

Municipality of the District of Clare
COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 4, 2012

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.
Translators: Germaine Comeau and Richard Landry.

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) New Business:

4.2 Municipal Tax Write-Offs – Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet

MOTION CARRIED

2) PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Update of Affordable Housing Strategy – Honourable Wayne Gaudet, Clare MLA

The Honourable Wayne Gaudet, Clare MLA, informed Council that a new Federal-Provincial agreement (between *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation* and *Nova Scotia Community Services*) had been signed for a New Housing Agreement, with a budget of sixty million dollars (\$60 M) for the Province, over the next three (3) years. This agreement means more affordable housing options for seniors, families and persons with disabilities.

MLA Gaudet indicated that he sees four priorities:

- 1) A new housing facility in the Saint-Bernard area;
- 2) Increase rooms at the existing housing facilities in Clare;
- 3) Have wheelchair accessible rooms in the existing housing units;
- 4) Construction of a Small Option Home.

Council agreed that they should invite a representative from the Community Services (Housing Department) to a Council meeting to have their questions and concerns addressed, and to bring forward their requests.

Warden Melanson thanked MLA Wayne Gaudet his presentation.

Provincial Electoral Boundaries Review

MLA Gaudet also indicated that every ten years, there is a mandatory provincial electoral boundary review. It is scheduled for 2012. The provincial Government will appoint a Commission to review the electoral boundaries.

There are presently 4 protected ridings in Nova Scotia: 3 Acadians regions (Clare, Argyle and Richmond) and 1 African Nova-Scotian region (Preston area). The new Terms of Reference for this Commission to follow were recently established by a Select Committee. The Terms have significant changes that could result in abolishing the protected ridings. The Electoral Boundary Commission will hold public meeting in all electoral ridings and report to the Province by the end of May 2012.

Warden Melanson indicated that he has put together a committee made up of key community leaders to discuss this issue and to prepare a Brief to be presented to the Province.

Warden Melanson thanked MLA Wayne Gaudet for this information.

2.2 Update Regarding RCMP Activities – Sergeant Jeff Holmes

Sergeant Jeff Holmes of the Meteghan RCMP Detachment, accompanied by Constable Raphael Vezina from the Yarmouth/Clare Street Crime Unit, presented a report of 2011 RCMP activities in Clare (copy enclosed).

Warden Melanson thanked Sergeant Holmes for the update.

2.3 Amended Land-Use By-Law and New Environmentally Sensitive Coastal Areas Map – Greg Zwicker, Genivar

Greg Zwicker of Genivar presented to Council, on behalf of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), the draft amended Land Use By-Law (LUB) and the map that identifies environmentally sensitive coastal areas. PAC wishes to move forward with the process of having the updated LUB adopted.

One of the reasons for the updated Land Use By-Law and the creation of this map is as follows: in the recently adopted Municipal Plan, the policy regarding coastal setback standards (Policy Env-3) cannot be enforced because the Municipality currently does not have any regulations in the Land Use By-Law relating to this issue. The objective of Policy Env-3 is to protect private land, beaches and dune systems.

Land Use By-Law (LUB)

Mr. Zwicker briefly presented the updated and amended Land-Use By-Law (LUB), which has been reviewed by PAC and previously presented to Council at a Council-in-Committee meeting in June (2011). He pointed out that there were three sections added: (1) Watercourse and Wetland Setbacks; (2) Coastal Development Setbacks; and (3) Hobby Farms. One of the major changes is that Development Permits will be required for all developments in Clare.

Environmentally Sensitive Coastal Areas Map

Mr. Zwicker also presented a map prepared by Genivar identifying the environmentally sensitive coastal areas of Saint Mary's Bay.

This map, reviewed by PAC, indicates the most sensitive areas such as sand beaches, coastal marshes, high erosion zones, etc. The coastal setbacks in the Land Use By-Law will apply to the coastal areas identified in the map and, as an Appendix, the Map is part of the By-Law document.

Council discussed how and when the document will be presented to the public, as per the Municipal Planning Strategy and Municipal Government Act. The process should be as follows: translation of document into French; First Reading (February 2012); Public Review (March 2012); Public Hearing; Second Reading; Council Decision; then approval by Province.

Warden Melanson thanked Greg Zwicker for the update.

3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None.

4) NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Upcoming Meeting in Digby with Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations Minister John MacDonnell – Warden Jean Melanson

Warden Jean Melanson informed Council that there is a meeting scheduled with the Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, John MacDonnell (January 17th, 2012 in Digby). The objective is to discuss issues of concern within municipalities. The Municipality of Clare has been invited to participate.

Council discussed what concerns/issues should be brought forward at this meeting. The following were noted: (1) housing issues; (2) electoral boundaries; (3) the CAP program and what are the reasons for keeping this program; and (4) what are the reasons the Government requires municipalities to be part of a Regional Development Authorities (RDA) to be able to access provincial funding for economic development projects.

4.2 Municipal Tax Write-Offs – Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet

Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet informed Council that there are tax accounts which have amounts to be written off. The accounts, amounts and reasons why were reviewed. An official motion will be passed at the upcoming Council meeting.

5) IN CAMERA SESSION

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet that Council proceed to an In Camera Session to the issue 5.1: Loader at the Clare Recycling Facility.

MOTION CARRIED

Issue 5.1: Loader at Clare Recycling Facility was discussed.

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc that Council proceed to the regular Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

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

The next Council-in-Committee meeting was set for Wednesday, February 1st 2012, at 7 pm.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm following a motion by Councillor Nil Doucet.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL
ON JAN. 18, 2012**

Respectfully submitted by

*Jeannette Doucet – Deputy Clerk
(cdk)*