

MINUTES

MARCH 16, 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, March 16, 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  
Rino Long  
Michel « Rocky » Ouellette

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deschênes welcomes spectators on Facebook. He reminds viewers that questions may be asked before the end of the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts mentioned.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

**Renaud Ouellette/Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

**2021-001 That the agenda is accepted as presented. Carried**

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

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

**2021-002 That the minutes from the December 15, 2021 regular meeting, 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.

**Renaud Ouellette /Rino Long,**

**2021-003 That the potable water analyses are received and filed. Carried**

## MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PUBLIC WORKS

Crews have been busy clearing snow during February and pothole repairs have started. The positions of technologist and operator will be filled soon. A portion of Theriault Street was closed this morning and will remain closed during spring thaw.

Broadway Boulevard – phase 2

**Renaud Ouellette/Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

**2021-004 That Town Council accepts the revised price received from Falls Construction Ltd. in the amount of \$5,613,410 plus tax for phase 2 of the Broadway Boulevard renovations. Carried**

Prices received:

Falls Construction Ltd.	\$6,912,790.
Restigouche Construction Co. Ltd.	\$7,110,351.
Dexter Construction Company Ltd.	\$7,170,270.

### PLANNING

Five construction permits were given last month.

### ENVIRONMENT

An air quality monitor will be installed soon.

### FIRE

Training has started again but in small groups. The tender will soon be available for the new fire station.

### FARMERS' MARKET

The market will open in 2021. Arrangements are being made to accommodate more merchants. Please contact the manager if interested.

### RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Prices for the 2021 golf season are listed on the website. Work was done on holes 1 and 2 and there is continues at hole 16.

Councilor Gagnon notes the excellent state of the snowshoe, fat bike and cross-country ski trails and encourages people to take advantage of these trails. Council thanks the volunteers who maintain them.

### LIBRARY

The library is planning mini libraries along municipal trails. More information to come.

### POLICE

The police force continues to work in collaboration with Public Health concerning COVID-19 restrictions.

Requests for record checks will soon be available online.

Presentations were done in schools concerning laws and the roles of police as well as bullying.

Kémie Levesque – probation period

Jean Réal Michaud /Rino Long,

- 2021-005      Given that Kémie Levesque has finished her probation period successfully as a constable with the Grand Falls Police Force, that Town Council confirms her employment as a permanent employee as recommended by the Chief of police. Carried

Gabrielle Landry Morneau – hiring

Jean Réal Michaud/Rino Long,

- 2021- 006      That the Grand Falls Town Council appoints Gabrielle Landry Morneau 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

#### FINANCES

Finances are going very well in part because of the easy winter. Auditors have finished the 2020 audit and a surplus is expected. The public presentation will be done at the April meeting.

Accounts receivable – cancelled amount

Rino Long/Michel "Rocky" Ouellette,

- 2021-007      That the amount of \$ 3,192.60 be cancelled in the 2020 general fund accounts receivable. Carried

Accounts receivable – provision

Rino Long/Renaud Ouellette,

- 2021-008      That the amount of \$ 3,011.36 be set aside in the 2020 water and sewer fund accounts receivable. Carried

Accounts receivable – cancelled amount

Rino Long / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2021-009      That the amount of \$ 11,880.43 be cancelled in the 2020 water and sewer fund accounts receivable. Carried

Fire protection – water cost

Rino Long / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

- 2021-010      That the amount water cost for fire protection is reduced from \$80,000 to \$45,000 for the year 2020. Carried

Financing request

Rino Long / Jean Réal Michaud,

- 2021-011      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 \$160,000 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

Incentive measure – renovations – amendment

**Rino Long / Jean Réal Michaud,**

2021-012 That the Town Council adopts the second amendment to the renovation incentive measure. Carried

Incentive measure – new construction – amendment

**Rino Long / Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

2021-013 That the Town Council adopts the second amendment to the new construction incentive measure. Carried

ADMINISTRATION

Employee bond

**Rino Long / Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

2021-014 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts the document showing the bonding of employees as received from Archway Insurance and policy no. CP80469 effective December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2021. Carried

Policy 2017-02, amendment 1 – Communication devices, e-mail and the Internet

**Rino Long / Jean Réal Michaud,**

2021-015 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts amendment 1 to policy 2017-02 on communication devices, e-mail and the Internet. Carried

Policy 2009-01, amendment 1 – Cell phone use

**Rino Long / Jean Maurice Gagnon,**

2021-016 That the Grand Falls Town Council adopts amendment 1 to policy 2009-01 on cell phone use. Carried

OTHERS – Council, public and media interventions

- Council intervention

Update on major projects: Mayor Deschênes reviews the reconstruction of Broadway started four years ago. Phase 2 will start in the spring. The project will be explained in greater detail to affected merchants.

Some cuts were made to the original contract to stay within budget. The Town asks for everyone's patience during construction.

Other projects include a skateboard park that will be built in the vicinity of the John Caldwell School and the fire station for which the tender request will be posted within a few days.

The Mayor explains the choice of the land on Portage Road and that the soil of the previous property, bought from Northern Construction, was inadequate.

Old courthouse: The Town has bought the Dollard Bélanger building given the very affordable price. The use for the building will be announced shortly.

Curling club: The Town has also bought the curling club. The club will operate the curling during the winter and the Town will have use of the building during the summer.

Major works, including the Broadway and fire station, valued at over \$12 million dollars will be undertaken this year.

COVID-19: Mayor Deschênes expresses his appreciation to the residents for their behavior and perseverance and encourages everyone to continue. Better days are ahead.

ATV: A question from the audience asks if ATV's will be able to take the detour onto municipal streets during the Broadway project. The Mayor confirms that they will.

Elections: The Mayor, as well as Councilors JR Michaud, R. Ouellette and JM Gagnon announce their candidacy for the upcoming municipal elections. Councilors R. Long and M. Ouellette will not be re-offering.

Next meeting: This Council's last meeting will be held on April 13 when the accounting firm will present the 2020 financial statements.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Rino Long /Jean Maurice Gagnon, that the meeting is adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Carried

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Marcel Deschênes  
Mayor

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Lise J. Ouellette  
Deputy Clerk