

MINUTES

JULY 13, 2021

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

The Grand Falls Municipal Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Council room at the Grand Falls Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, following the notices required by law. This meeting is being streamed live on the municipal Facebook page.

PRESENCE

His Honour the Mayor:

Marcel Deschênes

Councillors:

Renaud Ouellette  
Jean Réal Michaud  
Jean Maurice Gagnon

Annie Deschênes  
David Raines  
Jocelyn « Joe » Themens

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deschênes welcomes everyone. This meeting is the first of the new Council.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Joe Themens declares conflict with items to do with the Grand Falls Police Force.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Jean Maurice Gagnon/Annie Deschênes,**

**2021-034 That the agenda is accepted with the addition of “La Rochelle” at 7.2.  
Carried**

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

**Jean Réal Michaud / Joe Themens,**

**2021-035 That the minutes from the April 13 and 27, 2021 as well as June 14, 2021 meetings, which copies were distributed to Council members, are adopted as received. Carried**

DRINKING WATER

All potable water analyses since the last meeting show « potable water » results.

**Jean Maurice Gagnon/Renaud Ouellette,**

**2021-036 That the potable water analyses are received and filed. Carried**

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Work on the boulevard and sidewalks is progressing well. Asphalt will be installed soon. Everyone's patience is appreciated. Council expects work to be finished in mid-October.

Technologist

**Jean Maurice Gagnon/Renaud Ouellette,**

- 2021-037      **That Patrick Daigle be hired as Technologist for the Public Works Department at the established salary and with benefits per policy 2006-10, Working Conditions. Carried**

Mr. Daigle will replace an employee who has left to open a private business.

Temporary operator

**Jean Maurice Gagnon/Annie Deschênes,**

- 2021-038      **That Daniel Poitras be hired as temporary operator at the Public Works Department with salary and benefits per the collective agreement. Carried**

**Jean Maurice Gagnon/Joe Themens,**

- 2021-039      **That Éric Côté be hired as temporary operator at the Public Works Department with salary and benefits per the collective agreement. Carried**

Both employees will replace employees on leave.

Andy Guerrette – probation

**Jean Maurice Gagnon/Renaud Ouellette,**

- 2021-040      **Given that Andy Guerrette has successfully completed his probation period as Water treatment plant operator for the Grand Falls Public Works Department, that Town Council confirms his status as a permanent employee. Carried**

ADMINISTRATION/ COMMUNICATIONS

Councilor Deschênes has met with the administration staff since being sworn in. Emphasis will be on maximizing communications and making information more readily accessible to the population.

Tune in to our Website, Twitter and Facebook pages.

Restaurant Les Chutes Ltée – lease

**Annie Deschênes/Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

- 2021-041      **That a lease is granted to Restaurant Les Chutes Ltée. as indicated on the tentative subdivision plan prepared by W. E. Hodges Surveys Ltd, dated May 10, 2021, file no. 2518-1. Carried**

HUMAN RESOURCES

Érica Laforge – administrative support

**Annie Deschênes /Jean Réal Michaud,**

- 2021-042      **That Érica Laforge be hired as administrative support 1 for the Land Use Planning Department as of April 26, 2021 with the salary established on the salary scale and according to policy 2006-10, Working Conditions. Carried**

Jessica Pouliot – probation

**Annie Deschênes /Joe Themens,**

- 2021-043      **Given that Jessica Pouliot has successfully completed her probation period as Planning Officer / Building Inspector for the Land Use Planning Department, that Town Council confirms her status as a permanent employee. Carried**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Deputy Mayor met the director. A request for funding has been completed. The Chamber's membership has grown by 200 more members. The Chamber plans promotions and to recruit businesses from outside.

CULTURAL SOCIETY

The group has elected a new president and a new vision. They wish to partner with miscellaneous cultural groups in the region to offer more activities.

FARMERS' MARKET

A meeting was held with the committee to discuss the order received from the Fire Marshall. The necessary corrections were made.

MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Fire station: The start-up meeting took place this morning. Some delays are expected. The contractor plans to make-up for lost time during the project. End of construction is planned for September 2022.

The contractor is hiring local workers. Interested individuals can apply by contacting the company.

Skate park: The project is progressing quickly and should be completed within six weeks.

FIRE

Councilor Raines has spoken with the chief. Firefighters are doing extraordinary work.

Fire station

**David Raines/Jean Réal Michaud,**

- 2021-044      **That the Grand Falls Town Council accepts the tender received from Simpson Building Contractors Ltd. for the revised amount of \$5,997,300 plus tax for the construction of a new fire station. Carried**

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Summer activities as well as Cataract baseball games have begun.

