

**CANADA
PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
MUNICIPALITY OF LOW**

MINUTES of the regular meeting of members of the Council of the Municipality of Low, held this 14th day of January 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall.

Those present are :

His Worship the Mayor Morris O'Connor

Councillors Theresa van Erp (absent)
Albert Kealey
Amanda St. Jean
Maureen Rice
Carole Robert
Charles Kealey

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) MINUTES

#02-01-2013

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of December 3th 2013 be accepted as presented.

MOVED BY Councilor Charles Kealey
SECONDED BY Carole Robert
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(3) AGENDA

#03-01-2013

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

MOVED BY Amanda St. Jean
SECONDED BY Carole Robert
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(4) QUESTION PERIOD

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

(5) BILLS TO BE PAID

#04-01-2013

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the list of invoices #01-2013, totalling \$169,109.49 be hereby accepted as presented;

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

MOVED BY Amanda St-Jean
SECONDED BY Charles Kealey
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

CERTIFICATE

I, undersigned, Director General/Secretary-Treasurer, do hereby certify that funds are available for the expenses mentioned in resolution #04-01-2013, as approved by Council.

Director General/Secretary-Treasurer

6.1 ADMINISTRATION

(6.1.1) MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's verbal report of December and January activities.

(6.1.2) ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

#05-01-2013

BE IT RESOLVED THAT expenses in the amount of \$651.33 and \$103.57 be added to the expenses for December 2012 for a total amount of expenditure in the amount of \$ 219,224.35.

MOVED BY Amanda St. Jean
SECONDED BY Maureen Rice
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.3) MODIFICATIONS TO THE 2013 CALENDAR OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

WHEREAS April 1st is Easter Monday;

#06-01-2013

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the date for the regular Council meeting in April be moved to April 8, 2012 at Heritage Hall at 7PM.

MOVED BY Albert Kealey
SECONDED BY Amanda St- Jean
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.4) DONATION – SUICIDE DÉTOUR

WHEREAS the Municipality of Low recognizes the positive role that Suicide Détour plays in our community;

#07-01-2013

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Low offer a \$100 donation to Suicide Détour for 2013.

MOVED BY Carole Robert
SECONDED BY Albert Kealey
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.5) ACCOUNTING SERVICES

WHEREAS the Municipality of Low must undergo an audit of its finances on an annual basis;

WHEREAS the preparation of the Municipality's books requires accounting expertise available only to designated accountants;

#08-01-2013

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality approve the hiring of Henri-Claude Gagnon, accountant, on a contract basis for the amount of \$1600, to assist with the preparation of the Municipality's books for the audit.

MOVED BY Carole Robert
SECONDED BY Amanda St-Jean
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.6) CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WHEREAS the Maniwaki Chamber of Commerce and Industry does not exclusively represent business located in Maniwaki, but rather all businesses in the MRCVG;

#09-01-2013

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality request that the name of the chamber of commerce in Maniwaki, which serves all of the MRCVG, be changed to that of Regional Chamber of Commerce of the MRCVG; that this resolution be expedited to the MRCVG, its municipalities and its provincial MNA, Stéphanie Vallée.

MOVED BY Carole Robert
SECONDED BY Amanda St-Jean
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.7) MODIFICATION OF RESOLUTION #79-05-2012

WHEREAS resolution #79-05-2012 concerning the purchase of recycling bins, omitted a clause concerning the reimbursement of the provincial grant to the Working Fund;

#10-01-2013

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amount of \$47,030.56 from the province, be reimbursed to the municipality's Working Fund.

MOVED BY Carole Robert
SECONDED BY Amanda St-Jean
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.8) ADAPTED TRANSPORT

WHEREAS the Municipality continues to benefit from the services offered by Para transit;

#11-01-2013

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality subscribe to the Para Transit service in 2013 at a cost of \$5004 and as approved by Council in the 2013 budget.

MOVED BY Carole Robert
SECONDED BY Amanda St- Jean
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.9) CALENDAR PRINTING

WHEREAS the Municipality prints a waste and recycling calendar which is sent out to residents in February of each year;

#12-01-2013

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality approves the expense of approximately \$800 for said printing.

MOVED BY Amanda St- Jean
SECONDED BY Carole Robert
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(6.1.10) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS Council resolved to re-establish the Economic Development Committee (EDC) in September of 2012;

WHEREAS the EDC is now operational;

#13-01-2013

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council recognizes that the EDC is meeting regularly; that the work of the EDC is that of providing a forum for those who have ideas to ameliorate our economy; to communicate our economic potential as well as the Municipality's assets within and without the Municipality; to represent the community's interests ; to offer assistance and information to those requesting such; to support efforts to develop a sustainable identity for Low; to submit activity reports regularly to Council.

MOVED BY Carole Robert
SECONDED BY Charles Kealey
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

6.1.11 FRENCH LANGUAGE CHARTER

WHEREAS the Charter of the French Language ("Charter") was adopted by the Quebec national Assembly in 1977 and over 80 municipalities throughout the Province of Quebec were recognized as having "bilingual status" pursuant to the provisions of Section 29.1 of the Charter, and

WHEREAS the original provisions of the Charter allowed those municipalities that had a majority of residents who spoke a language other than French to be officially recognized under Section 29.1; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Low has been recognized as having bilingual status

under Section 29.1 of the Charter since 1977 and wishes to retain such “bilingual status”, and

WHEREAS currently the Charter does not allow the recognition of “bilingual status” under Section 29.1 to be removed from a municipality or borough except at the request of such municipality or borough; and

WHEREAS the Quebec National Assembly adopted Bill 170 imposing forced municipal mergers on municipalities in 2000 and simultaneously adopted companion legislation Bill 171 which drastically changed the criteria to obtain recognition under Section 29.1 of the Charter, from a majority of residents of a municipality or borough who spoke a language other than French to a majority of residents whose mother tongue was English; and

WHEREAS the revised criteria under Bill 171 was imposed without consultation with municipalities recognized under Section 29.1 and adopted the narrowest and most inaccurate definition of the English-speaking communities within said municipalities or boroughs; and

WHEREAS the current Quebec Government has now proposed Bill 14 which would allow for the removal of Section 29.1 recognition from municipalities or boroughs by decree and against the will of the municipality or borough concerned, its duly elected council and its residents; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of New Carlisle is firmly opposed to the proposed amendments to Section 29 of the Charter as set out in Bill 14;

#14-01-2013

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Municipality of Low hereby declares that it wishes to retain its “bilingual status” recognition under Section 29.1 of the charter now and in the Future and wishes to do so irrespective of any fluctuations in its population shown in census numbers now or in the future.

THAT the residents and Council of the Municipality of Low view the recognition of our municipality under Section 29.1 as fundamental to the character of the municipality and as a testament of the historical presence of the both English and French speaking communities in the municipality;

THAT the Municipality of Low vigorously opposes the proposed modifications to Section 29 of the Charter set out in Bill 14 and demands that the Quebec National Assembly continue to recognize the acquired rights of all municipalities and boroughs that currently possess such status and refrain from adopting any legislations that allows Section 29.1 recognition of bilingual status to be removed from a municipality or borough except at the initiative of and express request of said municipality or borough;

THAT the Municipality of Low calls upon all of the members of the Quebec National Assembly to remove the provision of Bill 14 that propose to amend Section 29 of the Charter or to vote against and defeat such provisions since we view such provisions as an attack on the fundamental rights and intrinsic Character of all municipalities and boroughs that currently possess Section 29.1 recognition;

THAT the Municipality of Low send copies of this resolution to all of members of the Quebec National Assembly, to all other municipalities in Quebec officially recognized under Section 29.1 of the Charter and to the local Federal Member of Parliament, Mr. Philip Toone, Member of Parliament for the electoral district of Gaspesie-Iles-de-la-Madeleine; Mr. Graham Fraser, the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada, Union of Quebec Municipalities, Fédération Québécoise des Municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

MOVED BY Amanda St- Jean

SECONDED BY Albert Kealey

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

6.2 ROADS

(6.2.1) REPORT

No report.

6.3 PUBLIC SAFETY

(6.3.1) REPORT

Councillor Carole Robert gives a report of the Low Fire Department's December activities.

(6.3.2) REPORT 9-1-1

No report was submitted by the Regional 9-1-1 Service Centre.

(6.3.3) SALAIRE ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS the Municipality of Low recognizes that here is an administrative burden in the responsibilities of the Deputy Fire Chief;

WHEREAS the "Schéma de couverture de risque" is more and more demanding in terms of reports and follow ups;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a maximum salary of \$320 per month be allocated for Ghyslain Robert, Deputy Fire Chief, to complete administrative duties as required.

MOVED BY Albert Kealey
SECONDED BY Charles Kealey
ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

#15-01-2013

6.4 HYGIENE

(6.4.1) REPORT

No report.

6.5 URBANIZATION

(6.5.1) REPORT

Councillor St. Jean presents the urbanization activities report for the month of December.

6.6 RECREATION & CULTURE

(6.6.1) REPORT

Councillor Rice presents the December activities.

(6.6.2) REPORT LVBRA

No report.

(6.6.3) REPORT BIBLIO

No report.

7.0 VARIA

(7.1) DONATION

WHEREAS citizens of Low have benefitted from services offered by the Wakefield Hospital for several years;

WHEREAS the hospital is located about 15 minutes from Low and the Maniwaki hospital located at one hour from Low;

WHEREAS its proximity is an invaluable asset for citizens of Low requiring emergency care and other;

WHEREAS the Wakefield Hospital Foundation requests a contribution from the Municipality every year;

#16-01-2013

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Low approve a donation of \$500 for 2013, that is the equivalent of 50 cents per person.

MOVED BY Carole Robert

SECONDED BY Amanda St- Jean

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY

(7) QUESTION PERIOD

From 8 p.m. to 8:20 p.m.

(8) ADJOURNMENT

#17-01-2013

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting be closed at 8:00 p.m.

MOVED BY Councilor Charles Kealey

SECONDED BY Carole Robert

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. "