

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

April 7, 2008

There was a meeting of the Public Works Committee held on Monday April 7, 2008. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Murray Humphries, Robert A. Johnston, Bob Kingsbury, Rick Lester, and staff members Jeff Schruder, Rod Eady and Mackie McLaren. The meeting was held upstairs in the Fire Hall Meeting Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

3. MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2008 COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Bennett reviewed the March 3, 2008 Committee Meeting Minutes noting that they were already approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Rod Eady asked if there was any information back from Ray McLaughlin about opening up Calvin Road? There has been no response from Mr. McLaughlin.

The CAO/Clerk noted that a policy is to be drafted on pulling our own equipment from a ditch when it gets stuck and that policy has not been prepared yet.

Chair Bennett reviewed briefly the new regulations on blue flashing lights on snow removal equipment. MTO officials are contacting him and he expects it will be six months before any draft changes are done.

5. MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER REPORT

Jeff Schruder presented his Infrastructure Manager Report. He informed the Committee that he attended the Sewage Inspectors Course for the Chief Building Official in Bancroft last week.

Bus Turn Around on Jim Barr Road – Graham Wall's Residence

It was noted that the school bus has been turning in Graham Wall's circular driveway, but could not turn after the major storm in March and the school bus did not travel Jim Barr Road because of this. The Committee discussed improving the turnaround at the end of Jim Barr Road so that the school bus can turn there. Jeff Schruder was authorized to prepare a cost estimate for budget purposes.

Public Works Report

Rod Eady presented his Public Works Report for March. The Committee discussed the warrantee that may be available on Truck 2 for \$2,600 in costs to repair a fan and the radiator when the plastic fan blew apart. Rod reported that so far this year only three culverts have been frozen and needed thawing.

Chair Bennett asked if the staff were going to investigate the possibility of permitting several homes in Thompsonville, who pump water from their basements directly onto the street, to connect underground to our storm sewer. Rod Eady reported that two houses have water coming on top of the ground onto the road. Jeff Schruder suggested that the Township be prepared to install a pipe from our storm sewer to the property line, but it would be the home owner's responsibility from that point. An investigation into the liability of the Township and homeowner would be required, if there is a safety issue with water being pumped on top of the road and freezing. Murray Humphries noted that we would want to make sure that we did not have water back up into the basements if this work was done.

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that there was a news item where \$77,000 is to be spent by the County to replace 911 signs this year. Mayor Johnston said he believes that they are new intersection street signs that were damaged, that are being replaced, but he will check into this and report back.

6. MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT INITIATIVE – APPLICATION REJECTED

Chair Bennett reported that our application for \$543,000. under the MIII Program, improving and resurfacing Pinnacle Road from Highway 17 back to the intersection of Price Road has been rejected.

7. 2008 MUNICIPAL ROAD & BRIDGE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT GRANT

Chair Bennett presented information on a grant that came from the Provincial Government entitled the 2008 Municipal Road & Bridge Infrastructure Investment Grant in the amount of \$191,430. This is a grant similar to MOVE Ontario Grant that came in 2006. This funding is to be applied on roads and bridges capital work in 2008.

Chair Bennett suggested that we spend this money on the Pinnacle Road job. The CAO/Clerk reported that he had done some investigation on this, he noted that we can do the reconstruction work on the section between Garden of Eden Road the Price Road. Replacing the granulars, ditching, culverts and approximately half the distance in pavement, before the \$191,430 runs out. Murray Humphries asked if the granular base is ready to put a hard top on?

Chair Bennett said we are supposed to be ready, as the dig outs identified by Stantec were carried out in 2007. Rod Eady reported that there is one spot that heaved this Spring at the edge of a dig-out. Murray Humphries suggested we need to know how much sub base is there and suggested that a backhoe check every hundred feet along the road is required. Chair Bennett suggested that the Committee do a Site Tour in several weeks, before a decision is made on where to spend this funding.

Rod Eady suggested that the Township look at using this funding to replace all the culverts on Garden of Eden Road. Jeff Schruder added that \$191,000 would replace all the culverts on Garden of Eden Road.

Mayor Johnston asked what the cost would be for replacing the four large culverts where the creek crosses the Garden of Eden Road four times. He asked if it would be in the \$80,000 range, which is the gas tax money we will receive in 2009? Jeff Schruder suggested that the \$80,000 should cover these four culverts.

Rick Lester asked how it would look in Toronto if we changed projects, when we have just asked for half a million dollars for one road, yet spend \$200,000 on a different road. Mayor Johnston said for that reason he would only support spending the \$191,430 on Pinnacle Road.

The Committee discussed our lobbying effort this year, with this application. Chair Bennett informed the Committee that he made approximately eight phone calls to officials in Toronto and sent twelve emails lobbying for the MIII approval, to no avail. He suggested that for any future grants we start our lobbying efforts before the Good Roads Convention and make appointments to see Ministers, noting that Jim Watson, Municipal Affairs, has an Ottawa riding and we could meet him in Ottawa.

Jeff Schruder said that there would be danger to the culverts if there was a detour of Highway 17 traffic. Rod Eady noted that Garden of Eden Road is a safety hazard.

After discussion it was agreed by the Committee to recommend that the \$191,430 grant be used towards Pinnacle Road reconstruction and pavement.

Chair Bennett said he understood that Minister Jim Bradley, MTO will be in the area this spring for Highway 417 twinning announcement and we should make arrangements to have him drive Garden of Eden Road at that time. As to a site meeting on Pinnacle Road

Jeff Schruder was asked to monitor the condition of the road and to arrange with Chair Bennett for a road tour of Pinnacle Road in a few weeks.

