



**Municipality of the District of Clare**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> 2010**

**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: James Crombie and Richard Landry; Camera Operator: Jene Dugas.

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**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 with the following additions:

- 10.2 Motion to Transfer Federal Gas Tax Funds – CAO Connie Saulnier; and
- 10.3 Sidewalks and Snow removal – Councillor Arnold LeBlanc.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3) PRESENTATIONS**

**7:00 pm – Melissa Doucet, *La Garderie familiale de Clare* Daycare Agency**

Melissa Doucet, Manager of *La Garderie familiale de Clare* Daycare Agency, gave a presentation to Council. *La Garderie familiale* is a family home day care agency licensed under the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services. Mrs. Doucet informed Council that *La Garderie* had received a grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services to build a new facility in Clare. The grant is in the amount of \$369,717.00 and is for the construction of building that would house the *Garderie familiale* office, a library, a meeting room and a storage room. Currently the *Garderie familiale* office is located in *Notre Jardin d'Enfance* Child Development Centre in Meteghan.

Mrs. Doucet informed Council that *La Garderie* wishes to build in Meteghan on land belonging to the *Villa Acadienne*. She explained that the Agency had met with the Board of Directors of the *Villa Acadienne* to request that their facility be built on the *Villa's* land. The Board did not accept the *Garderie's* request. The foreseen expansion or the possible construction of a new nursing facility is to be determined and the exact amount of land needed is not yet know.

Mrs. Doucet requested that Council send a letter to the *Villa Acadienne* stating that the Municipality supports the *Garderie's* request to build in Meteghan on land belonging to the *Villa Acadienne*.

Warden Melanson thanked Mrs. Doucet for her presentation. Her request will be discussed by Council and she will be contacted at a later date.



**4) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**4.1 December 16, 2009 Council Meeting**

**MOVED BY** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the minutes of the December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Regular Council Meeting be accepted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4.2 January 6, 2010 Council-in-Committee Meeting**

**MOVED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc that the minutes of the January 6, 2010 Council-in-Committee Meeting be accepted with the following changes: at item 4.2 Termination of the CAT Ferry Services, that it be specified that it is lack of funding from the Provincial Government, which is currently the NDP Provincial Government; and at item 4.5 Visit by Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Honourable Ramona Jennex: that the topic of the CJA Project be added to the list of important items to discuss with the Minister when she visits the Municipality of Clare.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

There was no business arising to discuss.

**6) WARDEN'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

**Warden Jean Melanson gave a report on his recent activities:**

- Reception with Lieutenant Governor Mayann Francis in Halifax;
- Luncheon with Medical Students from Clare;
- Yarmouth Airport Commission Meeting;
- SWSDA Public meeting;
- Meeting with Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, Honourable Ramona Jennex at Clare Municipal Office;
- Meeting with CJA Project group;
- Meeting with Town of Yarmouth to discuss issue of Ferry service termination and hopefully meet with Minister Sterling Belliveau on Friday January 22, 2010.

**RESOLUTION REGARDING YARMOUTH FERRY SERVICE**

**MOVED BY** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Brian Comeau that the following Resolution regarding the Yarmouth Ferry Service be adopted by Council of the Municipality of the District of Clare.

**MOTION CARRIED**



WHEREAS: The Government of Nova Scotia has determined effectively to terminate the essential seasonal international ferry service between Yarmouth and New England for the 2010 season;

WHEREAS: The Municipalities of Argyle, Yarmouth and the Town of Yarmouth have already committed to a long term strategy for transportation issues in South West Nova via the development of a Transportation Report supported and funded by ACOA;

WHEREAS: The Province of Nova Scotia has ceased funding prior to the completion of the important Transportation Report;

WHEREAS: The loss of the ferry service will have a devastating effect on the economic well-being of Southwestern Nova Scotia and the Province as a whole;

WHEREAS: The loss of the ferry for the 2010 season will have an equally devastating effect on the long term transportation solutions for South West Nova and beyond, AND

WHEREAS: Time is of the essence in the preservation of a ferry service for 2010.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by Council of the Municipality of the District of Clare that the Municipality of Clare support the efforts to maintain a ferry service from Yarmouth to New England, recognizing the importance of the economic well-being of the entire province of Nova Scotia; AND

THAT Council for the Municipality of Clare request that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities, through its Town and Rural Caucuses and Board of Directors, encourage the Government of Nova Scotia and the Government of Canada to restore the Yarmouth to New England ferry service for the 2010 season and beyond as soon as possible.

## 7) **OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FROM THE MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

There were no official statements.

## 8) **CORRESPONDENCE**

### 8.1 **Letter from Felix d'Entremont regarding Meteghan River Bridge**

CAO Connie Saulnier read a letter dated December 17, 2009 (*attached*) from Mr. Felix d'Entremont regarding the time frame of the replacement of the Meteghan River Bridge on Highway 1 in Meteghan River. Mr. d'Entremont expressed concerns regarding traffic being detoured from Highway 1 during tourist season.

Council will inquire with representatives of the Department of Transportation as to exactly when the work is scheduled to begin and when do they foresee completion, with the objective of protecting the local tourism and lobster industries.

### 8.2 **Memo from Municipality of Guysborough Re. Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund**

CAO Connie Saulnier read a memo dated January 14, 2010 (*copy attached*) from the Municipality of Guysborough regarding its donation to the Canadian Red Cross for the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, encouraging other Municipalities to do the same.



On January 12, 2010 a devastating earthquake of more than 7 in magnitude hit near the densely populated area of Port-of-Prince (Haiti), injuring and killing hundreds of thousands of people, leaving millions of others homeless.

Council discussed this issue and decided to send a financial contribution to the Canadian Red Cross to help with relief efforts.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that Council, on behalf of the Municipality of Clare, donate the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) to the Canadian Red Cross to assist with relief efforts underway in Haiti, following a devastating earthquake which hit near Port-of-Prince on January 12, 2010.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Clare Branch of the Canadian Red Cross**

Council was informed that if anyone from the general public wishes to become a volunteer of a Clare Branch of the Canadian Red Cross they can contact the Municipal Office to sign-up.

**9) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9.1 Planning Advisory Committee**

There was no Planning Advisory Committee meeting.  
Councillor Danny Hill informed Council that Terrain Group and the Planning Steering Committee will meet with Council on Wednesday January 27, 2010 at the Municipal Office at 7:00 pm and a public meeting is scheduled for a later date.

**Building Permits Report (2-year comparison)**

Councillor Danny Hill presented the building permits reports for December 2009 (*copy included*) as submitted by the Building Department as follows.

Year	Permits	Value of Construction
2009	8	\$ 507,000.00
2008	5	\$ 57,278.00

**9.2 Clare Municipal Recreation Committee – Councillor Brian Comeau**

There was no Recreation Committee meeting.

**9.3 South West Shore Development Authority**

Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc informed Council that SWSDA has requested that Council send a list of projects that are the top priorities for the Municipality of Clare.

Council discussed and enumerated various projects to be included on the list, such as:

- 1) the continuation of a Ferry Service from Yarmouth to New England States;
- 2) securing new market for the fishing industry, especially the sale of lobsters; and creating new markets for the wood/lumber industry; and
- 3) expansion of the *Villa Acadienne* nursing and special care facility in Meteghan.



**9.4 Tourism Committee – Councillor Arnold LeBlanc**

There was no Tourism Committee meeting.

**9.5 Villa Acadienne – Councillor Brian Comeau**

Councillor Brian Comeau indicated that there was a sprinkler problem at the *Villa Acadienne* in December 2009 which caused water damage to parts of the facility. The old sprinkler system is being replaced.

**9.6 Waste Check – Warden Jean Melanson**

There was no Waste Check Board meeting.

**10) NEW BUSINESS**

**10.1 Request for Signage on Marc Comeau Road – Councillor Brian Comeau**

Councillor Brian Comeau indicated that the current Department of Highway signs located on the Marc Comeau Road in Saint-Benoni/Meteghan River area are confusing when travelers arrive at the Deveau & Maillet Road and the Marc Comeau Road Junction (*map attached*).

**MOVED BY** Councillor Brian Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc that another Marc Comeau Road sign be ordered and erected to correct the confusion when travelers arrive at the Deveau & Maillet Road and the Marc Comeau Road Junction in the Saint-Benoni/Meteghan River area.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.2 Motion to Transfer Federal Gas Tax Funds – CAO Connie Saulnier**

**MOVED BY** Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet that the Municipality of the District of Clare transfer the amount of \$194,042.00 in Federal Gas Tax Funds from the Capital Reserve Fund to the Operating Fund for expenses associated with the Transfer Station (\$148,796.00 Transfer Station Payment; \$11,074.00 Transfer Station Walkway; and \$34,171.00 Transfer Station Washroom and Lunchroom Facility) as approved under the Gas Tax Program.

**10.3 Sidewalks and Snow removal – Councillor Arnold LeBlanc**

Councillor Arnold LeBlanc indicated that he had received complaints from residents regarding the sidewalks not being cleared of snow. Council agreed that research would be conducted regarding prices of snow removal on sidewalks and will discuss this issue further during another Council Meeting.

**11) DATE AND TIME OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 7:00 pm.

**12) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Jeannette Doucet - Deputy Clerk  
JD / ck*