

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

To the Warden and Members of Council, United Counties of Prescott and Russell

The Committee of the Whole met at 9:00 a.m. on June 19, 2007.

Were present: Messrs Jean-Yves Lalonde, Warden, Gary J. Barton, Mrs Jeanne Charlebois, Ken Hill (9:15a.m.), Robert Kirby, Richard Lalonde, Conrad Lamadeleine and Denis Pomainville (9:00a.m. to 12:30p.m.), Members.

Mr Stéphane P. Parisien, Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk, Messrs Michel Chrétien, Sylvain Charlebois, Jean Leduc, Louis Prévost, Mrs Louise Lepage-Gareau, Mrs Anne Comtois Lalonde and Mrs Louise Lalonde, Department Heads and Mrs Andrée Latreille, Deputy Clerk.

Was absent: Mr Marc Clermont, Department Head.

The report is presented as follows:

1. **Affordable Housing**

The Social Services Administrator explained the achievements since the announcement of the *Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, Rental and Supportive Housing* component, such as an allowance of 1.75 million dollars, tenders, five tenders received from four promoters and/or Non-Profit Corporations, the ad hoc Committee to study the request of 81 units, the additional funding request to the Ministry and finally awaiting for the confirmation of additional funds. The Administrator stated that a resolution will be submitted to Council for approval in order to make an official financial request.

The Nation Municipality Mayor proposed to proceed immediately with the distribution of the 25 units since funds and the evaluation mechanism are already in place. He stated that this housing project is a priority for Limoges which doesn't have any subsidized housing yet. The Mayor of the City of Clarence-Rockland believes that while waiting for the confirmation of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for funding and additional grants for the *Rental and Supportive Housing* component, we should take money from the *Delivering Opportunities for Ontario Renters Program* to allow the Non-Profit Housing Corporations of the three participating municipalities to proceed with their project.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that a report and a resolution be submitted to Council at the next regular meeting.

2. **Per diem for Long-Term Care**

The Chief Administrative Officer explained that the resolution received from the County of Simcoe regarding the per diem increase to Long-Term Care Homes will be re-submitted to Council at the next regular meeting. He informed that the Home Committee has supported the County of Simcoe petitioning the government to increase funding of the per diem to residents of Long-Term Care Homes as promised by the Liberal government in their 2003 electoral campaign and that the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) also supports this resolution. According to the Home Administrator, the proposed increase represents an additional \$539,200 annually for the Prescott and Russell Residence, which represents \$10.11 per day, per resident.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the resolution be submitted to Council for adoption.

3. Rural Connections – Broadband Project

The Chief Administrative Officer distributed a resolution from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) along with a presentation document for financial assistance for the Broadband Coalition in Eastern Ontario communities. He informed that the EOWC wishes to submit a group request under the Ontario Municipal Rural Broadband Partnership Program in order to obtain funding as a group rather than make individual requests. The County of Lanark will create the group request and submit a funding request. Costs will be divided amongst the group.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the resolution from the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus be submitted to Council for approval.

4. Water Park Project

Mr Guy Drouin, President of "Village Vacances Valcartier", met with Council to present his 50 million dollar water park project in the Nation Municipality. He presented a video showing the extent of such a project along with a map specifying the location, disposition, etc. He advised that half of the site will be used for the first phase but other developments are anticipated for the future. This will create more than 500 jobs. A business plan is also distributed. He added that this project requires support from Federal and Provincial governments to which he has submitted a financial request of 6 million dollars over a two-year period to cover costs related to infrastructure installations, such as water ducks, roads and bridges for easy access to the site by the Highway 417 at Limoges. According to Mr Jean-Marc Lalonde, MP, the provincial government should announce the expected funding shortly. However, Mr Pierre Lemieux, MPP, explained that the federal government will not be able to grant money since there is no program for such a project.

