



## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, October 23, 2014  
**PLACE:** Four Points Sheraton  
100, Rice Street, Edmundston, NB  
**TIME:** 11:00 a.m.

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### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### 1. Call meeting or order

Chairman, Mr. Pierre Michaud, called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

##### **Members attending**

Mr. Pierre Michaud, Chairman  
Mr. Carmel St-Amand, Vice-chairman  
Mr. Luc St-Jarre

Mayor of Clair  
Mayor of Saint-Léonard  
Representing the LSD

##### **Staff attending**

François Picard  
Maurice D'Amours

General Manager  
Planning Services Director

#### 2. Local planning budget

Following the withdrawal of the municipality of Grand Falls after the closed-door meeting, the General Manager and the Director of Planning presented to the members of the Finance Committee a new local planning budget as a working document showing the significant impact of the withdrawal of Grand Falls.

As mentioned by the GM during the closed-door meeting on October 8, 2014, it will be difficult to undertake additional budget cuts of \$265,000 because of the reductions already undertaken due to the withdrawal of the City of Edmundston. In reality, Local Planning Services have lost 55% of the regional tax base.

Note that in the working document presented the number of employees drops from 16 in 2013 to 8 for the 2015 budget.

The departure of Grand Falls will cause increases for the municipalities despite cuts in operations. The GM will look at the possibility of transferring a portion of the local budget for governance to Regional Planning, thus reducing the budget.

He will also check on the possibility of transferring part of the governance budget to Solid Waste Services, thus reducing costs to the municipalities, given the high institutional-commercial revenues for this department.

Local Planning Services ran a deficit of \$28,127 in 2013. This will be expensed for 2015. If we have a surplus in 2014, a reserve operating fund of \$10,000 and a capital reserve fund can be created to absorb it.

The Chair told us that he will be presenting a motion on behalf of the Village of Clair at the 'AFMNB' meeting scheduled for Dieppe on November 14 to 16, 2014, to resolve the problems with the *Regional Service Delivery Act* and the impact of the withdrawal by the municipalities on the services provided by the RSC.

This working document involves the following cuts:

Deduction:

- Planning = \$819,793 - \$476,412 (\$343,381)
- Inspection = \$501,020 to \$434,334 (\$66,686)
- Reduction in total budget of \$410,248 (31.06%)
- Anticipated budget deficit of \$149,159.

If it is possible to make a transfer from Local Planning to other departments, \$30,000 to \$40,000 will have to be redistributed to the remaining members.

Bringing Planning Services together under one roof with satellite offices was also discussed at the meeting (closing Edmundston and Grand Falls), as well as the logistics of moving.

### 3. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:20 p.m.

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PIERRE MICHAUD  
Chairman

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FRANÇOIS PICARD  
General Manager