



FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, September 17, 2013
PLACE: Four Points Sheraton
100, Rice Street
Edmundston, NB
TIME: 5:00p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Call to order

The Chairman, Pierre Michaud, called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m., and welcomed the committee members and staff present.

Members attending	
Mr. Pierre Michaud, president	Mayor of Clair
Mr. Carmel St-Amand, vice-president	Mayor of Saint-Léonard
Member absent	
Mr. Luc St-Jarre	Representing the LSD
Staff attending	
François Picard	General Manager
Jean Bourque	Manager of Waste Management Services
Maurice D'Amours	Manager of Planning

At the request of the Finance Committee and the General Manager, the managers of planning and waste management services were asked to attend the meeting for the final review of the budget that will be presented to the Board on September 25.

2. Planning Service Budget

The manager of planning presented the cooperative ad regional planning services budget for 2014. The budget went from \$45,600 to \$46,700 because of the increased 2013 tax base.

As for the local planning budget, the manager of planning presented the table of member contributions for a budget of \$1,320,813, along with the operating budget. He also noted that 3.5 jobs will be abolished by the restructuring.

The Finance Committee asked the General Manager and the manager of planning to meet with the Rural Community of Saint-André and examine the possibility of providing inspection services again, if possible before September 25.

With respect to unsightly premises services, the committee asked staff members to continue to evaluate how RSC#1 North West could provide the service.

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3. Waste management services budget

The Manager presented two scenarios, a balanced budget at \$57/ton and a balanced budget at \$63/T where the additional \$5/T would be used to build up a capital reserve fund.

The Manager also presented the impact of required future capital spending on future operating costs to justify increasing rates per ton to \$63 in 2014 and possibly \$68 in 2015.

The Manager feels that the Finance Committee absolutely must assess the possibility of increasing rates per ton to build up a capital reserve fund to handle expenses that will be incurred in 2015-2019.

In the 2014 fiscal year, expenses in the waste management operating budget will be reduced by over \$570,000.

The equivalent of six positions will be abolished through restructuring, reducing wages by \$320,854.

The Finance Committee will look at the issue and emphasized the importance of addressing the situation with the Board of Directors.

4. General Manager

The General Manager presented a budget summary and some of the tables for the September 25 meeting. The tables specifically deal with member fees for services provided by RSC#1 North West.

As to costs for planning services and the province's firm position that RSC#1 North West has to follow the general regulation (section 16 in regulation 2019-109), the General Manager asked the Finance Committee's authorization to continue discussions with the Department of the Environment and Local Government to present a transition budget, prepared by the manager of planning, that would facilitate a transition over two years for the municipalities formerly served by the La Vallée Commission.

The General Manager insisted and repeated to government authorities that this budget will allow a more flexible transition for the municipalities concerned and would be an excellent example of regional collaboration.

Given the unique situation in RSC#1 North West with respect to planning services and progress in the past few months on standardizing services in the region, the Finance Committee believes that a funding formula that is acceptable and equitable to all members must be found and asked the Manager to continue talking to the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:20p.m.

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PIERRE MICHAUD,
President/Chairman.

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FRANÇOIS PICARD,
General Manager.