



L'Informateur

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NEW RICHMOND

Dear citizens:

On December 14th we presented the budget for the 2016 fiscal year. I would like to encourage you to read it in this edition of the Informateur or on our website.

In addition, during this time of celebration that brings Christmas and the New Year, the members of the Municipal Council, as well as our municipal employees, join me in wishing you a wonderful holiday and may this special time of the year bring peace, harmony and joy to you and yours.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Éric Dubé, Mayor

Holiday period schedule

Please note that the offices of the Town of New Richmond will be closed beginning on December 24, 2015 and will reopen on January 5, 2016 according to our regular business hours. For all emergencies concerning roads, water and sewerage during this period, just call 418 392-7060 and your call will be forwarded.

Dear citizens:

It is once again an honour for me to address you this evening concerning the major elements of the 2016 budget. This is our third budget and it remains a very educational process. Since our election, we have placed an emphasis on the Town's finances and the conception of the budget requires the same diligence. Thank you to the members of the Budget Committee, Jean Cormier, Jacques Rivière and Jean-Pierre Querry, for their time and effort, in addition to all of the employees and councillors who participated directly or indirectly.

Similar to last year, the Council was faced with choices. Moreover, this is the reason why we were elected, to "make decisions". We approached the preparation of the budget with a certain apprehension. The signature of a new fiscal pact in the fall confirmed certain elements, but it did not give us back what we lost in 2014. In fact, I think that it serves no purpose to rehash the circumstances of last year when the transitory pact was signed between the Government of Quebec and the Town of New Richmond that led to the loss of several tens of thousands of dollars for us.

Evidently, in order to balance the budget, we had two elements to play with: revenues and expenses. We once again worked on both of these elements simultaneously.

REVENUES

Firstly, we were obliged to largely modify projections of certain revenues, including the transfer duty tax. As the real estate market seems to have reached a ceiling, our 2015 revenues were cut in half. This is why we decreased our 2016 objective from 64 000 \$ to 34 000 \$. The decision by the Minister of Municipal Affairs to decrease its contribution to the work completed on Perron Boulevard also deprives us of an amount of 30 000 \$ in subsidies for our debt service. This will be the case for the next 8 years.

A decrease in revenues from payments in lieu of taxes for primary and secondary schools will result in a loss of close to 7 000 \$ and we budgeted 20 000 \$ less for revenues from the sale of land. Unfortunately, we do not have any more residential lots to sell. However, we are currently working with a private promoter on a residential development project and we have not abandoned the idea to extend the rue des Érables, a project that was aborted by the Minister of the Environment in 2014. We are confident that we will attain this objective beginning in 2016, and we will most likely proceed in several phases.

However, there is some good news for next year. The equalization payments from the Government of Quebec will be increased by close to 40 000 \$ and the conclusion of an agreement with the MRC of Bonaventure for fire protection services for the Pin Rouge unorganized territory sector will add 5 000 \$ to our revenues.

EXPENSES

In order to decrease operating costs, we decided to acquire 3 vehicles for the travelling requirements of employees and the Municipal Council. These vehicles, that will be permanently parked at the Town Hall, will allow us to save more than 7 000 \$ per year in travelling expenses that were previously paid to the persons who used their vehicles.

The completion of the cadastral renovation by the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources will allow us to save 68 000 \$ in assessment costs and close to 20 000 \$ in professional fees. This work, completed over a 2 year period, will have been quite costly for the citizens of New Richmond.

We are expecting a potential economy following the installation of a DEL public lighting system, from reduced electrical consumption and maintenance costs. The result should be a reduction of close to 30 000 \$ in direct costs.

Another positive element is the end of construction subsidies. The subsidies accorded 5 years ago will come to an end and the result will be more than 30 000 \$ in additional revenues. We have not accorded any subsidies since 2013. In fact, this situation has been judged as illegal by the Minister of Municipal Affairs. However, I would like to specify that these real estate tax credit programs were set up in New Richmond in a context that was completely different from the current one. They contributed to increasing property assessment and facilitated many residential, commercial and industrial projects.

Evidently certain expenses are increasing. Examples include the costs for municipal roads and the water and sewerage network. You don't have to be a specialist to comprehend that our facilities are aging and require more and more major repairs and maintenance. To this effect, we budgeted an amount of more than 35 000 \$ exclusively for preventative maintenance for equipment, and in particular, repairs to sewerage pumps.

