

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 04, 2006

There was a Special Meeting of the Council of the Township of Horton held in the Municipal Council Chamber on Wednesday January 04, 2006. All Members of Council were present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Johnston called the Meeting to Order at 7:10 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

3. REED BED SEPTAGE DISPOSAL

Lloyd Cameron and Amy Cameron were present to review a proposal to install a Reed Bed Septage System on Mr. Cameron's property in McNab-Braeside Township. They offered Horton Township an opportunity to participate along with other municipalities to provide a place to treat septage from Horton residents. There could also be an opportunity for municipalities to become a partner in their venture.

Amy Cameron described what a Reed Bed was. She noted that they have been the main septage treatment in Denmark and Germany. United Kingdom has just started using Reed Beds. There is a Reed Bed System operating in New Brunswick which they have travelled to. Several states also permit this technology. She described their proposed site, which contains 200 acres of farm land and is 800 metres away from their nearest residence and well. There is a bush to the east to buffer any odour if there is any.

Amy described the approval process. They have planned for 8 months to get approval. A hydrogeological study would be required. They would start this process in March and hopefully have approvals to start with the construction in late fall. They would accept some septage in 2007 so they can work out the process and get the reeds growing properly. They will then be ready for the January 1, 2008 date for septage treatment required by MOE.

The Council Members discussed the fees involved. The current pump out charge is \$175.00. To operate the reed bed system, the pump out charge will grow to \$******(confidential information)* by 2018 if there is no municipal involvement. The Cameron's expressed concern that with rates this high people will choose not to pump out their septic tank until there is problems with their system. This will not work. Septic systems should be pumped out every 3-5 years. They propose that municipalities charge a fee of \$** to \$** *(confidential information)* per household per year on the tax bill to cover the operation cost of the reed bed.

Councillor Eady asked if these costs were after any grants that may be available. Amy said no. Grants are not included in their costs, and if they were successful in grants we would reduce the municipal costs.

Deputy Reeve Hall questioned who owns the reed bed development. Amy said their proposal was open to a public/private partnership or private ownership with agreements with municipalities to dump septage. Their timeline may require them to start off with a private venture and later become a partnership. Deputy Reeve Hall said he would like to see the municipality own part of the system so that we get a return on our investment.

Amy Cameron described the tight timelines that will be necessary for municipalities to say if they are in or they are out. She will report to each municipality by January 20 2006 with their current projected costs. Council will have to January 31, 2006 to advise if we are going to be part of the venture. In mid February we will get a final costing for our commitment after they know how many municipalities are still in the venture. She estimated that \$ ***** to \$******(confidential information)*.will be the annual tipping fee that will be put onto the tax bill. In addition it is estimated that Horton's share of the application fees would be \$ ***** to \$******(confidential information)*. Council pointed out the Provincial deadline to treat septage is January 1, 2008 and the reed bed proposal is the only treatment option that is on the table at this time.

Horton Council agreed to meet Wednesday January 25, 2005 at 7 pm to consider the costing report to be supplied by Amy Cameron on January 20.

4. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Don Eady

Resolution No. 06-001

Seconded by Bob Kingsbury

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

Carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bob Hall

Resolution No. 06-002

Seconded by Dave Bennett

That Council adjourn this Special Meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Carried.

Reeve

CAO/Clerk