8. DRAFT 2008 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The CAO/Clerk reported that the last draft budget submitted by the Public Works Department was cut \$20,000 in gravel. While the final information is not received yet, due to a healthy surplus in 2007, all indications are that this \$20,000 can be put back into the budget. Councillor Kingsbury said that he stated at the time it was cut that he would support reinstating it when all the budget numbers were in place. As all the budget numbers are not in place he will not support this request at this time. The Committee agreed.

9. DRAFT ROAD NEEDS STUDY QUOTATION FORM

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that a quotation package has been prepared at the suggestion of Planning Committee, for a Study of our Road Network. It was discussed briefly at our last Public Works meeting but Murray Humphries was not available for that meeting, and the issue was put off to be brought forward today. Mr. Humphries suggested that a consultant is not required as our staff would be qualified to prepare this report. He agreed that we should have a plan. Chair Bennett asked how urgent the need is for a plan? Mr. Humphries suggested that it be prepared when time permitted. Chair Bennett said the Jeff Schruder is busy this year with courses for the CBO position.

Rick Lester asked if this report will be regarded more favourably, when applying for grants if it was prepared by an outside agency. Mr. Humphries did not think so. After discussion the Committee agreed not to proceed with a request for quotations.

10. HIGHWAY 17 TWINNING ANNOUNCEMENT

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that at the start of our Council Meeting April 1, 2008, MTO were present to make a presentation on the second phase of Highway 417 Twinning. They announced that day that the Province has put money into the five year capital works plan for extending the four lanes through Arnprior to Division Street with construction starting in 2009, and that in 2011 the second phase will most likely start from Division Street to Scheel Drive, in McNab/Braeside Township.

Chair Bennett also informed the Committee on the new work schedule for the Shrive Bridge reconstruction and the CPR Overpass over the next several years. Finally the MTO have announced that they will continue the repaving of Highway 17 west of Arnprior this year, picking up at Glasgow Station, where they left off, and going to the CPR overpass this summer. This may lead to increased traffic on County and Horton Roads as people dodge around traffic tie-ups. Rod Eady noted that we should keep truck traffic off our Thomson Road.

11. REQUEST TO SUPPORT A NO PARKING REQUEST ON BURNSTOWN ROAD (County Road 52) AT THOMPSONHILL CEMETERY STREET

The CAO/Clerk informed the Committee that he received a request from a Horton ratepayer for "No Parking" signs on the south side of Burnstown Road east of Thompsonhill Cemetery Street. Cars park in this area, for extended periods of time blocking the visibility to cars coming down Burnstown Road for traffic exiting Thomsonhill Cemetery Street.

Mayor Johnston was aware of this request from our Council Meeting and has contacted the County for their comments. The County noted that the Burnstown Road has a 50kph speed limit. Rick Lester said he is familiar with the situation. After discussion the following resolution was put forward.

Moved by Murray Humphries, seconded by Jeff Schruder

That the Public Works Committee agrees not to recommend to the County of Renfrew that they place No Parking Signs on Burnstown Road, as this road is a 50 kph speed limit and No Parking signs would not be beneficial. There are alternative routes out of Thomsonhill Cemetery Road.

Carried.

12. MAIL BOX DAMAGE DURING SNOW REMOVAL OPERATION POLICY

The CAO/Clerk reported that following the major snow storm in March three to four property owners called about mail boxes being damaged from snow plows. It was determined that snow plows did not hit them, it was the weight of the snow, but the ratepayers would not accept this. The Township has a policy, established February 18, 1997, which states that "a mailbox hit by a plow will be replaced or repaired, but will not be repaired if damaged by snow only". In addition to the complaints received in March, there have been upwards of ten calls in total this year for mailbox damage, in some cases the Township plow did hit the mailboxes.

The CAO/Clerk asked for input from neighbouring municipalities on any policy they have on repairing damage to mailboxes. The County does not have a policy, nor does Whitewater Region or Greater Madawaska. Township of Admaston/Bromely does have a policy on mail boxes. The Committee reviewed this policy. After consideration the following resolution was put forward.

Moved by Rick Lester, seconded by Murray Humphries

That Public Works Committee recommends to Council that they adopt a Mailbox Policy similar to the Admaston/Bromley mailbox policy.

Carried.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Kingsbury thanked Rod Eady for his response to a call he received about flooding in Cotieville last Saturday. Rod Eady described the situation where one property owner had water ponding in his back yard, he dug a ditch through the snow to the Township ditch and when the water got into the Township ditch it started flooding out a neighbours driveway and property. The owner of the house receiving the flood asked for road ditching to be improved and Mr. Eady thought the owner might contact Council Members later this week. The Committee asked Jeff Schruder to look into the drainage situation and see if there was any liability towards the Township.

The CAO/Clerk asked if there was to be a road tour organized this year? Chair Bennett noted that an extensive road tour was organized in 2007 and as not much has changed, he did not recommend a tour this year other than the Pinnacle Road tour mentioned earlier. The Committee agreed.

14. NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the normal meeting is the first Monday of each month, however, Mayor Johnston has a previous booking – the County Road Tour on that day, and in addition Rod Eady will be away at Good Roads School, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Therefore the Committee agreed to meet Thursday May 8, 2008 at 8:30 am in the Community Centre.

15. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Robert A. Johnston seconded by Rod Eady

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

Carried.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Rick Lester seconded by Murray Humphries

That this Public Works Committee Meeting be adjourned at 10.23 a.m.

Carried.