

**CANADA
PROVINCE DE QUÉBEC
MUNICIPALITY OF LOW**

MINUTES of the regular meeting of members of the Council of the Municipality of Low, held this 5th day of November 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall.

Those present are :

His Worship the Mayor	Morris O'Connor
Councillors	Albert Kealey Charles Kealey Maureen Rice Amanda St. Jean Theresa van Erp
Absent	Carole Boucher-Robert

The Director General/Secretary-Treasurer Franceska Gnarowski is also present.

(1) OPENING

The meeting is officially opened by his Worship the Mayor, Morris O'Connor.

(2) QUESTION PERIOD

From 7:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Introduction of Sûreté du Québec Officer Éric Audette, the new community police officer for Low.

(3) MINUTES

#170-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of October 1st 2012 be accepted as presented.

MOVED BY Councillor Charles Kealey

(4) AGENDA

#171-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented, and that it remain open for the duration of the meeting.

MOVED BY Councillor Amanda St. Jean

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(5) BILLS TO BE PAID

#172-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the list of invoices #11-2012, totalling \$218,469.44 be hereby accepted as presented;

AND THAT additional invoices in the amount of \$764.06 be added to this list, for a total of \$219,233.50.

AND THAT the Director General/Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to make the necessary budgetary arrangements.

MOVED BY Councillor Theresa van Erp

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFICATE

I, undersigned, Director General/Secretary-Treasurer, do hereby certify that funds are available for the expenses mentioned in resolution #172-11-2012, as approved by Council.

Director General/Secretary-Treasurer

(6) MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's verbal report of October activities.

6.1 ADMINISTRATION

(6.1.1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

(6.1.2) FQM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

#173-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Low renew its membership to the *Fédération québécoise des municipalités* (FQM) and pay dues of \$957.65 for 2013.

MOVED BY Councillor Maureen Rice
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.3) UNITED WAY DONATION

#174-11-2012

WHEREAS the Municipality of Low is grateful for the positive role the United Way occupies in our community;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Low donate \$150 to the United Way.

MOVED BY Councillor Albert Kealey
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.4) REQUEST FOR TAX EXEMPTION - SCOGESTION

WHEREAS SCOGESTION operates Camp Awacamenj Mino, located on the territory of the Municipality and acting positively in our community;

WHEREAS this site will host the [MOOT2013](#) event, uniting members of the Scouting Movement from all over the world;

#175-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality support SCOGESTION's tax exemption request to *Commission municipale du Québec*.

MOVED BY Councillor Charles Kealey
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.5) NOTICE OF MOTION – PUBLIC PARKING

Notice of motion is hereby given by Councillor Amanda St. Jean concerning the adoption of a by-law regarding parking by the public in Siskin Park, at the public boat launch, near Farm and Murdock Roads as well as in front of all dry hydrants.

(6.1.6) CPTAQ REQUEST

WHEREAS a request has been made by a landowner to build a second dwelling on his property measuring over three hundred (300) acres;

WHEREAS this landowner plans to build this second dwelling for use by a family member;

WHEREAS the occupant of the new dwelling will be a tenant and will be working in the employ of Jan & Walter Outfitters, the agricultural business operated by the applicant;

WHEREAS this business is a dynamic part of the attractiveness of our community's tourism economy;

#176-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality support a resident's request to build a second dwelling on the property identified by the applicant.

MOVED BY Councillor Charles Kealey
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.7) CHANGE OF ROAD NAME

WHEREAS the owner of Pelletier Road no longer grants right of passage to neighbouring residents;

WHEREAS these residents affected by this decision have collectively organized an alternative and now use another road for accessing their properties;

WHEREAS this new road was constructed thanks to the generosity of landowner Mr. Jean Legault;

#177-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality change the name of Pelletier Road for Jean-Legault Road;

AND THAT the Municipality recommend this change be received by the *Commission de toponymie du Québec*.

MOVED BY Councillor Amanda St. Jean
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.8) SALE FOR UNPAID TAXES

WHEREAS the owner of the property at 964 Highway 105 has refused to pay the taxes related to this property for over three years;

WHEREAS the Municipality, according to Section 1013 of the [Municipal Code of Québec](#), may seize and sell a property for non-payment of taxes in order to levy the amount owing;

#178-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality mandate its legal counsel to proceed without delay with the sale for taxes of the property at 964 Highway 105, Low.

MOVED BY Councillor Albert Kealey
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.9) OIL TANK – VENOSTA RECREATION CENTRE

#179-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality purchase an oil tank for the Venosta Recreation Centre, at a cost of \$1,095, in accordance with the agreement existing between the Municipality and the Venosta Recreation Association and confirmed by resolution #277-11-99 during a special meeting of the Council of the Municipality.

MOVED BY Councillor Maureen Rice
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.10) PROCEDURE DURING QUESTION PERIOD

WHEREAS an increasing number of persons wish to speak during the question period set aside at the beginning of every regular meeting of the Council of the Municipality;

WHEREAS the members of the public and of the Council often have difficulty understanding comments made during Question Period;

WHEREAS following up on issues raised during Question Period is of the utmost importance to the members of Council;

#180-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT members of the public wishing to express themselves during meetings of the Council of the Municipality must first stand, name themselves and wait to be acknowledged by His Worship the Mayor before speaking.

AND THAT this procedure be observed as of January 1st 2013.

MOVED BY Councillor Amanda St. Jean
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.11) ALLIANCE DES QUATRE RIVES – FIJNANCIAL AUDIT 2011

WHEREAS the Municipality of Low is a founding member of the *Alliance des Quatre rives*;

WHEREAS financial statements were prepared and presented by an auditor-chartered accountant during a regular meeting of Alliance members including the Municipality of Lac-Sainte-Marie;

WHEREAS the Alliance members moved to receive the audit statements as presented;

#181-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality receive the financial audit statement of the Alliance des Quatre rives for the period ending December 31st 2011, as presented.

MOVED BY Councillor Theresa van Erp
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.12) ST. MICHAEL'S HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS St. Michael's is once again being considered for closure;

WHEREAS St. Michael's continues to provide essential educational services to the youth of Low and neighbouring communities;

WHEREAS St. Michael's provides employment opportunities for residents of Low and is an important part of the economic fabric of the Municipality of Low;

WHEREAS every other community from Chelsea to Gracefield has a school;

WHEREAS commuting times for students will become untenable in the case of closure;

WHEREAS long commuting times leave students vulnerable to bullying on buses and limits time available for extra-curricular activities;

WHEREAS the new highway extension has made Low an easily accessible and affordable alternative to pricier residential options in Chelsea and Wakefield, especially for young families, a fact which will skew demographic predictions;

WHEREAS St. Michael's is one of only two English-language rural high schools between Chelsea and Maniwaki;

WHEREAS St. Michael's is home to the Community Learning Centre for the region;

WHEREAS St. Michael's provides special resources for students with learning disabilities, which constitute 45% of the student body;

WHEREAS St. Michael's is now one of the top academically successful schools within the board;

WHEREAS St. Michael's promotes life-long learning to all community members;

WHEREAS St. Michael's serves the people of 11 municipalities;

WHEREAS students in this area can choose to go to Gatineau or St. Michael's the school has still maintained a robust enrolment despite the lack of catchment area boundaries;

WHEREAS the majority of students at St. Michael's come from north or east of Low;

WHEREAS St. Michael's is a beacon of English language education rights;

WHEREAS St. Michael's promotes inter-generational relationships;

WHEREAS St. Michael's provides alternative outdoor education including skiing, canoeing, survival camping, snowshoeing, baseball, football, basketball, and soccer and skating;

WHEREAS the community of Low shares resources and infrastructure such as the arena and the community hall with St. Michael's;

WHEREAS St. Michael's provides work placement opportunities for kids who will not follow an academic track through the Work Oriented Training Pathway (WOTP);

WHEREAS St. Michael's consistently graduates over 90% of its students;

WHEREAS approximately 50% of graduates will go onto higher education;

WHEREAS the West Quebec School Board will have to consider the significant costs of displacing the students to another facility, possibly have to build a new one;

WHEREAS the citizens of Low and neighbouring communities want no child to be left behind and so have demanded that St. Michael's remain open and that the school receive the necessary financial support to update and improve the school;

#182-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT in light of the above preamble, Council of the Municipality of Low finds that there are more reasons to keep St. Michael's High School open than reasons to close it;

AND THAT the Council of the Municipality of Low rejects the arguments put forth by the West Quebec School Board justifying the closure of St. Michael's;

AND THAT the Council of the Municipality of Low supports investing in the school for a renewed and improved St. Michael's;

AND THAT this decision be shared by sending the text of this resolution to other municipalities in the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, to the Municipality of La Pêche, to the Municipality of Chelsea, to the Municipality of Val-des-Monts, to the Municipality of Alayn-Cawood, to the Municipality of Cantley, to the MRC des Collines and to the MRC of Pontiac.

MOVED BY Councillor Maureen Rice

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.13) PUBLIC TRANSIT

WHEREAS our region's economic development rests partly of the availability of a public transit service for the entirety of the rural territory of the MRC Vallée-de-la-Gatineau;

WHEREAS Transport Lemens already provides this service for residents of this territory;

#183-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality support Transport Lemens' efforts to secure funding from the Quebec Ministry of Transport for maintaining the current level of public transit services in the area.

MOVED BY Councillor Albert Kealey

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.14) MAYOR'S YEAR-END REPORT 2012

#184-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipalité receive the Mayor's year-end report as presented;

AND THAT this report be published in the upcoming edition of the municipal newsletter, the Low Chronicle, as required by Section 955 of the [Municipal Code of Québec](#).

MOVED BY Councillor Theresa van Erp

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.15) LAST INSTALLMENT LVBRA

#185-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality disburse a final payment of \$7,724 to the Low, Venosta & Brennan's Hill Recreation Association (LVBRA), which includes rent, applicable grants and Day Centre fees.

MOVED BY Councillor Maureen Rice

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.16) FINANCIAL REPORTING BY LVBRA & VENOSTA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Postponed to the next meeting.

6.2 ROADS

(6.2.1) REPORT

His Worship the Mayor Morris O'Connor presents an overview of roadwork projects.

(6.2.2) SIMON ROAD DRY HYDRANT

WHEREAS dry hydrants are part of the conformity requirements for Municipal Fire Departments laid out by the Emergency Preparedness Plan;

WHEREAS the dry hydrant on Simon Road does not meet said requirement as it measures 4 inches instead of 6 inches;

WHEREAS this hydrant is shared by the Municipalities of Low and of La Pêche;

#186-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Simon Road dry hydrant be changed so as to meet the requirements of the Emergency Preparedness Plan;

AND THAT the Municipalities of Low and of La Pêche each disburse half the cost of said changes.

MOVED BY Councillor Albert Kealey

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.2.3) SIMON ROAD GRANT

WHEREAS work to Simon Road has been performed by the Municipality in order that it meet the standards of the Quebec Ministry of Transport, at a total cost of \$50,783.62;

WHEREAS the Gatineau MNA, Ms. Stéphanie Vallée, allocated the Municipality a grant of \$50,000 for precisely this roadwork;

WHEREAS the audit of this roadwork has been duly prepared;

#187-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality request reimbursement in the amount of \$50,000 from the Quebec Ministry of Transport for roadwork to Simon Road;

AND THAT the Municipality of Low disburse the remaining balance of \$783.62 from the amounts budgeted for municipal roadwork.

MOVED BY Councillor Charles Kealey

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

6.3 PUBLIC SAFETY

(6.3.1) LFD REPORT

No report.

(6.3.2) REPORT 9-1-1

No report.

(6.3.3) FIRST INTERVENOR AGREEMENT FOR THE TERRITORY OF DENHOLM

WHEREAS the Municipality of Low and the Municipality of Denholm, in 1984, agreed to provide each other mutual assistance in case of emergency, agreement which remains in effect to this day;

WHEREAS resolution #021-84 and municipal by-law #001-84 confirming the agreement confer the right to sign such agreement on behalf of the Municipality to its Mayor and Director General;

WHEREAS circumstances prevailing in the Municipality of Denholm prevent it from offering Municipal Fire Department services;

WHEREAS the Municipalities of Low and Val-des-Monts currently provide Fire Protection services on the territory of Denholm when requested by this Municipality;

WHEREAS recent negotiations have been convened between His Worship the Mayor of Low Morris O'Connor, the Director General of Low Franceska Gnarowski, the Low Fire Department Deputy Chief Ghyslain Robert, as well as representatives from the Municipalities of Denholm and Val-des-Monts, and a tentative intermunicipal protocol agreement has been reached concerning First Intervenor services for the territory of Denholm;

#188-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT municipal by-law #001-84 be repealed;

AND THAT authorization be given to the Mayor and to the Director General to sign the new First Intervenor Protocol Agreement between the Municipality of Low, the Municipality of Denholm and the Municipality of Val-des-Monts, which constitutes an integral part of the present resolution

MOVED BY Councillor Maureen Rice

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

6.4 HYGIENE

(6.4.1) REPORT

Councillor Albert Kealey presents his report.

6.5 URBANIZATION

(6.5.1) REPORT

Councillor St. Jean presents the urbanization activities report for the month of October, as prepared by the municipal Building Inspector.

(6.5.2) NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY EXCHANGE

WHEREAS the Municipality has acquired a lot on Kallala Road as a result of a sale for unpaid taxes;

WHEREAS the Municipality needs to complete roadwork widening a part of McDonald Road, for which a landowner has agreed to cede his property so as to collaborate with the Municipality;

WHEREAS this same landowner wishes to exchange his McDonald Road property for the property owned by the Municipality on Kallala Road;

#189-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and the Director General be authorized to negotiate and sign an agreement with the above-mentioned landowner on behalf of the Municipality that will exchange the ownership of the properties described above.

MOVED BY Councillor Amanda St. Jean

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

6.6 RECREATION & CULTURE

(6.6.1) REPORT

Councillor Rice presents the October activities reports for the Low Library and for the Cultural Association of Low.

7. OTHER

8. ADJOURNMENT

#190-11-2012

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting be closed at 8:15 p.m.

MOVED BY Councillor Charles Kealey

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor

Director General/Secretary-Treasurer

" I, Morris O'Connor, Mayor, certifies that the signature of these minutes is equivalent to my signature on all resolutions in the above document and this according to article 142 (2) of the Municipal Code. "