

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

September 8, 2009

There was a meeting of the Public Works Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Tuesday September 8, 2009. Present were chair Dave Bennett, Mayor Robert A. Johnston, Councillor Bob Kingsbury, Rick Lester and Murray Humphries. Staff present Jeff Schruder, Municipal Infrastructure Manager, Rod Eady Public Works Superintendent, and Mackie McLaren CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by members of the Committee.

3. MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2009 COMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Bennett reviewed the Minutes of the July 6, 2009 Committee Meeting which had been approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Snow Fence around Bridge on CN Trail

Rod Eady reported that an inspection last Friday showed that the snow fence had been taken down by someone and the men will have it up today. Chair Bennett asked for weekly inspection checks of this fence.

Jeff Schruder reported that the Snowmobile Club applied for a grant and was successful in getting this grant to reconstruct this bridge and they are currently having hemlock logs squared which they will then place on the bridge decking. Chair Bennett noted while the Snowmobile Club is constructing the bridge they will have to guard it well as it is our liability. He asked the Infrastructure Manager to do a job site review with the Club prior to them starting and to ensure they have hard hats, safety boots etc.

Peter Tippins Agreement to use unopened Road Allowance

Jeff Schruder reported that he met with Mr Tippins on site, they could not see how he could do any more to the drainage situation without ditching the roadside ditch. He will install a culvert. He reported that the fence on the road allowance is at the middle of the road allowance and with each adjoining owner using thirty feet of land. Mr Tippins only wanted to use 33 feet on his side and leave the fence in place but there is a hydro pole on the road allowance right in front of his 33 feet. Mr Tippins suggested that he may swing a private road off the unopened road allowance on to Humphries Road to go around the hydro pole.

Chair Bennett suggested that he may have to move the pole. After discussion the Committee agreed that they would not support a private road between the Humphries Road and the unopened road allowance.

2010 Tandem Truck Tender Package

Jeff Schruder reported that a decision has to be made on the potential to keep the 2000 Tandem as a Water Truck and a Spare Snow Plow Truck. In 2008 we spent \$12,000 in repairs to this truck and to date in 2009 we have spent \$4,000 so far. It was safetied and declared mechanically sound but the box is not good. If we plan to keep the truck we need to repair the box, an estimate from Hamells Garage in Pembroke, who repaired a box on a previous truck, is \$4,000. Cost for a new box is \$38,000. He noted that the water tank was on the truck for 21 days this year, watering for the Grader. The pros for keeping the truck would be a spare snowplow and keeping the water tank on this truck allowing two other trucks for other purposes. The con would be extra maintenance and no trade in value, possibly upwards of \$26,000.

Rod Eady added there is a need for a third sanding truck in the freezing rain weather that we are getting in recent winters. The other saving is not having to change the water tank on and off the truck.

Chair Bennett suggested that the tender be written up both ways asking for a price with trade in and asking for a price without trade in, then get a quote from Hamell's Garage to see how much the actual cost would be to do a body job on the box and how long the job would be expected to last.

The Committee agreed.

5. DELEGATIONS

8:50 Agnes Walker – Improvements to Price Road

Agnes Walker and her father Michael Rouble were present to request Public Works Committee carry out improvements to Price Road. Mr Rouble noted that they move farm equipment back and forth on Price Road to a farm Mrs Walker owns in Admaston/Bromley. There are too many locations where vehicle cannot meet or pass the farm equipment. He suggested that the area for improvement would be approximately 1200 yards long, including three rock outcrops that would need to be blasted. Most of the work could be carried out by a dozer and material would not have to be moved too far, just from the high side to the low side of the road.

Chair Bennett noted that there is a major hill approaching Highway 60 and to get a proper grade on the hill would be an issue. There would be a need to justify spending tax dollars based on traffic counts. He suggested it would cost between \$100,000 and \$150,000 to fix the hill alone.

Mr Rouble said leave the hill, the rest of the road could be upgraded as widening is what they really need. Widen the road the first year and in subsequent years remove the rock from each rock outcrop, one per year.

Chair Bennett noted that no one has taken a good look at what has to be done and we would need a costing of what it would involve and decide what monies are available.

Jeff Schruder reported that in one 24 hour traffic count last week 97 vehicles were recorded. As he was removing the traffic counter two vehicles went by, both with GPS units stuck to their windshields. He has prepared signs which are now ready for pickup to be erected at both ends of the road, saying LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY. He has approval from MTO to put up directional arrows with direction to Highway 17 using Highway 60 and Pinnacle Road.

Mr Rouble suggested that signs being put up means you will not fix the road, the road needs improvement. Murray Humphries suggested adding several pullouts where vehicles meet at. Mrs Walker said that there are areas where you can pass now, but you do not meet people in these spots.

Mr Rouble noted that people dumping garbage on the road is a concern and that may not happen if the road is opened up and more traffic uses the road.

Chair Bennett said that the Township would have to put a financial plan together and look at the liability if the Township does not work on the hill.

Mike Rouble offered to meet the Committee to tour the road.

Rick Lester summed up the issue being quality of the road and no way to meet other vehicles. He asked if the Roubles wanted a road that was so good traffic was encouraged to drive on it?

Mrs Walker suggested they only want improvements so the potholes are gone and vehicles can meet.

