

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

PUBLIC MEETING

INCREASE FEE FOR
WASTE DEPOSITED IN LANDFILL SITE
And
REDUCED BAG LIMITS COLLECTED AT CURB

JUNE 19, 2007

There was a Public Meeting held in the Community Centre on Tuesday June 19, 2007 at 7:00 p. m. All members of Council were present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were seven members of the public in the audience, including one member of the Press.

2. INCREASED TIPPING FEE PROPOSAL

Councillor Don Eady, chair of Waste Management Committee reviewed the Committee's proposal to increase tipping fees at the Landfill Site. This is the first time the fees have been reviewed in a number of years and the goal of the Committee is to keep rates close to the fees of neighbouring municipalities to ensure that there is no advantage for people to bring waste from outside the municipality to our Landfill Site. He reviewed the handout material which consisted of the Public Information, a tipping fee comparison with other Municipalities and a copy of the draft 2007 Environmental Services Budget.

Councillor Eady pointed out that in addition to this information there are two free days when people can bring waste to the Landfill Site without charge and there is one day when tires are accepted at 1/3 off the tipping fee.

3. REDUCED BAG LIMITS COLLECTED AT CURB

Councillor Eady reviewed the Committees' proposal to reduce the four bag limit to a two bag limit at the curb. The reason for this consideration is to lengthen the life of our Landfill Site and encourage increased recycling. The Province wants a diversion rate of 60% in the near future. He reviewed the diversion rates from 2003 to 2006 and they dropped substantially in 2006. At a Convention recently, he learned that a Master Plan must be developed to ensure that we qualify for continued Blue Box Funding. However, the biggest reason to reduce the bag limit and to promote recycling is reduction in greenhouse gases. The less waste being put into the Landfill Site the less methane gas produced, the less plastic bags manufactured, all saves on greenhouse gas. He believes the Township should show leadership in this front. He acknowledged that some people just do not want to recycle. Reduction from four bags to two should assist in recycling. The Committee is committed to providing every property with a second blue box to assist with the increased materials that will be recycled as part of this proposal. The Recycling Blue Box grant will cover 34% of the cost of purchasing the boxes. He acknowledges that there would have to be exceptions due to special circumstances people may have, i.e. babysitters, group homes etc.

4. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Steve Newman, reporter, asked how the diversion rate is calculated? Chair Eady said it is by volume, the ratio between waste landfilled and waste recycled. Bob Barker asked if the ratepayers will have to purchase garbage bags from Horton? Chair Eady said no, it is not the process we anticipate, however, bags will have a maximum size that will be picked up. Deputy Mayor Bob Hall commented that there are four people in his house two adults and two children, most of the time they have less than one bag per week. Every two weeks they have four blue boxes for pickup. He supports reducing the curbside collection to one bag a week, however, we must take this in steps and two bags should be totally doable. There may be the odd holiday time when more than two bags would be required.

Robert E. Johnston asked what happens when you have a family function and you have six bags rather than the normal two, historically you only have two, would the contractor know this and pick up the extra four bags? Councillor Eady said that we would have to have some sort of note system as to why extra bags are out. There would have to be some discretion. Robert E. Johnston asked if this is two bags per property or two bags per residence? Mayor Johnston said that it is two bags per 911 number or residence, Councillor Eady said that if the property is vacant there would be no garbage generated at that site. Robert E. Johnston asked why, as he is still paying taxes on that property? There was discussion about this suggestion.

David Brown suggested that staff make a phone call to residents who do not put out blue boxes and tell them the garbage will not be picked up next week because of this. Councillor Eady said we do not have the staff to do this. He suggested that it is better to have a blanket deal and urge education, and make people aware that they can come to the Township to discuss why they are not recycling.

Bob Barker asked why we would give out the second blue box, it would save money if we did not do this. Councillor Eady said that we need to give people boxes to have increased capacity to recycle. The public discussed various concerns about collection and landfill operation. Councillor Eady said it costs \$250. each time the Rolloff container at the recycling depot is picked up and emptied. All people who use the curbside collection pay for this service too.

Mayor Johnston and Councillor Eady both noted that we have a ratepayer on the Waste Management Committee, John Wilson, a former mayor of the Township of Champlain and he has brought good new ideas to the Committee. Bob Barker asked about the remaining life at the Landfill Site? Councillor Eady said 2014 is a date when the present site will be at full capacity. We have a new program that we are considering and have started the process to enlarge the Site by 39,999 metres. This expansion would give an additional twelve to fifteen years in the life, but the Site has to be managed properly to ensure this life is available.

5. COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Hall said that he supports the Committee's endeavours.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bob Hall, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That this meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

CAO/Clerk