



EXTRODINARY MEETING

DATE: November 9, 2022

LOCATION: 75 Principale Street, Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska

TIME: 6 :00 p.m.

MINUTES OF MEETING # 64

1.2. Attendance and call meeting to order

Since the chair was absent when the meeting began, it was agreed unanimously to appoint Ms. Roseline Pelletier as chair until Mr. Ouellet arrived. Ms. Pelletier welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Members attending

OUELLET, Jean-Pierre, Chairperson (arrives at 6h10)

PELLETIER, Roseline

ROUSSEL, Lise

LEVESQUE, Josée

GIRARD, Sylvie

DESCHÊNES, Marcel

DUBÉ, Carmon

LEVESQUE, Marcel

MARTEL, Alain

PARENT, Lisa, Vice-Chair (arrives at 6h12)

SOMERS, Nicole

ROUSSEL, France (arrives at 6h10)

ROY, Paul

Member absent

MARQUIS, Eric

Staff attending

BELLEFLEUR, Lise

THIBODEAU, Johanne

DUFOUR, Catherine

CASTONGUAY, Marie-Eve

Guests

SOUCY, Michel

DUBÉ, Gail

Mayor of Haut-Madawaska Community

Mayor of Lac Baker

Mayor of Saint-Léonard

Representing the LSD

Mayor of Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska

Mayor of Grand Falls

Representing the LSD

Mayor of Rural Community of Saint-André

Representing the LSD

Mayor of Rivière-Verte

Mayor of Saint-Quentin

Mayor of Drummond

Representing the LSD

Mayor of Edmundston

Executive Assistant

Financial Director

Planning Director

CEO

Transition Facilitator

Local Service Manager

**** Mr. Ouellet arrived in the meeting room.**

3. Disclosure of interest

None was declared

4. Approval of agenda

Motion No. 1

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Marcel Deschênes, seconded by Mr. Paul Roy and unanimously carried, it was **RESOLVED That the agenda of the extraordinary meeting of November 9, 2022, be accepted as presented.**

CARRIED

5. Motions : For the Solid Waste Sector for approval

Motion No. 2

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Nicole Somers, seconded by Mr. Marcel Deschênes unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED

For the Solid Waste Sector

Motion to transfer \$50,000 to RBC account folio 400-200-2 (current USD account).

- Moved that a cheque for \$50,000 CAD be drawn on account 29434 EOP at Uni Financial Cooperation Financière and deposited in our USD account folio 400-200-2 at RBC. This transaction is required to make sure that we have sufficient funds to cover two cheques: cheque # 998986 to Geotech Environmental Equipment Inc. in the amount of \$50,567.95 USD, which will be sent soon, and cheque # 998985 to QED Environmental Systems in the amount of \$9,306.42 USD, which is in circulation. The balance in our RBC USD on October 31 was \$46,002.40 USD and to cover the two cheques we needed \$59,874.37 USD, so we were short \$13,871.97 USD. Moved therefore to transfer \$50,000 CAD. At the present rate of 0.72759 according to the RBC site, that would give us \$36,379.50 USD. Thus we will have a balance of \$22,507.53 in our USD account, allowing us to continue operations till the end of December 2022.

CARRIED

6. Discussion - Local governance reform – Existing Mandates and Mandates to come

This meeting was held in response to the request for a meeting to reconsider CSRNO's position concerning the participation of other entities for sharing infrastructure costs.

Mr. Michel Soucy, transition facilitator, again presented the formula that he had suggested to the transition committee, and that was subsequently rejected by the Board.

To facilitate dialog and comprehension, it was suggested that we go around the table so everyone could express themselves.

The main problem, raised by a good majority of members, is to identify those elements that would show that infrastructure mentioned in the document can be deemed “regional”. Considering how large the territory is, it’s unreasonable to say that people who live in the Saint-Quentin region regularly use any of the facilities mentioned. The figures presented by the City of Edmundston show that about 1 to 4% of users of the Pavillon sportif are from the Saint-Quentin region or Maine. The question was, are these people students at CCNB or the university? The same for people from the region of Grand Falls and its surrounding area. Does the tiny percentage using the Pavillon justify calling the Pavillon regional?

