

Municipality of the District of Clare  
COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday, March 2, 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. Translators: Germaine Comeau and Richard Landry.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**1) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

4.5 Cracker Barrel Session Topics at UNSM Workshop – Warden Jean Melanson

4.6 Laptop Computers – Warden Jean Melanson

MOTION CARRIED

**2) PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

**3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**3.1 Team from Municipality “Relay for Life”: June 24<sup>th</sup> 2011**

Recently, Yvon McCauley of the Recreation Committee had informed CAO Connie Saulnier that some municipal staff members were interested in putting together a team and participate in the cancer research fundraising event “Relay for Life”. CAO Saulnier had asked if Councillors wanted to form a team. Some expressed interest and wanted to know the date before committing.

Council was informed that the date is Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm (all evening) until 7 am, Saturday morning. Councillors discussed and stated that the Municipality had participated in the past. It involves having a team of 8 to 10 people who will collect funds (\$120 target amount for each participant) for cancer research, then take turns walking during a 12-hour period. The event organisers suggest that teams register by mid-May.

Councillors who expressed interest in being on the team were: Brian Comeau, Arnold LeBlanc and Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc. Councillor Nil Doucet indicated he is already on a team.

It was stated that if there were enough staff members interested in forming the team, with approximately 10 people (to permit reasonable walking durations for each participant) these Councillors would participate. Warden Melanson suggested that staff be asked if they wish to form a team.

### **3.2 Update on Beach & Lakes Access Roads Research Position**

CAO Connie Saulnier informed Council that a qualified individual had been found. Mary Guptill of Meteghan River has been hired. CAO Saulnier indicated that the maps with the beach access roads identified, which was provided by the former planners, had incorrect information. Ms. Guptill discovered this after conducting lengthy research on one of the right-of-ways indicated on the map. Having reached a dead end at the deeds office, she went at the location to find a cliff instead of a right of way. Before conducting any more research, Ms. Guptill will insure the roads listed on the maps in each district and corresponding identification numbers are accurate.

## **4) NEW BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Letter from Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations regarding Capped Assessment Program (CAP)**

CAO Saulnier and Warden Melanson informed Council that a letter had been received from Service Nova Scotia regarding the CAP program. The Minister of Service Nova Scotia is looking for feedback from municipalities.

Warden Melanson explained that result of the CAP program is not what was intended. The CAP was intended to provide a tax break for low income families, but it is not the case. Those that are well-to-do are benefiting the most from the CAP. Warden Melanson provided Council with examples to demonstrate this. He also explained how the CAP has significantly affected the revenue for the Municipality of Clare in a negative manner and to recoup its losses, the tax rate would have to be increased every year. Warden Melanson added that a letter will be sent to the Minister expressing the Municipality's concerns.

### **4.2 Term expiring of Municipal Council's board member on Yarmouth Hospital Foundation**

A letter has been received from the Yarmouth Hospital Foundation (YHF) indicating that the term of the Director appointed by the Municipality of Clare is expiring May 2011. It is Councillor Arnold LeBlanc who serves on the board representing the Municipality. He has served his first 3-year term.

The YHF asks that the Municipality's nomination be sent in writing before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011.

Councillor LeBlanc indicated that he is interested in reoffering to serve on the board of directors for another 3-year term. Council is in agreement and Warden Melanson indicated that a formal motion will be made at the upcoming Council meeting.

#### **4.3 Financial Statements (RVB and Municipality)**

CAO Saulnier presented the January 2011 Financial Statements of the *Rendez-vous de la Baie* (RVB) operations. They show an increase in revenue in comparison with previous months. CAO Saulnier stated that she is pleased since January is usually a slow month.

Council pointed out that even though the Financial Statements still show a slight loss, the improvement is very encouraging.

Regarding the Financial Statements for the Municipality, Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet indicated that a glitch in the new system (Procom) has prevented her from being able to produce the documents. CAO Saulnier indicated that hopefully they will be presented at the next Council meeting.

#### **4.4 Attendance at FCM Annual Conference**

Council was informed that the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference will be held in Halifax from June 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Council discussed attendance of the upcoming annual FCM Conference. Warden Melanson indicated that as per policy up to four (4) Councillors may attend, however since the conference is held in Nova Scotia, additional representatives may be eligible to attend.

Members of Council attending will be Russell Comeau, Nil Doucet, Danny Hill and Ronnie LeBlanc. The Warden and CAO will also attend. The deadline for booking the Study Tours is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Councillors attending are asked to contact Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet to book their specific Study Tours.

#### **4.5 Cracker Barrel Session Topics at UNSM Workshops – Warden Melanson**

Warden Melanson informed Council that the UNSM is asking all municipalities to provide topics they wished be brought up for discussion during the upcoming Cracker Barrel Session at the UNSM Spring Conference (held in May at the Digby Pines). Warden Melanson instructed Councillors to provide their ideas to CAO Connie Saulnier. She can then be forwarded them to the UNSM representative for consideration.

#### **4.6 Laptop computers for Council – Warden Melanson**

Warden Melanson stated that the topic of laptop computers for Councillors has been discussed in the past, but a decision had never been made. He commented that many other Municipal Councils, as well as various Board Members have laptops. He indicated that it is an affective way of having electronic correspondence and documents close at hand for reference.

Council discussed and enumerated the positive aspects of having laptops, such as eliminating paperwork, saving money, postage and time, being more 'green', being more affective and efficient.

Warden Melanson asked that CAO Saulnier conduct research with local computer providers comparing quality, brands and prices. He indicated that once Council has an idea regarding cost, they can proceed with a motion.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

**6) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Jeannette Doucet – Deputy Clerk  
JD/ck*