

Municipality of the District of Clare

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

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

ABSENT: Councillor Simon LeBlanc and Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet.

1) CALL TO ORDER

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

2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY Councillor Brian Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the proposed agenda be approved with the following addition: under Section 10 “New Business”, that “Proposition regarding FCM Conference attendance” be added as Point 10.2.

MOTION CARRIED

3) PRESENTATIONS

3.1 *Les Dames patronnesses* – C.J.A. Projet:

Aline Quinlan, Charelle Saulnier, Denise LeBlanc and Erin Comeau

The group *Les Dames patronnesses*, accompanied by a large crowd of supporters, gave a presentation regarding the C.J.A. Project (copy enclosed). The representatives of *Les Dames patronnesses*, comprised of President Aline Quinlan, Vice President Charelle Saulnier, Directors Denise LeBlanc and Erin Comeau gave a historical overview of the former children’s summer camp, *La Colonie Jeunesse Acadienne*, CJA. They listed the objectives of the new camp and gave a description of the proposed building and targeted services. They also explained the projected costs, as well as fund raising efforts, past and present, as described in their business plan (copy included). In conclusion, the group made a request to the Municipality for financial support in the amount of \$200,000.00.

Warden Jean Melanson thanked the group for their presentation and congratulated the Directors for their hard work and dedication to this project.

Warden Melanson explained that the municipal budget process takes place in April 2009 at which time the financial request of *Les Dames patronnesses* will be addressed.

4) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS ON:**4.1 January 21, 2009: Council Meeting**

MOVED BY Deputy-Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc that the minutes of the January 21, 2009 Council Meeting be accepted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 February 4, 2009: Committee of Council Meeting

MOVED BY Councillor Nil Doucet and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the minutes of the February 4, 2009 Committee of Council Meeting be accepted with the following change: on page 3, "Attendance at the FCM 2009 Conference", point 2.3, 2nd paragraph – there were options (a) and (b) considered at the February 28, 1990 Council meeting regarding FCM attendance. Option (a) was approved by motion of Council for the years 1990 and 1991 only.

MOTION CARRIED

5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**5.1 Update on "Rendez-vous de la Baie" Project**

Councillor Arnold LeBlanc gave an update on the municipal interpretive centre "Rendez-vous de la Baie". Councillor LeBlanc explained that the bids received for the project were much higher than anticipated and for this reason revisions were made to the plans and the Municipality is working with Delmar Construction, who was the lowest bidder on the project, to find ways to reduce construction costs. He also explained that efforts to secure the balance of the funding are underway and going very well, and the construction is planned to begin in March 2009.

Councillor LeBlanc explained that the contract with the CAAE for the management of the "Rendez-vous de la Baie" construction project will end on March 31, 2009. The management of this type of project does not fall under the CAAE's mandate and therefore the CAAE would prefer not to manage the construction aspect of the project. Council has agreed that CAO Connie Saulnier would manage the project after March 31, 2009.

5.2 Transient Dealers By-Law

After reviewing various By-laws regarding Transient Dealers of other municipalities in Nova Scotia, Council had agreed that the Municipality of Clare would impose a license fee of \$10,000.00 per day if possible to transient dealers who came to Clare to sell motorised vehicles.

CAO Connie Saulnier explained that the municipal solicitor Hugh Robichaud had recommended the amount of \$750 per day and a maximum of \$7,500 per month.

After lengthy discussions, Council decided to accept the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per day and no maximum per month as the fee for a transient dealer license. Council stated that the By-Law should stipulate that Council can change the amount of the fee if it deems necessary and the cost per day should begin the day the transient dealers starts setting up in Clare and not on the day the sale of vehicles begins.

Warden Jean Melanson stated that the By-Law must stipulate that the transient dealers must apply for a permit a certain number of days before setting-up; that they must inform of where they will set-up, when and for how long.

CAO Connie Saulnier indicated that she and the Municipal Solicitor will prepare a draft By-Law and present it to Council for their review.

The subject of fines was also discussed. Council decided to discuss the matter at another Council meeting since a separate motion will be required for this issue.

MOVED BY Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Municipality of Clare establish a Transient Dealers By-Law imposing a fee of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) per day for transient dealers who would set-up in Clare to sell motorised vehicles.

MOTION CARRIED

5.3 Clean-up of Illegal Dump Sites

Council is aware that there are a few illegal dumpsites in Clare. Warden Melanson explained that the Waste Check's By-Law Enforcement Officer has cleaned up illegal dump sites in Argyle and elsewhere that were a bit smaller, but those in question in the Municipality of Clare are larger and may require a different approach.

Warden Melanson stated that the CAO Connie Saulnier will discuss this matter with Waste Check's By-Law Enforcement Officer to see if it is possible to clean the illegal dumps sites in Clare. This issue will be discussed at another Council meeting.

Councillor Brian Comeau asked that Council proceed to an in-camera session at the end of the end of the meeting to further discuss the issue of illegal dumpsites.

6) Warden's Activity Report

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

- An interview at Radio CIFA to discuss the events of the year 2008;
- a presentation from *Caisse populaire de Clare* at the Municipality of Clare of a cheque for \$50,000.00 for the "*Rendez-vous de la Baie*" project, a photo was taken and appeared on the front page of the provincial newspaper *Le Courrier*;
- Board of Directors meeting for Tidal View: the project for the new building is going well and tenders may go out in March 2009;

- A meeting with Elaine Thimot of “*Société acadienne de Clare*” to discuss the project for a Community Centre;
- A meeting with the author André Gaudet who is thinking about writing a book about an individual of Clare;
- A meeting with Manager Ronnie Aymar and Director Bill Twaddle of the “Clare Golf & Country Club”, as well as CAO Connie Saulnier, to discuss their request to reinstate two crosswalks at the “Clare Golf and Country Club” in Comeauville. After explaining the new regulations and the costs associated with pedestrian crosswalks, the representatives of the “Clare Golf & Country Club” indicated that they would be satisfied with a speed limit of 50 kilometres an hour. They were informed that the speed limit has been changed to 50 km/hr, so the representatives of the Golf Club agreed that crosswalks would not be reinstated at the said location;
- A meeting with the Honourable Richard Hurlburt, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, who came to the Municipal Office;
- A meeting with the UNSM Rural Caucus in Cumberland; the meeting was very interesting, especially the information from Property Valuation Services Corporation regarding assessments costs; there were also discussions regarding municipalities conducting a ‘skills inventory’ with the objective of helping one another out; and good discussions were held regarding funds that the Province collects from NS Power and how a portion of this money is distributed to the municipalities;
- A meeting with representatives from the group *Les Dames Patronnesses* regarding the CJA Project;
- A meeting with Ms Lisa LeBlanc who has an idea about a Recycling Centre for people with physical challenges;
- a dinner in honour of former Yarmouth Mayor Charles Crosby;
- grand opening and tour of the new Justice Centre in Yarmouth;
- an information session by EMO;
- passenger on Starlink’s inaugural flight from Yarmouth to Halifax and back.

7) Official Statements from the Members of Council

Councillor Nil Doucet congratulated Dr. Donald Westby for his donation to the Clare Health Centre. Each year, Dr. Westby walks from Weymouth to Meteghan and collects funds for any given organisation. This year, Dr. Westby collected almost \$4,000 and donated the funds to the new Health Centre.

Councillor Doucet requested that a letter of thanks be sent to Dr. Westby.

8) Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9) Committee Reports

9.1 Planning Advisory: Building Permits Report – Councillor Danny Hill

Councillor Danny Hill gave a report regarding building permits. A total of 3 permits were issued in January 2009, for an estimated value of construction in the amount of \$60,000.00 (report included).

Councillor Hill explained that a map of Clare detailing the roads that lead to the shore had been prepared by the Planners. Councillor Hill asked that each Councillor consult the map and indicated which roads they feel are priority in their respective district in regards to public access to the shore and lakes of Clare.

9.2 South West Shore Development Authority – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc informed Council that the SWSDA is waiting for funds from the Federal Government and has many projects on its plate. SWSDA is encouraging the municipalities to establish a list of the projects they would like to accomplish and prioritize them.

