

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 03, 2007

There was a Meeting of the Public Works Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday January 3, 2007. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Councillor Robert Kingsbury, Reeve Robert A. Johnston and Rod Eady, Public Works Superintendent.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. COMRIF INTAKE 3 APPLICATION

Chair Bennett informed the Committee Members that requests have been sent to our members of Parliament Cheryl Gallant, MP and John Yakabuski MPP, requesting they set up a meeting in Ottawa and Toronto with Ministry people involved in the approval process for COMRIF Intake 3. Our application is for Garden of Eden Road. The Township's one-third cost of the application is \$445,000. The CAO/Clerk has applied for an OSIFA Loan to cover this amount. Mr. Bennett said he has heard comments at the Council Table that certain Council members did not want the Township to go into debt. We need to decide now whether we want to proceed with the COMRIF Intake 3, because we cannot do it without borrowing. He does not want to continue to arrange for meetings with ministry officials knowing that the Township may have to withdraw the application because Council would not support it financially.

Councillor Kingsbury said that there was nothing wrong with debt as long as we managed it properly. Reeve Johnston agreed that we may have to go into debt in the future to bring our roads up to standard. Chair Bennett said that he is concerned with the asphalt roads breaking up this Spring due to the high water content in the soil and the freezing weather that is predicted.

The Committee Members discussed the term of the OSIFA Loan and what the annual payments and the cost of borrowing would be. The CAO/Clerk said that the terms on the application are twenty years. He will get the annual payments and the cost of borrowing for the Council Meeting.

The Committee members discussed ways of budgeting alternatives to pay for this borrowing. Chair Bennett asked if there was support on the Committee to go forward with the OSIFA Loan.

Moved by Robert Kingsbury, seconded by Rod Eady

That the Public Works Committee recommend that Council move forward with our application to COMRIF for construction of the Garden of Eden Road, with the knowledge that the Township will finance our one-third share of the cost (\$445,000) through an OSIFA Loan.

Carried.

3. COMRIF – ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

Chair Bennett noted that the Township has been allocated \$7,531.00 from the Federal and Provincial Governments which we have to put our one-third of \$3,765.00 to carry out Asset Management Planning. The Committee reviewed a report from the CAO/Clerk which set out the following five types of Asset Management Initiatives which are eligible for funding – diagnostic inspection, valuation, sustainability/planning and financial modeling. The Report recommended the Committee consider using the funds for the diagnostic initiative to determine the systems and technology needed and the inspection initiative to provide training for staff, possibly hiring a summer student to assist in

planning the course of action and carrying out the inspection and data entry. Deadline for the application is March 31, 2007.

Moved by Rod Eady, seconded by Robert A. Johnston

That the Public Works Committee recommend that Council make application for funding under the COMRIF Asset Management Program to carry out diagnostic initiatives and inspection initiatives under their Asset Management Program.

Carried.

4. ONTARIO'S RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The Committee reviewed a report prepared by the CAO/Clerk setting out details on this new program which was recently announced by the Provincial Government. The Committee discussed possible roads that could be improved under this program. They discussed Lime Kiln Road. Chair Bennett suggested that the County be urged to form a partnership with the Municipality on a cost sharing arrangement to upgrade Lime Kiln Road. He estimated it would cost \$2.5 million to reconstruct Lime Kiln Road properly. There was discussion by Committee members that this money was too large. Other roads considered were the paving of Goshen Road and Pinnacle Road. After discussion the Committee supported the Lime Kiln Road project.

Moved by Robert Kingsbury, seconded by Rod Eady

That the CAO/Clerk be authorized to contact Ed Vickers of Stantec Engineering to see if there was time for preliminary engineering drawings to be completed to meet the February 5, 2007 deadline for the Ontario Rural Infrastructure Program

Carried.

5. RULES FOR SNOWPLOW OPERATORS

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that as of January 1, 2007 driving rules have changed for snowplow drivers. He asked Rod Eady if we have enough plow drivers on staff to carry out a major storm lasting thirty-six hours? Mr. Eady said that counting himself, they have two crews which can be changed after the initial thirteen hours. Chair Bennett cautioned that, if he had to drive, he could not be in during the day as the thirteen hours starts counting the minute he leaves home.

Chair Bennett suggested that the Public Works Superintendent and the CAO/Clerk work through the new legislation and to do the math to ensure that we can meet these rules with the four men we have or if we need to have back up drivers available. It was suggested that the staff contact the County Public Works Department for information. Committee members agreed.

6. RAY BEIMERS CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee received a letter dated January 2, 2007, from Ray Beimers addressed to the Horton Roads Committee. This letter set out concerns on the maintenance of Pinnacle Road and asked questions about the cost of maintenance. Chair Bennett said Pinnacle Road is next on the construction hard surface program. He suggested it would take two years to complete the hard surface. One year in 2008 putting the \$50,000 hard surface budget in reserves to be combined with the \$50,000 in 2009 and do the actual work in one year.

Chair Bennett suggested the Committee respond to the letter advising that hard surface on Pinnacle Road has been in the Ten Year Capital Plan for five years, although it will not be considered until 2008. Due to the heavy truck traffic, we may need an engineer's comment to help us decide whether asphalt or prime and double surface would be sufficient. The Committee Members agreed.

7. PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENTS CONCERNS

Mr. Eady presented the following issues for discussion.

Sander Unit for the Three Quarter Ton Truck

As requested at the last Council meeting he viewed the used sander, that Spring Town Mechanical had suggested, it is available for \$3,500.00, it seems to be in good shape but is the 1979 model. There is only \$500 difference between this used model and a new model, as quoted by Spring Town Mechanical. Mr. Eady suggested that we consider purchasing the new sander.

Councillor Bennett suggested that there are approximately six more freeze events on average left in this winter, and if we hold off now, he anticipates that due to the lack of snow this winter there will be lots of nearly new sanders for sale at good prices in the Spring. The Committee agreed.

CPR Tracks Crossing Thomson Road

Mr. Eady said that he spoke with the Ottawa Valley Rail Foreman, at North Bay, who will meet him soon, however, he has been off for the past two weeks. Mr. Eady noted that other crossings the railway has done recently Pastway Road and Lavallee Roads were not done to our satisfaction but being gravel Roads he fixed them with our Grader.

Chair Bennett suggested that we demand that the crossing work not be completed in future until signed off by the Road Authority. The CAO/Clerk agreed to contact the National Transportation Agency to discuss this possibility. Rod Eady said he will ensure that the Committee Members are available for this meeting with the Foreman. The Committee agreed.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' CONCERNS

Councillor Kingsbury said he had a complaint, during the Election Campaign, that Early Road is not plowed until late in the run. The person suggested that at least one pass be made on the Road early in the snow event. Chair Bennett said that the Committee has looked at Snow Plow Routes twice in the past. He requested that Rod Eady give a copy of the Routes to Councillor Kingsbury for his review. Mr. Eady agreed.

9. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Robert Kingsbury, seconded by Rod Eady

That this Committee pass this confirming resolution to validate any action 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.

10 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Rod Eady

That this Public Works Committee be adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk