

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 May 11, 2010.

Were present: Messrs Conrad Lamadeleine, Warden, Gary J. Barton, Robert Kirby, Ken Hill, Jean-Yves Lalonde, Richard Lalonde, Denis Pommerville and Mrs Jeanne Charlebois, Members

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

The report is presented as follows:

1. **Presentation from the South Nation Conservation regarding the Forest Cover**

Mr Steve Hunter, Forestry Specialist for the South Nation Conservation provided an update on the forest cover in the South Nation watershed and informed of the activities by the SNC to insure its preservation. He discussed options to promote the forest cover conservation in Prescott and Russell. The Nation Municipality Mayor believes that this is a problem which we must find solutions such as implementing programs and policies for the reforestation. He also noted that the mandate of the Larose Forest Committee should be expanded to find solutions for coordination with owners of public and private woodlands and any other person or organization in connection with the reforestation.

2. **Franco-Ontarien Heritage Village Project**

Mr Robert Laplante, Project Coordinator and Chairman of the Citizens' Committee made a PowerPoint presentation on the *Franco-ontarien* Heritage Village project in St-Albert to revive the years 1840 to 1910. The opening is scheduled for May 2013. He informed of the financial needs for the implementation phase and the 2013 budget. He requested Council's moral support for their financial requests to organizations. Mayors from the Nation Municipality and the Township of Russell support this project but believe that the Citizens' Committee must create a partnership with the Province for moral and financial support.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS that a resolution be submitted at the next regular Council meeting to provide Council's moral support to this project.

3. **Development Charges**

The Warden proposed to charge development charges at County level to help finance municipal services and infrastructure projects. He proceeded with a round table discussion to obtain Members' opinion. Messrs Pommerville, Lalonde, Lalonde and Hill are in favour of imposing development charges at County level. Messrs Kirby, Barton and Mrs Charlebois believe that development growth in the Counties' western region is higher than in the eastern region and an additional tax will discourage developers. A follow-up is not necessary at this time.

4. **Police Services**

The Warden proposed to transfer police services at County level in order to promote efficient negotiations at lower costs. Some Members are in favour and others don't see the benefit of a regional management. The Warden will bring this matter back with statistics.

5. **Referendum Proposal for the Next Elections**

The Mayor of the Town of Hawkesbury informed of a resolution adopted by her municipal council asking Counties' Council to submit the following question to its lower-tier municipalities at the municipal elections of October 25th, 2010: "Being an elector of the United Counties of Prescott and Russell, should the counties be abolished?" The other Mayors did not support the resolution submitted by Mayor Charlebois.

6. **By-Law Adoption regarding the salary increase for the non-unionized personnel and Council Members**
Even if Council already approved the Chief Administrative Officer's recommendation to provide a 2% salary increase to the non-unionized personnel and Council Members for 2010, Council must adopt a by-law to this effect. **THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS** that a by-law be submitted at the next regular Council meeting regarding the salary increase.
7. **Tax Ratios for the Residential Class and Farmland**
At its last regular meeting, Council requested an analysis to demonstrate the impact of the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program elimination (1998). The Treasurer presented via PowerPoint the history, the farm property class tax rate summary for 2009, the summary of losses for Prescott and Russell tax payers and savings for the Province. In 2009, the amount of \$3,886,778 was recuperated through all classes and the amount in 2010 will be \$4,113,694.
8. **Centre d'accueil Roger-Séguin Financial Statements**
The Treasurer examined the 2009 financial statements received from the *Centre d'accueil Roger-Séguin* and proof that the UCPR's 2010 subsidy was applied towards their mortgage. Council has donated \$206,000 to the *Centre d'accueil Roger-Séguin* and the document from the *Caisse populaire* shows \$200,000. An amount of \$168,861.38 remains as of April 20th, 2010.
9. **OMERS File**
Members received an update in camera from the Chief Administrative Officer regarding the OMERS file. This presentation was made in camera since it concerns litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting Counties.
10. **Adjournment**
The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

Conrad Lamadeleine, Chairman

Moved by Mr Robert Kirby
Seconded by Mr Ken Hill

THAT THIS REPORT BE ADOPTED

Adopted by Council
on May 25, 2010

Conrad Lamadeleine, Warden

Stéphane P. Parisien, Clerk