

Municipality of the District of Clare
COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, April 15, 2009

PRESENT : Warden Jean Melanson; Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc; Councillors: Brian Comeau, Russell Comeau, Danny Hill, Arnold LeBlanc and Simon LeBlanc; CAO Connie Saulnier and Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet.
Translators: Mr. Richard Landry and Mr. Gilles LeBlanc.
Camera operator: Ms Gene Dugas.

ABSENT: Councillor Nil Doucet.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jean Melanson called the Council meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the proposed agenda be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

3) PRESENTATIONS

3.1(a) "Le Groupe de La Butte" regarding zoning/Municipal Plan – Ms. Germaine Comeau (7:00 pm)

Ms. Germaine Comeau and Ms. Louise Comeau addressed Council as the representatives of the group "*Le Groupe de La Butte*", accompanied by three other residents of Meteghan River/La Butte gave a presentation regarding their vision of Meteghan River and its future development (*copy attached*). They voiced their concerns regarding a lack of a Municipal Zoning and Municipal Development Plan in the Municipality of Clare.

The group expressed its views more specifically in regards to the area next to the ocean and the river in Meteghan River/La Butte, explaining that their main concern was to have a say in this area's development. The reasons highlighted were two-fold: (1) to protect the residential area of the village, to protect the rights of the residents and the property value; and (2) to highlight certain of its unique features, natural beauty and historical infrastructures.

Warden Jean Melanson thanked the group for its presentation and indicated that the Municipality is in the process of hiring a new planner who will hold consultations with the public and develop a Municipal Plan which will include zoning.

3.1(b) Rebuttal to "Le Groupe de La Butte"

Mr. David Deveau, owner of Riverside Lobster located in Meteghan River, asked Council if he could address Council regarding the Meteghan River Group's presentation and the issue of zoning. Council agreed to hear Mr. Deveau's comments.

Mr. Deveau gave an overview of his business activities and services offered, indicating that he employs 11 full-time and 3 part-time employees. He added that he complies with the rules and regulations, and has the required licenses and permits. Mr. Deveau also stated that he wishes to keep Meteghan River clean and has been working hard to do so. He outlined some of the improvements he has made to his business and the area, as well as his financial contributions to industry, commerce and tourism in Clare.

Mr. Deveau indicated that if the residents of Meteghan River have any problems that he is open for discussion. Mr. Deveau stated that he does not feel that the presentation by "Le Groupe de La Butte" is a concern of all the residents of Meteghan River but perhaps only a small group of residents.

Warden Jean Melanson thanked Mr. Deveau for his rebuttal.

4) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS ON:**4.1 March 18th, 2009: Council Meeting**

MOVED BY Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the minutes of the March 18th, 2009 Regular Council Meeting be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 April 1, 2009: Council-in-Committee Meeting

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc that the minutes of the April 1, 2009 Council-in-Committee meeting be accepted with the following change: under 'New Business' item number 4.11 'Municipal Tax Exemption By-Law', that the line: "*Council agreed to give an Exemption on Municipal Taxes in the amount of \$100.00 to homeowners whose household income for 2007 was less than \$15,500.00*" be changed to the following: "*...whose household income for 2008 was less than \$15,500.00*" (the date of 2007 be changed to 2008).

MOTION CARRIED

5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was pointed out that issues regarding business arising from previous meetings are on the agenda for this evening's meeting and some will be addressed at a later date.

6) Warden's Activity Report

Warden Jean Melanson reported that he participated in the following activities and meetings:

- A recognition banquet organized by the *Société acadienne de Clare* for *Semaine de la Francophonie*;
- The Tidal View and Harbourside Board Meeting in Yarmouth;
- An interview with Radio-Canada regarding municipal infrastructure projects;
- An interview with Radio-Canada regarding the story of Jérôme;
- An interview with Radio CIFA regarding Earth Hour;
- A meeting with planner Karen Dempsey regarding Clare's Energy Project;
- A presentation by the Minister of Education, Judy Streach, to *École secondaire de Clare* who has reached a significant level when it comes to being a "Green School";
- A meeting with Argyle and Yarmouth's Mayors, Wardens and CAOs regarding District Planning and conducting a study with regards to a Public Transit System;
- The School Contest Awards Dinner organized by the RRF Board held in Clare;
- The provincial Volunteer award presentation in Halifax to witness Clare's 2009 recipient, Ms. Jacqueline Mullen of St. Bernard, the Municipality of Clare's volunteer of the year.

VON - Victorian Order of Nurses - Week, May 17 to 23, 2009

Warden Jean Melanson read the Proclamation (*copy attached*) that the Municipality of the District of Clare, proclaimed the week of May 17 to 23, 2009 as VON Week to thank the VON Tri-County's dedicated staff and committed volunteers and to highlight the valuable services and programs delivered by VON to individuals in our community.

7) Official Statements from the Members of Council

No Official Statements were given at this time.

8) Correspondence

8.1 Letter from Mr. Bud Johnson, President of the South Shore Labour Council

A letter dated April 5th, 2009 regarding the "National Day of Mourning" in Canada (*copy included*) was read regarding a request that the Municipality of Clare lower its Canadian flag half mast, on April 28 2009, in observance of the "National Day of Mourning" that commemorates those who lost their lives or were seriously injured at their place of work.

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc that the Municipality of Clare lower the Canadian flag on April 28, 2009 to honour the National Day of Mourning that commemorates those who lost their lives or were seriously injured at their place of work.

MOTION CARRIED

9) Committee Reports

9.1 Planning Advisory Committee

Building Permits Report

Councillor Danny Hill presented the building permits report (*copy included*) as submitted by the Building Department. A total of 15 permits were issued in March 2009, for an estimated value of construction in the amount of \$1,358,382.16.

Motion regarding the ICSP Public Participation Plan

Warden Jean Melanson explained that the Municipality of Clare's contract with the District Planning Commission has expired and the Municipality of Clare has decided to no longer be a member of the Commission and, as such, will soon be hiring its own planner. Thus the Motion regarding the ICSP Participation Plan was tabled until the Municipality has worked out all the details surrounding the changes in planners and its current commitment with planner Karen Dempsey and the ICSP plan.

9.2 Recreation Committee – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau gave a report regarding the Recreation Committee's activities (*copy of minutes from March 19 meeting attached*). He stated that the following grants had been given by the Recreation Committee: (1) \$400 for two participants of Clare to participate in the 'Joints in Motion' Arthritis Marathon in Toronto, Kathy MacDonald and Alisa Aymar; (2) \$300 for the South West Nova Music Festival organized by Lori Dunn; and (3) \$500 to the youth musical group *Les Jeunes Clarions* to assist with various activities in Clare and to attend a workshop in Berwick.

Councillor Comeau also indicated that there have been changes to the Committee members. Philip Doucet's term ended. Councillor Comeau pointed out that the Municipality of Clare and the Clare Recreation Committee wished to thank Mr. Doucet for his years of service on the committee (since January 2001). Councillor Comeau stated that Ms. Martine Jacquard is the newest member on the committee; she will serve her first three year term (April 1, 2009 until March 31, 2012).

Councillor Comeau also indicated that the annual Volunteer Appreciation Night will be held on April 23 at the Saulnierville Legion.

9.3 South West Shore Development Authority

Warden Jean Melanson reported that he attended the SWSDA Board meeting and summarized main points of the meeting. SWSDA's Business Plan was officially adopted, which includes the priorities of each community served by the Board. Warden Melanson pointed out that the Province is changing certain criteria in regards to funding with regards to having an Exit Strategy for projects. SWSDA has adopted a policy regarding releasing a project to the parent organization once certain phases of a project have been completed or a specific date has been reached. This Exit Strategy eliminates SWSDA continuously being involved on numerous projects, with no time to work on new projects. For example, SWSDA currently has 85 on-going projects. This new policy will allow SWSDA to release some of these projects as time goes on.

Also, Warden Melanson announced that on October 24, 2009 the Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala and Conference will be held in Yarmouth. The town of Yarmouth will host members of the arts and culture community at the fourth annual Conference. The conference provides an excellent learning and networking opportunity for members of the arts and culture sector, and celebrates the pursuit of excellence by Nova Scotian artists with several prestigious awards.

“Ocean First Task Force”

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc updated Council that SWSDA had received financing to establish an “Ocean First Task Force” to look at off-shore oil and gas. The Committee requires one (1) representative from each county and SWSDA had approached Deputy Warden LeBlanc to sit on the Committee and he accepted.

9.4 Tourism Committee – Councillor Arnold LeBlanc

There was no official report regarding the Tourism Committee. The monthly meeting for the committee had been postponed to later this month.

“Rendez-Vous de la Baie”

CAO Connie Saulnier indicated that interior construction of the “Rendez-Vous de la Baie” project is behind schedule by a couple of weeks because the Theatre is being used for dance recitals and a piano festival.

9.5 Villa Acadienne – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau informed Council that the *Villa Acadienne* had awarded the tender for insurance to Fairway Insurance.

9.6 Waste Check – Warden Jean Melanson

Warden Melanson stated that Waste Check met but had nothing to officially report.

10) New Business

10.1 Hearing of Objections or Amendments to the Transient Motor Vehicle Vendors By-Law, By-Law Number 28

Council was open to hear objections or amendments regarding the Motor Vehicle Transient Dealers By-Law. The First Reading of the new By-Law had been done at the March 18, 2009 Council meeting.

CAO Connie Saulnier reported that no objections had been received in writing; however a Council member and staff had received phone calls regarding the By-Law, mostly regarding questions as to if residents of Clare will still be able to sell their own vehicle or a few vehicles personally. It was pointed out that the wording of the By-Law was confusing to members of the general public.

CAO Saulnier pointed out that, taking this into consideration, the Municipal Solicitor had recommended two amendments to the By-Law (*see attached document “Recommended Amendments prior to Second Reading”*), these being: a wording change of one word under section entitled “Definitions”, for the definition of “Transient motor vehicles vendor”, the word “operating” changed to “operate”;

and at section “Sale of motor vehicles”, point 3: the addition of item (c) that clarifies that residents of Clare are not subject to this Transient Dealer By-Law, which reads (c) “An individual who is a resident within the Municipality of the District of Clare who otherwise satisfies the definition of “transient motor vehicles vendor” shall not be subject to this by-law.”

These changes should assist in clarifying that residents of Clare will still be able to sell their own vehicles; that the new By-Law relates to licensed transient motor vehicle vendors, those who are not from Clare and come to the area for a short period of time to sell motor vehicles.

CAO Saulnier pointed out that due to the fact that the advertizing of the Notice of Intention to Adopt the By-Law Respecting Motor Vehicle Transient Dealers has occurred 13 days prior to this evening’s Council meeting and not 14 days as the Law stipulates, the Second Reading will have to be addressed at the next Council Meeting in order to officially adopt the By-Law.

Council agreed to the address the Second Reading of the By-Law Respecting Motor Vehicle Transient Dealers at the next Council Meeting in order to officially adopt the By-Law at that time.

10.2 Municipal Taxes

(a) Write-offs

Council discussed the proposed Municipal Tax Write-offs.

MOVED BY Councillor Simon LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc that the Municipality of the District of Clare write off the following tax amounts for the reasons herein described:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
a) Account 8506620	\$350.20 + \$47.25 interest for a total of \$397.45	The 2008 assessment of \$34,000 was an error. The 2007 and 2009 assessments were \$700.
(b) Account 8538751	\$37.80 + \$18.21 interest \$26.70 + \$8.31 interest for a total of \$91.02	for 2006 and for 2007 due to business closure.
(c) Account 8526877	\$375.76 + \$90.19 int. for a total of \$465.95	for 2007, due to business closure.
(d) NS Natural Resources (14 property accounts)	amounts as follows:	Change in classification
Account 10005582,	\$0.50 + \$0.08 interest for a total of \$0.58;	
Account 08483345,	\$3.75 + \$0.48 interest for a total of \$4.23;	
Account 05263956,	\$4.25 + \$0.48 interest, for a total of \$4.73;	
Account 00880876,	\$4.50 + \$0.56 interest, for a total of \$5.06;	
Account 00880868,	\$5.00 + \$0.80 interest, for a total of \$5.80;	
Account 02485281,	\$6.25 + \$0.72 interest, for a total of \$6.97;	

(NS Natural Resources property accounts continued)

Account 06277543,	\$8.50 + \$1.04 interest, for a total of \$9.54;
Account 08516936,	\$9.75 + \$1.20 interest, for a total of \$10.95;
Account 04515536,	\$10.50 + \$1.28 interest, for a total of \$11.78;
Account 01735942,	\$10.75 + \$1.28 interest, for a total of \$12.03;
Account 00880841,	\$12.50 + \$1.52 interest, for a total of \$14.02;
Account 04577639,	\$24.25 + \$2.88 interest, for a total of \$27.13;
Account 04579704,	\$40.00 + \$4.80 interest, for a total of \$44.80;
Account 01735969,	\$40.50 + \$4.88 interest, for a total of \$45.38

MOTION CARRIED

(b) Tax Exemption for Homeowners

Council discussed the Municipal Tax Exemption for homeowners.

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Municipality of the District of Clare offer a municipal tax exemption of \$100.00 for all homeowners applying for a Tax Exemption whose household income for 2008 was less than \$15,500.00.

MOTION CARRIED

10.3 Motion to Approve the Submission of Applications for Infrastructure Funds with ‘Building Canada Fund – Communities Component’ for the 3 Projects

Council discussed the submission of applications for Infrastructure Funds with ‘Building Canada Fund – Communities Component’ for the three (3) projects: (1) a Household Hazardous Waste Depot; (2) the Clare Transfer Station Extension, and (3) an Animal Shelter.

MOVED BY Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc that the Municipality of the District of Clare approve the following resolution regarding the Submission of Applications for Infrastructure Funds with ‘Building Canada Fund – Communities Component’ for the three (3) following projects: (1) Household Hazardous Waste Depot; (2) Clare Transfer Station Extension, and (3) Animal Shelter.

WHEREAS the Municipality of the District of Clare is eligible to apply for funding under the “Building Canada Fund – Communities Component”;

AND WHEREAS the Council is authorized to determine which projects the Municipality of the District of Clare wishes to undertake and in what amounts;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED

THAT applications shall be made to the “Building Canada Fund – Communities Component” for the following projects which shall be listed in priority:

- 1) CLARE TRANSFER STATION EXPANSION –
ADDITION OF WASHROOM AND KITCHENETTE
Total Estimated Cost of Project = \$ 79,371.00

- 2) HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DEPOT
Total Estimated Cost of Project = \$ 162,425.00
- 3) ANIMAL SHELTER
Total Estimated Cost of Project = \$ 113,000.00

MOTION CARRIED

11) Date and Time of Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of Council shall be held on Wednesday, May 20th, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

12) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

*Jeannette Doucet,
Deputy Clerk
(JD/ck)*