Deputy Warden LeBlanc informed Council that a report has been prepared with the results from a consultation conducted in Clare recently. A copy was given to CAO Connie Saulnier and a copy will be provided for all Councillors (copy included).

Deputy Warden LeBlanc also explained that SWSDA would like to rally the lobster fishermen of South West Nova (approximately 600 fishermen) to help them market their lobsters and help them save money when it comes to fishing licenses.

9.3 Villa Acadienne – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau informed Council that the Villa Acadienne has purchased two furnaces – the contract of almost \$20,000 having been awarded to Comeau Fuels. As well, the Board of Directors has created an Audit Committee that will meet soon. Councillor Comeau stated that the Villa Acadienne is still working to find the financing for either renovations or construction of a new facility. Also, the Villa Acadienne still plans on building an add-on to accommodate ten (10) more beds.

9.4 Recreation Committee – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau informed that during the March Break, the Recreation Committee has a variety of activities planned for the youth, one of them being a Skateboard Workshop. The Indoor Walking Program at the high school *École secondaire de Clare* has become very popular – over 45 people are going to the school to walk twice a week. Also the 10th annual Curling Corporate Challenge will take place February 20 and 21 in Clare.

9.5 Waste Check – Warden Jean Melanson

Warden Jean Melanson reported that the RRFB's funding has diminished by 3.7% and that normally there is an increase. The Warden explained that the RRFB Board has \$10 Million dollars in reserve and it would be good for the RRFB to use this money instead of having it in reserve, and a policy could be created for a part of the money to come back to the municipalities.

10) New Business

10.1) Adoption of "Integrated Community Sustainability Plan" (ICSP) Process and Timelines

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet that Council for the Municipality of the District of Clare adopt the **Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) Process and Timelines** for the Municipality of Clare, as presented by planners Karen Dempsey and Brad Fulton to the Planning Advisory Committee on February 10th, 2009 (document attached).

MOTION CARRIED

10.2) F.C.M. Conference attendance

Warden Melanson gave the history of the policies regarding the FCM Conference attendance explaining that different policies had existed in the past (1990-1991 and 1999-2000) but they were all expired. Warden Melanson explained that various discussions had taken place in the past regarding attendance of the annual FCM Conference and this new policy statement is in line with the practices that have occurred in the past and should resolve confusion and questions on this matter.

Policy Statement: FCM Conference Attendance

- Preamble:** The Annual *Federation of Canadian Municipalities'* Conference is nationally recognized as a valuable opportunity for the sharing of information and for networking. The location of this event is scheduled on a rotating basis - from the West coast, to central Canada, to the East coast.
- Purpose:** To provide a procedure, under which the Municipality of Clare will be properly represented at this conference, and to allow a fair schedule for attendance by the Warden, Council members and the CAO.
- Policy:**
- The Warden and the CAO will be given the opportunity to attend the annual conference of the *Federation of Canadian Municipalities* each year.
 - In addition to the Warden, up to four (4) Councillors shall be given the opportunity to attend the FCM conference annually, but not exceeding twice during their four (4) year term of office in Council.
 - If the event that the CAO is unable to attend the FCM conference in any particular year, then the Deputy Clerk shall be given the opportunity to attend the conference in place of the CAO.
 - There shall be an exception to the number of representatives given the opportunity to attend the FCM conference when it is held in Nova Scotia, in which case additional representatives may be eligible to attend.
 - A schedule will be established to record the names and years of attendance for each representative.

MOVED BY Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the Municipality of Clare adopt the above noted policy regarding attendance the of the Annual Conference de la Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

MOTION CARRIED

In-Camera Session

Councillor Brian Comeau suggested that Council proceed to an In-Camera Session to discuss the issue of illegal dumpsites in Clare. After discussions regarding illegal dumpsites in Clare, the In-Camera Session ended and Council returned to Regular Session to close the Council meeting.

11) Date and Time of Next Council Meeting

The next meeting of Council shall be held on Wednesday, March 18th, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

12) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

*Colette King,
Administrative Assistant to the CAO
(ck)*