

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MARCH 19, 2007

There was a Meeting of the Public Works Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Monday March 19, 2007. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Rick Lester, Murray Humphries, Councillor Bob Kingsbury, Rod Eady, Public Works Superintendent and Mackie McLaren CAO/Clerk. The meeting was held in the upstairs Meeting Room of the Fire Hall.

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 FEBRUARY 6, 2007 MEETING

Chair Bennett and the members reviewed the Meeting Minutes which had been approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

It was noted that the next meeting is already scheduled for April 23, 2007 when there will be two site visits conducted.

5. 2007 DRAFT BUDGET

Chair Bennett presented a copy of the Public Works Committee Budget for 2007. There is a commitment made to reduce the Department Budget by \$75,000. He added that it is difficult to decide on what is to be cut as we are still waiting for Provincial Grant Approvals by March 30, which will have an effect on this Budget.

Rod Eady reviewed a list of jobs to be done that he has prepared for the Committee. There were questions by Committee Members on the various jobs that were in the draft Budget.

Murray Humphries asked if the culverts on Lochwinnoch Road and the Horton School Road were low enough to allow the proper ditching of the ditches? Rod Eady said yes. Rick Lester asked if we are still planning on students to do a traffic count and take names of construction vehicles for Lime Kiln Road? Chair Bennett said that this is still a possibility. Murray Humphries suggested that a four inch lift of gravel is a better application of gravel than a three inch lift, as the gravel will stay longer.

Councillor Kingsbury said that he has concerns with the prime and double surface work done on Mullins Road last year. The road is showing washboard and holes this Spring. Chair Bennett said that the prime and double was put down last September. Murray Humphries asked if there was a 3% slope on the base, rather than a 2% slope? He has found with experience that the slope has to be greater on the base in order to get a 2% slope on the finished surface. It was agreed that Rod Eady contact Smith Construction, the contractor, for a site inspection.

Councillor Kingsbury wanted to ensure that rock removal that is required on Garden of Eden Road stay in the budget as we have had two appointments from a resident of Garden of Eden Road in past years, requesting Council fix this road.

Murray Humphries asked if there will be a road tour this year? Chair Bennett said yes, once the Reeve is back from holiday.

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that the oldest half-ton truck that the employees were using for jobs has blown its transmission. We have an estimate of \$2,000 for a transmission job. In addition there is about a \$4,000 body job which would put new fenders etc on the vehicle. He started looking for a used vehicle but all seemed too

expensive, he asked the Committee for their comments on purchasing a new three quarter ton vehicle on terms with a dealer?

Councillor Kingsbury said he is OK, we budget the payment each year, if we get a new truck it will last longer. Chair Bennett said he still believes there is a \$3500. value in the 1996 Half Ton when we put it up to bids, that will be in this year's revenue. He asked for direction to go out for tender for a three quarter ton basic truck for information purposes. Rick Lester also suggested including in the quotation the possibility of purchasing a demo vehicle of low mileage.

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, seconded by Murray Humphreys

That Public Works Committee recommends to Council that the Department be authorized to prepare a tender specification for the purchase of a new of nearly new three-quarter ton basic truck.

Carried.

Garden of Eden Road – OSIFA Loan

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that the Township has received approval for \$445,000 loan through the Provincial OSIFA Infrastructure Renewal Loan. We had requested these funds for each of our three COMRIF applications, which were to upgrade Garden of Eden Road, that were not approved. Chair Bennett said that he is getting from the Province, that if we continue to ask for more funding but do not use the funding opportunities or loan opportunities we have available to us we may not get any further grants. This would not cause any effect to this year's budget because it is an in and out item, payments would not be made on the loan until 2008.

Rick Lester agreed that if we do not go forward on these programs we have no way of keeping our assets up, he supported this idea. Murray Humphries agreed that we have to use these funds and move ahead to repair our infrastructure, but he questioned if the Garden of Eden Road is the road most in need. Chair Bennett said that the only other road if Lime Kiln Road that has a higher priority, but he would like to see the County take over and put their money into this road. He suggested that the members make up their minds following the road tour, which road would be the best use of these funds.

Moved by Rick Lester, seconded by Murray Humphries

That Public Works Committee moves forward on capital infrastructure improvements to our roads which involve the use of OSIFA Loan financing.

Carried.

Potential Revisions to the Budget

Chair Bennett suggested adding \$20,000 from the Lot Development Charge account. The CAO suggested reducing salaries, as he believes that they are overstated by \$20,000, and Chair Bennett suggested reducing reserves for a one time occasion of \$25,000 which brings us to \$65,000, still \$10,000 short of the goal.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Grader

Rod Eady informed the Committee that Champion have looked at the Grader and estimate there is about \$7,000 work needed to bring the Grader up to scratch. He supports spending this money as we need to keep the Grader in good operating shape.

Dump Box on Truck #3

Rod Eady reported that this box needs major repairs this year as it is starting to show rust and repairs will have to be done on an emergency basis. We would need to have the box sandblasted, repaired and repainted. The Committee authorized Mr. Eady to proceed with the repairs on the Grader as the repairs warrant and to get quotations on the body job for the Truck #3 box.

7. NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to carry out a Road Tour April 2, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. with the full Council Members invited to participate. The next actual Committee Meeting would be April 23, 2007 in which they will be meeting on two properties that have requested visits.

8. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Rod Eady, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That this 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 will not be set out in By-law or Resolution.

Carried.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Rick Lester, seconded by Murray Humphries

That this Public Works Committee Meeting be adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk