

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

October 5, 2009

There was a meeting of the Public Works Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Monday October 5, 2009. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Mayor Robert A Johnston, Councillor Bob Kingsbury, Rick Lester and Murray Humphries. Staff present was Jeff Schruder Infrastructure Manager, Rod Eady Public Works Superintendent and Mackie McLaren CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the formal part of the meeting to order at 9:30 am, noting that at 8:30 am the Committee Members met at the intersection of Pinnacle Road and Price Road with Agnes Walker and Mike Rouble to discuss their request that Price Road be improved. Chair Bennett gave a brief report on that meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee reviewed the September 8, 2009 Committee Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Rick Lester, seconded by Jeff Schruder

That Public Works Committee approves the Minutes of the September 8, 2009 Committee Meeting.

**Carried.**

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Rod Eady and Jeff Schruder reported that work has not yet started on the deck of the bridge on the CN Trail. The Snowmobile Club anticipate starting within two weeks with the hiring of a contractor. Chair Bennett reminded staff that a contractor has to provide insurance and WSIB requirements.

5. DELEGATIONS

9:37 Bill McGahern – Close Unopened Road Allowance between Lots 4 & 5 Concession 4

Bill McGahern was present informing the Committee that he owns 80 acres in Lot 5 Concession 4, there is an unopened road allowance running between lots 5 and 6 and he is interested in purchasing the unopened road allowance. He has contacted all owners, two have expressed some interest in getting their share of the road allowance, and three others said that they did not wish to have part of it, being Don Griese, Jim Gillan and Ben Kane. Mr Novosad and Mr Turcotte expressed interest. He understood that the proponents would be responsible for survey costs. He is willing to take 66 ft or 33 ft around these two properties. He informed the Committee that he has no immediate plans for the property. The Committee authorized the CAO/Clerk to write letters to all the owners setting out the costs, the process and asking for their interest or not to be given in writing.

Moved by Murray Humphries, seconded by Rod Eady

That Public Works Committee recommends to Council that they start the closing procedures to close the unopened road allowance between Lots 5 & 6, Concession 4.

**Carried.**

At this point in the Meeting Councillor Kingsbury left for another appointment.

9:45 Dave Darch – County Engineer – Thomson Road Culvert

Councillor Bennett welcomed Mr Darch to the table, informing Mr Darch that part of the culvert job constructed by the County is not standing up well. Mr Darch said he was on the Site two weeks ago and noticed some settlement happening. Jeff Schruder reported that water is coming out a seam that has opened up on the pavement. Chair Bennett noted that there is also movement in the shoulder of the road as well. Jeff Schruder added that three guardrails are out of alignment and the asphalt is undermined in one area.

Dave Darch said the County is concerned and they believe that their best solution is to keep an eye on what is happening and next season go back and resurface, if required, once the material underneath dries out. They will monitor the area and asked us to contact them if it becomes a safety concern. Mr Darch said he will make sure that there is a response to our concerns made to the County Public Works Committee this Thursday.

Jeff Schruder referred to a patch of asphalt placed by the Contractor that is outside the limits of the construction area, asking if it can be brought up to the new standard. Rock trucks destroyed the pavement at this point and the work is not holding up. He also noted that the Contractor drew truckloads of gravel on Early Road, which is a gravel road, causing damage. Dave Darch said he will advise us of his County Committee Meeting's decision.

Rick Lester suggested that when Mr Darch returns to the County today to take a drive on Thomson Road to see the work area again. Our concern is that something big will happen in the Fall and we will have a four month detour over the winter while we wait for construction season to begin next year. Mr Darch said they will continue to monitor and they will repair.

Mayor Johnston referred to the seasonal bump that occurs on Castleford Road near to the old Sportsplex property. Mr Darch said he is aware of the problem, the staff have opened up the road two or three times, put in extra drainage and it is still a problem. They may have to call in a specialist. Mayor Johnston suggested that a spring is the problem. The solution would be to shift the road over and take out some rock outcrop on private property to avoid the spring altogether. Mr Darch said he has no definitive response and would like to speak with Mike Pinet and Steve Boland for their input. He agreed to let the Committee know of possible solutions.

Mr Darch referred to a letter received from David Brown from the Township which expressed concern about the condition of the County Road shoulders after they are graded. Murray Humphries expressed concern for River Road as well. There is no place for people to walk except on the shoulder. Mr Darch said that shoulders are graded one to three times per year to try to reclaim the material back to the edge of the pavement. They do not compact, to do this would require a service level change. He is finding now more and more pressure on local and County departments to introduce paths for cyclists and pedestrians.

Mr Darch is proposing to the County that in 2010 they start a Master Transportation Strategy Plan which will include road shoulders and ditches in the mandate. This will deal with ATVs, cyclists, pedestrians etc. He is seeking input from the community and local municipalities. The plan would develop policies in this regard and would take two to three years broken down into modules. He is hearing this request throughout the County and we have to break away from our current practices.

Rick Lester asked if we encourage cyclists to use the shoulder on the road do we create a liability to the road authority. Mr Darch said he has spoken to insurers on this and the answer is that sufficient signage and proper notification will reduce the risk.

Mayor Johnston noted that Mr Brown is attending our Council Meeting October 6, 2009 and he will inform Mr Brown that the County and the Township are aware of this concern and that the County is planning a Master Study.

Rick Lester suggested that rather than put money into shoulders we should put money into maintaining the roads. Dave Darch suggested that a partnership would be required for funding the shoulders as sidewalks are a local municipality responsibility but shoulders are a County responsibility.

Mr Darch informed the Committee Members that the County has tried a new method of temporarily relieving asphalt concerns by putting a scratch coat of asphalt to eliminate the patching needs, which is a thin layer of HL2 asphalt. It will hold the road up for five years longer before the need for reconstruction and save the labour involved in continually patching holes.

#### Lime Kiln Road

Chair Bennett informed Mr Darch that we have a connecting link road between Gillan Road and Burnstown Road, two County Roads, and requested the County consider again assuming this road.

Mr Darch said it would have to meet the County criteria, which he will send down to us. He will then sit down with the CAO/Clerk to review the criteria and is willing to receive a request and process it through the Committee and Council.

#### Septage

Dave Darch informed our Public Works Committee that he will be making a report to the County Public Works Committee on Horton and Bonnechere Valley Septage Treatment proposals.

Chair Bennett said that we will be ready to receive waste by the end of next week.

Chair Bennett thanked Mr Darch for attending our Committee Meeting.

#### 6. INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Schruder reviewed the Infrastructure Manager's Report, noting that the posts for the Welcome Signs had been planted on the previous Saturday and Jeff was asked to check with MTO for their approval on height requirements for the sign off the ground.

#### 7. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Rod Eady reviewed his report noting that new surface treatment on Fraser Road and Mullins Road looks good. He agreed to arrange with Brent Greer to remove six inches off each end of the entrance culvert placed for the Plowing Match, on Storyland Road, as per original requirements.

#### 8. GARDEN OF EDEN ROAD PROJECT STATUS

Jeff Schruder reported that he has received a quote from Ed Vickers of \$16,390 plus \$2,000 disbursements for topographical survey, and \$29,452 plus \$2,000 for preliminary design. He questioned why we would need cross section where we are not excavating as Mr Vickers proposal calls for cross sections every fifty metres plus high and low spots. Murray Humphries agreed we would need a typical design for the road but not every fifty metres, as we are not changing the profile of the road.

The Committee authorized Jeff Schruder to review our concerns with Mr Vickers. Jeff Schruder will have a response for the next Committee Meeting.

9. PUBLIC WORKS STAFF – SUMMER WORK HOURS – SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Chair Bennett suggested that the Committee consider several options over the next few months, concerning holidays and suggested consideration for a two week shutdown and asked that other municipalities be contracted for their policy. Jeff Schruder said that the biggest concern is not holidays but work the department does for other departments. Chair Bennett agreed that this would all be part of the discussion.

Murray Humphries asked if work for other departments could be contracted out. Chair Bennett suggested hiring seasonal workers or an incentive to employees to take extra holidays in the winter, if not taken in the summer.

Rod Eady asked if there was concern with the summer hours of four ten hour days. Chair Bennett suggested it is up for discussion. Is it more feasible for four ten hour days or would it be better to rotate staff to have an operator in on Fridays. Rod Eady noted that other Townships are working four ten hour days in the summer.

Mayor Johnston noted that the County maintains regular hours year around. Chair Bennett suggested that the review will take some time so everyone can have input into the discussion.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

ORG – Ontario’s Roads Safer as of October 26, 2009 – ban cell phones. It was noted that two way radios will be banned in two years.

11. BUDGET VS ACTUAL AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

The Committee reviewed the budget to actual comparison for September 30, 2009.

12. TRUCK TENDER – OPEN TENDERS

The CAO/Clerk reported that only one tender had been received and that was from Valley Spring. The Committee then authorized him to proceed with the opening. With the envelope open it was found that with the same cab a chassis was quoted with four different equipment options:

Viking equipment with a \$20,000 trade-in allowance	\$189,606.65
no trade-in	\$212,206.65
Larochelle trade-in	\$177,007.15
No trade-in	\$199,607.15
ELP with trade-in	\$192,072.13
No trade-in	\$214,672.13
ELP with optional sander body & gravel body	\$207,066.22
No trade-in	\$229,666.22

The Committee authorized Jeff Schruder to review the quotes and report back with a recommendation.

13. REPORT ON 2009 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Jeff Schruder reported on the following roads.

Pinnacle Road no work has been carried out on Pinnacle Road as we are waiting for the design of the intersection of Pinnacle Road and Garden of Eden Road. He did note that Bonnechere Valley Township has been successful in getting approval for their unused Build Canada Grant funds to be used on additional road projects.

Mullins Road and Fraser Road – Hard Surface

The hard surface contracts were completed in early September and the roads seem to be standing up well.

Johnston Road Ditch

Jeff Schruder reported that he has made arrangements with Admaston-Bromley Township to rent their excavator with bush-hog attachment to do the brushing.

14. TOM ORR – APPRAISAL FOR UNOPENED ROAD ALLOWANCE

The Committee received an appraisal from Larry Polk in the amount of \$2,500 per acre, an estimate of three acres would be \$7,500. for the unopened road allowance.

Mayor Johnston supported the appraisal. Chair Bennett said that closing this road would add more value to Mr Orr's lots than \$7,500. Murray Humphries noted that the 66 feet of road allowance does lead to water but we cannot get to it, it does not have waterfront value since the lot is too small as a building lot, therefore he would support a value somewhere between Councillor Bennett's suggestion and the appraisal received.

Mayor Johnston noted that in addition to the monies for the road allowance the Township will also received 5% of the value of the development for recreational purposes, as set out in the Planning Act.

15. 2010 DRAFT BUDGET

Linda Novossiltzeff, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk was present and handed out working papers for the Public Works Committee to work on the draft 2010 Budget. She informed the Committee that she can provide numbers for the pay and overhead costs, but would need staff to provide input into construction and equipment costs.

Chair Bennett asked for capital work ideas for the budget.

Mayor Johnston suggested Price Road from Highway 60 to the top of the hill.

The Committee briefly discussed the meeting at 8:30 am on Price Road. Chair Bennett noted that Mike Rouble and Agnes Walker would agree to gate off the roadway provided they had a key. The Township would close the road as a public road and the CAO/Clerk was asked to research the closing options and that all neighbours be invited to discuss this proposal. The Committee agreed to recommend this to Council.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to discuss.

17. NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next regular meeting date would be November 2, 2009, but this would fall on the first Monday of Hunting Season, therefore the Committee agreed to meet on the Friday before, October 30, 2009 at 8:30 am.

18. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Rick Lester, seconded by Murray Humphries

That the Committee pass this confirming resolution to cover 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.**

19. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jeff Schruder, seconded by Rod Eady

That this Committee Meeting be adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

**Carried.**

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Chair

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CAO/Clerk