

## **Roads Report May 4<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Notes from the Municipal meeting of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 prepared by Carol Bisailon, treasurer

This year's budget allotment for Capital Roads program is \$296,000

Four roads were recommended for upgrade: completing the 2010 road plan

- budget of \$192k for Delamere Road
- budget of \$25k for North Channel Road
- budget of 32k for North Channel Camp Road
- budget of 47k for Ash Bay Road

There will be no surface treatment this year.

Public Works operating budget will cover necessary repairs to other roads including Mayer Road.

Three areas will have road lighting this year (funds from last year's budget allotment):

- Labrosse Road
- Moonlight Bay Road
- Shaw Road

Request to Ministry of Transportation for additional signage on 'Wildlife Crossing' throughout the Municipality.

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## **Report – Committee of the Whole May 4th 2012**

**Notes from the municipal meeting of May 4th, 2011 prepared by Carol Bisailon, treasurer.**

Presentation of business plan from the Coopérative de Santé et Logement de la Rivière-des-Français, not much change since their last presentation, process is slow.

Mayor's report:

- May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Xeneca proposed dam on the Wahnapiatae River to be held at Alban Community Centre
- Communications and Advertising, motion for deferral was defeated (recorded vote); motion was carried to advertise in the following three newspapers i.e. French River Today, Le Voyageur and French River Vision Rivière des Français.

CAO's report:

- Economic Development Officer's job posting to be for a 1-year term internship application

Treasurer's report:

- Expenditures not budgeted require approval by Council.

Parks and Recreation report:

- Ventilation modifications needed to solve flooding problem at Town Hall; awaiting Architects report.

Correspondence from other Municipalities were read and agreed with; Trout Lake Campers Association membership request was not approved.

Roads Committee recommendations were approved.

Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB meeting report; the Municipality will be receiving a refund if \$46k.

Gift agreement with Hydro One on behalf of Club Richelieu; \$5,500 will go towards improvements to the Noëlville baseball fields.

Motion carried for direction to staff to prepare development procedures which should clarify for developers, in one document, all aspects of Municipal rules and procedures concerning development.

**Reminder:**

**Next Council Meeting: May 18 at 7:00 PM**

**Town Hall Meeting in Alban Community Centre at 7:00 PM on May 25**

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**Beware, French River! Precedents set by Council!**

Submitted by Gérard Carrière

The new Municipal Council does not seem a bit worried about setting precedents which may become difficult to eliminate later. Why does Council go that route when the Municipality is facing fairly strict budget restrictions?

Many cases come to mind but two recent cases are striking.

Some of our good entrepreneurs develop residential lots, betting on speculation for profits. That's fine. There are over 600 lots for sale in the municipality, possibly a 60 year reserve. When lots are developed without being sold, the Municipality loses some government grants and may encounter additional costs. Who should pay for these costs and loss of grants? The developer or the tax payers?

Under the last Council, the administrator would negotiate a contribution in lot or in money to compensate for certain costs to the Municipality. That sounds fair. But the new Council has waived most of these costs to the developer. Furthermore the developer has, upon request, received a guarantee that the taxpayers will pay for maintenance of his roads in an unoccupied subdivision. Already other developers are asking for their share of free services. In other municipalities, no takeover of subdivision services are considered by the Municipality before three quarters of the lots are sold and occupied, which brings to the Municipality a fair taxation for services supplied. Now, that sounds fair for all. Fortunately Council seems to be working toward a system of charges to be paid by developers as compensation for municipal expenses involved in residential development. This is an urgent matter!

On a totally different note, Council heard a complaint of a farmer whose rotten fence posts were supposedly bent over or broken by snow flying several meters from the snowplough wing. Well, sir, will \$500 do for your costs and troubles? Members of Council had been provided by staff with pictures of rotten posts and advice from Public Works employees about the pitiful state of the fence posts. But oh! what sympathy will do! No fault of the employees, but a fence falling over by itself gets a recommendation to Council for damages. Come on, Council, what will you do when other farmers and property owners, show up requesting repairs to their fence? Others may express a need for sympathy as well. Get your cheque books out for several thousands. After all, it is only taxpayers' money

Hey, citizens! Come and see Council members in action, come and find out for yourself who wants to throw out your tax money and who believes they should spend it wisely! Of course, we all recognize that some circumstances do warrant special consideration. I do not believe that details of these two cases justify Council's attention and sympathy! Who thought that election time with its promises was over?

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**Inquiétude à la Rivière des Français -Précédents établis par le Conseil municipal**

Par Gérard Carrière

Le nouveau Conseil municipal de la Rivière des Français ne semble pas s'inquiéter d'établir des précédents qui deviendront difficiles à éliminer plus tard. Pourtant la municipalité vit des moments de restrictions budgétaires assez difficiles.

Plusieurs cas nous viennent à l'esprit, mais deux cas récents retiennent l'attention

Certains de nos bons entrepreneurs développent des lots et se lancent dans la spéculation. Il y a déjà au delà de 600 lots à vendre dans la Municipalité, une réserve pour 60 ans, peut-être. Chaque fois que des lots sont développés sans être vendus, la Municipalité perd des octrois et parfois doit faire face à des coûts additionnels. Qui doit payer pour ces coûts et ces pertes d'octrois? Le développeur ou les payeurs de taxe?

Sous l'ancien Conseil, l'administrateur négociait avec les développeurs une contribution en lot ou en argent pour compenser certains coûts à la Municipalité. Le nouveau Conseil a permis à un développeur d'être excusé de la très très grande majorité de ces coûts. Dernièrement le développeur a même reçu du Conseil l'assurance que la Municipalité gardera ses chemins ouverts dans une subdivision sans propriétaires de maisons. Déjà d'autres développeurs demandent leur part du gâteau. Ailleurs certaines municipalités ne paient rien des dépenses de nouvelles subdivisions avant que les trois quarts des lots soient vendus et occupés, donc fournissant des taxes. Ça semble plus juste pour tous. Le Conseil heureusement semble ouvert à développer un règlement clair à ce sujet. C'est urgent

Puis un fermier se plaint d'une clôture que la neige abondante, poussée par l'aile de la charrue municipale et volant plusieurs mètres, a penchée ou brisée. Voici \$500. pour vous; nous savons que vos piquets étaient bien pourris, mais nous sommes du bon monde et nous sympathisons avec vous! Et alors, que ferez-vous, chers élus, quand d'autres fermiers ou propriétaires viendront vous réclamer des centaines sinon des milliers de pieds de clôture?

Fini le temps des cadeaux, des faveurs ou des promesses! Membres du Conseil, vous n'avez pas été élus pour plaire à Pierre, Jean, Jacques, mais pour prendre soin de la Municipalité entière et pour dépenser sagement les taxes de vos concitoyens. Et cela n'exclut pas des considérations spéciales pour des cas réellement spéciaux! D'après les détails soumis, ces cas-ci ne qualifient pas.

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To all members of the French River Citizens Association  
To all citizens of French River

### **Wednesday September 21**

Council's Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

#### **PLAN TO ATTEND**

Points of interest:

In Motion 5.1.1, Councillor Bigras is asking Council to reconsider paying the Mayor's expenses, a motion defeated previously because the Mayor had included expenses considered inappropriate by some councilors. He has now removed these expenses from his submission. However while we do not have easy access to the Mayor's expenses, we know that some councilors are concerned that he submits expenses for which he already receives a \$100.00 monthly allowance. Should the Mayor be free to submit any expense he chooses to make?

Mayor Bouffard, in Motion 5.1.6, is requesting Council to allow him to seek help from a Human Resources professional. Everyone should know by now that the Mayor and Council need help and that they are in trouble with their human relations. We believe that the Mayor just has to learn how to follow rules, by-laws and decide to consult and respect the municipal employees and the hiring procedures of the Municipality and all major problems will disappear. Furthermore, the Municipality has a legal advisor and a good one at that, but the Mayor, as he has done before, is seeking advice from the outside. Twice before he got into problems with advice from outside. If advice is needed, shouldn't the whole Council be involved and receive advice directly from a professional? Let's ask from transparency.

In Motion 5.2.5, the Mayor and Council are attempting to direct the Municipal lawyer to remove from the agreement of the Thomas enterprise concerning the proposed Lakeview Estates the stipulation that the road be hard surfaced. Let's be conscious that this is the third exception that the developer requests. First the dropping of almost all development charges in January.; granted. Then, the maintenance of their road at taxpayers expense and now the removal of hard surfacing from the requirements although this is the standard toward which all municipal roads are moving. Developers must not do their development on the back of taxpayers, but this is what Mayor Bouffard wishes to offer his friends.

Many other motions will also be considered

Let's attend Council in large numbers. Let us show appreciation where it is due and also express disagreement where we believe members of Council are not working for the good of the Municipality.

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### **It's time to resume activities**

From January to June, a large number of citizens attended Council meetings. It allows one to know what is going on in our municipal affairs and to express opinions to our elected officials. Your executive also attempted to keep you informed diligently. Many have expressed to us their appreciation for this information and we wish to thank them.

However it is the duty of every citizen to keep informed and to play their role in our democracy in order to ensure that our governments at all levels are responsible and wise in their decisions. Your executive cannot do it alone.

During summer, most took a break. OK, but we were there! It is crucial to resume activities and your executive will remind you. It is also important for a larger number of citizens to express their opinion either in public or in private.

### **A letter to Council, why not!!!**

You must know that any letter addressed to the Mayor and council with copy to the CAO has to be included in a council's meeting agenda unless prevented by legal considerations. A letter or an e-mail is an excellent means of expressing an opinion, asking a question or commenting on a point, always with the goal of improving the work of Council.

You can also reach your Ward representative on Council and he or she may take your concerns to Council.

Come to the public Meeting of the Roads Committee at 6:00 p.m. and the Committee of the Whole of Council at 7:00 p.m. both on Wednesday, September 7

Some points of interest on the Agenda:

Receipt of correspondence from Parisé Law Office regarding Lakeview Estates Subdivision (Thomas)

Parisé Law Office

Receipt of letter dated August 16, 2011 regarding the Prévost Road Expropriation

Stephen Watt

**Re:** Receipt of letter dated August 23, 2011 regarding the Prévost Road Expropriation

Sudbury East Planning Board

**Re:** Seeking Funding Opportunities for a Vacant Lands Study

Eric Henry : Parkland Dedication, severance of 5 hectares of land on Golf Course Road, Alban

French River Quilters: offer to rent Arena addition

Report by Chair of Industrial Sub-committee of Economic Development Committee

Environment Advisory committee

Roads Committee: Recommendations regarding Sucker Creek Road

G rard Carri re, president, FRCA

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### **Temps de reprendre des activit s**

De janvier   juin, un grand nombre de citoyens ont assist  aux r unions du Conseil municipal.  a permet de savoir ce qui se passe dans les affaires qui nous concernent tous et d'exprimer nos opinions   nos  lus.

L' t , la plupart ont fait rel che : le temps des vacances!!! Mais nous  tions l .

Il est important de reprendre nos activit s et votre ex cutif se fera un devoir de vous aider.

Il est important qu'un plus grand nombre de citoyens s'expriment publiquement ou en priv .

### ** crire au Conseil, pourquoi pas**

Aussi, il faut savoir que toute lettre ou courriel adress s au maire et aux conseillers avec copie   l'administrateur en chef devra  tre inscrite   l'ordre du jour d'une r union publique,   moins de restrictions l gales. C'est l  un excellent moyen d'exprimer au Conseil une opinion personnelle, poser une question, faire une critique, toujours dans le but d'am liorer le travail du Conseil.

On peut aussi s'adresser au conseiller  lu de son quartier et il ou elle pourra apporter le commentaire au Conseil.

Venez assister aux r unions publiques du Comit  des chemins   18h et du Comit  pl nier du Conseil municipal le mercredi 7 septembre   19h.

Quelques points importants   l'ordre du jour :

L'avocat du Conseil a donn  son avis sur la subdivision Lakeview Estates d'Alban(Thomas)

Lettre de l'avocat municipal, R. Parisé concernant le Chemin Prévost

Lettre de l'avocat de la famille Maurice, S. Watt, concernant l'expropriation du chemin Prévost

Conseil de la planification de Sudbury-Est : recherche de fonds pour une étude sur les terres abandonnées

Eric Henry: dédication de 5 hectares de terre pour aménagement de parc sur le chemin Golf Course à Alban

Courtepointières de la Rivière-des-Français : offre de location de l'addition à l'Aréna

Rapport du sous-comité de développement industriel du comité de développement économique

Comité des chemins : recommandations concernant le chemin Sucker Creek

Gérard Carrière, président, ACRF

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## French River Citizens Associations – General Meeting

A general meeting of members was held on Saturday September 17. Beautiful weather. Few attended.

We reviewed the activities, articles, communications with members, the Media, the Web site, intervention with Council, since foundation last February.

We discussed ongoing concerns. Members feel that it is absolutely necessary to pursue our activities. Members are showing appreciation for reports. It helps them to stay on top of things and to keep interest in municipal affairs.

A more permanent constitution was adopted and we will send it on soon.

Elections took place. Due to the snowbirds flying south soon and other concerns, many declined positions and we still need two persons to complete an executive of 5. The main role of our organization and of its executive is to keep people interested and participating in municipal affairs. Please submit your name immediately to Gérard Carrière, Carol Bisailon, Annie Hébert or call to find out more or suggest a person we could contact. The five members of the executive will then meet to distribute the positions for the year.

We can make a difference. Every citizen has power. If we do not use this power to build our Municipality and our future, then someone else will use that power either positively for you or to pursue other interests. When we do not take responsibility for ourselves, someone else does. That's democracy and it can also mean dictatorship. Worldwide, people just like us are risking their lives to have access to some of the rights, freedoms and services we take for granted. Let us not be too innocent nor complacent. Let us be positive and responsible as citizens.

Gérard Carrière, president FRCA-ACRF