Mr Rouble suggested that the hill could be realigned over private property to make the hill less steep and it would be straight. Mrs Walker said every day people use the road as a short cut and you cannot back up with a tractor and wagon, when you meet someone. Mr Rouble suggested that there is a swamp that could be drained which would help with the road.

Chair Bennett noted that the next Committee meeting will be October 5, 2009, we can meet at the start of the meeting. Mr Rouble and Mrs Walker agreed. The CAO/Clerk will call ahead to make arrangements.

Mayor Johnston suggested that we go ahead and put up the local traffic signs and then do another traffic count to see if there is any reduction in the number of vehicles.

Mr Rouble pointed out that Robert Fulton told him that when Fulton opened up the pit he offered to build up the road, but he was refused. The CAO/Clerk was to check the Minutes. At the end of the discussion the Committee agreed to meet at the intersection of Price Road and Pinnacle Road at 8:30 am October 5, 2009

6. INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER & PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS

Jeff Schruder and Rod Eady reviewed their Reports of activities in July and August. Jeff Schruder reported on the current condition of the Thomson Road Culvert. The County Engineer representative from Jp2g is to meet Jeff on Wednesday or Thursday this week. Water is coming up through the pavement and it appears that the shoulder and part of the road are shifting out.

7. THOMSON ROAD CULVERT

This was discussed above. Jeff invited members of the Committee to attend the meeting when arranged.

8. GARDEN OF EDEN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Engineering Status

Jeff Schruder reported that the engineering work appears to be on the "back burner" as the construction will not be done this year and the design will be carried out over the Fall and Winter. The results are expected soon from the Fish Study. The survey work on the alignment of the road at the Pinnacle and Garden of Eden intersection will determine what work the road needs.

Chair Bennett noted that we will have to go to tender in February 2010 so we will need the plans and tenders ready for then.

Murray Humphries suggested that we will have to keep on the Engineering firm to ensure that it does not stay on the "back burner".

Signs

Jeff Schruder reported that the Provincial wording has now been released for the Build Canada sign. They have been ordered and they will be put up this week.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee reviewed the following correspondence:

Our letter to Goshen Road Residents about 2010 hard surface.

Jeff Schruder reported that this letter has been delivered to Goshen Road residents.

Letter to Mrs Lemenchick re Snow Plow damage to Fence Posts

Councillor Kingsbury informed the Committee that he had a phone conversation with Mrs Lemenchick. He noted that the road is very narrow at the back of her property, the

posts have rotted off and they have attempted to keep the fence standing by wiring steel posts to the wooden posts. He asked if the small 4 x 4 truck could snowplow that road. Jeff Schruder reported that the 4 x 4 has snowplowed in that area, but from time to time it needs to be winged back and that appears to be when the problem is happening.

At this point being 9:37 am Mayor Johnston left the meeting.

David Brown Concerns with Shoulders on County Road

The Committee reviewed a letter with pictures, submitted by David Brown, on the soft condition the shoulders are left in on County Road 20 after the shoulders are graded. The Committee agreed to forward the letter on to the County and suggest that the width of the shoulders be widened to accommodate walkers on County roads.

10. BUDGET vs ACTUAL REVIEW AS OF AUGUST 31, 2009

The Committee Members reviewed the Budget to Actual Report as of August 31, 2009.

11. REPORT ON 2009 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Pinnacle Road

Jeff Schruder reported that this work is on hold to see how much money we would need for our share of the Garden of Eden Road project.

Mullins Road/Fraser Road Hard Surface

This work has now been completed on Thursday and Friday of last week.

It appears, at this time, to be a good job. Councillor Kingsbury expressed his concern that it may have been done too late in the year.

Johnston Road Ditch

Jeff Schruder suggested ditching from the Storyland end of the road towards the ditch that runs through the Shea's bush. There is a crossroad culvert before Hobb's gate which now has the wrong fall and it would have to be changed and clean up the ditches along that route. There would be rental of an excavator as part of the work and the work can be done any time after Committee approval is received.

12. TOM ORR OFFER TO PURCHASE UNOPENED ROAD ALLOWANCE

The Committee received an offer from Tom Orr to purchase the unopened road allowance between Concession VII and VIII Lots 24, 25 and 26 at the amount of \$1,000 per acre, after it has been determined by a surveyor what the area is. It is estimated by Mr Orr to be between three and three and a half acres.

The Committee Members asked if there was an appraisal done? The answer was no. Both Murray Humphries and Bob Kingsbury suggested an appraisal be carried out.

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, seconded by Murray Humphries

That Public Works Committee recommend to Council that they authorize that an appraisal be carried out on the possible sale of the unopened road allowance between Concession VII and VIII Lots 24, 25 and 26 for the Tom Orr development proposal.

Carried.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

The CAO/Clerk passed out a draft 2010 Public Works Budget form. The Committee authorized staff to prepare a draft for the October 5, 2009 Committee Meeting.

Work by Public Works Crew for Other Departments

Jeff Schruder submitted a report for the previous twelve months on work that the Public Works Crew have carried out for other Departments, for information purposes. Murray Humphries noted that there is no problem unless there is a conflict with road projects not being completed. He suggested that if there is a conflict other projects could be carried out with day labour.

14. NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be October 5, 2009 at 8:30 am. They will meet at that time at the intersection of Pinnacle Road and Price Road to view Pinnacle Road with Mike Rouble and Agnes Walker.

15. CONFIRMING REOSLUTION

Moved by Rod Eady, seconded by Jeff Schruder

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 meeting be adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk