



**Municipality of the District of Clare  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Wednesday, November 16, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Warden Jean Melanson; Councillors: Brian Comeau, Russell Comeau, Nil Doucet, Danny Hill, Arnold LeBlanc and Simon LeBlanc; CAO/Clerk Connie Saulnier and Administrative Assistant Colette Deveau King.  
*Translators:* James Crombie and Richard Landry.  
*Camera Operator:* Jene Dugas Cottreau.

**ABSENT:** Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc.

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**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Jean Melanson called the Council Meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

**2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOVED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the proposed Agenda be approved as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3) PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Grant Thornton: Municipality of Clare Financial Statements (Kelly Gaudet)**

Mrs. Kelly Gaudet of Grant Thornton presented the Consolidated Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011 of the Municipality of the District of Clare. Councillors asked questions regarding the document.

Warden Jean Melanson thanked Mrs. Gaudet for the presentation.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Consolidated Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011 of the Municipality of the District of Clare be accepted as presented by Grant Thornton.

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**4.1 October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Regular Council Meeting**

**MOVED BY** Councillor Brian Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the minutes of the October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Regular Council Meeting be accepted as circulated.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4.2 November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Council-in-Committee Meeting**

**MOVED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet that the minutes of the November 9, 2011 Council-in-Committee Meeting be accepted as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**



## 5) BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 5.1 Larry Peach as Clare's Representative on YASTA Board (Motion)

**MOVED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Council for the Municipality of the District of Clare appoint Larry Peach as the Clare Representative to sit on the Board of Directors of the "Yarmouth and Acadian Shore Tourism Association" (YASTA) as per the recommendation of the Clare Tourism Association.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 6) WARDEN'S REPORT

Warden Jean Melanson congratulated Paul-Émile LeBlanc for being awarded the *Prix Léger-Comeau* by the *Fédération acadienne de la Nouvelle-Écosse* (FANE) during the Annual meeting recently held in Halifax. The award highlighted Mr. LeBlanc's devoted commitment to the development of the Acadian community.

Warden Jean Melanson listed the meetings and functions he attended and gave a summary of some of the meetings he attended:

- a meeting with some of the representatives of the Club Social de Clare regarding land the Club wishes to sell to the Municipality. The Warden informed the group that Council was not interested in purchasing the lands at this time.
- an EMO Exercise with Digby and Clare which was a simulation of a disaster affecting not only Digby but parts of Clare (the scenario was a busted dam which caused major flooding in Weymouth, affecting the power grids, leaving 95% of Clare in darkness for up to 7 days). Warden Melanson indicated that currently Clare's electricity comes from Sissiboo. He explained that in the past the Municipality had looked into options of how to remedy such a vulnerability, but the solution of Clare becoming part of the Tusket grid, at a cost of 4 to 5 million dollars, was financially not possible.
- a meeting with Paul-Émile Comeau, representative of a cultural group in Clare, regarding the Cultural Award money of \$10,000 for culture in Clare. The Warden indicated to Mr. Comeau that if the group can receive funding towards hiring a Coordinator that the Municipality would give them the \$10,000 award money to go towards the salary of that Coordinator;
- Official Opening of Rails to Trails in Digby;
- opening of Meadows Home For Special Care in Yarmouth, the new facility that replaced Tidal View;
- Clare Firefighters and Volunteers Banquet hosted by the Municipality;
- the Annual UNSM Meeting in Halifax;
- the inaugural ceremony of the new Dean of *Université Sainte-Anne*, Allister Surette;
- the official opening of the new Cultural Centre for the Argyle region in Tusket
- a meeting in Yarmouth for the Municipal Representatives regarding the protection of lands in the province (consultations are being done by Lands and Forest);
- Remembrance Day ceremonies and Banquet at the Royal Canadian Legion in Saulnierville where he gave a short speech at the Banquet;
- Students evening at *Université Sainte-Anne*.



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

Councillor Arnold LeBlanc indicated that in September during the Celebrating Communities Awards presentation there were finalists and winners from Clare that should be commended and congratulated. A finalist for the category of “Excellence in Social Enterprise” was the group from Clare, C.O.R.D. The winner for “Outstanding Volunteer Achievement” was Rodrigue LeFort of the Weymouth Waterfront Development Committee. And last but not least the Life Time Achievement Award was presented to Comeau’s Seafoods Ltd who were recognized for their long-term contribution to the economic advancement of the communities in southwest nova.

**8) CORRESPONDENCE**

**8.1 Letter from Premier Darrell Dexter RE.: \$25 Billion Dollar Shipbuilding Contract Awarded to Irving Shipbuilding in Halifax**

CAO Saulnier read a letter from Premier Darrell Dexter regarding a \$25 billion dollar shipbuilding contract that was awarded to Irving Shipbuilding in Halifax (copy of letter attached).

**9) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9.1 Planning/Development/Building**

Public Access to Roads Leading to Beaches

Councillor Danny Hill indicated that Mary Guptill presented to PAC a summary of the research she had conducted to date regarding public access roads leading to beaches. Councillor Hill explained that she had done excellent work and found much information which will be very helpful long term. She will continue to work until the research is complete.

Environmentally Sensitive Coastal Areas

Councillor Danny Hill indicated that Greg Zwicker of Genivar will attend the next Council-In-Committee meeting to present PAC’s proposed amended Land Use By-Law (LUB) and the map that identifies environmentally sensitive coastal areas. Council can then decide when and how the documents will be presented to the public, as per the Municipal Planning Strategy.

**Building Permits Report (2-Year Comparison)**

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Value of Construction</u>
2011	9	\$614,000.00
2010	11	\$246,500.00

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

Councillor Brian Comeau indicated that there was no meeting.



**9.3 Tourism – Councillor Arnold LeBlanc**

**9.3.1 Clare Municipal Tourism Committee**

Councillor Arnold LeBlanc gave an overview of the committee’s meeting minutes that were provided to Council, pointing out the important topics and activities of the Department.

**9.3.2 Yarmouth and Acadian Shores Tourism Association (YASTA)**

Councillor LeBlanc indicated that there was no report to present.

**9.4 Villa Acadienne – Councillor Brian Comeau**

Councillor Brian Comeau indicated there was no report to present.

**9.5 Waste Check – Warden Jean Melanson**

Warden Melanson indicated that there was no report.

**9.6 Clare Energy – Warden Jean Melanson**

Warden Melanson indicated that there was no report.

**9.7 Communication Committee (NEW) – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc**

Due to Deputy Warden’s absence, no report was given.

**10) NEW BUSINESS**

**10.1 Awarding Contract for Trucking Creosoted Wood from Transfer Station**

CAO Connie Saulnier explained that large piles of creosoted wood at the Municipal Transfer Station must be disposed of. She indicated that Yarmouth has a license to bury this type of wood. The CAO added that the Clare Transfer Station can no longer accept creosoted wood. An Invitational Tender had been put out and bids had been received (see attached document). Council discussed and proceeded to the following motion:

**MOVED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Brian Comeau that the Council for the Municipality of the District of Clare accept the tendered bid as submitted by **Spec Resources Inc.** on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for hauling creosote timber from the Clare Municipal Landfill Site to the Yarmouth Site at a price of \$85.00 per ton.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.2 Awarding Contract for Burying Old Construction Debris at Transfer Station**

CAO Connie Saulnier explained that there is wood (construction debris) at the Municipal Transfer Station that is too rotten to be chipped. She indicated that the Municipality of Clare had received approval from the Department of Environment to bury this wood. An Invitational Tender had been put out and bids had been received (see attached document). Council discussed and proceeded to the following motion:



**MOVED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Council for the Municipality of the District of Clare accept the tendered bid as submitted by **Spec Resources Inc.** on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for burying a section of old Construction Debris at Municipal Landfill Site in the amount of \$29,727.50 (\$25,850.00 plus the HST of \$3,877.50).

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.3 Appointment of Wilfred Stuart as Transfer Station/Landfill Supervisor**

Warden Jean Melanson explained that added activities at the Municipal Transfer Station and numerous duties by staff there resulted in having to assign an employee to be supervisor. As per discussions at the last Council-in-Committee meeting, Council agreed to reclassify the job title of Wilfred 'Junior' Stuart from "Transfer Station Loader Operator" to "Transfer Station/Landfill Supervisor".

**MOVED BY** Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Municipality of Clare reclassify the job title of Wilfred Stuart from "Transfer Station Loader Operator" to "Transfer Station/Landfill Supervisor" for the Municipality of Clare.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.4 Police Advisory Committee: Appointment of Member of Public**

As per discussions at the last Council-in-Committee meeting, Council agreed to accept Jocelyne LeBlanc's application to be a member of the Police Advisory Committee representing the public. The following motion was passed.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Nil Doucet and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc that the Municipality of the District of Clare appoint Jocelyne LeBlanc to the Police Advisory Committee as a member representing the general public.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.5 Planning Advisory Committee: Appointment of New Member**

As per discussions at the last Council-in-Committee meeting, Council agreed to accept Paul Mazier's application to be a member of the Planning Advisory Committee. The following motion was passed.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Danny Hill and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Municipality of the District of Clare appoint Paul Mazier as a member of the public to the Planning Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years, ending on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.6 New Regional Development Authority – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc**

At the November Council-In-Committee Meeting, Councillors were provided information from the Town of Yarmouth regarding the creation of an economic development engine for the Southwest region, a Regional Development Authority (RDA).



These are some of the details regarding the proposed new RDA:

- the new RDA requires no funding by any of the municipal units for a period of 14 months, as a trial basis (funding will come from ACOA and NSERDT);
- it will be a different structure than before;
- it will operate for a 14-month probationary period;
- it will be called the Southwest Economic Development Council;
- Municipal Units can be a part of it without committing long term, but would have no voting rights;
- some of the municipal units that had originally said “no” to joining a new RDA have agreed to being part of this ‘probationary period’ Council;
- the Municipalities of Argyle, Yarmouth, Barrington, Lockport, and Shelburne have provided letters of support;
- after 14 months, Municipal Units could choose to commit or not to commit.
- after 14 months, there would be a cost to be part of the RDA.

After much discussion, the consensus of Council at their November CIC meeting was **not** to join the new RDA; the main reason being that the Municipality of Clare does not currently have an economic development plan.

Warden Melanson informed Council that Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc had provided him some information. In the Deputy Warden’s absence (he was ill this evening), Warden Melanson explained that the Province now requires Municipalities to be part of an RDA in order to receive money from the Economic Council for economic/development projects.

Given this new regulation and how it could affect the Municipality, Council again discussed if it should or should not become part of the new RDA.

Some Councillors stressed that the Municipality of Clare currently does not have an economic development plan. It was stated that perhaps Council should first develop an economic plan, then consider if it should join the RDA. Some Councillors also stated that waiting after the 14-months would give a better perspective as to the efficacy of the new RDA. It was also pointed out that if Council does not have a plan, Council cannot insure that the Municipality of Clare’s plan is being applied by the RDA because it does not have one.

Other Councillors stated that there is nothing to loose to join the RDA now, since the Municipality would not be putting forth any money. It was also stated that being alone is not a solution, that being part of something that will work to develop the South West area is important. It was also pointed out that during the 14 months, Council would have the time to develop an economic development plan while it was part of the RDA, seeing how it worked from the inside.

It was pointed out that if the Municipality did become part of the new RDA at no cost, Council would like to have something in writing from the RDA that states that there is no financial commitment for 14 months and the RDA cannot come back and ask for money in the future for this period of time. Other Councillors agreed that such a guarantee would be required before they would become a part of the RDA.



Warden Melanson also brought forth information that Deputy Warden LeBlanc had provided him from ACOA. The Municipality may be eligible for funding under ACOA’s Economic Development Initiative (EDI) (email attached) with regards to an Economic Plan. Application for the funds must be made as soon as possible because there is a December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 deadline.

After much discussion, Council proceeded to the following motion.

**MOVED BY** Councillor Simon LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Danny Hill that the Municipality of the District of Clare become part of the Southwest Economic Development Council for a period of 14 months, as a trial basis, with no financial commitment.

**VOTES FOR:**

- Councillor Brian COMEAU
- Councillor Nil DOUCET
- Councillor Danny HILL
- Councillor Simon LEBLANC

**VOTES AGAINST:**

- Councillor Russell COMEAU
- Councillor Arnold LEBLANC

**MOTION CARRIED**

Regarding funding under ACOA’s Economic Development Initiative (EDI) to develop an Economic Plan, Council discussed and proceeded to a motion:

**MOVED BY** Councillor Arnold LeBlanc and **SECONDED BY** Councillor Russell Comeau that the Municipality of the District of Clare apply for funding as soon as possible (before the December 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 deadline) with Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) under its Economic Development Initiative (EDI) with regards to an Economic Plan for the Municipality of Clare.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**10.7 Long Term Economic Development Plan for Municipality of Clare – Deputy Warden Ronnie LeBlanc**

Deputy Warden LeBlanc was absent.

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

Council discussed not scheduling a Regular Council meeting for December unless it is necessary. A decision will be made at the December Council-In-Committee Meeting.

**12) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm as per a motion by Warden Jean Melanson.

*Respectfully submitted by*

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL  
ON JAN. 18, 2012**

*Colette Deveau King –  
Administrative Assistant*