

Municipality of the District of Clare
COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, April 6, 2011

PRESENT: Warden Jean Melanson, Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc; Councillors: Brian Comeau, Russell Comeau, Nil Doucet, Danny Hill, Arnold LeBlanc and Simon LeBlanc; CAO/Clerk Connie Saulnier and Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet. Member of the public: Paul Comeau.

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jean Melanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and SECONDED BY Councillor Danny Hill that the proposed Agenda be approved with the following additions:

- 4.12 Dog By-Law – Councillor Danny Hill
- 4.13 Physical Activity Forum – CAO Connie Saulnier
- 4.14 Tax Exemption – Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet

MOTION CARRIED

2) PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Paulette Sweeney-Goodwin – Yarmouth Hospital Foundation (7:00 pm)

Paulette Sweeney-Goodwin of the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation made a presentation to Council. She indicated that there are four (4) members from Clare on the Board of Directors. She stated that the Yarmouth Hospital will be celebrating 100 years next year. She pointed out that the signature events for 2011 are: (1) Jody Shelly Golf Tournament on July 8th 2011 in Clare; and (2) the Spring Gala on May 7th 2011 at the Mariners Centre in Yarmouth. She encouraged the Municipality to support the Spring Gala.

Warden Melanson thanked Mrs. Sweeney-Goodwin for the presentation.

Yarmouth Hospital Foundation (YHF) Spring Gala

Council discussed the YHF fundraising event, the Spring Gala, to be held on Saturday, May 7th and the Municipality's support. Council agreed to support the activity by reserving a table of 8 at a cost of \$150 per person.

2.2 *Transport de Clare* RE. Proposed Federal Gas Tax Project (7:30 pm)

Claredon Robicheau, President of *Transport de Clare*, made a presentation to Council regarding a request he had submitted to Council regarding the Municipality's Federal Gas Tax funds.

He inquired if the Municipality would purchase a van or a bus for *Transport de Clare* with the Federal Gas Tax Funds. He explained that the Provincial Grant will only be accepted if Transport de Clare purchases a van or a bus. Mr. Robicheau indicated he will be inquiring further about the provincial grant and will contact the Municipality with the information.

Warden Melanson thanked Mr. Robicheau for the information.

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council was informed that municipal staff had also been asked regarding forming a team for Relay for Life, however there was not enough interest to form a team. Councillors that had expressed interest in participating in the event were informed that they may join an existing team by contacting a Clare Relay for Life representative.

4) NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Doctor's Incentive Program – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc indicated that the Municipality of Clare has been fortunate with recruiting doctors. He inquired if Council still wished to offer the present incentive package of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) with a five (5) year contract. Council discussed and agreed to continue offering the same incentive package to new doctors wanting to practice in Clare.

4.2 Bicycle Lanes – Councillor Simon LeBlanc

Councillor Simon LeBlanc indicated that a resident who does cycling spoke to him regarding having a cycling lane in Clare. Council would need information regarding possible costs to further discuss this issue. It was suggested that discussions with the Department of Transportation could provide further information.

4.3 Garbage Pick-Up at *Chemin du P'tit Moulin* – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau informed Council that residents on the private road *Chemin du P'tit Moulin*, who have to bring their garbage to a designated location for pick-up, are asking if the Municipality would pay for a dumpster. Council discussed and it was stated that the Municipality does not pay for dumpsters or garbage bins on private roads in Clare, therefore it will not approve to pay for one at this location.

4.4 Honouring Gérard d'Entremont – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau informed Council that representatives of the *Festival acadien de Clare* would like to honour Gérard d'Entremont along with the Municipality, perhaps during the Festival this summer. Councillor Comeau will discuss with Festival representatives in greater detail.

4.5 Festival Acadien de Clare – CAO Connie Saulnier

CAO Connie Saulnier informed Council that the *Festival acadien de Clare* would like the Municipal Tourism Department to assist with lobbying efforts, Government funding grant applications, attending related board meetings, etc. Presently, Larry Peach acts as a resource person with Le Festival. Council suggested that Mr. Peach be invited to give Council an overview of his duties and discuss what his role could be to further assist *Le Festival*.

4.6 Distribution of \$10,000 “Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award” Prize Money – CAO Connie Saulnier

CAO Connie Saulnier informed Council that certain groups were inquiring as to how they could have access to these funds. Council discussed various ideas. Perhaps the *Conseil des Arts de la Baie* might be able to help develop criteria of who could qualify and how. Council agreed to organize a meeting to discuss this issue further.

4.7 Wentworth Park – CAO Connie Saulnier

CAO Connie Saulnier informed Council that Jean Deveau, in charge of the maintenance and repairs at Wentworth Park in Corberrie, inquired if the Public Works Committee will be going to look at the park. Repairs are necessary due to damage caused by last fall's flooding.

Council discussed and decided that the Public Works Committee members should go to Wentworth Park and other municipal buildings/properties to assess what repairs are needed and make recommendations to Council.

4.8 Set date RE. Presentation by Jeff Mullen RE. Anaerobic Digester

Council was informed that the Municipality of Digby inquired if the Municipality of Clare would be interested in hearing a presentation by Jeff Mullen on anaerobic digesters. Council agreed to meet with the Municipality of Digby for a presentation regarding this digester. CAO Saulnier will obtain a date from Digby for this meeting.

4.9 RANE (Regroupement des aînés de la N.-É.) Attending Event in Québec

Council was informed that there is a trip planned for Francophone seniors in a twinning exchange with Saguenay / Lac St-Jean (Québec) and Nova Scotia. At this large event, there will be a booth promoting Nova Scotia. Council discussed that it would be important that Clare be represented at this event. Council suggested contacting the seniors group and ask them to suggest a member that could represent Clare. Council also suggested asking Denis Comeau, who has worked in the tourism industry in the past, if he would be interested in going to the event to work at the booth promoting the region of Clare.

4.10 Recognition for André LeBlanc's years of service on EMO Committee

Council was informed that André LeBlanc has been a volunteer at EMO for 12 years and a volunteer firefighter for over 30 years. André Valotaire, who had informed CAO Connie Saulnier of this, suggested that the Municipality should recognize André LeBlanc for his years of volunteer service. Council discussed and suggested he could be recognized during Volunteer Night.

4.11 Rendez-vous de la Baie – Councillor Brian Comeau

Council was made aware that there is a petition being circulated regarding the Municipality, the *Rendez-vous de la Baie* Café and Comeau Lumber. Council discussed holding a public meeting to address these concerns. Some of the information in the petition is incorrect therefore a public meeting would clarify the issues addressed. Council stated that when the petition is brought to Council, a public meeting will be called.

4.12 Dog By-Law – Councillor Danny Hill

Councillor Danny Hill questioned if Council should ban vicious dogs in Clare, due to last week's vicious dog attack in Yarmouth. Council discussed this issue and decided not to ban any particular breed of dogs in Clare at this time.

4.13 Physical Activity Forum – CAO Connie Saulnier

Andrea Gaudet of the Recreation Department inquired if Councillors wished to attend a Physical Activity Forum on May 6th 2011 in Halifax. Councillor Brian Comeau and Andrea Gaudet will be attending the forum.

4.14 Tax Exemption – Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet

Council discussed the Municipal Tax Exemption. Council agreed to give an exemption on Municipal Taxes in the amount of \$100.00 to homeowners whose total household income for 2010 was less than \$16,500.00. Individuals applying for the Tax Exemption must be the property owners of the said municipal tax accounts.

5) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

6) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

*Jeannette Doucet – Deputy Clerk
JD/ck*