



## **SPECIAL MEETING**

**DATE: Wednesday June 26, 2013**

**PLACE: Community Room – Municipal Building**

**Rivière-Verte, NB**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING # 6**

### **1.& 2. Call the meeting to order and attendance**

Mr. Pierre Michaud president, called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., he welcomed everyone.

#### **Members attending**

Mr. Alpha Nadeau

Mr. Cyril Rioux

Mr. Alain Martel

Mr. Michel LeBlond

Mrs. Ginette Beaulieu-Moreau

Mr. Cyrille Simard

Mr. Richard Keeley

Mr. Gérard Cyr

Mr. Roger Levesque

Mr. Rino Morneau

Mr. Roland Dubé

Mr. Louis Labrie

Mr. Pierre Michaud, President

Mrs. Francine Caron

Mr. Rodrigue Levesque

Mr. Allain Desjardins

Mr. Luc St-Jarre

Mr. Doris Blanchard

Mr. Carmel St-Amand, Vice-President

Mayor of Lac Baker

Mayor of Drummond

Representing the LSD of Saint-Quentin

Mayor of Rivière-Verte

Representing the LSD of Drummond

Mayor of Edmundston

Mayor of Grand Falls

Mayor of Saint-François

Mayor of Sainte-Anne de Madawaska

Deputy Mayor of Saint-Hilaire

Mayor of Saint-Hilaire

Representing the LSD of Saint-François

Mayor of Clair

Mayor of Baker Brook

Mayor of Saint-Quentin

Mayor of the Rural Community of Saint-André

Representing the LSD of St-Jacques

Department of Environment and Local Government

Mayor of Saint-Léonard

#### **Member absent**

Mr. Jocelyn Sirois

Representing the LSD of Saint-Joseph

#### **Staff present**

François Picard

Nicole Rioux

General Manager

Administrative assistant – Head Office

#### **Special Guests**

Bruno Cyr

Regional emergency Region 1 and 12 management coordinator

Gérard Belliveau

General Manager of the Regional Service Commission # 7

**3. Adoption of the agenda**

**Motion No. 1**

Following a motion duly made by Mr. Carmel St-Amand, seconded by Mr. Allain Desjardins and unanimously carried, it was

**RESOLVED To accept the agenda of the special meeting of June 26, 2013.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4. Presentation by Mr. Bruno Cyr - Regional Emergency Region 1 and 12 Management Coordinator**

Mr. Bruno Cyr presented to members the responsibilities of the regional emergency management coordinators for an emergency operation in order to ensure the continuity of Government and coordinating provincial emergency operations. He identified their planning responsibilities, their operational responsibilities, their training needs and regional responsibilities for recovery following an emergency. Mr. Cyr also defined the powers of the Minister and the powers of municipalities under the *Emergency Measures Act* Chapter 147. A copy of the presentation will be emailed to all members of the Board of Directors.

***This afternoon a meeting was held in Edmundston between members of the finance Committee: Messrs. Pierre Michaud, Carmel St-Amand, Luc St-Jarre and François Picard. Their guest was Mr. Gérard Belliveau, who presented the analysis of integrating of regional planning for the Regional Service Commission # 1 North West.***

**5. Presentation by Mr. Gérard Belliveau - Revision of planning services**

The Chairman Mr. Pierre Michaud mentioned that we are all accountable to our small municipalities and to our region. He introduced Mr Gérard Belliveau, who was hired to analyse the integration of regional planning services for the Regional Service Commission #1 North West.

Mr. Belliveau said that the North West region has two community planning commissions that will have to standardize their service delivery in the coming year for the good of the larger region. He analyzed the former commissions and what we have now. He wanted to clarify that his report is based on a concept to arrive at a consensus and then set a budget. He noted that you have to understand the responsibilities for community planning to properly understand the role of staff in relation to elected officials. He proposed three scenarios for the Board's consideration. Mr. Belliveau explained RSC#1 North West's role in planning and described the financial impact of the withdrawal of Edmundston and Grand Falls from RSC#1 North West's regional planning.

Mr. Belliveau noted that with the new *Regional Service Delivery Act*, all expenses for community planning have to be distributed according to the tax base of the participating communities. Despite the creation of RSC#1 North West, the amounts allocated to municipalities and unincorporated areas would have been adjusted. Creating RSC#1 North West only precipitated this.

Mr. Belliveau recommended scenario 3 with Appendix E. The transition could extend over two to three years. He recommended establishing in January a regional planning management committee of four or five persons to supervise and monitor the service and make recommendations to the Finance Committee. The management committee will have to establish performance measurements.

According to Mr. Richard Keeley, the situation seems to show that the Town of Grand Falls benefits from an unfair formula for inspection services. The size of the Town of Grand Falls' tax

base facilitates development for its neighbors. Mayor Keeley thinks that this is why the formula was readjusted a few years ago.

Mr. François Picard circulated the *Summary of the process to establish RSC operating and capital budgets*, a document from the Department of the Environment and Local Governments, and showed the timeline and guidelines for preparing the five budgets. If there is no agreement, the budget will have to be prepared based on the *Regional Service Delivery Act*.

Mr. Cyrille Simard indicated that regional solidarity is very important, it cannot be neglected and we have to offer the best possible services. The economic development of the City of Edmundston is dependent on the region and vice versa.

Mr. Luc St-Jarre said that we need in-depth reflection, involving choices and business decisions. We need to adopt the necessary directions to attain the desired outcomes, including economic development. Willingness is needed from staff. It would be to our benefit to define the extent of our mandate in the near future.

Mr. François Picard said that duties are going to be reorganized and that several municipal plans need updating. We already have a good idea what to focus on and should ask ourselves, "Is this within the mandate of planning, should the user pay, etc.?" It will be impossible to be all things to all people. If we want to set a budget, we will have to determine which services we want to offer and those that we can improve, and do a needs assessment.

Mr. Belliveau suggested that we list the different projects and then use the list as a basis for grant applications.

Mr. Richard Keeley asked that good arguments be presented before submitting an increase in costs for community planning – in the regional context it is impossible to increase taxes.

Mr. Carmel St-Amand asked whether it was possible to reduce costs so as to reduce increases to the municipalities.

The Chairman said that we have a good working document, that there is ample transparency and that the document gives us ammunition so that everyone can discuss things with their respective councils. He also said that the document shows us where we stand and that we have a lot of work to do. The taxation rate in the municipalities is too high according to a number of people. The Finance Committee will meet again over the summer to find solutions to the problems related to planning services.

## 6. **Adjournment**

### **Motion No. 13**

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Roland Dubé, it was

**RESOLVED To adjourn the meeting at 10:05p.m.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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Pierre Michaud, President

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François Picard, General Manger