Some Members are disappointed and ask Mr Lemieux to do his best to find funding since this project is crucial for the economy in our region. This is the first time a project of this size is proposed in the UCPR. The two private owners of the water park project and the International Hockey Academy are willing to invest almost 100 million dollars for the local economy. It is logical that the public sector promote these investments by providing financial support, as for other regions.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that a resolution to support the water park project be adopted by Council and that the resolution be forwarded to Mr John Baird, Minister of the Environment and to other federal politicians.

5. Presentation – Cultural Foundation Native Expressions

Mr Yvan St-Jean, General Manager of the Cultural Foundation Native Expressions, addressed Council to explain protocols on Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Programs, the Eastern Woodlands Aboriginal Village and the Cultural Foundation Native Expressions Community Centre Project.

Precisions are made regarding Council's decision to include \$100,000 in the 2007 budget for financial requests related to community and cultural events. The Mayor of the Town of Hawkesbury stated that an organization wishing to make a financial request for cultural events must submit the request in writing to her municipality.

6. Recognition Program for Council Members

The Human Resources Director remitted to Members documentation explaining the new Recognition Program for Council Members. The new program will offer to eligible Members a gift related to years of service when a Member retires or leaves Council.

From 4 to 8 years	\$125
From 8 to 12 years	\$250
More than 12 years	\$375

A Member who returns to Council table and was already recognized under the Program will see his new service start again. A Member who returns to Council table but was never recognized under the Program will accumulate the past years with his new term. The acting Council will be responsible for determining the conditions of the gift remittance.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that the Recognition Program be accepted as presented and will replace the actual Retirement Program adopted in October 2003.

7. Explanation of Schedule 1 versus Schedule 2

The Human Resources Director prepared an analysis to compare costs for the Workers' Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) for the period of January 2004 to May 2007 and explained the difference for an employer in Schedule 1 compared to one in Schedule 2 under the WSIB. Our decision to submit to Schedule 2 shows that the Corporation saved \$1,855,625 for this period.

8. Contract for the restoration of the Jessop's Falls Bridge

The Chief Administrative Officer informed Members of the contract for the restoration of the Jessop's Falls Bridge. He explained that all tenders received are more than the amount available in the budget. The option of the bridge open to circulation for a one-year period totals \$2,578,000 plus G.S.T. while the closure of the bridge for a two-year period totals \$2,171,000 plus G.S.T. A discussion follows. Some Members fear the economic fallout of some villages and townships if the option to close the bridge completely is retained. A proposition to postpone the works in 2008 may be considered.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that a report and resolution be submitted to Council at the next regular meeting.

9. Clarence-Thurso Ferry

The Chief Administrative Officer informed Members that the file for the installation of a pier on Counties' property is still on-going. The solicitors are negotiating since the promoters are requesting a 50-year lease while the Corporation is offering a 20-year lease. **THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS** that the lease be offered for a 20-year period.

10. Transportation Study in the Township of Russell

The Chief Administrative Officer requested that Members examine the report and that the Public Works Committee will be re-scheduled to a later date so the consultant can present his study.

11. Fire Services (Ambulance Station)

The Mayor of the Town of Hawkesbury asked if the lease for the Hawkesbury ambulance station was signed as she was informed of this by one of her councillors. Mr Parisien explained that the contract includes a renunciation clause of 90 days.

12. “L'Écho d'un peuple”

The Mayor of the Town of Hawkesbury inquires about dinners for the host municipalities at “L'Écho d'un peuple”. The Economic Development and Tourism Coordinator informed that August 16, 2007 was reserved for the UCPR. However, it was proposed to verify with the Mayors to obtain a date suitable for everyone.

13. OMERS File

Members received an update in camera from Mr David R. Shelly regarding the OMERS file. This presentation is made in camera since it concerns litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting Counties.

14. Adjournment

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

Jean-Yves Lalonde, Chairman

Moved by Mr Ken Hill
Seconded by Mr Robert Kirby

THAT THIS REPORT BE ADOPTED

Adopted by Council
on June 26, 2007

Jean-Yves Lalonde, Warden

Stéphane P. Parisien, Clerk