

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 12, 2008

There was a meeting of the Public Works Committee held in the Horton Community Centre on Wednesday November 12, 2008. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Murray Humphries, Robert A. Johnston, Robert Kingsbury and Rick Lester. Staff present were Linda Novossiltzeff Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, 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 SEPTEMBER 29, 2008

The Committee Members reviewed the September 29, 2008 Meeting Minutes, which had already been approved by Council. Murray Humphries referred to the motion recommending acceptance of the drainage profile on Humphries Road by Peter Prince, it noted in the Minutes that he seconded the motion but he informed the Committee he did not second the motion. After discussion Councillor Kingsbury confirmed that he seconded the motion. The change will be made to the Minutes.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Murray Humphries referred to the Peter Prince properties on Humphries Road and informed the Committee that following the September 29, 2008 meeting, he went to the property and noticed that there were attempts to locate a tile drain near the road, but the trench was only two feet deep. He suggested that this might be too shallow, normally tile drains would be at least three feet in depth and this may be an indication that there still could be tile drains in the ground in that location, possibly coming under the road from land on the other side.

The Committee asked Jeff Schruder to check out this possibility and report back at the next meeting.

Jeff Schruder reported on the sale of the Michigan Loader, the highest bid was \$2,150.00. The check has been received, and once the check clears the buyer will collect the Loader.

5. DELEGATIONS

Chair Bennett said that no delegations had asked to appear before the Committee.

6. MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER REPORT – OCTOBER 2008

Jeff Schruder reviewed the Infrastructure Manager's Report and responded to questions from the Committee Members. He reported that the Goshen Road construction project has ended for the year. Several culverts remain to be changed. He reported that the fuel tanks have been removed from the ground at the Public Works Garage yesterday. There was no bad odor detected, so the indication is that there was no leakage, however, that will be determined with the soil test results.

Rick Lester asked what a dry hydrant was – and Jeff Schruder and Dave Bennett reviewed that it was a method for the Fire Department to draft water from a river for water supply for fire fighting. A dry hydrant is available to be accessed year around.

Robert A. Johnston asked if the County have agreed to replace the culvert at intersection of Lochwinnoch and Goshen Road. Jeff Schruder said yes the County will replace it next Spring.

Bob Kingsbury asked what has been carried out on Johnston Road today. Jeff Schruder was carrying survey elevations; he has produced three profiles and now wants to do some cross sections but has not put the information on paper yet.

7. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Rod Eady reviewed the Public Works Superintendent Report. Jeff Schruder reported on the construction of the turn around at the end Jim Barr Road. The granular B has to be compacted and then the top granular will be put on.

Robert A. Johnston thanked the Road Crew for assisting in the removal of the bus that was situated on our access road on the property adjacent the former Timbertown property. Chair Bennett thanked Mayor Johnston for the work he has carried out in organizing this removal and in cleaning up the road access and the beach area.

8. 2009 DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Committee Members reviewed the draft budget, several changes were made and explanations given.

Chair Bennett discussed the appointment we have requested with Provincial Ministers Watson and Smitherman to discuss our infrastructure needs. The CAO/Clerk reported that we have not yet received a date. He will ask our Member of Parliament John Yakabuski to follow up on this. Chair Bennett noted that for these meetings a power point presentation will have to be prepared for Garden of Eden Road and asked that pictures be taken of the road and of the structures for this purpose this Fall.

9. POLICY – MINIMUM ENTRANCE CULVERT SIZE (REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL)

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that there were comments at Council from Mayor Johnston that the policy for entrance culverts is not flexible enough. A 400 mm diameter culvert would be too large where there is no water, or has rock that would have to be blasted out. There needs to be flexibility for the Infrastructure Manager to size culverts width and diameter for each application. Rod Eady reviewed the flexibility he has carried out in the past.

Murray Humphries suggested that a 10 metre by 400 mm culvert is the minimum standard and agreed there may be times when a different size would be required i.e. no culvert if it was on the height of land etc.

Jeff Schruder pointed out that he has prepared an amendment to the application in which he has put another clause called “other (please specify)”. The Committee agreed that this would provide sufficient flexibility.

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Rod Eady

That the Public Works Committee recommends to Council that they implement the change to the Entrance Permit Application Form

**Carried.**

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Investing in Ontario Act - \$136,953 to arrive today

Chair Bennett reported that the \$136,953 promised during the AMO Convention this August is to be received in our Bank today. He suggested that this money must be earmarked for work on Garden of Eden Road.

Moved by Bob Kingsbury second by Rod Eady

That Public Works Committee recommends to Council that the Investing in Ontario Act Funds of \$136,953 are to be used for construction on Garden of Eden Road (sections between Bruce Street and Pinnacle Road).

**Carried.**

County Capital Works Plan – Projects in Horton

Mayor Johnston, who sits on the Public Works Committee at the County, reviewed the three capital works projects that are scheduled for Horton Township in the next ten years.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Rick Lester expressed concern with the County of Renfrew Public Works Department's response to repairs and improvements to County roads in the Township. He sited the extraordinarily long time that Thompson Road has been closed and will be closed – now learning that it will not be open until May 2009 and the discussions that had to take place in order for the County to install a culvert on their Lochwinnoch Road and Goshen Road. Chair Bennett supported these comments and discussed what he felt was the lack of concern for our residents and more concern for their bottom line budget.

Mayor Johnston defended the County stating reasons for the time lines, and suggested the Committee send a letter setting out our concerns to the County Committee.

Moved by Rick Lester, seconded by Rod Eady

That the CAO/Clerk and the Municipal Infrastructure Manager, draft a letter, on behalf of the Committee to be sent to the County Engineer expressing our concerns with the time delays on the Thompson Road culvert and with the staff negotiations that had to take place in order to convince the County that there was a need to replace their culvert on Lochwinnoch Road at Goshen Road.

**Carried on division.**

**Opposed Robert A. Johnston**

Staff was requested to send a copy of the draft letter to each Committee Member for their input prior to it being submitted to the County.

Municipal Data Works – Asset Management

The CAO/Clerk reported that the Ontario Good Road Association and their Municipal Data Works Program have a list of engineers who will assist Municipalities with data collection and in valuation. He reported that our assets have all been catalogued and data collected and we are at the valuation stage where an original value must be determined as well as a replacement value. Engineers can assist by going on line with our data and they do not have to be present in the municipality. He reported that there is approximately \$5,700 left in the Asset Management budget. He asked if the Committee Members would support getting a quotation for engineering assistance. The Committee agreed.

Build Canada Fund

The CAO/Clerk reported that Ed Vickers of Stantec Engineering is preparing our application for the November 21, 2008. Part of the application has been received in draft for our comment; the Business Plan is currently being drafted. Prior to it being submitted to the Province he will run the application by Bruce McIntyre at the County of Renfrew for comments.

12. NEXT MEETING

The Committee members agreed to meet Monday December 1, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at the Community Centre.

13. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Murray Humphries, seconded by Rick Lester

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jeff Schruder, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That this Public Works Committee Meeting be adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

**Carried.**

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Chair

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CAO/Clerk