

MINUTES

SEPTEMBRE 13, 2022

GRAND FALLS

MEETING

A regular meeting of the Grand Falls Town Council in New Brunswick was held at the Marcel Deschênes Building in the Roland Lafrance Room beginning at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, following the 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

as well as the CAO/Clerk, Éric Gagnon, and the Deputy Clerk, Lise J. Ouellette.

OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mayor Deschênes welcomes everyone in attendance.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts are reported.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,

2022-083 That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Annie Deschênes/Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2022-084 That the municipal council adopt the minutes from the July 12, 2022, meeting as received. Carried

DRINKING WATER

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

Renaud Ouellette/ Joe Themens,

2022-085 that drinking water tests be received and filed. Carried

MOTIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

POLICE

The new Deputy Chief is in office.

An operation was completed last week with motorists to check documentation, use of cell phones and others.

A constable position has been posted.

The police force recommends that people lock their vehicles and residences and contact the police force if they notice suspicious activity.

ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

A full-time day labourer position is posted, and a building inspector position will be posted shortly.

Salary scale – non-unionized

Annie Deschênes / Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2022-86 That Town Council adopt the salary scale dated August 9, 2022, for non-unionized staff of the town of Grand Falls. Carried

Communications and Marketing Coordinator

Annie Deschênes/ Renaud Ouellette,

2022-87 That Grand Falls Town Council hire France Le Moignan as Communications and Marketing Coordinator with salary according to the salary scale, benefits according to Policy 2006-10, Working Conditions, and applicable probation period. Carried

Councillor Deschênes introduced Ms. LeMoignan and welcomed her.

Policy on Working Conditions – Amendment 4

Annie Deschênes/Joe Themens,

2022-88 That Town Council adopt the 4th amendment to Policy 2006-10 (R). Carried

This change relates to the amount of vacation offered when hiring a new employee and the benefits available to retirees.

Jacques Desjardins – resignation

Annie Deschênes/David Raines,

2022-89 That Grand Falls Town Council accept the resignation of Jacques Desjardins as Building Inspector, effective September 23, 2022. Carried

François Michaud – appointed building inspector

Annie Deschênes/Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2022-90 Whereas the Town of Grand Falls intends to allow certain employees of the Grand Falls Land Use Planning Department to issue orders to any person who commits an offence under the Community Planning Act and municipal by-laws made under that Act;

Be it resolved that the Town of Grand Falls designate François Michaud as planning officer and building inspector;

Be it resolved that François Michaud be authorized, designated and appointed under the municipal authority of Grand Falls described below to act for and on behalf of council to ensure the enforcement of by-laws under the Community Planning Act within the administrative limits of the Town of Grand Falls;

It is also resolved that the above appointment includes the following sections: 133, 134, 138 and 139 of the Community Planning Act in order to enter onto the property, apply for orders from the Court of Queen's Bench, and commence proceedings in provincial court;

It is further resolved that, upon approval from the municipal council, the appointee be authorized to retain the services of a lawyer to undertake such proceedings as may be deemed desirable to ensure compliance with the by-laws contravened;

It is also resolved that the above authorizations, designations and appointments continue as long as they are not limited or terminated by council. Carried

François Michaud – unsightly places

Annie Deschênes/Joe Themens,

2022-091 Whereas the Grand Falls Town Council has adopted By-law 56 *A By-law of the municipality of Grand Falls respecting dangerous and unsightly premises*;

That the Grand Falls Municipal Council appoint François Michaud as enforcement officer for By-law 56, *A By-law of the municipality of Grand Falls respecting dangerous and unsightly premises*, and that the enforcement officer be empowered to take the measures and exercise the powers and duties set out in the By-law and in the Local Governance Act that he or she considers necessary for the inspection of the premises and the application of the provisions of By-law 56.

It is also resolved that the above appointment includes paragraphs 144, 151, 152, 157 and 158 of the Local Governance Act.

It is further resolved that, upon approval by town council, the appointee be authorized to retain the services of a lawyer to undertake the proceedings deemed desirable to ensure compliance with By-law 56.

It is further resolved that the above authorizations, designations and appointments continue as long as they are not limited or terminated by council. Carried

LIBRARY

Many activities are starting at the library and are listed on their Facebook page. Free passes are available this month to King's Landing and Hopewell Rocks. The Speak To Me workshops return in the fall. It is noted that the library will be closed on September 16 for staff training.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The first edition of the leisure fair took place on September 10 with 31 exhibitors and 600 visitors. Fifty volunteers were recruited by the various associations present. The whole thing was a great success and well appreciated by our newcomers.

The Chamber of Commerce golf tournament was a huge success with 44 teams participating.

The project to light the falls is progressing well. The unveiling is planned for the end of October. More details to come.

The pumpkin decorating contest returns in October. More information to come. People who have ideas for activities are invited to get involved in the community.

PUBLIC WORKS

Several repairs were made to municipal infrastructure and a storm sewer pipe was replaced. The grass was also cut along the main streets.

Council notes the \$1.2 million that has been invested in the streets this year.

The deputy mayor thanks the Director of Public Works who has seen an eventful year.

Main Street, Milling and Paving – Bids

Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,

2022-92 That Town Council accept the bid received from Northern Construction Inc. for the work on Main Street in the amount of \$1,065,571 plus taxes. Carried

Other price received: Ray's Paving \$1,385,070 plus tax

The Town is responsible for paying 10% of the project for this provincially designated road.

Road Salt Trucking – Bids

Renaud Ouellette/Jean Maurice Gagnon,

2022-093 That Town Council accept the bid received from Les fermes Dani Inc. for the trucking of road salt in the amount of \$27 plus taxes per metric ton. Carried

Other price received: Brennan Farms Ltd. \$35.65 plus tax

FINANCE

The mayor gives a summary of last week's finance committee meeting. Spending is closely monitored this time of year. More details will be available at the end of September.

Signing officers

Renaud Ouellette/David Raines,

2022-94 That Resolution 2022-022 adopted by the Grand Falls Town Council on February 8, 2022, be repealed and replaced by the following:

That the CAO/Clerk, Éric Gagnon or the Treasurer, Dophe Laforge as well as Mayor Marcel Deschênes, Deputy Mayor Renaud Ouellette or Councillor Annie Deschênes, be appointed signing officers for the Municipality of Grand Falls. Carried

Visa Desjardins

Renaud Ouellette/David Raines,

2022-095 That the moral entity delegates, to the individuals hereinafter designated, the power of contact to request Visa Desjardins cards (the Cards), including their renewal and replacement, if necessary, with the credit limit or limits granted by the "Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec" (the Federation);

That the moral entity is the debtor towards the Federation of loaned sums and all other debts related to the use of the Cards and all related products, including sums exceeding the applicable credit limits, as well as applicable interest and charges;

That the moral entity commits that the Cards are used subject to the Federation's variable credit contract conditions which accompany them and is responsible for all debts and obligations ensuing from the disrespect of these conditions;

That the people identified hereinafter are authorized to sign any useful or necessary documents to give full effect to this resolution, to request any changes to the Cards issued, including all increase of the credit limit or limits, and that he or she have all the rights and powers associated with the management and use relating to the Cards;

That the individuals hereinafter designated may indicate to the Federation persons responsible to ensure the management of the Cards' account, including in particular the designation and removal of the business' representatives authorised to obtain a Card, the distribution and modification of the Card's authorized credit limits as well as the addition and deletion of options related to the Cards, as need be;

Name of the individuals delegated: **Éric Gagnon.**

That the **Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec** may consider this resolution in force until it receives a notice of its amendment or repeal. **Carried**

Recreation, Tourism and Culture – Visa Card

Renaud Ouellette/Annie Deschênes,
2033-096 That Town Council approve that a Visa card be granted to the Recreation, Tourism and Culture Department. **Carried**

Application for funding

Renaud Ouellette/Jean Maurice Gagnon,
2022-097 Resolve that the Clerk, Treasurer or Mayor be authorized to issue and sell to the New Brunswick Municipal Finance Corporation, on behalf of the Municipality of Grand Falls, a debenture for the capital amount of \$3,500,000 on the conditions proposed by the Corporation, and that it also be resolved that the Municipality of Grand Falls agree to issue post-dated cheques payable to the Municipal Finance Corporation of New Brunswick, in the required form and on the required dates, in repayment of the principal and interest on the said debenture. **Carried**

FIRE

The construction of the fire station is progressing well. People are still being asked to avoid the construction zone.

Ladder truck

David Raines/Joe Themens,
2022-098 That the Grand Falls Town Council accept the price received from Eastcan Fire Trucks Inc. in the amount of \$99,000 plus taxes, for the purchase of a used ladder truck for the fire department. **Carried**

RECREATION, TOURISM AND CULTURE

The Department congratulates the Grand Falls swim team, provincial champions. The pool is now closed as well as the La Rochelle Center and the Frolic program is over. The La Rochelle Centre saw more than 5,000 visitors. Artisans are invited to contact the tourism office to sell their crafts at the center. The golf course is always very busy. A record number of rounds were played this year, exceeding 15,000. Two major tournaments were held this year. Council congratulates the six players who achieved a hole-in-one. September 18 will be the last day at the campground. A lot of positive feedback was received again this year. A sale will take place at the Malabean Center gift shop from October 2 to 10.

PLANNING/ENVIRONMENT

ARB Investment Inc., Portage Road – Municipal Plan Amendment

Joe Themens/David Raines,

2022-099 That Council publish a notice on its website and on its Facebook page in accordance with Section 25 of the Community Planning Act, advising of its intention to amend the Municipal Plan to affect parts of the properties having PIDs 65212177; 65095945; 65096364, belonging to ARB Investment Inc.; Transportation et Infrastructure; Donald Bouchard, and located along Portage Road in Grand Falls, NB

For the purpose of the Municipal Plan, the land use classification changes as follows:

- Affect parts of the properties having the PIDs 65212177; 65095945; 65096364, from Resources to Industrial.

That a public presentation be held in Council Chambers on October 11th, 2022, at 7 p.m. to present the proposed amendments.

That written objections to the said amendments may be made to the Council by forwarding them to the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days after the public presentation is held.

That the Town Clerk take care, in the name and for the Council, of publishing the public notice prescribed by section 25 of the Community Planning Act, 2017, Chapter 19. Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Project updates

Bicycle path: the next meeting will take place tomorrow to finalize the call for tenders.

Marina building: many renovations have been made on the outside of the building.

Marina Revitalization Project: Stantec's study is expected at the end of September. Committee members will be invited to the presentation.

Sports complex: We are waiting for the engineers. The planning work continues.

136 Broadway – update

Council encourages people to remain respectful towards the owner when commenting on social media. The owner has appealed the notice.

NEW BUSINESS

Municipalities' Week – September 19-25

A press release will be issued to mark the week. No activities will be organized given the workload caused by the transition.

Little River Bridge – follow-up

A letter was received from the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on August 28 indicating that the bridge will not be renovated in the next three years and possibly not for the next ten years. The Municipality will continue to include the bridge as a priority in its five-year plan.

Recycling/waste

The contamination problem caused when a resident places garbage in their recycling bin is explained. The council asks people to use the bins properly.

Containers – Regulations

The CAO explains that containers are allowed in industrial zones only and with a permit. These containers are not permitted as an accessory building.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on October 11th. Follow the Town on Facebook in case of change.

OTHER

- Council intervention

Council congratulates the CAO who has also been appointed CAO for the new regional municipality.

The mayor proclaims the week of October 2 to 8 as Breastfeeding Week.

Transition: The mayor reports on preparations for the transition. It takes a lot of work, and staff and the transition committee are currently preparing the budgets.

The Northwest Regional Services Commission is also in transition with new responsibilities such as regional tourism and regional economic development. Not all municipalities agree, especially those who already have services for which they will have to pay into the NWRSC budget, such as economic development and tourism.

- Public intervention

Ghislain Langlais

Mr. Langlais asks who paid for the repairs to the Broadway Boulevard curb. The mayor informs him that the repair was paid by the Town since the warranty had expired.

Mr. Langlais points out ramps that have not been well secured. The Director of Public Works will check.

Robert Godbout

Mr. Godbout comments on the notice he received to move a container installed on his property without a permit. He finds this deplorable since the container serves as a warehouse for the community garden.

He complains about the machinery parked near the bike path and that the case is still not settled. Council informs him that a file is open and that communications continue with the Land Use Planning Department. However, no further discussion will take place this evening regarding this case, which remains open.

As for the container, other owners have received and will continue to receive notices as containers are found. The CAO encourages people to contact the Land Use Planning Department if they plan to install a container on their property.

The Town of Grand Falls expects to meet with the group responsible for the community garden and Mr. Godbout in two weeks when he becomes available. The meeting will be held to discuss storage options since the container must be removed.

Mr. Godbout questions the appointment of François Michaud and the power to initiate legal proceedings. He encourages people to be vigilant and monitor what is happening.

As for the zoning amendments which began tonight, the CAO assures him that the affected property is not near Mr. Godbout's property.

He questions how many police officers will be hired for the transition. Chief Themens replied that it is not yet known and that the Town is waiting for a response from the province. Mr. Godbout questions how the Bélanger building can be renovated without knowing how many police officers will be on duty. He asked whether any space in that building will be leased to the private sector. The mayor informs him that there will not.

Michel Blais

Mr. Blais questions that the Town has not contacted landowners who are willing to donate land for the development of the marina. Council is waiting for the consultants' study to determine whether these properties will be required.

He questions what renovations will be made inside and when. He is told that the work will be done this winter and that the kitchen, and the hall will be renovated.

He asked whether the Town had received any grants for the repairs. All repairs were funded through municipal budgets.

Mr. Blais asked for council's decision on whether the building will be sold. The council is still waiting for the consultant's report.

Lorne Freake

Mr. Freake indicated his interest in being part of the committee for the development of the marina's land.

He questions the development that is taking place in front of his residence and all the trees that have been cut down. He asked if an access is planned on Pirie Street. The CAO referred him to the Land Use Planning Department to verify the information on the plans.

CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Renaud Ouellette / Annie Deschênes, proposes the closing of the meeting at 8:25p.m. Carried

Marcel Deschênes
Mayor

Lise J. Ouellette
Deputy Clerk