

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2006

There was a meeting of the Public Works Committee held in the Council Chambers on Tuesday January 17, 2006. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Councillor Don Eady, Reeve Robert A. Johnston and Rod Eady, Public Works Superintendent. Also present were Peter Tippins, Jim Bovair and Peter Storie, of the Public Works Department.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Chair Bennett thanked the Public Works Employees for the tremendous effort they put out over the Christmas Holiday season. He noted that of the four day holiday they worked three of them including Christmas Day.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

3. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

Chair Bennett reviewed the December 12, 2005 Committee Minutes. These Minutes had already been approved by Council.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Rod Eady informed the Committee that the oil tank will be installed in the Garage tomorrow and hooked up into the furnace.

5. NEW BUSEINSS

Letter to Tom Orr – Meeting Scheduled January 25, 2006

The Committee discussed a letter drafted and faxed to Mr. Orr concerning damage that may be caused to Thomson Road. A tentative meeting has been set up for January 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. After discussion the Committee agreed to meet earlier and the CAO/Clerk was requested to advise Mr. Orr of an 8:30 start. Chair Bennett added that there may not be a problem with hauling with his triaxles and pup trailer, as he will be hauling when the roads are frozen. Jim Bovair suggested that if it was going to be later installation of a septic system that he be requested to haul in and stock pile the sand and materials prior to the spring break-up.

Adopt-a-Road Program

Chair Bennett reviewed a draft of the Adopt-a-Road Program which has been copied from the County program. The Township has had a request from a family wishing to look after a portion of a Township road. The process involves various actions by the Public Works Department and Council had asked this Committee to review it. The CAO/Clerk was requested to get the cost of the signs involved from the County Sign Shop. Chair Bennett asked if there were specific roads that we had a litter problem on? Rod Eady said Thomson Road, Pinnacle Road, Mullins Road and Eady Road were prime roads for litter. It was agreed that this draft program be brought back to the next Committee meeting for further review.

Benchmarking – Township of Seguin article in the Ontario Good Roads Magazine

The CAO/Clerk reported on an article on benchmarking that the Township of Seguin in Simcoe County has carried out, which was reported in the Milestone magazine December 2005 edition. Benchmarking simply compares various items of your Township with another Township of similar size, or similar makeup, to see where they could be areas of improvement. There was a suggestion made that the Township look for a partner but not an immediate adjoining municipality. Rod Eady said he knew the Public Works Superintendent at Lanark Highlands. The CAO/Clerk said he knew the CAO of Lanark Highlands and the Committee agreed they should be approached to see if they are interested in participating.

Councillor Eady said that this is similar to the best practices that are being considered for the Waste Management and Landfill Site. This is something that may be required by all Departments in the future, and supported the idea.

The Committee agreed to move forward with this suggestion.

2006 Budget Review

Chair Bennett presented a draft document prepared by the Treasurer, which is to be completed by February 13, 2006 for the Finance Committee Meeting. The Committee discussed projects: Goshen Road ditching to be completed by the end of this term; deberming of roads and equipment that will be needed to carry this out; and replacement of the old tandem truck. Chair Bennett noted that these are the goals this Committee should be aiming for.

Rod Eady noted there were four sections that had to be dug out and cross tapered on Goshen Road plus an area of ditching in front of houses where there is no ditch at this time. Peter Tippins suggested that we use an excavator for this work, rather than using our own hoe which would take a long time.

Chair Bennett suggested that we have to do some preliminary design work on this project before we start it. Councillor Eady suggested that we have experienced staff to do this and if they come back with an issue we engage professional engineering assistance. Chair Bennett suggested that we have the expertise but communications have to be better and everyone has to be on the same page before the work starts. Councillor Eady noted that we should have all this information prepared for a Public Meeting with the owners in the neighbourhood prior to starting the work.

Chair Bennett suggested that the Committee schedule a meeting in the near future to review the three work projects that were discussed. The Committee agreed to meet January 26, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the cost of a tandem or a good used tandem, cost to construct and ditch Goshen Road, what deberming equipment is available, and a three-quarter ton truck with plow and sander.

Rod Eady informed the Committee that he has made arrangements for various training sessions for the staff to bring their training up to requirements. Chair Bennett suggested that other municipalities and outside business people may be interested in attending these training sessions as well.

The Committee reviewed the budget item by item and completed the draft budget with the items they could except for the capital items which will be discussed on January 26, 2006.

6. NEXT MEETING

The Committee had agreed to meet January 26, 2006 at 8:30 a.m.

7. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Don Eady

Seconded by Rod Eady

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.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Rod Eady

Seconded by Robert A. Johnston

That the Public Works Committee meeting be adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk