

MINUTES

DECEMBER17TH, 2013

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, December17th, 2013, following the notices required by the Act.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Richard Keeley

Councillors:

John Bellefleur

Arthelin Rossignol

Renaud Ouellette

Michel Ouellette

Jean-Paul Proulx

Harry MacPhail

Jacques Lafrance

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

PRAYER

The meeting begins with the Lord's Prayer.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Jean-Paul Proulx / Arthelin Rossignol,

that the agenda is acceptedas received. Carried

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Harry MacPhail / Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,

2013-88 that the minutes from theNovember 12, 2013 meeting,which copies were distributed to Council members, are adopted as received. Carried

CLOSED SESSIONS

The Deputy Clerk reads the closed meeting itemsfrom meetings held on November 4, 12, 18 and 25, 2013.

CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations	3
Thanks	1
Offer of services, land or other	2
Misc. information	5
Complaints	0
Request for financial support	3
Request other than financial support	0
Response to a municipal enquiry	4

Arthelin Rossignol / Harry MacPhail,

2013-089 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,

2013-090 that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried

INTERVENTIONS BY THE PUBLIC – motions and new business

Mayor Keeley explains the proposed motions. No questions or comments are received from the public.

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE

Police officers will be keeping a close watch over the Holidays.
The 2014 budget for the Police Department is 1 864 000 \$.

FARMER'S MARKET

Changes are planned in 2014 to improve market operations.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Tournaments and activities are mentioned.

The Malabean centre has been closed since October 5th. A good number of visitors were welcomed at the centre in 2013. It will be interesting to see 2014 considering the WAC in our region from August 8 to 24.

Work on the interpretation centre is progressing well. Thanks to the museum and Historical Society for their collaboration.

The book The Great Canadian Bucket List is on sale at the CEPSC for \$20. The book lists places to see in Canada including Grand Falls.

CULTURAL SOCIETY

Danny Boudreau and Ryan Doucet will be performing on February 27 and March 21 respectively.

STREETS

The employee's efforts on street maintenance during the last storms are appreciated.
The parts to repair traffic lights at the intersection of Routes 108 and 255 have not arrived yet. The lights should be repaired in January 2014. Meanwhile, citizens are encouraged to use caution.

Citizens are reminded that it is illegal to push snow unto the roads.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

A deficit was avoided in 2013 due to good planning and lots of effort.
The 2014 general fund budget was a challenge to prepare given the \$250,000 shortfall at the outset. This shortfall is caused by many factors such as the \$63,000 increase in the RSC budget, the lack of funds for provincially designated roads and others.

Council thanks the department heads for their collaboration and concessions. It is noted that property as well as water and sewer taxes will be increasing in 2014.

Policies 2013-02 a) and 2013-02 b) – Breaks

Michel Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

2013-091 that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt policy 2013-02 a) relating to breaks. Carried

Michel Ouellette / John Bellefleur,

2013-092 that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt policy 2013-02 b) relating to breaks. Carried

Policy 2004-06 (R1) – Smoking

Michel Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

2013-093 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopt policy 2004-06 (R1) relating to smoking. Carried

Policy 2002-02 (R1) – Employee conduct

Michel Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

2013-094 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopt policy 2002-02 (R1) relating to employee conduct. Carried

2014 meeting dates

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2013-095 that the regular monthly meetings of Town Council in 2014 be held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. except meetings in June, November and December which will be held on the third Tuesday. Carried

Mayor Keeley notes that there will be no monthly meeting in January. The next meeting will be held in February.

Transfer to reserves

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

2013-096 that the amount of \$156,414 be transferred from the general operating fund to the non-vesting future employee benefits fund – general. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / John Bellefleur,

2013-097 that the amount of \$ 9,409 be transferred from the general operating fund to the general capital reserve fund for equipment. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

2013-098 that the amount of \$ 5,000 be transferred from the general operating fund to the general operating reserve fund for the municipal complex. Carried

2014 budget – general fund

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2013-099 that the amount of \$10,282,777 is the total operating budget of the municipality, that the amount of \$ 7,668,170 is the mandate of the municipality for next year, and that the tax rates are \$1.47 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

It is noted that property taxes will increase by 2¢.

Agreement – gas tax

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2013-100 that the document entitled “Municipality of Grand Falls Four year Capital Investment Plan (2010-2013), revised December 17, 2013, be adopted. Carried

ENVIRONMENT

A funding request was presented in order to plant trees on lots left vacant by the demolition of residences along Routes 108 and 218. A request was also presented to change lights in municipal parking lots to LED lighting.

CN Eco Connections

Renaud Ouellette / Arthelin Rossignol,

- 2013-101 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council approves that the municipality absorb 50% of total costs for the reforestation of vacant lots in 2014 under the CN Eco Connexions Program. Carried

REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION – planning

Two variances were approved in November as well as eleven permits for a total annual value of \$ 6,804,000. There was very little growth in 2013.

9 Church Street – legal action

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

- 2013-102 considering that the existing situation at 9 Church Street in Grand Falls, Victoria County, NB concerning:
 The presence of more than 5 (five) cords of wood
 The presence of wood pieces over 24” long
 contravenes Section 39.4 (Landscaping) of the Grand Falls Zoning By-law #1900.

Be it resolved that the Town of Grand Falls designate, authorize and name Michel Lang to act for and in the name of Council to carry out By-laws in the existing situation at 9 Church Street in Grand Falls pursuant to the municipal authority described below;

Be it also resolved that said designation includes the following:
 -92 (1), 94 (1), 95 (1) and 98 of the Community Planning Act in order to enter upon the property, request court orders from the Court of Queen’s Bench and begin proceedings in Provincial Court;

Be it also resolved that the designated person is authorized to retain legal counsel in order to undertake the desired proceedings to ensure conformity with the infringed by-law;

Be it also resolved that said authorizations, designations and nominations continue until they have been limited or revoked by Council. Carried

91 Deschênes Street – legal action

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

2013-103 considering that the existing situation at 91 Deschênes Street in Grand Falls, Victoria County, NB concerning:
 The presence of more than 5 (five) cords of wood
 The presence of wood pieces over 24” long
 The storage of wood at less than 39” from the property line
 The accessibility to the garage man door at all times
 contravenes Section 39.4 (Landscaping) of the Grand Falls Zoning By-law #1900.

Be it resolved that the Town of Grand Falls designate, authorize and name Michel Lang to act for and in the name of Council to carry out By-laws in the existing situation at 91 Deschênes Street in Grand Falls pursuant to the municipal authority described below;

Be it also resolved that said designation includes the following:
 -92 (1), 94 (1), 95 (1) and 98 of the Community Planning Act in order to enter upon the property, request court orders from the Court of Queen’s Bench and begin proceedings in Provincial Court;

Be it also resolved that the designated person is authorized to retain legal counsel in order to undertake the desired proceedings to ensure conformity with the infringed by-law;

Be it also resolved that said authorizations, designations and nominations continue until they have been limited or revoked by Council. Carried

WORLD ACADIAN CONGRESS

Deputy Mayor Ouellette explains the International Showcase that will be held in Grand Falls during the 2014 WAC and the importance of this to our economy. People from all over will be here to teach us about their culture. The Committee hopes that residents will welcome these visitors with the warmth and friendship that they are renowned for. The Deputy Mayor notes that close to 200 volunteers will be needed for the International Showcase.

FALLS VILLA

A meeting is planned with Minister Dubé.
 Administrators are searching for a solution to the absenteeism problem that continues among employees.
 Help has been requested from the Province concerning the projected end-of-year deficit.
 37 people are on the waiting list.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMITTEE

A meeting took place with Rino Volpé and Pierre Verrette. The Committee requested a solution to the people occupying beds in the hospital while waiting for a bed at the Falls Villa. Eight beds will be added temporarily in an effort to alleviate the situation.

The Home First pilot project where more care would be offered in homes is explained.

There are 1,000 people without a family doctor in the region. The Committee requested a quick solution to the shortage of doctors. A palliative care bed in Grand Falls was also requested.

LIBRARY

The Library is searching for a librarian from the region.

FIRE

The Department responded to five calls in November.
Ricky Albert, Aldéo Cyr and Daniel St-Amand were re-elected during recent elections.
The arrival of Santa Claus on December 15 was a success.
A provincial curling tournament will be held from January 24 to 26.

CENTRAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Commission wishes to thank everyone implicated in the arrival of Santa Claus last Sunday.
The downtown decorations look good. There has been no vandalism to date.

WATER AND SEWER

Employees have followed miscellaneous training and repaired a leak on Taylor Street.

Transfer to reserves

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2013-104 that the amount of \$ 45,000 be transferred from the water and sewer operating fund to the capital reserve fund for the reservoir. Carried

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2013-105 that the amount of \$ 12, 500 be transferred from the water and sewer operating fund to the water and sewer operating reserve fund. Carried

John Bellefleur / Jacques Lafrance,

2013-106 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

Fire protection – water cost

John Bellefleur / Michel Ouellette,

2013-107 that the water cost for fire protection be reduced from \$180,000 to \$100,000 for the year 2013. Carried

2014 budget – water and sewer

John Bellefleur / Renaud Ouellette,

2013-108 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 \$1,810,828 and expenses of \$1,810,828. Carried

It is noted that there will be a 1\$ per month tax increase in 2014 for water and sewer services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BY-LAW 74 – 2014 budget, GFCBDC Inc.

The Deputy Clerk reads the third reading, by title, of By-law 74 regarding the 2014 budget for the Grand Falls Central Business Development Corporation Inc.

Jean-Paul Proulx / Jacques Lafrance,

2014-109 that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the third reading of By-law 74 as read. Carried

NEW BUSINESS

BY-LAW 17 – water and sewer services

Notices were published per Section 12 (1) of the Municipalities Act. The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the first reading by section title only.

Arthelin Rossignol / Harry MacPhail,

that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopt the first reading of By-law 17, a By-law respecting water and sewer services, as read. Carried

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

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Paul Proulx,

that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopt the second reading of By-law 17, a By-law respecting water and sewer services, as read. Carried

John Bellefleur / Arthelin Rossignol,

2013-110 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council declare an emergency concerning By-law 17, a By-law respecting water and sewer services. Carried

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

Renaud Ouellette / Harry MacPhail,

2013-111 that the Grand Falls Municipal Council adopt the third reading of By-law 17, a By-law respecting water and sewer services, as read. Carried

COUNCIL INTERVENTION

Garbage pick-up

During the Holidays, pick-ups in the North Ward will be on Monday, December 23rd and 30th.

Civic addresses

Councillor MacPhail reminds everyone of the importance of having their civic address installed on buildings. This is the owner's responsibility.

Tree of hope – breakfast

The breakfast raised \$7,185 for the Tree of Hope. Thanks to all the volunteers and town employees who helped with the organisation.

Richelieu Club – Guignolée

The fundraiser raised \$34,000. Congratulations and thank you!

Thanks and holiday wishes

The Mayor and Councillors thank the employees and media and wish Happy Holidays to all. Mayor Keeley thanks the Councillors for their collaboration.

2014 budgets

Mayor Keeley explains that the assessment increased by less than 1% this year. He reiterates the additional costs that Grand Falls will contend with in 2014 such as less funding for provincially designated highways, the RSC and the inequities in the Regional Services Delivery Act, as well as the possibility of \$30,000 less for fines. However, the debt ratio for the Town remains at 14.4% which is very positive.

As for the RSC budget, Grand Falls maintains its decision to vote against the proposed budget. The vote will take place at tomorrow night's meeting.

PUBLIC INTERVENTIONRonald Ouellette

Mr. Ouellette questions the reduction in the 2014 budget for the Recreation, Tourism and Culture Department. Council explains the management changes which resulted in major savings such as the operation of the Canteen by the private sector.

He questions the \$800,000 shortfall in the RTC budget. Mayor Keeley explains that this is not a deficit but a shortfall between the revenues generated and the operational costs. If the Town does not arrive to a cost sharing agreement with surrounding communities, it will have to study the possibility of establishing a user fee in 2015. Mr. Ouellette believes that the Town should try harder to negotiate with Saint-André concerning cost sharing and follow Drummond's example.

Regarding the RSC, Mr. Ouellette is under the impression that less services will be offered at a greater cost. He believes the Town should study the possibility of offering its own planning services. Mayor Keeley confirms that is the intention of Council but only in 2015.

Mr. Ouellette mentions that the Town's unconditional grant will increase in 2014.

Rodrigue Cyr

Mr. Cyr congratulates Council for the work accomplished in 2013 and wishes a happy 2014 to Councillors. Good work with the neighboring communities. He believes Saint-Leonard should be included in our efforts.

Mr. Cyr volunteers for the 2014 WAC. He believes we need a star in Grand Falls during the WAC to attract people.

The Province is searching for a place to establish a centre for at-risk youth. He suggests that the Town contact the MLA on the subject.

MEDIA INTERVENTIONBrunswick News

The reporter requests explanations on the \$250,000 shortfall in the 2014 budget. The Deputy Mayor explains.

Upon questioning, the CAO explains the policies previously adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

Arthelin Rossignol / John Bellefleur,that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Carried

Richard Keeley
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk