

**CANADA  
PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC  
MUNICIPALITY OF LOW**

**MINUTES** of the regular meeting of members of the Council of the Municipality of Low, held this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall, 4A d'Amour Rd., Low, Quebec, J0X 2C0 and presided over by Mayor Morris O'Connor.

Those present are: Councillors Lynn Visentin, Amanda St. Jean, Joanne Mayer, Michèle Logue-Wakeling, Christopher Brownrigg and Charles Kealey.

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

**(1) OPENING**

Quorum is established and the meeting is officially opened by his Worship the Mayor, Morris O'Connor.

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. None

**(3) MINUTES**

**#146-10-2014**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the regular meeting of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 be adopted as presented.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Joanne Mayer

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Amanda St. Jean

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(4) AGENDA**

**#147-10-2014**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the agenda be adopted as presented and that the agenda remain open.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Joanne Mayer

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Amanda St. Jean

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(5) BILLS TO BE PAID**

**#148-10-2014**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the list of invoices #10-2014, totalling \$57,886.14 be hereby accepted as presented;

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

**MOVED BY** Councillor Lynn Visentin

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling

**OPPOSED BY** Councillor Christopher Brownrigg

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**CERTIFICATE**

I, undersigned, Director General/Secretary-Treasurer, do hereby certify that funds are available for the expenses mentioned in resolution #148-10-2014, as approved by Council.

*Franceska Gnarowski*  
Director General/Secretary-Treasurer

**(6) ADMINISTRATION**

**(6.1) MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor provides a report on his activities for the month of September.

**(6.1.1) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report is presented by Councillor Joanne Mayer, Chair of the Executive Committee.

**(6.1.2) NOTICE OF MOTION**

Notice of motion is given that at a subsequent meeting of council a bylaw regarding the standardization of private roads will be proposed.

**(6.1.3) NOTICE OF MOTION**

Notice of motion is given that at a subsequent meeting of council, a bylaw concerning new private roads will be considered.

**(6.1.4) VACATION STEVE KELLY**

**WHEREAS** article 69 of the law on Labour Standards states that a salaried employee with 5 years of continuous service has a right to three weeks vacation;

**WHEREAS** Steve Kelly has worked for the municipality for 8 years as a seasonal employee and as a full time employee for the past year;

**WHEREAS** council recognizes Steve Kelly's seniority as an employee of the municipality;

**#149-10-2014**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** council authorizes three weeks of paid annual leave for Steve Kelly as of January 1, 2014.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Charles Kealey

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.1.5) STEAM TRAIN**

**WHEREAS** three proposals to re-launch the steam train were submitted to the council of the "Compagnie de chemin de fer de l'Outaouais" (CCFO) proposing a train to Wakefield, one to Masson-Montebello and/or train that leaves from the Montcalm station to Lac Beauchamp;

**WHEREAS** the infrastructure already exists for the train to Wakefield; all that needs to be done are repairs to make it more secure and to bring up to standard;

**WHEREAS** the economic benefits of a train to Wakefield are significant for the region;

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of Lac-Ste-Marie has requested the Municipality of Low's support, among others;

**#150-10-2014**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** council supports the re-launching of the steam train to Wakefield proposed by the CCFO.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Joanne Mayer

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Amanda St-Jean

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.1.6) SUPPORT FOR MRCVG – TREE CUTTING**

**WHEREAS** in summer of 2014, the MRCVG hosted a public consultation on its strategic vision *Horizon 2025*;

**WHEREAS** Theme 1 – Zoning, Residential and Occupation of the Territory alluded to the possibility of a bylaw on the harvesting of wood on private lots;

**WHEREAS** due to the inaccessibility of markets, the wood harvest from private lots represents no more than 22% of the permitted potential volume annually in a climate that has made the forestry industry precarious;

**WHEREAS** the government of Quebec has drastically reduced programs that promote the private wood industry in the Outaouais with cuts of 33% in 2014-15 and 41% since 2012-13, while increasing by 23% the budgets dedicated to public forests;

**WHEREAS** to date, non-regulated interventions in the harvesting of private wood lots in the white tail deer habitat helped to preserve the habitat in 31 Mile Lake, one of the largest and most nourishing habitats in Quebec;

**WHEREAS** bylaw RCI 2009-206 is already in place to protect water courses in Haute-Gatineau and forestry producers have been exemplary in following the regulations;

**WHEREAS** wood harvesting in the private lots has been free of the problems with regard to flora, fauna and water that would justify the implementation of the bylaw on wood harvesting so that consequently, wood producers are vigorously opposed to such a bylaw having demonstrated such during the 10 consultations hosted by the MRCVG;

**WHEREAS** wood producers generate direct economic benefits in the order of 8-13 million dollars annually in addition to contributing to the protection of watershed, wildlife habitat, natural landscapes, the maintaining of wood transformation industries, as well as supporting recreation and tourism through rights of passage and such agreements;

**#151-10-2014**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the municipal council of Low endorses the strategic Vision proposed by the MRCVG entitled “A Valley for Tomorrow – Horizon 2025”, but is opposed to the implementation of regulations on wood harvesting on private lots on its territory and that of the MRCVG within the context of the land use zoning plan or not;

**THAT** the resolution be expedited to the MRCVG as well as to all other neighbouring municipalities.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Christopher Brownrigg

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.1.7) SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION GRACEFIELD – MANAGEMENT OF WATER COURSES**

**WHEREAS** in 2006 an agreement between the MRCVG and the Municipality of Low concerning the management of water courses was signed;

**WHEREAS** the MRCVG has exclusive responsibility for water courses;

**#152-10-2014**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that council requests that the MRCVG reviews its agreements with the municipalities on the management of water courses;

**THAT** a copy of the resolution be expedited to the MRCVG and all municipalities in the MRCVG.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Christopher Brownrigg

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.1.8) FINAL PAYMENT –SURETÉ DU QUÉBEC**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that council approves that the final installment of \$75,759 be paid to the Sureté du Québec in order to discharge its obligations concerning the annual contribution to the SQ for services rendered in 2014.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Joanne Mayer

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Amanda St-Jean  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.1.9) CONTRACT WATER TESTING**

**WHEREAS** the municipality must have its potable water tested every two weeks, as required by the provincial bylaw on the Quality of potable water;

**WHEREAS** the municipality received two proposals, one from Micro B and another from Exova, our current supplier;

**WHEREAS** there is little difference between the two proposals and that Exova has been providing a satisfactory service and meeting the municipality's needs;

**#154-10-2014**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that council accept the proposal from Exova for water testing in 2015.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Amanda St-Jean  
**SECONDED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.1.10) AUDITORS**

**#155-10-2014**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that council agrees to retain the firm Piché/Lacroix to audit its financial statements for the fiscal year 2014.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Lynn Visentin  
**SECONDED BY** Councillor Joanne Mayer  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.1.11) VIDÉOTRON**

**WHEREAS** a request from Vidéotron has been made to use a piece of land for use other than agricultural in order to install an internet tower;

**WHEREAS** there are not many internet companies that offer this service in the region;

**WHEREAS** it is important to have competition in the provision of WI-FI for the residents of the region;

**#156-10-2014**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that council supports the request from Vidéotron concerning the installation of an internet tower on agricultural land in order to add to the network possibilities for residents.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Joanne Mayer  
**SECONDED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.2 ROADS**

**(6.2.1) REPORT**

A brief report is provided by Councillor Charles Kealey, Chair of the Public Works Committee.

**(6.2.2) SALE OF TANDEM TRUCK**

**WHEREAS** a request for proposals was published in local newspapers regarding the sale of a 1994 Ford tandem, including snow plough equipment, by the municipality;

**WHEREAS** one proposal was submitted by Ray A. Thompson Trucking Ltd. In the amount of \$9850 not including taxes;

**#157-10-2014**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the mayor and/or the director general be authorized to sign on behalf of the municipality of Low all documents related to this transaction.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling  
**SECONDED BY** Councillor Joanne Mayer  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6.3 PUBLIC SAFETY**

**(6.3.1) REPORT**

A brief report is provided by Michèle Logue-Wakeling, Chair of the Public Security Committee.