The Recreation budgets are essentially the same. We anticipate that the pool will be in operation over a period of 7 months and the revenues has been budgeted accordingly. To this effect, we would like to inform you that as soon as the pool opens, new rates, that are identical to Bonaventure, will be in effect. We are currently negotiating with neighbouring municipalities to conclude a service agreement that will be beneficial to both them and us. Obviously, registration costs will be increased to reflect the reality and the quality of service that will be offered. We have no doubt that this facility will meet the expectations of clients.

For the moment, the operating costs for the Salle de spectacles, are higher than in 2015. However, we are working with our team to properly direct our investments and to obtain the maximum from each dollar invested. Our auditorium, that presents more than 40 professional shows each year, is a major asset for our region and will remain so for many years to come.

As we previously presented and explained, our debt service will not give us any breathing space before 2019. In other words, no loan by-law will come to term before 2019. Consequently, each investment must be added directly to our total debt service. Even though we have drastically cut our investments since 2013, it remains that there has been an increase. However, as we advance in time, we will pay less interest and reimburse more capital. As such, interest payments will decrease by 105 000 \$ next year and capital reimbursement will increase by 145 000 \$. Therefore, the impact of projects completed in 2013 and 2014 and financed in January 2015, result in a net amount of 40 000 \$.

RATES AND TARIFFS

All of these figures led the Municipal Council to consider several scenarios. Firstly, the by-law that regulates the water and sewerage tariffs, that was adopted in 1969, was completely revised and adjusted to the reality of 2016. As I mentioned, our operating costs and especially our maintenance costs for the water and sewer system are increasing. It was decided to increase the tariff for a housing unit from 60 \$ to 80 \$. This increase of 20 \$ is the first in 46 years! Certain other tariffs were also adjusted to fit today's reality, including the rate for carwashes for example, to establish a tariff that corresponds to the utilisation of the resource. For comparison purposes, the tariff is 510 \$ per year in Carleton and 300 \$ in Paspébiac.

The special tax for the water and sewerage network remains the same. It remains at 0,159\$ / 100 \$ of assessment. However, buildings that use public services (water and/or sewerage) and do not pay the special tax will be subjected to a higher rate that will increase from 35\$ or 60 \$ to 95 \$.

The rate for garbage collection and recycling will undergo a slight decrease of 0,4 %, bringing the tariff to 187,82 \$ for a single family dwelling in 2016.

Property taxes will be increased by 1,4 %. The basic rate will be set at 1,1643 \$ / 100 \$ of assessment. The increase for an average home, assessed at 143 987 \$, will be 45 \$.

Even though we are not happy to increase taxes once again, we consider that we are doing everything possible to limit the increase, while maintaining services for our citizens. I would like to repeat that our objective is to maintain our assets and respect the paying capacity of our population, while renewing our float of vehicles and repairing certain facilities.

2015 A PRODUCTIVE YEAR FOR OUR ECONOMY

As you have probably remarked, there was a great deal of investment that was completed in 2015 or in the process of being completed in our community: the new daycare center with 44 places, the SAQ (the liquor commission), the BMR hardware store, the brand new Subaru, Distributions Leblanc, Déménage et Livre-tout and the TransAlta offices, are a few examples. All of these projects will bring new revenues to the Town, and above all, many new jobs. We are particularly proud of the economic results in 2015 and we hope to see this momentum continue in 2016. There are a few projects currently on the drawing table and we hope that more will be added.

OUR CORPORATIONS

We have remarked a continually increasing demand for building lots in the Industrial Park. However, the *Société de développement économique de New Richmond inc.*, that manages the Industrial Expertise Center, is in a precarious financial position following the departure of the Eaton enterprise. We are currently working to assure that these vacant spaces are rented as soon as possible.

For the *Corporation du parc régional Petite Cascapédia*, the 2015 year was definitely better than the previous ones. There was a large increase in revenues and profits from the campground and lodgings at the mountain. The winter of 2015 was also an exceptional one. Unfortunately, we have no snow so far this year and we well understand that the revenues from the holiday season are very important for a station such as ours.

We have taken concrete steps to bring about a change at the *Parc régional*. A new manager was hired and new directors were added to the Board of Directors and they will contribute to the transformation process. Over the past 18 months we have successfully monitored expenditures, but there remains more to be done. As I stated previously, the status quo is no longer an option and we are hard at work

make the required changes. I would like to inform you that the investment project completed between 2006 and 2009 was finally settled with the Minister of Municipal Affairs a few weeks ago. The Minister agreed to pay the final subsidy of more than 1 000 000 \$ to our debt services. Therefore, this project will be finalized in the next few weeks, making it easier to budget in the future and properly orient our efforts.

Finally, I would like to announce that we have completely paid off the term loan of 300 000 \$ that was borrowed by the *Corporation de développement touristique* (the Festival), and this, one year earlier than planned. We now must attack the reimbursement of the line of credit that is also an amount of 300 000 \$, owed to Desjardins by this Corporation.

MAJOR PROJECTS FOR 2016

As stated in our Strategic Plan of Action, we are continuing our efforts to renew our float of vehicles. In 2016 we will purchase a 10 wheel truck and a pick-up truck to replace a 2001 truck and a 2006 pickup that have outlived their usefulness.

Planning for the renovation project for the Adrien-Gauvreau Community Center will begin in January. Things seem to be looking up for this project and we are planning to employ all the efforts necessary in upcoming months. This building that is the one that is used extensively, is showing serious signs of aging and simply does not meet current requirements. Without being extravagant, we will work to give our community a functional center that is adapted to its intensive utilization.

Evidently, the renovation work to the Bruce-Ritchie Pool will continue in 2016. We hope to re-open the pool at the end of April 2016. However, we are very well aware that it is possible that exterior work will have not been completed at that time.

As for the arena, we are on the alert for potential programs. Just last week, l'AQUAIRS (the Quebec Association for arenas and recreational and sports facilities) issued a press release to the effect that there has been no program available for the renovation of arenas in Quebec since 2012, even though the deadline to replace Freon refrigeration systems has been set at 2020. More than 200 arenas and curling centers in Quebec are in the same situation as we are. Even though our Strategic Plan of Action includes a project in 2017, it is possible that there will be progress in 2016, depending on opportunities. However, I would like to remind you that we cannot afford to repair all of our facilities at the same time!

CONCLUSION

The situation for Towns today does not leave much room to manoeuvre. Facilities are aging and require repairs, government requirements are increasing and their contribution is decreasing, citizens' expectations are continually higher and higher and with good cause. In this context, we are doing everything possible to keep our objective in sight. For a second consecutive year we have succeeded in balancing our budget. We all remember the troubled times that the Town of New Richmond succeeded in overcoming. However, this success has a price that we must now assume.

We were transparent when we previously stated that we do not wish to put off solving our problems. Over the past 2 years we believed that we have succeeded in solving many of them. We have no intention of stopping or hiding, you can rest assured.



Éric Dubé, Mayor

PRORATA AND PERCENTAGE OF REVENUES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

	2015 (\$)	%	2016 (\$)	%
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION				
General taxes	3 583 974	41,25	3 674 222	41,88
Compensation loss of revenues	213 436	2,46	219 814	2,51
Sustainable development tax	67 111	0,77	69 186	0,79
Sector tax	2 216	0,03	2 216	0,03
Compensation in lieu of taxes	252 398	2,90	285 960	3,26
Other revenues	1 095 220	12,61	1 044 250	11,91
Conditional revenues	2 683 480	30,89	2 650 620	30,22
HYGIENE				
Special tax	290 203	3,34	293 987	3,35
Water & sewerage tariff	84 408	0,97	116 340	1,33
GARBAGE COLLECTION				
Solid waste-recyclable materials	416 038	4,79	414 064	4,72
TOTAL REVENUES	8 688 484	100,00	8 770 659	100,00

PRORATA AND PERCENTAGE OF EXPENSES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

	2015 (\$)	%	2016 (\$)	%
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION				
Administration	1 126 725	12,97	1 091 302	12,45
Public Security (police - fire department)	431 348	4,96	449 096	5,12
Road transportation	1 006 656	11,59	1 008 326	11,50
Urbanism, economic development and tourism	516 094	5,94	497 304	5,67
Recreation, culture and the « Salle de spectacles »	1 241 722	14,29	1 266 185	14,44
Logement social / Social lodgings	36 144	0,42	44 165	0,50
HYGIENE				
Administration and maintenance	282 327	3,25	316 981	3,61
Solid waste-recyclable materials	413 042	4,75	412 859	4,71
DEBT				
Debt, temporary financing fees, operating fund	1 145 196	13,18	1 215 984	13,86
Debt subsidized by the government	2 489 230	28,65	2 468 457	28,14
TOTAL EXPENSES	8 688 484	100,00	8 770 659	100,00

TOWN HALL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Public notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Town Clerk, that in accordance with the provisions of the Cities and Towns Act, the Council of the Town of New Richmond has determined its calendar of regular meetings for 2016.

These meetings will be held in the Council Chambers at the New Richmond Town Hall, situated at 99 Place Suzanne-Guité, beginning at 20:00, on the following dates:

- Tuesday, January 12, 2016**
- Monday, February 1, 2016
- Monday, March 7, 2016
- Monday, April 4, 2016
- Monday, May 2, 2016
- Monday, June 6, 2016
- Monday, July 4, 2016
- Monday, August 1, 2016
- Monday, September 12, 2016
- Monday, October 3, 2016
- Monday, November 7, 2016
- Monday, December 5, 2016

Given in New Richmond,
this 8th day of December 2015

Céline LeBlanc
Town Clerk

ENACTMENT NOTICET BY-LAW 994-15

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Town Clerk, that the Municipal Council adopted the following by-law at the regular meeting on December 7, 2015:

By-law 994-15 relative to the imposition of a new tariff for water and sewerage services and repealing By-law 310-69

By-law 994-15 has been deposited at the Municipal Office where all interested persons may examine it during regular office hours. The said by-law comes into effect in accordance with the Law.

Given in New Richmond,
this 8th day of December 2015

Céline LeBlanc
Town Clerk

ENACTMENT NOTICET BY-LAW 992-15

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Town Clerk, that the Municipal Council adopted the following by-law at the regular meeting on December 14, 2015:

By-law 992-15 decreeing the 2016 budget provisions, as well as the various corresponding taxes and tariffs

By-law 992-15 has been deposited at the Municipal Office where all interested persons may examine it during regular office hours. The said by-law comes into effect in accordance with the Law.

Given in New Richmond,
this 15th day of December 2015

Céline LeBlanc
Town Clerk

ENACTMENT NOTICET BY-LAW 993-15

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given by the undersigned, Town Clerk, that the Municipal Council adopted the following by-law at the regular meeting on December 14, 2015:

By-law 993-15 concerning the accommodation and the transition for mobile storage units already being used as secondary buildings

By-law 993-15 has been deposited at the Municipal Office where all interested persons may examine it during regular office hours. The said by-law comes into effect in accordance with the Law.

Given in New Richmond,
this 15th day of December 2015

Céline LeBlanc
Town Clerk

To eligible voters having the right to be registered on the referendum list of the Municipality:

Public notice is hereby given by the undersigned that: The Council of the Town of New Richmond adopted the following by-laws at the regular Council meeting held on December 7, 2015 at 20:00 at the Town Hall, situated at 99 Place Suzanne-Guité, New Richmond, namely:

- No. 988-15, By-law modifying By-law 926-13 relative to the Urbanism Plan
- No. 989-15, By-law modifying the Zoning By-law 927-13 (Creation of the Zone Ic.3 from the Zone Pc/b.13)

In accordance with Article 137.11 of the Act Respecting Land Use Planning and Development (LAU), all eligible voters having the right to be registered on the referendum list of the municipality may request that the CMQ (Commission municipale du Québec), give an opinion concerning the conformity of by-laws to the urbanism plan. All requests must be transmitted to the Commission within the thirty (30) days following the publication of this notice. In accordance with Article 137.12 of the LAU, if the Commission receives a request from at least five (5) persons from the territory who are eligible to vote, it must give an opinion concerning the conformity of the by-laws to the said plan.

Conditions to be an eligible voter having the right to be registered on the referendum list for the entire municipality.

1. A person who, as of December 7, 2015, is not disqualified from voting under section 524 of the Act Respecting Elections and Referendums in Municipalities and who meets one of the following requirements:

- is a natural person who is domiciled in the municipality and in Quebec for at least 6 months;
- is of legal age, a Canadian citizen and not under curatorship.

2. A non-resident unique owner of an immovable or the unique occupant of a business establishment who is not disqualified from voting and who meets the following requirements:

- the owner of an immovable or the unique occupant of a business establishment situated in the municipality for at least 12 months;
- in the case of a natural person, is of legal age, a Canadian citizen and not under curatorship.

