

MINUTES

DECEMBER 18, 2018

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

The Grand Falls Municipal Council held its regular meeting in the council room at the Grand Falls Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, following the notices required by law.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors:

Renaud Ouellette  
Rino Long  
Jean Réal Michaud

Michel "Rocky" Ouellette  
Denise Lagacé Rioux  
Jean Maurice Gagnon

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The councillors report no conflict of interest.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Rino Long / Denise Lagace Rioux,**

**2018-097 That the agenda is accepted as received. Carried**

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

**Jean Maurice Gagnon / Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,**

**2018-098 That the minutes from the meeting held on November 13, 2018, 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 13, 20 and 27, 2018.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	3
Thanks	1

**Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

**2018-099 That Town Council accepts the correspondence report as read. Carried**

DRINKING WATER

The Town of Grand Falls received potable water analyses for November 2018 showing « potable water » results.

Rino Long / Jean Réal Michaud,

2018-100      That the potable water analysis received for November 2018 are received and filed. Carried

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Work on Nowlan Street is finished and the booster station has been canceled. This will be a considerable savings for the Town.  
Wells 2, 3 and 5 have been retrofitted and are operating efficiently.  
The SCADA system is finally on line for the entire town.  
Councilor R. Ouellette gives an update on the work done during the year. He notes that snow clearing has been very expensive in 2018.

PLANNING

Eight permits were given in November for a value of \$ 96,999 and a total value for the year to date of \$ 7,833,000.

Municipal Plan – PAC opinion

Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2018-101      That Town Council ask the opinion of the Planning Advisory Committee concerning the re-adoption of the Municipal Plan. Carried

Frederick W. Pirie – plan

Renaud Ouellette / Rino Long,

2018-102      That the plan prepared by Arpentages Gaétan Soucy Inc., entitled “Subdivision plan of the Frederick W. Pirie Estate” with surveying dated November 5, 2018, is accepted as received. Carried

Zoning By-law – repeal and re-adopt

Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2018-103      That Council publish a notice on its website and on its FACEBOOK page in accordance with Section 111 of the Community Planning Act, advising of its intention to amend the Zoning By-law so that it complies with the new Community Planning Act, 2017, c.19.

For the purpose of the Zoning By-law, repeal and readopt the Zoning By-law, By-law No. 1900, its schedule A-1, modifications and schedules:

By-Laws	Schedules
2015-01	A-1
2015-02	A-1
2015-03	A-1
2015-04	A-1
2017-01	A-2017-01
2017-02	A-2017-02
2017-03	A-2017-03
2017-04	A-2017-04
2017-05	A-2017-05
2018-01	A-2018-01
2018-02	A-2018-02
2018-03	A-2018-03
2018-04	A-2018-04

Council will meet at the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 at 7 p.m. to study objections to the proposed amendments.

That the Town Clerk take care, in the name and for the Council, of publishing the public notice prescribed by section 111 of the Community Planning Act.  
Carried

#### ENVIRONMENT

A by-law to control tall grasses will be enacted in time for summer 2019.

#### FIRE

A provincial conference was held last month with emphasis on training. Congratulations to firefighters for their excellent work.

**Michel "Rocky" Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

**2018-104** That the amount for water costs to fire protection be reduced from \$180,000 to \$90,000 for the year 2018. Carried

#### JEUX DE L'ACADIE

There are only 190 days before the games. Volunteers are encouraged to register.

#### FARMERS' MARKET

The Christmas Market was a success.

#### RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Councilor Gagnon gives an up-date on the projects accomplished in 2018 such as the improvements to the Grand Tube, Veteran's Field and the new water park.

#### ADMINISTRATION / HUMAN RESOURCES

Councilor Long mentions the employees working in the various municipal services. These individuals render a great service to citizens and he thanks them.

#### Asset management

**Rino Long / Jean Réal Michaud,**

**2018-105** That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts policy 2018-02 called "Asset Management". Carried

#### POLICE

The Department's report for 2018 will be ready for the February 2019 meeting. Councilor Michaud notes that training was increased in 2018 and also mentions the new equipment bought during the year.

#### DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Christmas parade was a success with 37 participants. Thank you and congratulations to Jean-Paul Proulx who was the main organizer.

Thanks to Jean-Paul and Paryse Proulx for the toy drive held on December 1.

Thanks to the Downtown Corp. and to the Town for sponsoring a free movie and popcorn the day of the parade.

FINANCE

The Deputy Mayor thanks all those who were implicated in preparing the 2019 budgets. She notes that the property tax will increase to \$1.50 and to \$1.4750 for the properties without water or sewer services. Some reasons for the increase is the increase in costs from Worksafe and the regional landfill. The tax for water and sewer will increase \$2 per month to \$552 per unit per year.

The current debt ratio is at 11.1%, which is very good.

The unconditional grant has increased from \$711,025 to \$734,627 and the tax base in town has increased by \$11,312,416.

The projections for the 2018 budget are for a balanced budget.

General fund – transfer

**Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,**

- 2018-106 That \$300,000 be transferred from the General Capital Reserve Fund for equipment to the General Operation Fund to help cover the costs for the Jeux de l'Acadie infrastructures. Carried**

Water and Sewer Fund – transfer

**Denise Lagacé Rioux / Rino Long,**

- 2018-107 That \$45,000 be transferred from the Water and Sewer Operation Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund for the reservoir. Carried**

Operation Fund – line of credit

**Denise Lagacé Rioux / Rino Long,**

- 2018-108 Pursuant to section 100 (2) of the Local Governance Act, the Town of Grand Falls asks UNI Financial Corporation to increase its operating line of credit to \$ 433,663, or 4% of the total 2019 operating budget established at \$10,841,576. Carried**

Janitorial services

**Rino Long / Denise Lagacé Rioux,**

- 2018-109 That the Grand Falls Town Council accepts the tender received from Lebel 4 Seasons Services Inc. in the amount of \$6,050.57 per month plus tax for janitorial services. Carried**

Other prices received: M. P. Cleaning Services \$21,283.33 per month

Water and sewer budget – 2019

**Denise Lagacé Rioux / Jean Réal Michaud,**

- 2018-110 Pursuant to the Local Governance Act, the total operations budget for the Water and Sewer Department for next year will include revenues in the amount of \$1,882,487 and expenses in the amount of \$1,882,487. Carried**

General budget – 2019

**Denise Lagacé Rioux / Rino Long,**

- 2018-111 That the amount of \$10,841,576 is the total operating budget of the municipality, that the amount of \$8,230,581 is the mandate of the municipality for next year, and that the tax rates are \$1.50 and \$1.4750. 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**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Grand Falls Central Business Development Corp. – 2019 budget

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading of By-law 74.

**Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

**2018-112        that the Grand Falls 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. Carried**

Code of conduct – By-law 18

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading of By-law 18.

**Denise Lagacé Rioux / Rino Long,**

**2018-113        that the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the third reading of By-law 18, Grand Falls Town Council Code of Conduct By-law. Carried**

Municipal Plan

Eric Gagnon, Department Head, presents the repeal and re-adoption proposed for the Municipal Plan to respect changes the new Community Planning Act. The same will be done with the Zoning By-law in the near future.

The Mayor remarks on the collaboration received from the Department and that Grand Falls will soon be taking charge of planning matters in Saint-André and Saint-Léonard.

NEW BUSINESS

Unightly premises By-law

The Deputy Clerk reads the first two readings of the repeal and re-adoption of By-law 56 in order to respect the new Local Governance Act. Council agrees to proceed with reading the by-law by sections only given the notice published pursuant to subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act.

Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon, that the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the first reading of By-Law 56, “A By-law of the municipality of Grand Falls respecting dangerous or unsightly premises” as read. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Michel "Rocky" Ouellette, that the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the second reading of By-Law 56, “A By-law of the municipality of Grand Falls respecting dangerous or unsightly premises” as read. Carried

Council remuneration By-law

The Deputy Clerk reads the two first readings of By-law 57. She explains that Council's remuneration is being increased to counter the changes by Revenue Canada. In the past, only 2/3 of council's salary was taxable, now, 100% is taxable. Council agrees to proceed with reading the by-law by sections only given the notice published pursuant to subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act.

Rino Long/ Jean Réal Michaud, that the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the first reading of By-Law 57, “A by-law of the municipality of Grand Falls respecting the remuneration of the Mayor and Councillors” as read. Carried

Denise Lagacé Rioux/ Rino Long, that the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the second reading of By-Law 57, “A by-law of the municipality of Grand Falls respecting the remuneration of the Mayor and Councillors” as read. Carried

**Rino Long/ Denise Lagacé Rioux,**

**2018-114 That the Grand Falls Municipal Council declares an emergency and requests to proceed with the third reading of By-law 57. Carried**

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the third reading of By-law 57.

**Rino Long/ Jean Réal Michaud,**

**2018-115 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the third reading of By-Law 57, “A by-law of the municipality of Grand Falls respecting the remuneration of the Mayor and Councillors” as read. Carried**

Water and Sewer By-law

The Deputy Clerk reads the first two readings of By-law 17 in order to respect the new Local Governance Act. Council agrees to proceed with reading the by-law by sections only given the notice published pursuant to subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act.

Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon, that the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the first reading of by-law 17, A By-law respecting water and sewer services for the town of Grand Falls, as read. Carried

Renaud Ouellette /Michel "Rocky" Ouellette, that the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the second reading of By-law 17, A by-law respecting water and sewer services for the town of Grand Falls, as read. Carried

**Renaud Ouellette / Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,**

**2018-116 That the Grand Falls Municipal Council declares an emergency and requests to proceed with the third reading of By-law 17. Carried**

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the third reading of By-law 17.

**Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

**2018-117 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the third reading of By-Law 17, “A by-law respecting water and sewer services for the town of Grand Falls” as read. Carried**

OTHERS – Council, public and media interventions

- Council intervention

Holiday wishes

Members of Council wish Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to employees and residents. Councillor Long asks that we remember people in difficulty and who are sick. He thanks journalists for their work.

State of finances

Mayor Deschênes notes the efforts made to manage budgets and everyone’s cooperation, specifically Department Heads. He mentions that the tax increase is very conservative given the situation.

Many improvements were made to the water and sewer services in 2018 and our costs remain among the lowest in the region.

He thanks journalists for their presence and collaboration and wishes Happy Holidays to all.

- Public intervention

Jacques Hébert

Mr. Hébert informs that he has hired a lawyer to lodge an official complaint against Daniel Laforge. The Mayor requests the complaint be submitted to Council in writing.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Marcel Deschênes  
Mayor

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Lise J. Ouellette  
Deputy Clerk