

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

MARCH 3, 2008

There was a meeting of the Public Works Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Monday March 3, 2008. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Bob Kingsbury, Robert A. Johnston, Rick Lester, Rod Eady and Jeff Schruder from 8:50 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

3. MINUTES OF JANUARY 29, 2008 MEETING

Chair Bennett reviewed the Committee Meeting Minutes, which had already been approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Chair Bennett said, while at the Good Roads Convention, he spoke to a dealer with municipal supplies, who told him traffic counters are available on-line for \$300.00.

The CAO/Clerk reported that Bruce McIntyre was not able to complete the Municipal Infrastructure Application. He and the Road Management Staff had completed it.

5. REPORT ON OGRA CONVENTION

Meeting with Parliamentary Assistant on our MIII Application for Pinnacle Road

Chair Bennett reported that the five representatives from Horton met with Phill McNeely, Parliamentary Assistant and four of his Assistants. He feels that they had a good hearing and good questions were asked of us by his assistants. It was noted that while at the Convention the Government put in another \$150 million, topping up the \$300 million fund to \$450 million. However, they learnt, upon returning home, that there was actually \$750 million in applications.

Mayor Johnston said that this appears to be another lottery, rather than dividing up funds and giving everyone something. Rick Lester noted that John Yakabuski was also present at this presentation and spoke in our favour, in support of our application. Approvals will be made by March 31, 2008.

Debermer - Set Up Machine this Spring

Chair Bennett reported that he attended the booth of the company who supplied our debermer and the contact has agreed to come in May and set the Debermer up for us, at no charge.

Miller Paving to examine Mullins Road Hard Surface Job

While at the Convention they spoke with two representatives of Miller Paving who agreed to walk Mullins Road with Council and Public Works Committee to determine what went wrong with the hard surface job two years ago.

OSIFA Funding for Capital Projects

It was noted by the Parliamentary Assistants, while meeting with Mr. McNeely, one point in our favour was that we are trying to finance ourselves through OSIFA. They were aware of this and not many rural municipalities are involved with OSIFA, and they were happy to see this. The members present felt this was something in our favour.

WSIB – Policy on When our Equipment can Pull Our Own Vehicles Out of Ditch

Chair Bennett, reported that he sat in on a session on Municipal Liability, where a municipality had a snow plow truck stuck and they pulled a truck off another route to finish the route that the stuck truck was doing. An accident happened on the first route and as the road conditions were below minimum standards they were successfully sued against as the result of an accident. There was no policy that existed that the municipality was able to defend themselves with. He suggested the Township develop a policy which sets out when we send out our equipment to pull our vehicle out of the ditch or if we hire a tow truck. It was noted in the seminar that if you provide more service than the minimum standards you then establish a new minimum standard policy. It was noted that the Committee feels that we are giving higher than minimum standard service. It was also noted that new minimum standards are coming out this Fall.

OPP Detour Routes

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that he will be raising an issue with the CPAC members at their meeting tonight, in which the OPP should not have the final say on what roads are used as detour routes when Highway 17 is closed. A recent example was Whitewater – Highway 17 was closed through Whitewater Township because of white out conditions and the OPP, against the request of the local municipality, directed the traffic over a township road which suffered the same white out conditions causing the Township to bring all their equipment to do this one detour road to make sure the road was maintained for the heavy traffic. This should not be so.

Blue Flashing Lights

Chair Bennett reported he spoke with Minister Jim Bradley, Minister of Transportation, about the change in the regulations for blue flashing lights on snow plow vehicles. As of June 2007 the policy has changed, where a snow plow truck cannot leave its jurisdiction with blue lights flashing. This change was made because the OPP want to use blue lights in their flashing lights. He told the Minister that he believes this is an error as most accidents happen at intersections. He has had some interaction since the Convention with officials. Chair Bennett's position is that if a truck is used as a plow then the lights should be on.

Rob Eady reported that he sat in on Asset Management Seminars and Municipal Data Works through OGRA seemed to be ahead of consultants. They have 110 categories for assets, and Horton is using the OGRA Data Works Program.

6. DELEGATIONS

9:04 Ray McLaughlin – improve Calvin Road

Chair Bennett reported that Mr. McLaughlin who owns property that is accessed through the unimproved Calvin Road, wants to construct a new house. The road is below standard for approximately 1 kilometer. Our Zoning By-law requires that a building must front on an improved road, before a permit can be issued. Major reconstruction of this road is required for the width of Lot 27 (2000 feet) and 133 feet (40 meters) into Lot 26 to provide the frontage required.

Mr. McLaughlin has received a copy of a recent road improvement agreement. This agreement will permit Mr. McLaughlin to construct the road over time. Chair Bennett noted that this construction would open up a severance opportunity on both sides of the road in Lot 27, Concessions 2 & 3. It would put more traffic on the road and there would be an issue then for hard surface. A policy will have to be implemented to require future severances in Lot 27 to have hard surface as a condition of their approval.

Mr. McLaughlin said he did not want to have to bring the road up to MTO standards. Chair Bennett said that we have no other option than to require the road to be built up to a fifty vehicle per day standard, less the hard surface. He thought this might cost \$30 to \$40,000 as an estimate. Mr. McLaughlin said the road would have to be ditched as there is a low area. Jeff Schruder said the travel surface would have to be widened. Mr. McLaughlin added that rock removal is required in one area.

Chair Bennett noted that if Mr. McLaughlin did not want to build the road up to the fifty vehicle per day (VPD) standard then he would have to request Planning Committee and Council to approve a building permit without improving the road, to see if they would support this. He did not offer hope that this would happen.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the fences are only fenced forty feet wide. Chair Bennett said that the road is actually sixty feet wide and the fences will have to be moved back. Mr. McLaughlin asked who would pay for the survey to establish the proper line of the sixty feet road width? Mayor Johnston said that he can see that Mr. McLaughlin should not pay for this. Councillor Kingsbury said that as it is our road the Township should pay to establish the proper lines.

Mr. McLaughlin said that there was a house on the property that burnt many years ago and the Township at one time snow plowed the road into the laneway.

Chair Bennett summed up the issues;

1. Who provides the survey of the road allowance
2. Mr. McLaughlin has to decide if he will build the road to the fifty vehicle per day standard, or look at a different option. Mr. McLaughlin is to let the CAO/Clerk know what option he has chosen.
3. Contact neighbours before an agreement is made to make them aware of the widening of the fence lines.

Mr. McLaughlin said before he made a decision he would like to contact his neighbours. Mr. McLaughlin then left the meeting.

7. CAPITAL FORECAST

Review Forecast for Development Charges Study

The CAO/Clerk presented a revised copy of the Public Works Department Eleven Year Road Rehabilitation Program 2008 – 2018. He explained that this is a reworking of the ten year plan that the Committee received earlier this year. Mr. Schruder and the CAO/Clerk attended the Jp2g Office in Pembroke on February 28, 2008, to discuss the Development Charge Study and the capital forecast of road works that would be part of this study. During the meeting it became evident that the original plan was ambitious in that several large projects followed in consecutive years. These have been spaced out a little further apart. He requested the Committee consider approving the forecast so that it could be included in the Development Charge Study. Members of the Committee asked how firm the approval would be on the roads. It was agreed that all this would be was a statement that these roads are in need of improvement and the approximate year that the improvement would be carried out.

Moved by Rick Lester, seconded by Rod Eady

That the Public Works Committee recommend to Council that they accept the Public Works Department eleven year road rehabilitation program 2008 – 2018 Program.

**Carried.**

8. GAS TAX PROJECTS

Officially change Priorities from Thomson Road Culvert to Road Construction and Hard Surface Projects

The CAO/Clerk reported that when the Gas Tax Funding started coming in the monies were earmarked for the Thomson Road Culvert that was collapsing. This job has now been assumed by the County of Renfrew and the Township will have to change its priority for the gas tax money with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario who are managing the gas tax fund.

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, seconded by Rick Lester

That the Public Works Committee recommend to Council that the Township's project for gas tax funding will be changed to road construction and hard surface projects.

**Carried.**

9. MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGER & PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT CONCERNS

Jeff Schruder said he was glad to be back. The last two weeks he was away on the Building Official Course and at the Good Roads Convention.

Rod Eady said the sand is holding up, and equipment repairs are at a minimum. Councilor Kingsbury said a ratepayer on Cobus Road has told him of their satisfaction of the winter maintenance of the road. Rod Eady said that he has received several calls from people on the Pinnacle Road and the Garden of Eden Road.

Rod Eady reported that at the Convention he saw equipment made for shouldering, which attached to the tandem trucks. He thought the Roads Department could build this over time. The County of Renfrew constructed a similar piece of equipment. There was discussion on whether the Township should build or purchase the equipment at a cost of \$4,900. A costing on what it would cost the Township to build a unit will be prepared.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Bennett said the road needs study quotation form will be on the next agenda when Murray Humphries is back and John Wilson, Planning Committee, is back, so they can continue the discussion of seeking quotations for a study.

11. NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed to meet Monday April 4, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.  
On this Agenda a policy on winter closing of Price Road is to be included.

12. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Rod Eady, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

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.**

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Rick Lester, seconded by Jeff Schruder

That the Public Works Committee Meeting be adjourned at 10.03 a.m.

**Carried.**

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Chair

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CAO/Clerk