The water park and pool are open. The schedule is on the department's Facebook page.

The Malabean Tourist Center and boutique are open. There have been 2 475 visitors since the center's opening and 18 reservations at the camping.

Lots of work has been done on the golf course. The Chamber of commerce tournament is scheduled for August 20.

Golf Club – signing officers

**Joe Themens/Jean Réal Michaud,**

- 2021-045      **That the Town of Grand Falls CAO/Clerk, Peter Michaud, the Treasurer, Rino Laforge or the Deputy Treasurer, Dophe Laforge along with the Mayor, Marcel Deschênes, the Deputy Mayor, Renaud Ouellette or Councillor Annie Deschênes are named signing officers for the Grand Falls Golf Club Inc. Carried**

LIBRARY

The library has cancelled late fees since June. Individuals who do not return books will be charged for said book.

A new committee was elected with Beatrice Long as President.

Mini libraries will be set-up along municipal walking trails in the future.

POLICE

\*Councillor Joe Themens declares conflict of interest and leaves the meeting.\*

The department asks for the public's help in solving the disappearance of Lori Swan. Please contact the police force if you have any information.

Appreciation: two young girls brought gift cards to officers who had to step in during a demonstration.

Part-time constable

**Jean Réal Michaud/David Raines,**

- 2021-046      **That the Grand Falls Municipal Council appoints Charles Antoine Robert as a part time police officer pursuant to section 11 of the Police Act with probation period per the collective agreement between the Town of Grand Falls and the Grand Falls Police Association. Carried**

Councillor Michaud welcomes constable Robert.

Full-time constable

**Jean Réal Michaud / Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

- 2021-047      **That Daniel Levesque be hired as full-time constable for the Grand Falls Police Force with salary and conditions per the agreement between the Town of Grand Falls and the Grand Falls Police Association. Carried**

FINANCES

Financing request

**Renaud Ouellette/David Raines,**

- 2021-048      **That the Grand Falls Town Council resolve that the Clerk, Treasurer or Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation a Municipality of Grand Falls debenture in the principal amount of \$176,000 on such terms and conditions as are recommended by the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, and be it resolved that the Municipality of Grand Falls agrees to issue post-dated cheques payable to the**

**New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation as and when they are requested in payment of principal and interest charges on the above debenture. Carried**

This amount had been borrowed for the water reservoir in St-Georges.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marina

Mayor Deschênes explains the request received that the Town keep the marina property. He explains that Council is studying the possibility of selling the building only. The Town has been looking to let go of its restaurant facilities for some time.

Two offers were received, and Council is currently meeting with the two groups. The population will be advised once Council arrives to a decision.

La Rochelle

Council asks that people respect its decisions. Some are unhappy that the center is closed. The Mayor explains that the center remains closed because of the ongoing construction on roads leading to the property. Also nearby, is the construction for the skate park. Council continues to evaluate the situation and the center will be opened as soon as it is possible to do so safely. The pandemic has also affected many municipal installations. We hope that it's behind us.

NEW BUSINESS

Book donations

Individuals can visit the library to see surplus books.

Downtown Central Business Development Corp. - incentive

The DCBDC offers a new building incentive. Contact the CAO, Peter Michaud, or the Corporation for more information.

Blue bins – recycling

Council explains that the bins provided by the Town must remain with the property. Owners must not bring the bin with them when moving. The Town encourages people to bring back the bins taken as they can be traced.

OTHERS – Council, public and media interventions

- Public intervention

Dick Grondin and Rita Inman

Mr. Grondin and Mrs. Inman propose an activity at the Malabean center for NB Day. The cost would be \$300.

Council will consider their proposal and respond without delay.

Madeleine Leclerc

Dog park: The RTC Department is looking for another site as the neighbors of the last proposed site had objections. People are encouraged to suggest sites they believe will be appropriate. The RTC Director will present a plan to Council in the coming weeks. We hope to have a park by 2022.

Low-cost housing: Many people are searching for affordable housing. Ms. Leclerc asks if the Town was approached to build any. The Mayor answers that he hasn't heard anything for our region.

ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor hopes to be able to fill up the hall with citizens soon. He reminds people that Council members are here to serve the population in a transparent manner.

Jean Maurice Gagnon/Renaud Ouellette, that the meeting is adjourned at 8 p.m. Carried

---

Marcel Deschênes  
Mayor

---

Lise J. Ouellette  
Deputy Clerk