

MINUTES

JULY 12, 2022

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Town Council in Grand Falls, New Brunswick was held at the municipal building in the Roland Lafrance Hall beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, following notices as required by law.

ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors:

Annie Deschênes  
David Raines  
Renaud Ouellette  
Jocelyn "Joe" Themens  
Jean-Maurice Gagnon

and CAO/Clerk Éric Gagnon and Deputy Clerk Lise J. Ouellette.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mayor Deschênes welcomes everyone and brings the meeting to order.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The deputy mayor declares a conflict over the hiring of a mechanic.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Annie Deschênes/Joe Themens,**

**2022-070 That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

**Renaud Ouellette/ Annie Deschênes,**

**2022-071 That the municipal council adopt the minutes of June 13, 2022 as received. Carried**

DRINKING WATER

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

Jean Maurice Gagnon/David Raines,

**2022-072 that drinking water tests be received and filed. Carried**

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE RECORDS

POLICE

Constable Charles Cormier was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

A hybrid vehicle was purchased for the police force. We expect to save on gasoline and reduce our carbon dioxide emissions.

A member of the force volunteered to participate in the drive safe program during the festival. Members remind users that the skate park closes at 9 p.m. and to respect the neighborhood. Lori Swan has been missing for two years now. The public's help is being sought in this case which is still under investigation.

Sergeant

**Jean Maurice Gagnon/Renaud Ouellette,**

- 2022-073 That Charles Cormier be promoted to the position of sergeant for the Grand Falls Police Force with salary and benefits according to the collective agreement and applicable probation period. Carried**

Constable - resignation

**Jean Maurice Gagnon/Annie Deschênes,**

- 2022-074 That Grand Falls Town Council accept the resignation of Constable Denis Bourgoin from the Grand Falls Police Force. Carried**

ADMINISTRATION / HUMAN RESOURCES

Things are moving in human resources, and we are seeing a lot of new faces.

Three positions are currently posted: Laborer, Ambassador and Communications Coordinator.

Although the communication position is new, the Town has been working on posting it for a long time.

Mechanic / Foreman – Hiring

\*The deputy mayor declares conflict and leaves the meeting during this discussion.

**Annie Deschênes/Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

- 2022-075 That Marc Ouellette be hired as a mechanic-foreman in the Public Works Department with the salary, benefits and applicable probation period according to the collective agreement between local 886 and the Town of Grand Falls. Carried**

Operator – hiring

Ms. Leclerc has been in office since July 4. The first woman operator for public works. We wish her a long career with us.

**Annie Deschênes/ Renaud Ouellette,**

- 2022-076 That Jenna Leclerc be hired as an operator with the Public Works Department with the salary, benefits and applicable probation period according to the collective agreement between local 886 and the Town of Grand Falls. Carried**

Facilities attendant – Hiring

Annie Deschênes / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2022-077 That Daniel Sirois be hired in the temporary position of facilities attendant with the Recreation, Tourism and Culture Department with the salary, benefits and applicable probation period according to the collective agreement between local 886 and the Town of Grand Falls. Carried

Mr. Sirois has been in office since yesterday. He was hired to fill a long-term leave.

Planning Officer / Building Inspector

Annie Deschênes / Joe Themens,

- 2022-078 That François Michaud be hired in the temporary position of Planning Officer/ Building Inspector for the Land Use Department with salary according to salary scale, benefits according to Policy 2006-10, Working Conditions, and applicable probation period. Carried

François Michaud will be in office as of July 25. He was also hired to fill a leave of absence.

Rino Laforge – retirement

Annie Deschênes/ David Raines,

- 2022-079 That Town Council accept the retirement notice received from Rino Laforge as Treasurer for the Town of Grand Falls. Carried

The council wishes Mr. Laforge a happy retirement, who has worked for the municipality for 36 years.

Dophe Laforge – appointment

Annie Deschênes/ Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2022-080 That Dophe Laforge be appointed Treasurer for the Town of Grand Falls, pursuant to subsection 71(1) of the New Brunswick Local Governance Act, with salary according to the established scale and benefits according to Policy 2006-10, Working Conditions, and applicable probation period. Carried

Designation of the municipal building

Following the steps already taken by the former council, the municipal building was named the Marcel Deschênes Building.

Renaud Ouellette/ Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2022-081 That the Grand Falls Town Council confirm its decision to designate the municipal building at 131 Pleasant Street the *Marcel Deschênes Building* in honour of his 25 years of service to the Town of Grand Falls and its citizens. Carried

Procurement Policy – 2004-02 (R5) amendment 1

This change is made to add purchasing agents.

Annie Deschênes/ Renaud Ouellette,

- 2022-082 That the Grand Falls Town Council approve amendment 1 to Policy 2004-02 (R5). Carried

## LIBRARY

Book club registrations continue.

Dory the therapy dog visits the library on Fridays. Note that you have to register to meet her. The library accepts donations of books, games and craft materials.

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to all those who participated in the organization of the festival and the tractor pull. Councillor Raines advises that the festival committee is still looking for volunteers.

The 2022 Leisure Fair will take place on September 10 at the CEPSC from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booth rentals are free of charge.

Entertainment has been organized for New Brunswick Day on August 1<sup>st</sup> from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. All this will take place at the parking lot of the Malabean center.

An antique car tour will stop in Grand Falls on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will be parked around Broadway from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. More details to come.

## FIRE/ MAJOR PROJECTS

The construction of the fire station is going well. People are asked to avoid the construction site.

## RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

The Frolic started on July 4<sup>th</sup> with various activities.

Congratulations to our swim team that won the title of best overall swim team at a recent competition.

New exercise equipment has been installed at the edge of the bike path along Main Street. Landscaping at the skate park will be completed in the coming weeks and signs indicating the regulations will be installed. Protective helmets are mandatory.

The tourist evaluation by Touriscope continues. The final report is expected in September.

The campsite and the centres enjoy a large number of visitors.

We thank Ron Turcotte for coming to meet people and sign autographs on June 28.

Everyone is reminded that crafts are sold at the LaRochelle center. Artists are invited to contact the RTC for more information.

The golf course is in excellent condition. Many users have taken advantage of it this year.

The roof of the marina has been replaced. The next renovations will be the staining of the building, the deck replacement and then the interior. The buoys were installed by NB Power and the Town installed solar lights at the docks. The study with the consultant continues.

## FINANCE

Another fiscal exercise will take place in the coming weeks. Everything is going well up to date.

## TRANSITION

The technical committee will soon be working on the budgets.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Several leaks were repaired during the month.

A water line has been installed for the community garden.

Well No. 5 has been repaired and is functioning.

It is mentioned that \$449,000 was spent on street repairs this year.

## PLANNING

32 permits were granted for a value of approximately \$4,100,000. The total estimated value to date is \$10,265,000.

## CULTURAL SOCIETY

Acadian Day will be celebrated in Grand Falls on August 14 with Daniel Goguen as guest artist. Several activities are planned.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Project updates

Sidewalk Portage Road – as previously discussed, the curb was installed by a citizen and the road belongs to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure which has the authority at this location. Following our request, the province will assess whether a sidewalk can be built and provide us with an answer.

### 136 Broadway – fire

Everyone is frustrated with the condition of the building at 136 Broadway Boulevard, especially given the major funds that have been invested on the boulevard. The firm hired to settle the case continues the established procedures. Council hopes that the situation will be resolved soon.

### Road bike

The hired firm is preparing the call for tenders for the work that should be done this summer.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Next meeting

No meetings will be held in August. The next one will take place on September 13. Follow the Town on Facebook in case of change.

## OTHER

- Council intervention

The deputy mayor asks lawn care companies to avoid throwing lawn clippings everywhere.

The mayor thanks the people who elected him and gave him the opportunity to make a difference.

The council wishes good luck to Lissa Morin who will participate in a triathlon.

Rino Laforge – retirement. The mayor mentioned Mr. Laforge's great contribution to the enviable financial state of the municipality. He is proud that his son is taking the reins. Mr. Laforge thanks his family and the town council for the opportunity.

- Public intervention

### Robert Godbout

Mr. Godbout congratulates Rino and Dophe Laforge.

He encourages people to get involved in organizations such as the festival. He questions how to keep our volunteers and expresses the importance of taking care of these volunteers.

He questions who gave the permit to install the Portage Road curb and questions the drain that was installed. He is informed that it is the municipal responsibility to install stormwater infrastructure and that the pipe was there before changes to that property.

Mr. Godbout mentions another road that was buried on the Bélanger grounds. The mayor recommends that he bring his information to the province.

Mr. Godbout also questions the heavy equipment parked on this land and whether the land is zoned to allow this use. The CAO will check.

Mr. Godbout questions that elderly people have received a notice to cut their grass. He asked how these regulations were brought into force since some received notices and others did not. The mayor explains that the Town acts on complaints because it does not have enough staff to monitor everywhere.

#### Patrice Thibeau

Mr. Thibeau is of the opinion that the staircase going down to the dam needs maintenance. He also believes that parking on Broadway should be at 45 degrees.

As for the Turcotte Bridge, a new bridge should be built since, according to him, the current bridge was poorly designed. He is asking that heavy trucks be prevented from passing through. The mayor informed him that the bridge belonged to the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure and that the Town could not change anything. The council had already asked the province to redirect heavy trucks away from downtown but the request was denied.

#### Marie-Stella Bourgoin

Ms. Bourgoin congratulates Rino Laforge and thanks him for his service to the Town.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Renaud Ouellette / Annie Deschênes, proposes the closing of the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Carried

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Marcel Deschênes  
MayorDeputy

Lise J. Ouellette  
Clerk