

MINUTES

DECEMBER 21, 2021

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of the 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, December 21, 2021, as required by law. This meeting has a limited access to the public and is live on the Town's Facebook page.

ATTENDANCE

His Worship the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors :

Jean-Réal Michaud

Annie Deschênes

Jocelyn "Joe Themens"

Renaud Ouellette

Jean-Maurice Gagnon

As well as the Deputy Clerk Lise J. Ouellette and Administrative Assistant Sophie Marceau.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

The mayor welcomes everyone in attendance and those watching on our Facebook page.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts are reported.

AGENDA

Jean-Maurice Gagnon / Renaud Ouellette,

2021- 091 That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried

MINUTES

Jean-Réal Michaud / Renaud Ouellette,

2021-092 That the minutes from the 9th and 23rd of November 2021, copies of which have been distributed to members of council, be accepted as received. Carried

DRINKING WATER

13 samples have been taken since the last public meeting. The Town's drinking water report received shows acceptable results. Carried

Annie Deschênes / Joe Themens,

2021-093 That the drinking water report be received and filled. Carried

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

A 2021 yearly report is presented by the head of each department.

FIRE

Chief Charlie Kavanaugh says 2021 has been relatively calm with only a few major fires in the area. The brigade assisted neighboring municipalities in a few fires. 92 calls were received for fires, alarms, mutual aid, and accidents.

Work on the new fire station began this year and is progressing well.

RECREATION, TOURISM, & CULTURE

Dept. Head Marco Ouellette says the revitalization of centennial park is almost complete. A new quality ground mix has been installed and ballfield lighting has been replaced at the Veterans field. He encourages everyone to go see a game in the evening. Work at the Richelieu pool has been done and more will have to be done in the near future. The skate park project is complete, some landscape and other minor work to be completed and then everyone will be able to go enjoy it next spring.

The tourism has seen a better year as the Malabean Tourist Center and the Chutes et Gorge campground opened for the season. The Malabean center welcomed 16,769 visitors and the campsite had 700 stays. Repairs are underway on the observation platforms in the tourist trails.

The director wishes all the best to Denise Lafrance Dionne, the Tourism and Special Projects Coordinator who retired this year and held the position since 2009. He welcomes Josée Gagnon to her new position and thanks her for her work accomplished up to now despite the pandemic.

GOLF

The winter was difficult on the course, so a lot of maintenance had to be done in the spring, but with the excellent work of the 4 employees, they were able to ensure that the season and the course were impeccable. The reconstruction of the lakes at holes 1 and 2 have been completed and fountains will be added to them in 2022 as well as work on hole 16. 18,850 rounds of golf were played in 2021 compared to 18,725 in 2020 and 13,704 in 2019.

POLICE

Deputy Chief Marco Levesque presents the Police Force Annual Report. A one-year trial period started in 2021 for a new organizational structure. Two investigator positions, one court liaison and one resource officer positions were created in addition to the patrol division of two members per section. After the probationary period, we will return to three members per section for the patrol division.

Members of the Force issued 30 tickets during the various Covid-19 protests.

The members received training for firearms, two members for EMRV, and one as a self-defence instructor who will be able to teach other members.

A new criminal record check system has been implemented and people can now apply online. Councillor Michaud adds that it is still possible to go to the police station to make a request for those who do not have access to a computer.

PUBLIC WORKS

Councillor J-M Gagnon mentions that the line painting on Broadway will be done in 2022 because of the project being completed later in the year. Storm sewer pipes have been installed on Terrace Street and curbs have been done on this one as well as Cyr, Lafrance, Carrier and Deschenes Streets.

Jean-Maurice Gagnon / Annie Deschênes

2021- 094 That council accepts the following offers: MadVic Entreprises in the amount of 5 700 \$ for the 2001 Sterling; Falls Storage & Shipping Inc. in the amount of 2 552 \$ for the GMC 1996 and Bernard Ouellette Auto Inc. in the amount of 2 125 \$ for the GMC Savana 2007. Carried

Other prices received:

GMC 1996	2 500 \$	Mad Vic Entreprises
	2 225 \$	Bernard Ouellette Auto Inc.
2001 Sterling	2 105 \$	Bernard Ouellette Auto Inc.
2007 GMC Savana	1 200 \$	MadVic Entreprises
	1 231 \$	Falls Storage & Shipping Inc.

COMMUNICATIONS

A special events committee has been started in 2021 to create activities every two months or every season and we extend the invitation to all those who would like to join the committee, it is not too late. A new communications position will be posted next year to promote and increase transparency in the Municipality. Councillor Deschênes thanks all those who organized and participated in the various Christmas activities during the month of December.

ADMINISTRATION / HUMAN RESOURCES

Several changes took place in the administration department during the year. Interviews are underway for the positions of Human Resources/Payroll and Director of Public Works and chosen candidates will be announced at the next public meeting.

Annie Deschênes / Jean-Maurice Gagnon

2021-095 Que le conseil accepte la démission de Stéphanie Levesque en date du 6 décembre 2021. Carried

BIBLIOTHÈQUE

The members of the committee made a presentation to council on December 7th and announced a donation of 10 thousand dollars from Canadian Tire Canada to purchase winter sports equipment for citizens to rent from the library.

FINANCES

Jean-Maurice Gagnon/Joe Themens,

2021-096 That council accepts the documents entitled « Municipality of Grand Falls Five-Year Capital Investment Plan (2019-2023) » révisé December 21, 2021. Carried

Jean-Maurice Gagnon/Renaud Ouellette,

2021-097 That the amount of 45 000 \$ be transferred from the water and sewer operating fund to the to the capital reserve fund for the reservoir. Carried

Jean-Maurice Gagnon/Jean-Réal Michaud,

2021-098 That an amount of \$40,000 be transferred from the water and sewer operating fund to the water and sewer equipment capital reserve fund. Carried

CYCLING TRAIL PROJECT

Joe Themens/ Jean-Réal Michaud

2021-099 That the City of Grand-Sault commits to apply for a lease with the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development for the use of road cycling within the administrative limits of the town of Grand Falls and to cover the costs associated with the said application. Carried

Joe Themens/ Jean-Réal Michaud

2021-100 That the Town of Grand Falls agrees to pay its share of the cycling trail project, urban phase, being a percentage of 20% to the maximum amount of \$83,053. Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jamie M. Michaud & Gestion Ouellette Ltée

The administrative assistant conducts the first and second readings of By-law 93. Council dispensed with full reading since notices under subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act have been posted.

Jean-Maurice Gagnon /Annie Deschênes,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the first reading of By-law 93, a by-law adopting the Grand Falls Municipal Plan as read. Carried

Renaud Ouellette /Annie Deschênes,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the second reading of By-law 93, a by-law adopting the Grand Falls Municipal Plan as read. Carried

The administrative assistant conducts the first and second readings of By-law 1900. Council dispensed with full reading since notices under subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act have been posted.

Renaud Ouellette /Jean-Maurice Gagnon,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the first reading of By-law 1900, modifying the Grand Falls Zoning by-law as read. Carried

Joe Themens/ Jean-Réal Michaud,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the second reading of By-law 1900, Modifying the Grand Falls Zoning by-law as read. Carried

Hermel et Tina Michaud

The administrative assistant conducts the first and second readings of By-law 93. Council dispensed with full reading since notices under subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act have been posted.

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that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the first reading of By-law 93, a by-law adopting the Grand Falls Municipal Plan as read. Carried

Jean-Maurice Gagnon /Annie Deschênes,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the second reading of By-law 93, a by-law adopting the Grand Falls Municipal Plan as read. Carried

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Joe Themens /Jean-Réal Michaud,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the first reading of By-law 1900, modifying the Grand Falls Zoning by-law as read. Carried

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Maurice Gagnon,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the second reading of By-law 1900, Modifying the Grand Falls Zoning by-law as read. Carried

J.D. Irving

The administrative assistant conducts the first and second readings of By-law 93. Council dispensed with full reading since notices under subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act have been posted.

Joe Themens /Jean-Réal Michaud,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the first reading of By-law 93, a by-law adopting the Grand Falls Municipal Plan as read. Carried

Joe Themens / Jean-Réal Michaud,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the second reading of By-law 93, a by-law adopting the Grand Falls Municipal Plan as read. Carried

The administrative assistant conducts the first and second readings of By-law 1900. Council dispensed with full reading since notices under subsection 15(3) of the Local Governance Act have been posted.

Renaud Ouellette / Jean-Maurice Gagnon,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the first reading of By-law 1900, modifying the Grand Falls Zoning by-law as read. Carried

Annie Deschênes / Renaud Ouellette,

that the Grand Falls Town Council adopt the second reading of By-law 1900, Modifying the Grand Falls Zoning by-law as read. Carried

Grand Falls Central Business Development Corp. Inc. – 2022 budget

The Deputy Clerk proceeds with the third reading of By-law 74. The reading in full is dispensed with pursuant to section 15(3) of the Local Governance Act and required notices.

Renaud Ouellette / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2021-101 That the 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., as read. Carried**

NEW BUSINESS

By-Law 17 – water and sewer

The administrative assistant proceeds with the first two readings of By-law 17. The reading in full is dispensed with pursuant to section 15(3) of the Local Governance Act and required notices.

Jean-Réal Michaud / Joe Themens,

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 / Jean-Maurice Gagnon,

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

Annie Deschênes / Jean-Maurice Gagnon,

- 2021-102 That the Grand Falls Town Council declares emergency and proceeds with the third reading immediately. Carried**

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

Joe Themens / Jean-Réal Michaud,

- 2021-103 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**

Internal Control

Mayor invites Treasurer, Rino Laforge, to come and address the public for a few minutes to explain the town's purchase orders, invoices, and claims process. Details are given on expenses and per diem

for council members. Councillor Annie Deschênes specifies that a press release will be published to this effect following the meeting.

Retirement

Annie Deschênes / Jean-Maurice Gagnon

2021-104 That the Town Council accepts the resignation of Peter Michaud from his position as Chief Executive Officer effective December 31, 2021. Carried

Acting CAO-Clerk – position

Annie Deschênes / Renaud Ouellette

2021-105 That Éric Gagnon be appointed to the position of Acting Chief Administrative Officer - Clerk for the Town of Grand Falls at the salary established according to the salary scale and benefits based on policy 2006-10, working conditions, starting January 1, 2022. Carried

Eric shares thanks and excitement about his new position, wishes everyone happy holidays, and thanks people in the healthcare department for their dedication and hard work throughout the pandemic.

OTHER

Public and media intervention

Rodrigue Cyr

Asks if the company that made the skateboard park is the same company as the one in Edmundston. R.T.C. director replies that he is not sure about the one in Edmundston, but they did the one in Fredericton. He asks if curling is still practiced and if the building is being used because Marco did not mention it in his report. Marco confirms that yes, but the province's regulations related to Covid-19 prevent a regular schedule for practicing the sport at this time. He then questions if the documents prepared for the Knights of Columbus are ready. He is informed that the documents will be ready in January.

Robert Godbout

Asks that council have more recognition and appreciation for his business established in Grand Falls for 75 years.

Patrick Durepos

Shares positive and optimistic comments on the upcoming year and how this will be a great reset for a new municipality.

David Côté

Ask why Peter's position has not been posted? The mayor replies that the position was filled internally so we did not need to post it.

Danny Soucy

Asks for and receives clarification on the motions made tonight regarding finance, water, and changes to the municipal plan and zoning by-law.

Question on Facebook

Council receives a question on Facebook from Eric Langlais who would like to know the exact amount agreed and how much the city will pay to the neighboring property on the left to cancel the 99-year agreement on the Front Street lot. The mayor indicates that the amounts and agreements cannot be shared but that a compensation agreement has been made for the work done on the lot.

Another question asks why the deputy chief of police presented the annual report and not the chief and why with the new organizational structure we do not see more patrolling of the

streets. The mayor confirms that Chief Themens is on vacation and that the structure is currently asking for a two-member platoon but after the trial period, they will return to a three-member platoon instead of two.

Rico Proulx asks when the General Manager position was advertised. The mayor explains that the position has been filled internally so didn't need to be posted.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor thanks everyone for assisting, reminds them of the next meeting on January 11, 2022 and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Jean-Réal Michaud/Renaud Ouellette, that the meeting adjourns at 9:25 p.m. Carried

Marcel Deschênes
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk