

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

PUBLIC MEETING

LIME STABILIZATION OF SEPTAGE PILOT PROJECT
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

JUNE 14, 2007

There was a Public Meeting held in the Horton Community Centre on Thursday June 14, 2007. Present at the Head Table were Chair Dave Bennett, members of the Committee Bruce Golden, Mayor Robert A. Johnston, David Brown and Tom Reid. Absent was Reg Leventure. Also present were Tony Ho of the Ministry of the Environment and Michael Payne of OMFRA. There were approximately nineteen people in the audience.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mayor Johnston introduced the Steering Committee Members who were present at this meeting.

3. BRIEF REVIEW OF FACTS AND INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS STUDIES

Michael Payne presented a power point presentation outlining what septage was and the results of earlier Lime Stabilizations Trials in Southern Ontario several years ago.

4. HORTON'S PILOT PROJECT STUDY PROPOSAL

CAO/Clerk Mackie McLaren reviewed information contained in the Study Proposal. A handout of this Study Proposal was passed out to everyone at the meeting.

5. QUESTIONS FROM AUDIENCE

Harold Deacon questioned who as going to train the employees to mix the lime slurry, do the testing required and mix the lime slurry with the septage?

Tony Ho said the training concept has been designed by the University of Guelph and it will be done by he and Mr. Payne. Our Public Works Staff will be trained.

Mr. Deacon added that dealing with lime the employees will have to be trained properly as there is a liability. Mr. Ho said this is the reason that they are using hydronated lime, , which is easier to use, not quick lime This is not as corrosive but proper safety and clothing is required.

Colin Campbell asked a question concerning the surface run off in Spring, will the surface water be tested?

Mr. Ho said that the Township is putting together an application paper which will be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment and also an application is being sent for the host farm for soil conditioning license. Conditions can be put on the license by the Ministry of the Environment such as when not to spread, like after a rain etc.

Andy Dunlop, Councillor McNab/Braeside Township, asked how long lime stabilization of stepage has been carried out in the States? Mr. Ho said the last ten to fifteen years the US has been regulated for that long. He added that Reports are available from the University of Guelph web site on various studies done in the States. Mr. Dunlop asked if there was any idea of the cost to the host farmer for the C of A requirements?

Michael Payne said that there are costs which are usually picked up by the company or by the host municipality wishing to spread on their land. The cost is \$100 for the C of A plus soil sampling every five years.

Jim McGregor, Councillor McNab/Braeside Township, asked if there was any idea on cost of Lime Stabilization, using this existing method and the potential cost to pump out septic systems in the future?

Mr. Ho said is the cost is \$6 to \$7 for the lime per 1000 gallons, the cost to prepare the slurry is approximately half and hour in time and the cost of the infrastructure, i.e. the tanks, the spreader etc.

Elmer Raycroft, Councillor McNab/Braeside, asked what is the risk of runoff to a field spread on alfalfa?

Michael Payne said there is very little damage to the crop in a previous study, there is immediate absorption into the soil, it is applied when the ground is dry and is applied at a low application rate.

Harold Deacon asked about tests for lime in the field, how many applications will it take before you cannot use the farm, only half the farms in Horton are operated as farms today.

Mr. Payne said a typical application rate of 750 lbs of lime per acre is not a lot. The neutralizing effect of Lime will be used up in treating the septage. They carried out a test after three months of application in Western Ontario and there was no increase to the soil ph. Once the soil ph is naturally above 7 it takes more lime to change the ph to a higher level. Determining the length of farm use is part of this study.

Mr. Ho added that he spoke with Haulers in the US and there is no ph effect noticed or reported.

Harold Deacon noted that you cannot spread all year around, what will this do to taxes?

Chair Bennett stated that septic tanks are now pumped out before freeze up and our tanks will hold what is now being pumped on an emergency basis during the winter. Concerning the cost, we are legislated to treat septage or development in Horton will cease. We needed to look at options and when he looked at lime stabilization he considered it a 60% cheaper option

John Townley, a resident of McNab/Braeside, asked if we have considered any other treatments and options?

Chair Bennett said that we have looked at the Reed Bed option and we have had preliminary discussions at the beginning with the Town of Renfrew, who are expanding their Sewage Treatment Plant.

John Townley asked if we knew that there are other systems available?

Chair Bennett said yes, and 99% of the treatment systems will have land application requirement at some point.

Jim McGregor asked if there was any indication when municipalities will have to have treatment available, noting that the original requirement was January 1, 2007?

Mr. Ho said that he did not know, however, the Ministry of the Environment are committed to phasing out spreading untreated septage when the capacity is available, he cannot tell when this will come into effect.

Andy Dunlop referenced dry land, a statement that Mr. Payne made twice in his presentation.

Mr. Payne said that dry land is land that is suitable to have equipment drive safely across the fields after the Spring.

Harold Deacon asked if the public has any say to stop someone from spreading next door?

Chair Bennett said that if Mr. Deacon has any concerns or information about this process we would like to see it.

Colin Campbell asked if the treatment in the United States has had an effect on the quality of water in near by wells?

Mr. Ho said the MOE approval process determines if the facility is close to a well whether additional measures are needed.

Mr. Campbell noted that when you sever a property you now have to be at least 1000 feet away from a barn.

Mr. Payne said that you have to remember that the waste we are spreading comes from a septic tank, it is similar to manure, it is treated to kill the pathogens and the idea is to match the nutrient rates to the crop needs.

Mr. Campbell noted that on his property there are lots of springs in the fields.

Mayor Johnston noted that everyone has a septic system usually within 15 feet of their house and a weeping system a little further out. Also people have spread manure for one hundred years.

Mr. Deacon asked why Thompsons could not continue to spread untreated septage? George Thompson said he has asked this question and never received an answer from the Province.

Bob Hall, Deputy Mayor Horton, asked how many complaints the Township has had with Thompsons spreading?

The CAO/Clerk said that there was a series of complaints five or six years ago

Mr. Thompson said there was a Public Meeting and issues were resolved. It was an image issue.

Deputy Mayor Hall added that if these concerns were about untreated waste there should be less concern now that it has to be treated.

Mr. Ho added that the Province is trying to get a level playing field across the Province. The pathogens will be reduced, the material will be screened before it is spread and the product will be better.

Tom Reid, a member of the Committee and host farmer, asked how is odour in comparison to liquid manure and how long would it last?

Mr. Payne said the odour is ammonia or sulphur in origin. The lime seems to take it out and when it is spread it is more of a musty smell and dissipates quickly, usually within one day.

6. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bruce Golden said that all members of the Committee are residents of Horton and they have Horton's interest in mind. They are concerned that every issue be investigated. We did not have to test as many wells as we agreed to do, but we want to test these wells for assurances.

George Thompson, said that he is a skeptic, he would like to see the Sewage Treatment Plants take the septage. The cost will be greater than was set out in the Dillon Report due to changes that are required by the Ministry to get approval. This process has to be affordable for other municipalities to get involved. We are at a point where the Ministry can rule that the treatment is required immediately, noting that the Ministry pulled the plug on portable toilet waste within thirty days. He would not be surprised if the MOE put a new deadline on the treatment of septage. He added that there is a group of people who are pushing the Ministry to get rid of field spreading. The question is what is treatment and we are looking at the options.

Chair Bennett noted that the whole idea is to prove a safe treatment method. We have heard why the Ministry is demanding treatment, we are not bashing the Ministry of the Environment. People are not accepting the "leave alone" any more. Treatment must be better than raw septage. He hoped that the questions that could not get answered at the Public Meeting last Fall were answered tonight.

David Brown said that he would have preferred to see the Committee investigate a composting system. He added that the Committee has a handle on the Lime Treatment System, pathogens are reduced but not eliminated in this method. He believes that everyone on the Committee is working diligently to resolve these issues.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to adjournment, and thanked everyone for attending, adding that we are all taxpayers and we want the treatment method to be a safe method. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

