

**Municipality of Clare
Council Meeting
Minutes - March 19th, 2008**

PRESENT: Warden Jean Melanson, Deputy Warden Arnold LeBlanc, Councillors:
Nil Doucet, Danny Hill, Simon LeBlanc, Brian Comeau, Russell Comeau,
Ronnie LeBlanc ; Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet and CAO Connie Saulnier

1) CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jean Melanson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

2) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and seconded by Councillor Danny Hill that
the proposed agenda be approved. **MOTION CARRIED**

3) PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Presentation of badges to Fire Chiefs and Deputy Fire Chiefs

Warden Jean Melanson indicated that Council wished to recognize the Fire Chiefs and Deputy Fire Chiefs of the eight Fire Departments of the Municipality of Clare and present to each of them a badge which indicates their title and name of the Fire Department they represent, to be used when identification is needed at the scene of a fire, an accident, etc.

Councillors Danny Hill, Nil Doucet, Simon LeBlanc, Ronnie LeBlanc and Warden Jean Melanson presented the badges to the Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs.

3.2 Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Mr. Charles Surette and Mr. Guy Belliveau of the CFIA gave a presentation regarding the Canadian Shellfish Sanitation Program and explained the reason for the recent shellfish closure of the shores of Saint Marie's Bay, spanning from Cape Saint Marie to Belliveau Cove, which is caused by the "Red Tide". They indicated that different Government agencies are monitoring the levels of toxins and bacteria which cause shellfish to become poisonous. More information can be obtained on the website: www.inspection.gc.ca (copy of presentation enclosed).

Warden Melanson thanked Mr. Surette and Mr. Belliveau for their informative presentation.

3.3 Danny LeBlanc re: interest rate charged on outstanding property taxes

Mr. Danny LeBlanc addressed Council seeking information regarding interest rates on outstanding property taxes. Mr. LeBlanc requested an explanation on the Cap Assessment Program (CAP); the duration of the CAP program, and asked that the interest charges on 2 (two) of his properties be waived since they are under Public Utility Appeals.

Warden Melanson explained that the CAP Assessment Program is a provincial issue, not a municipal issue. However Warden Melanson indicated that he will contact Mr. Danny LeBlanc to further discuss this issue. Mr. LeBlanc was in agreement.

4) **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS ON:**

4.1 **February 20th, 2008 - Council Meeting**

MOVED BY Councillor Nil Doucet and seconded by Councillor Danny Hill that the minutes of the Council Meeting held on February 20th, 2008 be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED**

4.2 **March 5th, 2008 - Committee of Council Meeting**

MOVED BY Councillor Nil Doucet and seconded by Councillor Simon LeBlanc that the minutes of the Committee of Council Meeting held on March 5th, be approved as circulated. **MOTION CARRIED**

5) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

5.1 **RCMP Police Advisory Board**

An ad was placed in the March 19th issue of the Clare Shopper and will be placed in *Le Courrier* next week for members of the general public to send their applications to be representatives on the Police Advisory Board.

5.2 **Study on Construction Debris**

The Department of Environment in cooperation with the "Centre d'aide et Entrepreneurial" is working on a pilot project and would like to conduct a study on the Municipality's construction debris. This study would be to discover the percentage of contamination in the construction debris.

MOVED BY Councillor Simon LeBlanc and seconded by Councillor Russell Comeau that Council write a letter to approve the pilot project to conduct a study on the Municipality's construction debris. **MOTION CARRIED**

5.3 **Canada Post - Meteghan River**

Councillor Russell Comeau explained that a public meeting had been organized regarding the Meteghan River post office and stated that the residents are not in favour of having road side mailboxes. Two possible sites had been chosen: (1) the Evangeline Beverage Room (La Taveme); and (2) the Meteghan River Fire Hall. Canada Post indicated that they were not interested in housing the mailboxes at the Evangeline Beverage Room, and will be looking at the possibility of housing them at the Meteghan River Fire Hall or at the Clare Pharmasave location in Meteghan Centre.

6) **WARDEN'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

Warden Jean Melanson indicated that the Municipality of Clare had been chosen by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Honourable Mayann Francis, to receive the

“Community Spirit Award”. Clare is one of four communities in the province to have been selected out of 19 nominations. The award is for a community that showed a high degree of community collaboration and strength. This is the first year the awards are to be presented. The Province announced that a celebration will be held in Clare, later this year, where the Lieutenant Governor will present Clare its award.

Feb 20: Attended the UNSM Committee meeting regarding the Fall Conference to be held in Yarmouth. The theme of the conference will be “The Power of Municipalities”.

6.1 Library Board

Warden Jean Melanson reported that the Library Board’s financial resources are limited however the Yarmouth Board is still secure.

6.2 Waste Check

Warden Melanson reported that the clear bags for waste disposal are working well. He added that Tim Horton cups are now recyclable.

6.3 Tidal View Manor and Harbourside Lodge

Warden Melanson reported that Tidal View Manor has received a grant for the construction of a new building. They are in the process of choosing a location for the new building.

Warden Melanson also reported that Harbourside Lodge does not have funding from the Province.

7) OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

There were no official statements.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from UNSM requesting support in funding a bursary program for women in municipal government in the amount of \$300.00 per year for three (3) years. Council agreed to discuss this request during the upcoming budget process.

8.2 Letter from Women’s Auxiliary – Yarmouth Regional Hospital requesting financial support from the Municipality of Clare in the amount of \$500.00 to support their annual fundraiser. Council agreed to discuss this request during the upcoming budget process.

8.3 Letter from the Department of Community Services regarding Mr. Leo LeBlanc who currently is the Municipality of Clare’s representative on the Board of the Tri-County Housing Authority, informing the Municipality that his term of office expires on April 30, 2008. Council agreed to reappoint Mr. Leo LeBlanc as the Municipality of Clare’s representative on the Tri-County Housing Authority Board for another three (3) year term, if the Department of Community Services accepts its request.

9) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

9.1 Public Works

Councillor Brian Comeau indicated that the Committee went to Wentworth Park to evaluate the work that needed to be done in 2008/2009. The following was reported: fifteen trees have fallen; the sign for the park needs to be replaced.

Councillor Comeau also reported that the sign at the Municipal Transfer Station needs to be replaced as well.

9.2 South West Shore Development Authority (SWSDA)

There was no report regarding this committee.

9.3 Villa Acadienne

There was no report regarding this committee.

9.4 Medical Center Progress Report

Connie Saulnier, CAO, informed Council that work at the new Medical Centre is still on schedule; plans are to open in May. She reported that ads were placed in the local newspapers for the position of Manager of the Medical Centre. Ms. Saulnier added that tenders for site work was in progress. Ms. Saulnier mentioned that there was still time to support the "Buy-a-Brick" Program.

Councillor Brian Comeau added that Brenda Burgess from "Relay for Life" indicated that the Cancer Society would be willing to place resource information regarding the Cancer Society at the new Medical Centre.

10) NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Motion to transfer Gas Tax Rebate to Capital Reserve Fund

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and seconded by Councillor Brian Comeau that the Municipality of Clare transfer the amount of \$122,618.00 under the first annual cycle of Federal Gas Tax Payments, plus \$3,985.09 interest, into the Capital Reserve Fund (Account # 92096-132) for future expenditures associated with the Gas Tax Program. **MOTION CARRIED**

10.2 Tri-County Housing Authority Board – Clare representative

This issue was discussed at item number 8 "Correspondence" point 8.3

11) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

*Submitted by,
Jeannette Doucet, Deputy Clerk*