



Municipality of the District of Clare
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, June 15, 2011

PRESENT: Warden Jean Melanson, Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc; Councillors: Brian Comeau, Russell Comeau, Nil Doucet Danny Hill, Arnold LeBlanc and Simon LeBlanc; CAO/Clerk Connie Saulnier and Deputy Clerk Jeannette Doucet. *Translators: Germaine Comeau and James Crombie. Camera Operator: Jene Dugas Cotteau.* Also present a crowd of spectators and Richard Landry representing Le Courier newspaper.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jean Melanson called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 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 presented.

MOTION CARRIED

3) PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Farmers' Market in Belliveau Cove – Sheila LeBlanc-Joyce (7:00 pm)

Sheila LeBlanc-Joyce representing the Belliveau Cove Farmers' Market, accompanied by another representative, informed Council that the Farmers' Market is in its ninth year of operation and wanted to promote the Market and encourage residents of Clare to support the local market.

Warden Melanson thanked Ms LeBlanc-Joyce for the presentation and encouraged the citizens of Clare to attend the Belliveau Cove Farmers' Market.

3.2 Petition Re.: *Rendez-vous de la Baie* and Comeau Lumber – Clare Civic Association (7:15 pm)

Paul Comeau, owner of Chez Christophe restaurant, and Shirley Kennedy, owner of Around the Bend restaurant, presented a petition to Council regarding the *Rendez-vous de la Baie* Café situated in the Acadian Cultural Centre in Church Pont and the former property of Comeau Lumber Ltd in Meteghan that had been circulating in Clare for the past several weeks.

Mr. Comeau commented that the Café was interfering with other restaurants in the Municipality who were already struggling to survive.



Mr. Comeau also indicated that residents of Clare were not informed of Council's decisions and plans regarding the former Comeau Lumber property.

Warden Melanson indicated that the Municipality would be going back to serving coffee and muffins, sandwiches at the RVB Café, and other items as identified in the original business plan. Warden Melanson also indicated that it was not the intention of the Municipality to take away business from other businesses in Clare.

Regarding Comeau Lumber, Warden Melanson indicated that the Municipality has plans to find a business that would operate the saw mill, and look at other possibilities that could be done on the property.

Warden Melanson stated that the Municipality needs a better plan of communication. Warden Melanson thanked the group for the petition and their comments.

CAO Connie Saulnier commented that there are public council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month that are open to the public. She stated that a lot of the discussions regarding decisions made by Council are carried out on the 1st Wednesday of the month (the Council-in-Committee meeting) and that the decisions and Motions are made at the Council meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Council encouraged the public to attend any or all of these meetings. The Agenda is posted on the website the Friday before the meeting. Anyone wishing to receive the Agenda electronically may contact Colette King at the Municipality with an email address to receive the agendas.

4) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

4.1 May 9th, 2011 Council-in-Committee Meeting (Part 2)

MOVED BY Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc that the minutes of the May 9, 2011 Council-in-Committee (Part 2) Meeting be accepted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 May 18th, 2011 Regular Council Meeting

MOVED BY Councillor Nil Doucet and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc that the minutes of the May 18, 2011 Council Meeting be accepted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED



4.3 May 25th, 2011 Budget Council Meeting

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc that the minutes of the May 25, 2011 Budget Council Meeting be accepted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

4.4 June 1st, 2011 Council-in-Committee Meeting

MOVED BY Councillor Simon LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the minutes of the June 1, 2011 Council-in-Committee Meeting be accepted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 “Dangerous/Unightly Premises” Property in Meteghan River (PID # 30059273)

CAO Saulnier informed Council that the owner of a property in Meteghan River (PID # 30059273), which had recently been deemed as Dangerous and Unightly, had been notified via a letter from the Municipal Solicitor that all unsightly materials located on the property must be removed (photos attached).

The property owner received the letter and spoke with the CAO, requesting that the Municipality grant him more time to clean up his property.

Council discussed and agree to grant the property owner a 30-day extension.

6) WARDEN’S REPORT

Warden Jean Melanson attended the following meetings and functions:

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Meeting in Halifax
- *Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse* (CDÉNÉ)

Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CDÉNÉ)

Warden Melanson pointed out that Council had recently received a request from the *Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse* (CDÉNÉ) to become a member of the non-profit organisation (that provides economic development for the Acadian/Francophone communities in the Province). Council has discussed this request and was in agreement that the Municipality of Clare become a member. Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc expressed interest in representing the Municipality.

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc that Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc be appointed as the representative for the Municipality of Clare on the *Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse* (CDÉNÉ).

MOTION CARRIED



7) OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

There were no official statements from Members of Council.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Clare Civic Association (Paul Comeau, President)

CAO Connie Saulnier read a letter dated June 3rd from the Clare Civic Association, signed by the group's president Paul Comeau. The letter addressed the groups concerns regarding Council's communication methods and how Council transmits information to the general public (copy of letter attached). The group suggested that Council review its communication procedures and provided suggestions.

Council discussed the issue and decided to form a sub-committee to discuss the communication issues. The group will be composed of Deputy-Warden Ronnie LeBlanc, Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and Councillor Russell Comeau.

8.2 Letter from Town of Yarmouth requesting Grant for Music Week

CAO Connie Saulnier read a letter from the Town of Yarmouth requesting a contribution in the form of a grant for Music Week.

Council discussed the issue, stating that grants had been allocated during the annual budget process and all funds had been dispersed. A letter indicating this will be sent to the Town of Yarmouth.

8.3 Letter from Scotia Direct Lobster Coop re. Aquaculture site

CAO Connie Saulnier read a letter that was email to the Council dated June 13, 2011 from Scotia Direct Lobster Coop regarding an aquaculture site in St. Mary's Bay for Cook's Aquaculture (copy attached). The group of lobster fishermen state that they feel they have not been contacted for consultations regarding this issue.

Council discussed the issue and decided to invite representatives from Scotia Direct Lobster Coop at a future meeting to discuss their concerns in greater details.

9) COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Planning/Development/Building

Councillor Danny Hill indicated that Greg Zwicker, municipal planner from Genivar, had presented to Council at the June 1st Council-in-Committee meeting the revised version of the Land Use By-Law (By-Law #30). Mr. Zwicker had explained the changes and additions that members of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) were recommending.



One important topic pointed out by the planner at this meeting was the issue surrounding Policy Env-3. This Policy in the new Municipal Plan, in regards to coastal setback standards (to protect private land, beaches and dune systems) cannot be enforced as the Municipality does not have any regulations in the Land Use By-law. As such, PAC aimed to have an Environmentally Sensitive Coastal Areas Map developed that would show the coastal areas where these setbacks would apply. This map would become an Appendix to the Land Use By-law, resolving this issue.

Four choices had been presented to Council by the Planner and Councillor Hill suggested that Council choose which of these PAC should proceed with. Council discussed and stated that members of PAC decide and come back to Council with a recommendation.

Councillor Hill will inform members PAC of Council and report back to Council.

Building Permits Report (2-Year Comparison)

Councillor Danny Hill presented the building permits reports for May as submitted by the Building Department:

Year	Permits	Value of Construction
2011	25	\$ 809,025
2010	33	\$1,450,953

9.2 Clare Municipal Recreation Committee – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau gave an overview of the committee’s May meeting minutes. He enumerated the funds and grants that were awarded to the various organizations. He added that Clare won a banner at *Les Jeux de l’Acadie* held in Greenwood in May.

9.3 Tourism – Councillor Arnold LeBlanc

9.3.1 Clare Municipal Tourism Committee

Councillor Arnold LeBlanc informed Council that:

- on June 25 and 26, there will be an Open House at the RVB;
- the Municipality of Clare along with the Municipality of Yarmouth and the Town of Yarmouth have together purchased from the Yarmouth Industrial Commission large tents (formerly belonging to SWSDA) which in the past were rented out to various organizations in South West Nova Scotia for large outdoor events, including the *Festival Acadien de Clare*.

9.3.2 Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association (YASTA)

Councillor LeBlanc indicated that YASTA will soon hire a General Manager to the fill the vacant position.

**9.4 Villa Acadienne – Councillor Brian Comeau**

Councillor Brian Comeau indicated that there was no Board meeting, however he stated that Grant Thornton presented the 2010-2011 Financial Statements which show a \$71,691.00 surplus.

9.5 Waste Check – Warden Jean Melanson

Warden Jean Melanson indicated that there was no Board meeting.

9.6 Clare Energy – Warden Jean Melanson

Warden Jean Melanson indicated that the Province will require Nova Scotia Power to changeover all the streetlights in the province to LED lights. This will be a five-year program at Nova Scotia Power's expense.

10) NEW BUSINESS**10.1 “Dangerous and Unsightly Premises” Property in Lake Doucette**

Council viewed photos and discussed a property located in Lake Doucette (PID # 30105894). Council agreed that the Municipality should start the process under the “Dangerous and Unsightly Premises” Municipal By-law.

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Brian Comeau that the Municipality start the process under the “Dangerous and Unsightly Premises” Municipal By-law for the property in Lake Doucette PID # 30105894.

MOTION CARRIED

10.2 Award of Tender for *Rendez-vous de la Baie*'s Extension and Cabane

After having previously discussed the tendered bids, Council proceeded to the following motion:

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc that Council for the Municipality of the District of Clare accept the tendered bid amount of \$137,816 (\$119,840 + \$17,976 HST) as submitted by Garian Construction Ltd on May 26th, 2011 for work associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of the “*Rendez-vous de la Baie*” Interpretive Centre in Church Point, to include office space, a meeting/activity room, and storage space, and the construction of a Cabane.

MOTION CARRIED

10.3 New Regional Development Authority (RDA)

After lengthy discussions regarding the Municipality becoming a member or not of the new Regional Development Authority (RDA), Council made the decision that the Municipality would not become a member at this time. Other municipal units will be informed of Council's decision.



MOVED BY Councillor Simon LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet that Council for the Municipality of the District of Clare Municipality will not become a member the new Regional Development Authority (RDA) at this time.

MOTION CARRIED

10.4 Mapping of “environmentally sensitive” coastline areas (Land Use By-Law)

This issue was discussed under 9.1.

10.5 Communication Strategy – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc

This issue was discussed under 8.1.

10.6 Naming of Road at Saulnierville Wharf

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc that the Municipality of the District of Clare accept that a road in Saulnierville, from “Saulnierville Road” to the Wharf, located in District 5 of the Municipality of Clare, in the County of Digby, Nova Scotia, be named “Saulnierville Wharf Road”.

MOTION CARRIED

11) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Council discussed and agreed to hold a Council-in-Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 6th, 2011 at 7 pm.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

*Jeannette Doucet – Deputy Clerk
JD/cdk*

Approved by Council on July 20, 2011