



Municipality of the District of Clare
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, May 18, 2011

PRESENT: 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 Richard Landry. Camera Operator: Jene Dugas Cottreau.*

ABSENT: Warden Jean Melanson.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc called the Council Meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOVED BY Councillor Brian Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc that the proposed agenda be approved with the following additions:

10.4 Appointment of Consultant for Sub-Divisions – CAO Connie Saulnier

10.5 Fundy Broad Band – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc.

MOTION CARRIED

3) PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Jeannette Doucet Honoured for 30 years of Service as a Municipal Employee

Council congratulated Jeannette Doucet for reaching the milestone of 30 years as a municipal employee at the Municipality of the District of Clare.

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc gave a brief account of when Ms. Doucet first began working at the Municipal Office in May 1981, explaining that she had been hired temporarily to assist with the preparation of the municipal tax bills and soon after hired as Receptionist-Typist. She was later promoted to Tax Clerk and held that post for almost 25 years and, in 2005, she was appointed Director of Finance and Deputy Clerk and continues to work in that capacity.

Council presented Ms. Doucet with a Certificate of Recognition and a gift to thank her for her continued dedication and valuable service.

3.2 Summary of Clare's Participation in Twinning Event between French Seniors of NS and those of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area in Québec – Denis Comeau

Denis Comeau, Municipal Employee, gave an overview of his participation in the twinning event between French/Acadian Seniors of Nova Scotia and those of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean in Québec, held in early May. Jeannine Belliveau of Clare had also attended as a Municipal representative.



Denis Comeau indicated that the people of Québec were impressed by the French/Acadian delegation of Nova Scotia. He stated that it was an excellent opportunity to promote our Municipality and our Province to possible future tourists.

Deputy Warden LeBlanc thanked Mr. Comeau for his attendance at the event and for the informative presentation.

4) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

4.1 April 20th, 2011 Regular Council Meeting

MOVED BY Councillor Nil Doucet and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the minutes of the April 20, 2011 Council Meeting be accepted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

4.2 May 4th, 2011 Council-in-Committee Meeting

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the minutes of the May 4, 2011 Council-in-Committee Meeting be accepted as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Department of Justice: Police Advisory Board

The Department of Justice is requesting that Council form a Police Advisory Board, which would include members of the public, that would meet quarterly with the RCMP to discuss concerns and issues in the Municipality. The public is invited to contact the Municipality if they wish to be on this board.

5.2 Dangerous and Unsightly Premise

CAO Saulnier updated Council regarding the properties that had recently been deemed as Dangerous and Unsightly and received letters from the Municipal Solicitor. She stated that one (1) property had not yet been cleaned by the owner (9337 Highway 1 in Meteghan River). Since the owner has not complied with the Municipality's request, Council must proceed with remediation of the site. The property owner will be notified via a letter from the Municipal Solicitor that all unsightly materials located on the property must be removed within a specific time frame. In the event it is not cleaned up, the Municipality will instruct a contractor to remove the unsightly materials and costs will be billed to the property owner.



Council discussed and proceed to the following motion:

MOVED BY Councillor Brian Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that:

WHEREAS property at 9337 Highway 1, Meteghan River, Digby County, NS, owned and assessed to Ervin Hill, having been determined to contain dangerous and unsightly materials;

AND WHEREAS notice to remediate the property having been personally served on the said Ervin Hill on April 19, 2011;

AND WHEREAS no remediation has been effected within the time frame referenced in the Notice provided to Ervin Hill;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT all unsightly materials located on property situate at 9337 Highway 1, Meteghan River, Nova Scotia, including, but not limited to, vehicles, travel trailer(s) and debris be removed by a contractor and all associated costs be levied against the property tax assessment account associated with the property; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT the remediation referenced herein be carried out on or after May 30th, 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

6) WARDEN'S REPORT

In Warden Jean Melanson's absence, no report was given.

7) OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Nil Doucet wished to recognize Elise Doucet for cleaning up the neighbourhood as she walks every day in the New Edinburgh area. He requested that a thank you letter be sent to Elise Doucet.

Councillor Nil Doucet wished to congratulate *La Caisse populaire de Clare* for organizing the yearly community clean-up day on Saturday May 14th during which almost 300 people participated in all of Clare.

Deputy Warden requested that Council send a letter to Janelle Comeau for her dedicated work on the Doctor Recruit Committee. Ms. Comeau has accepted a job with Community Services and will no longer serve on the committee.

Councillor Brian Comeau wished to congratulate Marie-Adèle and Gilbert Deveau of Meteghan Station who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on May 20th. He requested that a certificate be sent to the couple.



8) CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Weymouth Elementary School – Councillor Danny Hill

A letter from Larry Kelly, principal of the Weymouth Elementary School, was read (copy attached) which highlighted the situation surrounding the some local schools, possible closures and restructuring. It explained that a few years ago, cleaning, upgrades and renovations were done at the Weymouth Elementary School. The letter states that their school is now on review, and the Government is considering combining elementary students and high school students together.

Councillor Danny Hill stated that the representatives of the Weymouth Elementary School are asking Council for a letter of support to keep their school as it is now. Council discussed and is in agreement to send a letter of support.

MOVED BY Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet that Council send a letter of support to the Weymouth Elementary School stating that Council supports that the school remain as it is now.

MOTION CARRIED

9) COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Planning/Development/Building

Councillor Danny Hill stated that the planners from Genivar will soon present to Council the draft of the amended Land Use By-Law, in early June.

