtown revitalization, LED lights, tree planting and the completion of the 5-year green plan.

Also mentioned are the new Planning Department and the changes to the Municipal Plan, the service contract with Drummond, the by-law authorizing ATV's to use some municipal streets, user fees, decrease in Council from 8 to 6 and the decrease in the debt from 16.10 % to 12.87 %.

Mayor Keeley also notes certain transparency measures such as the councillor expense and activity reports that were put in place. He believes the better the transparency, the more regional collaboration and economic development will be encouraged.

Regional airport

Mayor Keeley explains developments in this case. It is proposed that the Saint-Leonard airport be managed by a non-profit organisation and operated by Claude Ouellette. The proposition is a collaboration between local business people and Irving. No costs to municipalities are foreseen.

Service sharing / fusion study

Mayor Keeley reports on the meetings between the accountant Réal Nadeau and the Councils from Ste-Anne to Drummond. It is possible that, working together, communities could offer new services to the population without raising taxes. A presentation on this subject will be made to the next council.

ADJOURNMENT

Renaud Ouellette / Michel Ouellette, that the meeting is adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Carried

Richard Keeley
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk