

MINUTES

MAY 10, 2022

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of Grand Falls Town Council in New Brunswick was held at the Municipal Building in the Roland Lafrance Room beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, following notices as required by law.

ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors :

Annie Deschênes  
David Raines  
Renaud Ouellette  
Jocelyn "Joe" Themens

and Acting Director General/Clerk Éric Gagnon and Deputy Clerk Lise J. Ouellette.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mayor Deschênes welcomed everyone.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts are reported.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Joe Themens/Renaud Ouellette,**

**2022-055 That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**Annie Deschênes/Renaud Ouellette,**

**2022-056 That the municipal council adopt the minutes from April 19, 2022 as received. Carried**

DRINKING WATER

The town's drinking water analyses, received since the last meeting, demonstrate the "potable water" results.

**Renaud Ouellette / Annie Deschênes,**

**2022-057 that potable water tests be received and filed. Carried**

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

HUMAN RESOURCES

Interviews for summer jobs have been completed and some students are already working. The job offer for the Deputy Chief of Police closed on April 29. Interviews will take place shortly.

The Council thanks Jessica Ouellette, Director of Human Resources, for her work with the many interviews done lately. The mayor also thanks Sophie Marceau who is in charge of the technology for the meeting tonight.

COMMUNICATION

Spring cleaning resumed this year with ten groups in addition to families and individuals. More than 100 bags of garbage were collected. Thank you to the volunteers and staff who participated. The mayor thanked the council members who participated.

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department has begun sweeping the streets. The next step is asphalt repairs.

Eight water leaks were detected with a loss of 150,000 gallons of water per day. Two of them are on Tobique Road. Residents should expect detours during repair.

Four sewer backups occurred this month. It is questioned whether they were caused by the frost.

Paving of streets

**Renaud Ouellette /Annie Deschênes,**

**2022-058 That Town Council accept the bid received from Ray's Paving Inc. in the amount of \$695,455 plus tax to pave the streets with modifications on the De la Nature Parkway. Carried**

Submissions received: Ray's PavingInc.	\$695,455
Northern Construction Inc.	\$742,900

FIRE

The Fire Department reminds the public to respect by-laws on burning and to check the provincial restrictions.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Councillor Raines explains the gift card program.

CENTRAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Music will be offered at the bandstand during the summer.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The tractor pull will take place on June 18 and 19. Volunteers are required.

Ticket sales for the festival are going well. Councillor Raines encourages people to get them now. Volunteers are required for the festival as well.

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Several registrations are open for summer activities and sports.

The golf course will open on May 13. Equipment was purchased to improve the golf course.

A resto-bar will be open all day and will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Clinics for juniors are available.

The Malabean Centre will open on May 16, the LaRoche Centre on June 27 and the Campground on June 13.

Grand Falls Marina – Development Plan

**Joe Themens /David Raines,**

**2022-059 That Town Council accept the offer received from Stantec for a strategic development plan for the marina at a cost of \$26,835 plus taxes. Carried**

The mayor explains that the proposal received from the Ad-Hoc committee was submitted to Stantec. They propose a 12-week timeline for the study.

Marina – roof

**Joe Themens/David Raines,**

**2022-060 That Town Council accept the tender received from J. L. Michaud Roofing Group Inc. in the amount of \$18,975 to redo the roof of the marina building. Carried**

FINANCE

Tourism project – contribution

Directional signs in the town will be changed as well as other items.

**Joe Themens / David Raines,**

**2022-061 That Grand Falls Town Council authorize a contribution of \$15,564 from the Town of Grand Falls for Project No. 220972 of the Tourism Experiences Development and Improvement Fund. Carried**

Waste / recycling

Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, garbage will be collected weekly to address issues in certain locations. The price of tonnage does not change. People are being asked to continue recycling.

**Renaud Ouellette / David Raines,**

**2022-062 That Town Council accept Northwest Sanitation Ltd.'s proposal dated May 3, 2022 for weekly garbage collection for an additional \$1,492.81 per month plus HST. Carried**

BUSINESS STARTED

Updating of various projects

Dog park

A recommendation on the location will be made shortly.

### Colebrooke Bike Club

Samuel Desjardins gives an update on the activities of the club which now has about 100 members with 15 km of mountain bike track. This year, they will add one to two kilometers of track and a 'dual slalom' course.

Mr. Desjardins highlights the good partnership with the Kahoutek cross-country ski club with which the bikes share some trails.

A racing team has been formed and is showing good results.

He encourages people to buy their passes. Passes are free for youth 16 and under.

The mayor thanks the volunteers for these trails which are appreciated by the population.

### Bike route

Jean-Louis Gervais and Earl Toner present the project of a bicycle route in the region.

The project was presented to the council last November and the section inside the Town will be 4.8 km.

Steps have been taken to obtain an occupation permit to use the NB Trail.

A lot of work has been done to prepare the grant applications and to delineate the project. The Town of Grand Falls will contribute \$83,000, or 20%. The group thanks the council and the CAO for their support.

Mayor and Councillor Themens thanked the committee for their very good work.

### 2022 projects at RTC

The director of the department presents some of the work planned for 2022.

Directional signs will be changed and a digital route will be added everywhere with information on monuments, infrastructure and others.

Picnic tables will be replaced as well as benches and a retaining wall at the campground. Shelters will be added and an outdoor exercise area will be developed.

A tourism consulting firm will spend the summer in the town to prepare recommendations on a plan and work with tourism stakeholders.

The mayor thanks the great dedication of the team at the RTC Department.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 2021 Financial Statements

Lucie Nadeau Frenette of Nadeau Picard et Associés presents the financial statements for 2021.

She notes that the Town achieved a consolidated surplus of \$5,570,396 compared to a surplus of \$825,576 in 2020. The variation is caused by the increase in subsidies received. The municipality has \$4.23 million in its reserve funds, of which \$3.7 million is allocated to capitalization and employee future benefits.

Based on fund accounting, the municipality realized a surplus of \$15,308 in the General Operations Fund and a surplus of \$21,293 in the Water and Sewer Operations Fund on a combined operating budget of \$12.9 million.

In conclusion, she notes that the town is in good financial health and that the reserves comply with the provincial regulations in place.

The mayor thanks the firm for its service throughout the year and thanks the team in the Town's finance department.

**Annie Deschênes/David Raines,**

**2022-063 That Town Council accept the financial statements ending December 31, 2021, as presented. Carried**

Disability Awareness Week – Proclamation

The mayor declares the week of May 29 to June 4, Disability Awareness Week in Grand Falls.

Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia – Proclamation

The mayor declares May 17 as The Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Grand Falls.

OTHER – interventions by council, public and media

- intervention by the council

Age-Friendly Municipalities – The deputy mayor summarizes a very good meeting with MADA and mentions that there is room for improvement for seniors here.

Fire Station - Construction is progressing well. The completion of construction is now expected by the end of October.

Transition – The next meeting will take place next week. The timeline is progressing well.

- intervention of the public

Rodrique Cyr

Mr. Cyr congratulates council on the decision to pick up garbage every week. He suggests a sign to encourage people to not litter.

Michel Blais

Mr. Blais says he is happy to hear the update on the marina.

He notes that the one-year deadline for council's decision on the sale of the property is approaching. He asks what the council's decision will be.

The mayor replied that everything was on the table and that the council wanted to move the file forward. It is impossible to say what the future will bring.

Mr. Blais reports the fact that two owners are ready to donate land. The mayor reiterates that the study is necessary in order to know the costs and restrictions to development before deciding anything.

Yvette Poitras Parent

Reports a problem of ATVs passing through side streets. The police will be watching more closely especially with the opening of Thériault Street. The council reminds to call 911 or the police to report.

The deputy mayor recommends that the authorized route be publicized. The CEO will discuss this with the department heads.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Annie Deschênes / David Raines, moved the closing of the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Carried

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Marcel Deschênes  
Mayor

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Lise J. Ouellette  
Deputy Clerk