

Mayor's Report
January 21 to February 16, 2013

The issues that have come before this Council are now being addressed in a professional and business manner. The decisions of Council may not always be popular but they are based on the facts and information available to us at the time. We all recognize that anyone may question a decision of Council at any time however they may not always have the complete facts at their disposal. Our approach to choosing the direction of our community is not to satisfy the few but the many. We will always recommend that the decisions of Council should be viewed by the community and if the majority are not in agreement, than the public should make their views known to their representative. Council does realize that on many decisions there will always be a few who agree or disagree, however the voice of the majority is when Council will need to re-evaluate any decision it has made.

There are several areas in this report that should be looked at more carefully than others. I am referring to the Regional Service Commission #3 section of this report because it is the only information that many of the people in Belledune will be able to reference for future developments of RSC DISTRICT #3. This information is designed to keep you current on many of the issues and developments that are going on in the region. I would also like to draw your attention to the report concerning the issue of the Belledune Fire Department. The controversial problem that has plagued our community for over two years is going to have a decision made in the very near future. That information is available in this report under January 29th.

January 21, 2013 (5:30-6:30pm)

Council met with Mr. James Maker who was asked to prepare a report for Council on the personnel of our fire department. This report will be on the agenda for our public meeting of February 18, 2013 for approval or refusal by Council. More information on this report will be made available after this report has been addressed by Council.

January 21, 2013 (7:00-9:00PM)

The public meeting on this date had some very interesting moments. Mr. William Duivenvoorden did a presentation to Council concerning the decision to not proceed with re-zoning. The Council explained its decision not to re-zone to Mr. Duivenvoorden however there were people present who created a disturbance during the meeting and some Council members who carried on debates direct with some of the public. In defence of all parties, I will express that it is the duty of the Chair (Mayor) to be sure that all parties respect the proceedings of a Council meeting. I am stating it here that this type of flow to the meeting will not happen again. I will confirm that the discussion did remain civil but was borderline controversial on how I controlled this situation. I will demand that all parties respect the process and that all parties will address all discussion through the Chair for future. I will advise that deviation from this due process will result in a request to leave the meeting or a for five minute recess to regain control of the meeting.

January 24, 2013

Regional Service Commission #3-Report for January 2013

I will begin to report on the R.S.C. #3 each month. I believe that this information is important to the people of Belledune whom I represent. The Commission began their development in October 2012 and we have met 4 times prior to 2013. The ground rules were discussed and formulated over this time frame and during our first meeting of 2013 on January 24th many of these issues were addressed. The meeting of December 20, 2012 has seen R.S.C. #3 hire Madame Jocelyn Hache as the Executive Director of our Commission. Madame Hache has a very positive attitude, a wealth of experience and will be a very strong partner in the development of R.S.C. #3

The first public meeting of the Commission was held on January 24, 2013. The agenda had many issues to be addressed however I will only highlight those of interest to our community. The Procedural By-Law for our Commission needed to be approved by the Directors. The Directors consist of 6 Mayors (Bathurst, Beresford, Belledune, Petit-Rocher, Nigadoo and Pointe Verte). There are also 4 appointed Directors who represent 15 L.S.D.'S in R.S.C. #3 area. The Directors approved a working Procedural By-Law with some amendments and additions. The Directors were also required to elect those who will represent the Commission and the following members were elected.

Chair----- Daniel Guitard-----Mayor of Pointe-Verte
Vice-Chair----- Ronald Bourque----Mayor of Belledune
Secretary----- Mde. Boudreau
Recording Secretary--- Jocelyn Hache---- Executive Director R.S.C. #3

The above representatives are for a 1 year term.

The Solid Waste Dept. presented their budget at \$2,987,700.00

The Province of N.B. has asked each Commission to identify their region with an appropriate name. The R.S.C.v#3 will evaluate this in the near future.

The Planning Dept. is being constructed with all the members of the Belledune District Planning Commission assuming the key roles required for a functional Planning Dept. There will also be a request for each Municipality to recommend a Planning Advisory Committee member for the Board.

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Madisco Building in Petit-Rocher (702 rue Principale) the 4th Wednesday of every month beginning at 6:30 pm.

The meetings are discussed in the language of the speaker's choice however simultaneous translation services are available on site.

I am extending an invitation to anyone who is interested in the development of the region to attend a meeting.

January 25, 2013

I attended a meeting in Bathurst with the Canadian National Railroad concerning passenger service being discontinued in Northern New Brunswick. Although the information was presented in a professional manner, the bottom line was that this line was being discontinued because of profit. There were limited customers along the line however without it we will not be able to develop others.

January 29, 2013

I chaired the meeting that was done with 27 of the 40 members of our Fire Department held at the Belledune Recreation and Cultural Center. Council and the Administrative staff was there along with the V.O.B. legal advisor, Liza Robichaud, the V.O.B. accounting firm of Allan, Paquet & Arsenault, represented by Lori MacNaughton and Paul Leger from Work Safe New Brunswick. The sole purpose of this meeting was to listen and gather information that was of concern to the members of the Fire Department. I am very pleased to say that everyone conducted themselves with professionalism and respect. The questions from members of the fire department were directed to the panel of experts who were there only to answer the questions with legal and accurate information. Many issues were addressed and options to try to resolve the problem of how fire fighters are paid were presented to our legal & financial advisors. Council confirmed that these options would be evaluated and a decision on what is legal and best for the V.O.B. would be delivered within 30 days. Everyone present was very respectful of this sensitive issue and agreed that a decision would allow everyone to put this problem to rest. I only wish to close this topic on a note that this problem was not created by this Council, we are left to settle this problem. Council is committed to a compromised solution, if possible, that will be beneficial to the V.O.B. and the majority of the fire fighters. I will also confirm that this Council and only Council will be responsible, accountable and will make the decision within their legal jurisdiction that will be respected and administered.

January 30, 2013

Council met to discuss the Strategic Plan of the V.O.B. Not All Council were present, but a very positive evaluation of the plan was discussed. There were recommendations made for some changes to reflect this Council's image and wishes. All went well and Council will meet again to this topic.

February 4, 2013

Council met to finish the Strategic Plan review and then met with Francis Frenette of Roy Consultants. Many of the engineering projects that required clarification were addressed and this will allow the work to be prepared and planned that Council wish to address this construction year.

February 6, 2013

I was present at the meeting of Region Service Commission #3 in Petit-Rocher to discuss the need for members to represent our community on the Planning Advisory Committee. Elizabeth Lanteigne has agreed to continue representing our interest on this very important committee. Council will make their decision for recommendation at the February 18, 2013 Regular meeting

February 7, 2013

I was in Campbellton for this month's meeting of Crime Stoppers. All went very well and I am pleased to advise that criminal activity in our community is very low level.

February 11, 2013

The Committee of the Whole meeting was very informative and went very well. Council discussed the issues that will appear on the Regular meeting agenda.

February 13, 2013

I had a visit from the R.S.C. #3 Executive Director, Jocelyne Hache. The purpose of the visit was to meet the Administration of our community and visit the Port of Belledune. Jocelyne Hache was very impressed with our professional and business approach to issues concerning our municipality.

February 14, 2013

I met with the Executive of the Super Village Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club. They meet on a regular basis and this allowed me the opportunity to advise them on where Council is headed in trail development within our community. The information sharing went very well and I look forward to working with them in the future.

In closing this report, I would like to express to all parties that a positive approach to many of the problems we face is very important in how Council is going to function. I recommend that we as a Council offer solutions to many of the issues that come to this table. I realize that Council may not always agree however it is important that we show respect for each other and the ideas we share every day.

Sincerely,



Ron Bourque
Mayor