3. A non-resident undivided co-owner of an immovable or a non-resident co-occupant of a business establishment within the territory of the municipality who is not disqualified from voting and who meets the following conditions:

- the undivided co-owner of an immovable or the co-occupant of a business enterprise situated in the municipality for at least 12 months;
- be designated by power of attorney signed by the majority of the persons who have been co-owners or co-occupants for at least 12 months, as the person who has the right to sign the registry on their behalf and to be entered on the referendum list, if necessary. This power of attorney must be produced prior to or upon the signature of the registry.

4. Legal person:

- have designated by resolution from among its members, directors or employees, a person who, as of December 7, 2015 and upon exercising this right, is of legal age, a Canadian citizen and not under curatorship and who is not disqualified from voting according to legal requirements.

Given in New Richmond

Céline LeBlanc

PROGRAMME TRIENNAL D'IMMOBILISATIONS 2016-2017-2018 - THREE YEAR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES PROGRAM							
SERVICE - DEPT.	TITRE - TITLE	COÛT - COST	Sous-totaux	2016	2017	2018	G.-TOTAL
			Sub-total				GRAND TOTAL
Incendie -Fire Department							
	Habits de combats (12) - Combat suits	20 000			20 000		20000
	Matériel de communications - Comm. materials	11 500			11 500		11500
	Camion citerne - Tanker truck	160 000		160000			160000
			191 500				
Loisirs - Recreation							
	Terrains de tennis - Tennis courts	120 000		120 000			120 000
	Piscine Bruce-Ritchie - Pool	3 000 000		3 000 000			3 000 000
	Éclairage terrain de football - Football field lights	10 000			10 000		10000
	Aménagement patinoire extérieure - Outdoor rink	40 000		40 000			40000
	Réfection de l'aréna - Arena renovation	4 025 000			25 000	4 000 000	4025000
			7 195 000				
Centre communautaire - Community Center	Réfection du centre Adrien-Gauvreau - Renovation	750 000	750 000	750 000			750 000
Pointe Taylor- Taylor's Point	Réfection toiture et bloc sanitaire - Roof & sanitary inst.	75 000		75 000			75 000
	Réaménagement Pointe Taylor - Development	90 000		30 000	30 000	30 000	90 000
	Kiosques fixes pour marché public - Kiosks Public Market	105 000				105 000	105 000
			270 000				
BAT- Tourist info. Office	Stationnement asphalté -Paved parking lot	50 000			50 000		50 000
			50 000				
Garage municipal -Garage	Construction neuve - New building	1 000 000				1 000 000	1 000 000
			1 000 000				
Voirie / A&E Roads /Water & sewer.	Réfection du chemin Cyr- Repairs	1 000 000		500 000	500 000		1 000 000
	Réfection rue Terry Fox - Repairs	500 000				500 000	500 000
	Réparation asphalte Rang 3 Ouest - Asphalt repair	15 000		15 000			15 000
	Réparation asphalte Route Fallow - Asphalt repair	15 000		15 000			15 000
	Réparation asphalte chemin St-Edgar- Asphalt repair	40 000		40 000			40 000
	Prolongement rue des Érables - Extension	900 000		400 000		500 000	900 000
	Ponceau Chemin St-Edgar (ch. De fer) - Culvert	35 000				35 000	35 000
	Ponceau avenue des Ponts (ch. De fer) - Culvert	5 000		5 000			5 000
	Mise à niveau station pompage aqueduc -Upgrade	25 000			15 000	10 000	25 000
	Modification de postes de pompage- Pump stations	1 900 000			1 000 000	900 000	1 900 000
			4 435 000				
Équipements- Equipment	Renouvellement flotte de véhicules-Vehicule purchases						
	Machine à pression Landa - Pressure washers	20 000			20 000		20 000
	Camion 10 roues - 10 wheel truck	245 000		245 000			245 000
	Deux camionnette 1/2 tonne- 1/2 ton pick-up	70 000		70 000			
			335 000				
Adm.gén. - Gen. Adm.	Immobilisations à même les revenus-Capital expenditure	25 000	25 000	25 000			25 000
		14 251 500	14 251 500	5 490 000	1 681 500	7 080 000	14 251 500