

Municipality of the District of Clare
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, July 15th 2009

PRESENT : Warden Jean Melanson; Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc; Councillors:
Brian Comeau, Russell Comeau, Nil Doucet, Danny Hill, Arnold LeBlanc and
Simon LeBlanc; CAO Connie Saulnier and Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet.
Translator: Ms. Germaine Comeau.
Camera operator: Ms Gene Dugas.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jean Melanson called the Council meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the proposed agenda be approved with the following addition: under 10) New Business, add Item number 10.7: Transfer Gas Tax Year 5 Funds.

MOTION CARRIED

3) PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

4) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FOLLOWING MEETING:

4.1 June 17th, 2009: Council Meeting

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet that the minutes of the June 17th, 2009 Regular Council Meeting be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There was no business arising from previous meetings.

6) WARDEN'S ACTIVITY REPORT

Warden Jean Melanson attended various meetings and official functions, as listed below:

- Interview with Radio Canada regarding his Honorary Diploma from Université Ste-Anne;
- Meeting with representative of Canada Post regarding the Mavillette Post Office;
- Canada Day events at Smugglers Cove Park;

- Boat launch at A.F. Thériault Ship Yard for Portland Maine Fire Boat;
- Interview at Radio CIFA regarding Festival acadien de Clare;
- Meeting with the Yarmouth-Argyle-Barrington-Clare Districts Planning Commission to discuss the Municipality of Clare's membership to the Commission;
- Discussions regarding Solid Waste and the approved funding of \$75,000 from Waste Check from the RRFB for the purchase of a chipper/grinder/crusher for the municipalities of Yarmouth and Argyle. Warden Melanson stated that they will not be going ahead with their projects and perhaps they would be willing to transfer these funds to the Municipality of Clare for the purchase of a chipper/grinder/crusher for construction debris;
- A journalist at the Yarmouth Radio Station CJLS spoke with Warden Melanson and requested that they be added to the email list to receive upcoming Council meeting agenda's to be able to report more on activities going on in Clare.

7) OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

There were not official statements.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from *La Baie SPCA* regarding the current dogcatcher procedures

CAO Connie Saulnier read a letter from *La Baie SPCA* dated June 23, 2009 regarding the current municipal dogcatcher procedures and recommendations the organizations wished to make concerning procedures to follow when a dog is picked-up.

Council agreed that CAO Saulnier draft a policy, with the input of *La Baie SPCA* and the current municipal dogcatcher, outlining procedures for the dogcatcher to follow and report to Council with this draft policy.

9) COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Planning Advisory Committee

Council was informed that Terrain Group will hold public discussion group meetings throughout the Municipality of Clare in August. The dates and times will be advertized in the local papers.

Building Permits Report

Councillor Danny Hill presented the building permits report (*copy included*) as submitted by the Building Department. A total of 31 permits were issued in June 2009, for an estimated value of construction in the amount of \$2,231,500.00 dollars.

Councillors stated that the statistics from the same month of the previous year would be useful to know. CAO Saulnier will inform the Building Inspector to provide the monthly information from both current and previous year for the same month.

9.2 Recreation Committee – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau gave a report regarding the Recreation Committee's activities (*July 2, 2009 Meeting Minutes*). He reported that \$2,900.00 in grant money had been given by the Recreation Committee to various organizations, as listed in the circulated minutes. Councillor Comeau also stated that the Committee had received a request to assume the cost of placing and maintaining a portable toilet at the Hilltown ball field and explained that the request had been refused by the Recreation Committee because there was no funding in this year's budget for such an expense. Discussions regarding portable toilets for ball fields will be looked into during the next fiscal year's budget review process.

9.3 South West Shore Development Authority

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc explained that there was no SWSDA Board meeting this month because SWSDA is required to become an incorporated Regional Development Authority. The creation of SWSDA Incorporated will therefore require a second Board of Directors. A meeting will be held on August 13 with all SWSDA members to discuss the two boards. SWSDA would like confirmation as to how many will be in attendance.

9.4 Tourism Committee – Councillor Arnold LeBlanc

Councillor Arnold LeBlanc reported the ongoing activities of the Tourism Committee as listed in the circulated minutes (*dated June 30, 2009*). He reported that 'Musique de la Baie' pamphlets are out with the list of upcoming dates and locations; highway signs advertizing 'Évangéline' have been removed; Committee members of 'Friends of Mavillette Beach' have changed; the Visitors Information Centre in Belliveau Cove is now open for the season; the Destination South West Nova Scotia Guide has not been made correctly and the map in the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores brochure is too small however larger maps are being made for distribution to visitors.

As well he reported that there will be a lobster boil and clam bake on Thursday evenings this summer at Belliveau Cove Gazebo for visitors and locals at \$10 a plate as a 'test run' for next year to compliment the "Les Beaux Jeudis". As well the committee is looking at holding evenings with story tellers from the local area to promote the Acadian heritage and culture; an RV Rally is planned for the Clare Social Club later this summer; the committee will assist in promoting the Music Saint-Bernard classical concerts in hopes to extend the season. All these activities are to welcome visitors to our region and to include the locals as well.

Rendez-Vous de la Baie

Councillor Arnold LeBlanc indicated that construction of the *Rendez-Vous de la Baie* cultural centre is going well and the Café and possibly the Gallery, which were scheduled to open end of October, are now scheduled to open in September.

9.5 Villa Acadienne – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau informed Council that the *Villa Acadienne's* Annual Board of Directors Meeting was held at which Paul Comeau from Grant Thornton presented the financial statement. He reported that expenses were \$6,273,631 and revenue was \$6,129,635 leaving a deficit of over \$140,000. He added that the board will work to avoid such a deficit in the future. Elections took place and the Board is composed of Eric Pothier as President, Councillor Brian Comeau as Vice-President, as well as Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc, Councillor Arnold LeBlanc, Councillor Simon LeBlanc as representatives from the Municipality of Clare, and Mrs. Josephine Hanna from the general public. Grant Thornton were again nominated as the Auditors for 2009-2010.

