

Municipality of the District of Clare
COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, October 5, 2011

PRESENT: Warden Jean Melanson, Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc; Councillors: Brian Comeau, Russell Comeau, Nil Doucet, Arnold LeBlanc and Simon LeBlanc; CAO Connie Saulnier and Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet.
Members of the public: Alain Comeau, Gerald Thériault, Jody Comeau.
Translators: none required.

ABSENT: Councillor Danny Hill.

CALL TO ORDER

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

1) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and SECONDED BY Councillor Simon LeBlanc that the proposed Agenda be approved with the following additions:

4) New Business:

- 4.9 RCMP and Towing of Impounded Vehicles – Councillor Russell Comeau
- 4.10 Garbage Pick-Up – Councillor Brian Comeau

MOTION CARRIED

2) PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Lighthouse Project – Larry Peach

Larry Peach explained that he had been approached by representatives of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) regarding if the Municipality would be interested in acquiring the Cape St-Mary's lighthouse. He indicated that the lighthouse is in need of repairs. There have been some quotes for the work needed. Council could evaluate if the lighthouse could be purchased and perhaps try to get funding. Mr. Peach added that there is also a nice walk/trail around the area.

Warden Melanson thanked Mr. Peach for the information.

2.2 Club social de Clare – Dominique Hanna and Richard Robichaud

Dominique Hanna and Richard Robichaud, representing the Board of Directors for the *Club social de Clare* in Little Brook, gave an overview of the changes that have been made to help remedy the poor financial situation that the *Club* is experiencing. The parcel of land located behind the Club, which contains 16.82 acres, has recently been appraised at a value of \$84,000 and the parcel of land known as the parking lot, containing 5.52 acres has been appraised at \$28,000 (see attached appraisal). *Le Club* would like to know if the Municipality is interested in acquiring this land.

Council agreed it would be best to discuss this issue in greater detail and decided to meet on October 18th at 7:00 pm during an in-camera session.

Warden Melanson thanked Mr. Hanna and Mr. Robichaud for the information.

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 Dangerous & Unsightly, Lower Saulnierville (PID# 30057426)

Council discussed a property in Lower Saulnierville (PID # 30057426) which had a dilapidated barn. The owner of the property has had the building torn down, however a large portion of the construction debris still remains on the property and poses a hazard. Council discussed and agreed to put this issue on the agenda of at the upcoming Council meeting for an official Order to clean the property.

Council also stated that a property owner in Meteghan River that had received a letter from the municipal solicitor with regards to cleaning up the property has cooperated and cleaned-up the property.

4) NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Newsletter – Communication Committee

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc informed Council that the new Communication Committee met for the first time on Monday, September 19th (see copy of minutes attached). The Council sub-committee is made up of Councillor Brian Comeau, Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc. Deputy Warden LeBlanc was elected chair.

Deputy Warden LeBlanc stated that one of the issues the committee discussed was the Municipal Newsletter. The committee felt that Council should be more strategic with the contents of the newsletter by playing a more active role and giving more direction as to the contents of the newsletter, to use the newsletter to its fullest potential.

Council discussed and listed topics they felt were important for the upcoming newsletter:

- the recycling plant to be built at the former Comeau Lumber site;
- the possibility being explored of a composting facility in Clare;
- projects listed with regards to the Federal Gas Tax Funds;
- new doctors at the Clare Health Centre (a photo with the Warden);
- and perhaps promote recycling and better sorting.

4.2 In Camera topics listed on Agendas – Communication Committee

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc, Chair of the Communication Committee, informed Council that another issue the committee discussed was having topics that were discussed during In-Camera Sessions listed on the Agendas. Deputy Warden LeBlanc explained that this would improve

Council's transparency, since the public would be able to know what subjects were being discussed. Currently, sometimes the topics are listed and sometimes they are not.

Council discussed and agreed that from now on topics that are discussed during In-Camera Sessions of Council meetings and Council-in-Committee meetings should be listed on the Agendas.

4.3 Summaries of discussions/decisions/actions discussed at meetings – Communication Committee

Deputy Warden LeBlanc, Chair of the Communication Committee, informed Council that the committee also discussed the topic of internal communication. A suggestion was that during Council meetings, to have discussions summarized, as well as decisions and actions clearly stated before proceeding to the next topic on the Agenda. This way, it would be clearer to everyone and more accurate in the minutes for future reference.

Council discussed and agreed that from now, after lengthy discussions, the Warden will summarize the discussion, reaffirm decisions made and state actions required before proceeding to the next topic on the agenda.

4.4 Draft Human Resource Manual

CAO Connie Saulnier distributed a draft copy of the Human Resource Manual for Council to review. She indicated that there are three more policies to be added to the binder, which will be provided next week. Council will review and discuss in detail at the October 18 in-camera meeting.

4.5 Fire Prevention By-Law

Council was provided a Fire Prevention By-Law that had been drafted by the Fire Departments. Council needs to review the By-Law and decide if it will be adopted by Council for the Municipality of Clare.

4.6 Cosman Estate – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc

Council discussed that the Cosman Estate is reaching its 100th year and changes occur after that with regards to accessing the funds. Council discussed that it would be an opportune time to approach the trustees of the estate for funds for the Clare Health Centre. Council discussed seeking a legal opinion of how to approach the trustees. Warden Jean Melanson will speak with the trustees and CAO Connie Saulnier will ask for legal advice.

4.7 Volunteer Firefighters' Banquet (Oct. 29th at 6pm)

CAO Connie Saulnier reminded Council that a banquet will be held to thank the volunteer firefighters' and auxiliary members. The Banquet will be Saturday October 29 at 6:00 pm, at the Saulnierville Legion. Councillors will serve the meal to the volunteers, as they did in previous years. Council agreed to give one (1) give certificate of a fifty dollar (\$50) value for each fire department (a draw).

CAO Saulnier also stated that the Little Brook Fire Department has asked that the Municipality present a plaque to honour former Fire Chief André LeBlanc for his 20 years of service.

4.8 UNSM Fall Conference: Halifax November 1st to 4th

Council was reminded that the UNSM Fall Conference will be held in November (1st to 4th) in Halifax and Councillors should confirm their attendance with Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet for registration.

4.9 RCMP and Towing Impounded Vehicles – Councillor Russell Comeau

Councillor Russell Comeau stated that vehicles that have been impounded are being towed to Yarmouth. He would like clarification as to why. CAO Saulnier indicated that she will inquire again to the RCMP on this matter.

4.10 Garbage Pick-Up – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau indicated that he had received a complaint that a green cart on Duffy Road had not been emptied in August and again in September. He was informed that the situation had been rectified as the resident in question had contacted the Municipal Office and the situation had been dealt with at that time.

4.11 Recycling Plant at Municipal Industrial Park – Pam Thibault

Pam Thibault, Energy Coordinator, gave an update on the recycling plant. She indicated that the equipment is being purchased and phase two will be to have the equipment refurbished. Clare Machine Works will be doing the work, not to exceed \$40,100. The scrap metal is being removed and so far there was over \$6,000 worth of metal. An invitational tender has been sent for some equipment for the recycling plant (ie. sorting line / conveyer belt).

5) IN CAMERA SESSION

There were no In-Camera Issues to discuss.

Council indicated that if there are no 'In Camera' topics, that the heading not be placed on the Agenda.

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

The next Council-in-Committee meeting was set for November 9 (the week following the UNSM Conference) 2011 at 7 pm.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm following a motion by Councillor Nil Doucet.

Approved at October 19th 2011 Council Meeting

Respectfully submitted by

Jeannette Doucet – Deputy Clerk (cdk)