

Chief Administrative Officer's Report
By CAO Stéphane Cyr
September 16, 2020

PROJECT FILES:

Rural Internet / Eco-parc:

- Develop NS announced the winning bids as part of RFP 2, with Bell Canada being awarded all the contracts.
- For the Municipality of Clare, this means at additional 614 addresses in or near Southville, Hasset, Hilltown, Easton, Havelock, New Tusket, Corberrie, Moody's Corner, Cedar Lake and Beaver River
- This contract complements the fibre network currently being built by Mainland Telecom Inc. When added to the roughly 4,600 residences and businesses soon to be covered by Mainland, this represents and estimated 5,200 premises in Clare with access to a fibre network.
- With regards to the Mainland network, construction is advancing nicely with the first customer connections anticipated in October 2020.

Tourism Public Spaces Development and Improvement

- A series of 3 stakeholder engagement sessions took place this summer to review initial concepts and share ideas.
 - Session 1 – Virtual meeting with Council on August 12th which saw all councilors participate.
 - Session 2 – 17 in-person participants. Belliveau Cove / la Pointe à Major – August 18th
 - Session 3 – 14 in-person participants. Provincial Parks and Cape St. Mary Lighthouse Park – August 19th.
- A site visit to Wentworth Park occurred on August 18 with Reanne Titus. That same date, Larry Peach met with Darlene MacDonald and Michele Saran of Tourism NS at the Cape Park to update the project.
- On August 27, Denise Saulnier and Larry met with two reps responsible for the Pointe-a-Major site
- Later this fall (late October or November), the consultants will return to Clare for a session(s) to share more detailed proposed site concepts.

Clare Veterans Centre (CVC)

- To be discussed under New Business, item 11.7

Havelock Community Centre

- Shep-Com has completed the tender work
- In addition to the tender, Shep-Com recently completed the following additional items:
 - Painting of interior ramp, hallway, and washroom floors
 - Application of new anti-slip to the wheelchair ramp
 - Mounting of a 3-door storage cabinet to the wall
 - Replacement of two interior doorknobs.
- Codan Electrical has replaced all electrical outlets and light switches in the main hall.
- New beverage cooler has been delivered
- 2 new fridges are on back order
- Spec Resources has completed the work in the field behind the center:
 - Removal of large rocks and the holes filled to allow for regular mowing of the field
 - Removal of the old baseball backstop fence and posts (the Municipality has the fence in storage)

Welcoming Communities / Communautés accueillantes :

- At the request of IRCC, municipal staff has made suggested revisions to the plan previously submitted by the RIFNÉ and Martin Théberge Consultant. These are now with the IRCC for approval.
- Also, at the request of IRCC, letters of support for this project were sought from the community. A total of 8 have been received thus far.
- Discussions with IRCC remain positive and the Municipality hopes to finalize the transition of ownership for this file and sign the funding agreement shortly.
- Of note, this particular initiative dovetails nicely with the Municipality's parallel efforts on the housing file.

Breakwater – Belliveau Cove

- Permits from DFO and Transport Canada have been secured
- Still waiting on permit from DNR. Reached out earlier this week. An update is expected shortly.
- Expected start date: October 2020
- Total project cost of \$431,584 (not including lighthouse, benches, and damage to the southern wharf).
- Of this amount, insurance is covering \$325,776.
- Funding application in the amount of \$52,904 has been submitted to the Nova Scotia Flood Risk Infrastructure Investment Program (FRIIP). As per the program criteria, the Municipality must match the contribution (\$52,904). Project approvals to be announced shortly.
- The insurance will also be covering 100% of the cost to repair the lighthouse and the southern wharf, as well as replace the benches.

Provision of French-language Services:

- The application for funding assistance has been submitted to the OOAF, under the Canada-Nova Scotia Agreement on French-language Services.
- The total amount of the application is \$139,704 of which 50% or \$69,852 is being requested from the OOAF.
- No word as of yet from the OOAF as to the status of the application
- Expense items focus on communications, simultaneous translation, translation of documents, advertising/marketing, and signage.
- The Municipality has received \$40,000 per year over the past 2 years.

FINANCIAL:

- As of August 31, 2020, the Municipality has recorded \$8,279,327 in revenues versus \$4,820,039 in expenses, for a surplus of \$3,459,288.
- As of August 31, 2020, the Municipality has a balance of \$3,595,802 in its operating fund, \$233,028 in its capital fund and a total reserve balance of \$5,587,240. The total reserve balance can be broken down as follows:
 - Operating reserve - \$968,376
 - Capital reserve - \$3,053,202
 - Landfill closure reserve - \$330,810
 - Gas tax reserve - \$1,234,852
- Total deposits of \$7,376,931 from April 1 to August 31, 2020. A total of \$7,456,491 was collected during the same period last year. A variance of \$79,560
- Total taxes collected from April 1 to August 31, 2020 - \$6,652,614. A total of \$6,968,438 was collected during the same period last year. A variance of \$315,824.