**(6.3.2) PROMOTION**

**WHEREAS** the recommendation of the Chief of the fire department, Ghyslain Robert, to promote Seamus Montague to the position of Lieutenant;

**WHEREAS** the quality of the work of Seamus Montague, Firefighter, has been satisfactory;

**#158-10-2014**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** council accepts the recommendation of the Chief of the fire department, Ghyslain Robert, that Seamus Montague be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant of the Low Fire department.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling  
**SECONDED BY** Councillor Lynn Visentin  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.3.3) MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT – LSM & LOW**

**WHEREAS** the MRCVG's Risk Coverage Plan requires neighbouring municipalities to have mutual aid agreements in case of emergencies;

**WHEREAS** the proximity of the municipality of Lac Ste-Marie (LSM), and most particularly a sector of the municipality;

**WHEREAS** the municipality of Low can respond with assistance much more effectively in the south-east sector of LSM than the municipality of LSM itself;

**#159-10-2014**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** council authorizes the mayor and/or the director general to conclude a mutual aid agreement with LSM.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling  
**SECONDED BY** Councillor Lynn Visentin  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

**(6.3.4) INTERVENTION LIMITS – MODIFICATION OF RESOLUTION #169-10-2013**

**WHEREAS** the municipality of Low has 2 fully functional tankers that meet ULC standards;

**WHEREAS** the intervention limits for the municipalities of Lac Ste-Marie and Kazabazua must be specified;

**WHEREAS** there is a mutual aid agreement between Low and the municipality of La Pêche;

**#160-10-2014**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** council authorizes the modification of resolution #169-10-2013 to indicate that the municipality of Kazabazua will assist the municipality of Low in all sectors except north of Flynn and Martindale, which is assisted by LSM;

**THAT** fire hall # 3 in La Pêche will assist in the sector west of Cawood;

**THAT** the municipality of Low is not subject to automatic assistance regarding tankers since there are 2 that meet the ULC standard in Low.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Amanda St-Jean  
**SECONDED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **6.4 ENVIRONMENT**

##### **(6.4.1) REPORT**

No report is provided by Councillor Christopher Brownrigg, Chair of the Environment Committee.

#### **6.5 URBAN PLANNING**

##### **(6.5.1) REPORT**

A brief report is provided by Councillor Amanda St. Jean, Chair of the Urban Planning Committee.

##### **(6.5.2) MODIFICATION OF ARTICLE 4.2 OF ZONING BYLAW #02-93**

**WHEREAS** article 4.2 of the zoning bylaw #02-93 is not equitable concerning non-conforming buildings;

**#161-10-2014**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** council approves that article 4.2 of zoning bylaw #02-93 be modified in order to standardize the bylaw on non-conforming buildings, namely:

#### **ARTICLE 4.2 ZONING BYLAW #02-93**

##### **RECOGNITION OF ACQUIRED RIGHTS**

The non-conforming uses and buildings used and occupied on the date of entry into force of this regulation are protected by acquired rights.

All uses of non-conforming buildings including secondary buildings can be replaced by any other use which complies with this regulation.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, only caravans, trailer tents and motor homes which have been subject to a permit before the entry into force of this regulation benefit from the recognition of acquired rights.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Christopher Brownrigg  
**SECONDED BY** Councillor Amanda St-Jean  
**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **6.6 RECREATION & CULTURE**

##### **(6.6.1) REPORT**

A brief report is provided by Councillor Lynn Visentin, Chair of the Recreation and Culture Committee.

#### **6.7 MISCELLANEOUS**

##### **(7) QUESTION PERIOD**

1. Presentation by Pierre Dionne on school board elections
2. Steve Connolly comments on the waste of money that is the tourist bureau at 400, Route 105. Furthermore, he states that the cycle path is also a waste of taxpayer money by the province and the MRCVG.
3. André Dubois asks that council oppose the cadastre when it is tabled.
4. Tom Houston asks questions about the expropriation of land in his development Rivière du Soleil.

5. Complaints about the garbage and recycling service.

**(8) ADJOURNMENT**

**#162-10-2014**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the meeting be closed at 8:00 PM

**MOVED BY** Councillor Charles Kealey

**SECONDED BY** Councillor Michèle Logue-Wakeling

**ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Morris O'Connor*  
Mayor

*Franceska Gnarowski*  
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."