Building Permits Report (2-Year Comparison)

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Value of Construction</u>
2011	20	\$ 814,500
2010	29	\$1,105,000

9.2 Clare Municipal Recreation Committee – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau gave an overview of the committee’s April meeting minutes. He enumerated the funds and grants that were awarded to the various organizations. He also indicated that students had been hired for the summer to assist the Department with all the activities.

9.3 Tourism – Councillor Arnold LeBlanc

9.3.1 Clare Municipal Tourism Committee

Councillor Arnold LeBlanc highlighted a few of the many projects and activities for the upcoming 2011 tourist season in Clare:

- a promotional tourists map is being created for the region of Clare;
- advertising will be done with the Digby Wharf Rat Rally;



- a web-cam will be installed at Mavillette Beach to be able to go on-line and check the tides and current weather conditions at the beach;
- the Rendez-vous de la Baie won a Destination South West Nova Scotia Award for the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores area;
- discussions were held regarding ownership of the Cap St Mary's lighthouse.

9.3.2 Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association (YASTA)

Councillor LeBlanc indicated that Larry Peach Tourism Director for the Municipality is giving one day per week working at YASTA until the vacant position of General Manager is filled. The vacant position is being re-advertised with the objective of hiring a General Manager as soon as possible.

9.4 Villa Acadienne – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau indicated that there was no Board meeting held.

9.5 Waste Check

CAO Connie Saulnier, in the Warden's absence, informed Council that the last Waste Check meeting dealt mostly with the recycling contract which is expiring at the end of December 2011.

9.6 Clare Energy – Warden Jean Melanson

There was no meeting.

10) NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Letter of Support: Weymouth School – Councillor Danny Hill

This issue was addressed under Item 8.1 "Correspondence".

10.2 Monument in memory of those who perished at Sea – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau discussed the project of a monument in memory of those who perished at sea. He indicated that he met and discussed this idea with members of the Historical Society "Société historique de la Baie". Councillor Comeau stated that he will attend a meeting with the group to further discuss this possible project.

The financing of such a monument, should the project move ahead, is another topic of discussion.

10.3 Hours of operation of Service Canada, Church Point – Councillor Brian Comeau

Councillor Brian Comeau stated that some concern was raised regarding the hours of operation of the Service Canada office in Church Point. He stated that the office is open on Thursdays only and residents of Clare who require assistance regarding their Employment Insurance (EI) or other Service Canada services must go to the Yarmouth Service Canada Office during the days of the week when the Church Point office is closed.



Councillor Brian Comeau suggested that Council write a letter to Service Canada to express concerns relating to this issue. Council discussed.

MOVED BY Councillor Brian Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that Council send a letter addressing the fact that the Service Canada office in Church Point is only open on Thursdays and request that the office be opened another day of the week to provide service to the residents of Clare, with a copy of the letter sent to MP Greg Kerr.

MOTION CARRIED

10.4 Appointment of Consultant for Sub-Divisions – CAO Connie Saulnier

CAO Connie Saulnier informed Council that Mr. Ridge Hiltz who has been providing services to the Municipality for subdivision of properties is unable to continue his contract due to health reasons. Mr. Larry Deveau's curriculum vitae and a letter of recommendation from Mr. Hiltz were provided to Council. It was recommended to Council that Mr. Deveau take over the duties of providing subdivision services.

Council discussed and proceeded to the following motion:

MOVED BY Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the Municipality of the District of Clare appoint Mr. Larry Deveau as their consultant and to act on the municipality's behalf in the following areas:

- a) To process plans of subdivision as required by the regulations;
- b) To approve or refuse all plans of subdivision for the municipality;
- c) To provide advice and assistance to the municipality and its constituents regarding the subdivision approval process;
- d) To work with clients in preparation of concept plans and preliminary plans;
- e) To work with clients to help with applications relating to subdivision and environment;
- f) Provide qualified persons to work relating to subdivisions which may require reports for subdivisions with existing septic systems or for large non-development lots or lots less than 100,000 square feet in area where applicable.

The appointment shall be for a term of two (2) years with a six (6) month probationary period.

- 1) The fee for approval or refusal shall be \$350.00 plus HST and expenses.
- 2) The fee for appeal of refusal shall be based on time spent but shall not exceed \$600.00 plus HST and expenses.
- 3) The fee for concept plan, preliminary plans and tentative plans shall be \$185.00 plus HST.

MOTION CARRIED



10.5 FUNDY Web Broadband – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc gave a brief overview of the history of the FUNDY Web Broadband, stating that it was created in early 2000 as a community-owned broadband network, consisting of numerous kilometres of fibre optics, with community economic development as its main objective.

He pointed out that at recent Board of Directors meetings members discussed selling the assets since the fibre optics network is not being used. Deputy Warden LeBlanc stated that before the Board can proceed to selling the assets, all the municipalities that jointly own the broad band must agree to the sale, which are: the Town of Digby, the Town of Annapolis Royal, and the municipalities of Annapolis Royal, Bridgetown, Clare, Digby and Middleton.

Council discussed and proceeded to the following motion:

MOVED BY Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Municipality of the District of Clare, in accordance with Subsection 32 (1) of the Municipal Services Agreement – FUNDY Web Broadband Board, that approval be given to divest the assets of FUNDY Web Broadband subject to appropriate arrangements being put in place to protect current system users and legal assurance that there are no re-payment encumbrances, other than vesting of assets and liabilities to the partners in proportion to ownership interests at the time of dissolution.

MOTION CARRIED

11) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th, 2011 at 7 pm.

12) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Jeannette Doucet – Deputy Clerk

Approved by Council on June 15th 2011