An important point to consider, which is not financial in nature, is that CSRNO is facing a major challenge, that of working on a regional basis. Although most members recognize that the region is divided into four sectors, they also approved setting up the mandates required under the reform. These require both comprehension and extra money to deliver them in order for CSRNO to come out a winner.

Members recognized that a lot of work had been accomplished and that this question should be considered to be closed. The points brought up around the transition committee table had been evaluated properly and the decision was the fruit of reflection, because everyone recognized that there is no piece of infrastructure on CSRNO territory that should be considered to be regional. There may possibly be sub-regional facilities, but each new entity has one or more of them.

Members definitely showed some frustration with the absence of a representative of the City of Edmundston at this meeting. Forcing the others to participate financially in one or more facilities will endanger the work done by the transition committee.

The representatives of the Saint-Quentin region indicated that the option of working with the Restigouche RSC would be considered in some circumstances. It’s a trip of 100 kilometres or more to work with the others around the table, and then being forced to pay to support infrastructure that is practically unused by their citizens doesn’t seem to be acceptable.

As for the goal of establishing a sharing program, it’s to enhance the cost-sharing for the main sports, recreational and cultural facilities and infrastructure to improve sustainability, affordability, etc. Everyone is facing the same type of challenge with their own infrastructure. And then they want to force us to pay for our neighbours’ infrastructure.

The transition committee’s mandate was to make a list of the sports, recreational and cultural infrastructure in the region served by CSRNO. None of it meets the criteria set by the government. Here’s why: The first thing to recognize is the vast size of the RSC. Even with the stats from the City of Edmundston, it’s clear that only a very small number of people living more than 60 km away use the Pavillon sportif. Example: Saint-Quentin region and Maine. One year 1% and the other 4%. Are these students at CCNB or the university? Since Maine is closer, are there really a number of people from the Saint-Quentin region using it?

If we recognize that none of our facilities are regional in nature, we don’t need to propose a formula or to take the application deadline into consideration.

Here are the general comments of the members around the table for a facility to be considered regional:

1. It provides a truly regional advantage. In other words, residents of ALL REGIONS have access to and use the facility.
2. The extent of the facility's current operations and its capacity to host events are greater than those of other venues in the region.
Infrastructure exists in the other entities with the capacity to offer a certain number of activities. The only advantage is the aquatic centre, and even then the distance from outlying regions is a factor.
3. The unique nature of the facility – again the same arguments – the vast territory
4. The facility offers multiple possibilities for activities enjoyed by different age groups.
One member mentioned that when he was going door to door and met seniors living in run-down houses, he asked himself this question! Do I have to ask these people to pay for infrastructure in another municipality? For them, a 1-cent tax is an aggravating factor, and where they live is quite a distance from Edmundston.
5. Regional and outside groups and associations use the infrastructure often.
Local associations probably use it. Nothing demonstrates that regional groups do as well.

In conclusion, Mr. Soucy took a moment to give his observations.

The recommendation will be to establish in 2023 a committee to study the big picture with the help of a firm of experts and then report to CSRNO on what should come next.

Motion No. 3

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Marcel Deschênes, seconded by Mrs. Roseline Pelletier unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED That the transition facilitator, Mr. Michel Soucy, contact the Deputy Minister and indicate clearly that we disagree with sharing costs for the Pavillon sportif in Edmundston.

CARRIED

Recommendation

Ms. Roseline Pelletier made the following recommendation: That Mr. Ouellet send a letter to the Deputy Minister advising him of our members' disagreement with the cost-sharing, including the arguments discussed this evening, and to copy all members in on the correspondence. Mr. Ouellet confirmed that he would prepare the letter the next day.

6. Adjournment

Motion No. 4

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Roseline Pelletier unanimously carried, it is

RESOLVED To adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

CARRIED

.....
JEAN-PIERRE OUELLET
Chair

.....
MARIE-EVE CASTONGUAY
CEO

.....
LISE BELLEFLEUR
Session secretary