9.6 Waste Check – Warden Jean Melanson

Warden Jean Melanson reported that there are concerns regarding the RRFB not sharing its surplus with the 7 regions of the Province. Each year, the RRFB has a surplus which it places in reserve for future projects. The RRFB had promised to give more of their surplus to the regions this year however it did not. Waste Check will be writing a letter to encourage the RRFB to release more funding and not keep as much in reserve. A copy of this letter will be sent to local municipalities, including the Municipality of Clare, for support. More to follow regarding this issue.

Waste Check will be reviewing different Construction Debris policies and will prepare a draft policy. Municipalities will have the choice of adopting the policy if it is suitable for them. More to follow regarding this issue.

Council discussed the topic of pick-up of large garbage items and having a Spring and Fall Clean-Up in the Clare area. It was clarified that currently Clare offers this clean-up program on a regular basis every two (2) weeks during regular municipal garbage pick-up at no extra cost. Depending on the size of the item, it can be placed at roadside with regular garbage for pick-up. For larger items, arrangements must be made ahead of time with Clare Dumpsters.

MORE 'SOLID WASTE' ISSUES

(1) Councillor Russell Comeau inquired regarding solid waste disposal fees at the Municipal Transfer Station, explaining that a resident had been charged the \$20 fee for 402 lbs of garbage because he was over the no-fee 400 lbs limit. Currently, there is no fee for less than 400 lbs (200 kg) of residential garbage. Councillor Comeau inquired as to the fee set up and if residents should be charged for 2 pounds (the overage) or for 402 pounds (the total weight).

This issue will be looked at and clarified.

(2) Councillor Danny Hill expressed that many residents were having difficulty contacting Clare Dumpsters. CAO Saulnier explained that she has a meeting booked with Clare Dumpsters to discuss this exact issue.

Councillor Brian Comeau requested that CAO Saulnier send him an email with the results of this meeting and discussions regarding this issue.

10) NEW BUSINESS**10.1 Final Reading and Adoption of Amendment No. 27-01-2009, Amendment to By-Law No. 27, “Municipal Planning Strategy” and “Land Use By-Law”**

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc that the Municipality of the District of Clare read the By-Law Amendment No. 27-01-2009, an amendment to By-Law N^o: 27 respecting ‘Municipal Planning Strategy’ and ‘Land Use’, for the second and final time, thereby enacting the By-Law Amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

10.2 Final Reading and Adoption of Amendment No. 25-01-2009, Amendment to By-Law No. 25, “Building By-Law”

MOVED BY Councillor Brian Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc that the Municipality of the District of Clare read the By-Law Amendment No. 25-01-2009, an amendment to By-Law N^o: 25 respecting Building, for the second and final time, thereby enacting the By-Law Amendment.

MOTION CARRIED

10.4 Request for Funding Assistance re: Employment Project ‘Clare Clean Up Project’

The West Nova Inclusive Employment Society, which provides specialized employment services for persons with disabilities, requested from Council the amount of \$1,082.00 to pay a portion of the wages for their ‘Clare Clean Up Project’ which would provide 2 part-time employees to clean up beaches in Clare (*copy of proposal included*).

Council discussed the funding request and agreed that funds could be used from the current budget under ‘cleaning’ expenditure.

MOVED BY Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Municipality of the District of Clare fund the West Nova Inclusive Employment Society the amount of \$1,082.00 to pay a portion of the wages for their ‘Clare Clean Up Project’ which would enable 2 part-time employees from the program to clean up beaches in Clare, from July 20 to September 20 2009.

MOTION CARRIED

10.5 Request for Funding Assistance from SWSDA re: ‘Yarmouth Air Show’

A request was received from SWSDA regarding the Yarmouth International Air Show requesting funding from all four local municipalities in the amount of \$15,000.00 each for this event (*copy of proposal included*).

CAO Connie Saulnier explained that this issue had been brought to her attention prior to the budget review process and apologized for not bringing this request during the municipal budget process.

Council commented that no formal funding request had been sent to Council and felt that for such a large amount requested it would have been appropriate for SWSDA to send a written funding request, which would have been looked at during the budget review process.

Councillors pointed out that last year the Municipality of Clare did not financially support this event.

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc that the Municipality of the District of Clare refuse the funding request from SWSDA in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the Yarmouth International Air Show to be held in September 2009.

MOTION CARRIED

After much discussion, Council agreed that they would be prepared to explore the possibility of contributing a smaller amount for the Yarmouth Air Show, however they would like to review the Air Show budget before agreeing on any amount of funding. Once Council reviews the budget, they will discuss this funding request.

10.7 Motion to Transfer Gas Tax Funds for Year 5

MOVED BY Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet that the Municipality of the District of Clare deposit a payment under the Federal Gas Tax Program (Year 5) in the amount of \$206,818.00 into the Capital Reserve Fund for future expenditures associated with the Gas Tax Program.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY Warden Jean Melanson and **SECONDED BY** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc that Council proceed to an In-Camera Session to discuss item 10.3 Request from 'Yarmouth International Airport Corporation' re: Increase of Contribution and item 10.6 Soundproofing Issues at 'Clare Health Centre'.

MOTION CARRIED

Council proceeded to an In-Camera Session.

Council concluded the In-Camera Session and returned to the Regular Session of Council to adjourn the Council meeting.

11) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

There will not be a Council meeting for the month of August.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Jeannette Doucet – Deputy Clerk