

Please Note: Council has agreed to the contractor's request to keep their costs confidential.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - JANUARY 25, 2006

There was a Special Meeting of Council held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday January 25, 2006. All Members of Council were present.

1. Call to Order

Reeve Johnston called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by Members of Council.

3. Reed Bed Septage Disposal

Reeve Johnston reported on a meeting on the Reed Bed project held in the Admaston/Bromley Council Chamber on January 24, 2006. He noted that the Township of Horton will be asked to contribute \$******(confidential information)* for our share of the application costs. This may be reduced if the actual reed beds are smaller due to lesser number of municipalities agreeing to participate in the project. This amount is also subject to a 50 – 50 grant. The Camerons are applying to construct the reed bed on their own as it will take too long to put together a public-private partnership group and have the bed constructed over this fall and winter. Andrew Polley, our local Ministry of the Environment representative is a supporter of this technology and promised to contact his connections in the Ministry to push the approval of this project as a pilot project with MOE.

Councillor Bennett asked where the discussion was with the lime stabilization option that was in the County septage study. Reeve Johnston said the haulers have advised that they will not be part of this recommended process. Councillor Bennett asked what the actual cost to the municipality is if lime stabilization was the choice. What is the problem with lime stabilization?

Reeve Johnston said the answer is that the haulers believe there is not enough scientific proof that this works properly, and that in several years down the road, their decision to add to their trucks for lime stabilization will come back to haunt them.

Councillor Bennett said we have only had one option explored. We don't know if the lime stabilization method costs the same or not. He said he has a difficult time putting money into a study from this year's budget. He said he supports a "trust fund" being established when a septic tank is installed to look after the tank's regular maintenance. The Council Members discussed this suggestion.

Councillor Bennett said the proposal sets out that there will be an annual budget amount every year and he does not support this. If we have a trust fund, we ensure that tanks are pumped out regularly at no cost to the municipalities.

Council Members questioned when we get the final chance to say we are in or out of the Reed Bed proposal.

Reeve Johnston said we do not have to make a commitment by January 31, 2006 now. At yesterday's meeting in Admaston/Bromley, Noreen Mellema CAO of McNab-Braeside Township was authorized to collect the procurement by-laws from the participating municipalities and forward them to Janet Bradley, Solicitor for McNab-Braeside and Horton to review them to ensure that we all can participate with one company rather than calling a tender or Request for Proposal. We will not be asked for a commitment until after this is done. He noted that the projected cost of the construction of the reed bed is now between \$***** and \$ ******(confidential information)*.

Deputy Reeve Hall suggested that we not add anything to the taxes for the septage pumping, but have the people pay the full costs themselves when the tank is pumped.

Reeve Johnston said that there would be grants for the application and for "seed" money, but not for the construction as at this time, the reed bed is a private venture. We will get a credit for the seed money on the portion we have to put onto the taxes.

Councillor Bennett noted that there are no other alternatives to consider. We are boxed in to accept this proposal.

Deputy Reeve Hall said he would like to see that we be part owners of the reed bed project where we get money back from our investment or we get our initial contribution back overtime.

Reeve Johnston said the Camerons will want an answer following the procurement by-law review.

Deputy Reeve Hall asked why the owners would not put up the application fee and sign an agreement with the municipalities to send their septage to the reed bed and charge the actual costs of pumping and the capital costs and operating costs of the reed bed to the septic owner when they pump it out.

Councillor Eady questioned if the Camerons were putting money into the application cost.

Councillor Kingsbury suggested Andrew Polley be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss what options other municipalities are considering.

The CAO/Clerk was asked to investigate if we can add a line to the tax bill to set out the reed bed costs or do the costs have to be included into the Municipal Tax line. There was discussion that it may be possible to do this as McNab-Braeside adds a line to their tax bill for waste management.

Deputy Reeve requested that we receive more realistic numbers from the Camerons and to have determined what our cost will be each year for the 20 year life of the reed bed. He asked if it was possible to change the thinking in the proposal to the Township pays our share of the capital and application costs, get the 50 -50 grants and let the people pay the actual cost of pumping the tank.

The Committee agreed that they needed to get these questions answered by the Camerons, and agreed to invite them to attend a 3 pm meeting on February 7, 2006 prior to our 4 pm Council meeting.

4. Confirming Resolution

Moved by Bob Hall

Resolution No. 06-032

Seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That Council pass this confirming resolution to validate any actions or directions given during the open portion of this Council Meeting which are minor in nature and which were not set out in By-law or Resolution.

Carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Dave Bennett

Resolution No. 06-033

Seconded by Bob Hall

That Council adjourn this meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Carried.