

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

LIME STABILIZATION OF SEPTAGE COMMITTEE

November 6, 2009

There was a meeting of the Lime Stabilization of Septage Committee held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Friday November 6, 2009. Present were Chair Dave Bennett, Mayor Robert A. Johnston, David Brown, Bruce Golden, George Thompson, and Tom Reid. Staff present was Jeff Schruder Infrastructure Manager and Mackie McLaren CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting order at 2:04 p.m., but was immediately called away from the meeting and Mayor Johnston assumed the role of Chair.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.

3. MINUTES OF: JULY 8, 2009 COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2009 COUNCIL

OCTOBER 23, 2009 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

Mayor Johnston asked the Committee members to read the Committee and Council Meeting Minutes.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Bruce Golden expressed concern that cracks developed in the septage tanks and asked if there would be a company warranty. Jeff Schruder said there was no warranty as the Township installed the tanks and not the Company. Mayor Johnston reported that the Company we purchased the sealant from said that all concrete tanks leak, as concrete is porous.

5. REPORT TO COMMITTEE ON CONCRETE TANKS AND WATERPROOFING EFFORTS

Mayor Johnston reported on the efforts the Township Council and Staff have carried out to stop the underground tanks from leaking.

The Committee viewed a video on the Penetron Treatment Method which was recommended as the solution to treat the tanks so they would not leak.

George Thompson noted that being part of a pilot project leakage was the last thing on his mind, but now that it has leaked, this is information for future use of concrete tanks as an affordable solution to treat septage. He suggested that this solution is now not an affordable solution for the future. It will be so expensive down the road that we should consider stopping now.

Mayor Johnston noted that we have spent more than anticipated but \$84,000 of the cost is Provincial money. Information gathered tells us that this leakage protection should resolve the leak.

Tom Reid suggested that any pilot project could cost more but the solutions gathered will show other municipalities the way to develop their system.

George Thompson added that this project is very far piece away from what we were originally told would be the project.

Chair Bennett returned at 2:25 p.m. and resumed the chair.

Dave Brown stated that everyone said there would be no leakage, but now we know there is. He had suggested earlier that putting a pH meter twelve feet below the tanks to detect any change in the ground as a monitor for leaks.

Jeff Schruder said that there is a weeping system underneath the tanks for that purpose.

George Thompson said MOE will not support the Township if the tanks leak, so we are vulnerable. He asked if an Engineer will take on liability if the tanks leak?

Chair Bennett said he did not think that they will give that insurance, they will only certify the system.

George Thompson said that if all concrete tanks leak then septic tanks have been allowed to leak within fifty feet of a well on a private property, now in our case we must prove that it is not leaking. MOE should have tested the septic tanks first.

Chair Bennett said that over a period of time tanks leak water. However, he noted when testing a water line or a gas line the test can permit a certain amount of pressure to be dropped and still be considered leak proof. He suggested that we have lost several hundred gallons out of 6,000 gallons, and we have a problem in the Ministry's eyes.

George Thompson said that this is his concern, what are the guidelines, the cost involved is appearing to make this solution not affordable.

Chair Bennett said he researched products available to leak proof concrete tanks using Reed Construction Consulting Service in Toronto and they reported that the only solution was to use Penetron. We contacted the manufacturer in New York City and the local distributor in Whitby. This product is a life long treatment product.

David Brown asked if the product cost of \$2,100 includes application?
Chair Bennett said no.

George Thompson asked if the leakage was a manufacturing fault?

Chair Bennett said both tanks have cracks in the walls and none in the floor. We put epoxy patch in the cracks but it still leaked. We had to remove this epoxy before we put on the Penetron treatment. Jeff Schruder noted that Anchor Concrete, the supplier of the tanks, test was to fill and leave the tank for eight to ten hours. We had no leak in that time, the leak came later.

George Thompson questioned if the Township had plans to accept septage in the winter, he understood that the Geo-Tub project in Eganville could not accept in the winter as the screen froze. Chair Bennett asked staff to check this out.

David Brown noted that, in his university days, he recalled that the pH test was taken at a certain temperature, and if the temperature was lower than that a correction factor had to be applied, had this been taken into consideration?

Chair Bennett said this would come out from the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Training Session. Furthermore, we have to have an engineer test and certify the system.

6. REQUEST MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT TO EXTEND THE PROJECT TO 2011

Chair Bennett said it is evident that we are not going to have a spread this Fall and we should request the Ministry of the Environment to extend this project.

Jeff Schruder referred to a telephone conversation with Shelly Bonte-Gelok who offered to extend the contract.

Moved by Jeff Schruder, seconded by George Thompson

That the Lime Stabilization of Septage Committee requests that the Ministry of Environment extend the project to December 2011 due to the time required to correct the leak issues with the tanks.

Carried.

7. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Committee reviewed the revenues and expenditures as of November 5, 2009. David Brown asked what are the anticipated future costs?

Chair Bennett said that training is required as well as landscaping next year.

Chair Bennett also informed the Committee that he has donated equipment to construct the facility, he has carried out manufacture of steel tanks for receiving, tank lids etc. He has brought in two employees, trained in confined spaces, to do the Penetron treatment and the estimated cost for this is approximately \$10,000 when it is finished. This includes the fabrication of steel at his cost only.

David Brown said he hears that the manure spreader is poor quality.

Chair Bennett said repairs were carried out during the alterations to the spreader for our needs.

Tom Reid noted that the manure spreader was designed to spread from the top of the tank and we have been required to adapt it to spread from the bottom of the tank. Tom questioned that MOE should have required this.

Chair Bennett suggested that by the end of the year we could be \$42,000 over budget. There will be costs next year for landscaping, training and operational costs.

David Brown asked if we could ask the Province for more money?

Chair Bennett said that the Province has informed us that they have contributed all that they are going to. He had an appointment with Community Futures in Pembroke, but cancelled when the leak issue came up.

Tom Reid asked if there are any other programs we can tap into for funding?

Chair Bennett said he will keep researching.

George Thompson noted that it is sad that the Ministry of Environment is looking for a treatment solution, but not giving the municipalities the funds to do the project as they contribute in urban situations for new treatment facilities which the rural areas help to pay for as well.

Chair Bennett said we are over on our costs, but the system as it stands today is not the system that we were told about originally, when the original budget was suggested by the Province. He also noted that our total costs would be less than two years of costs if we had to contribute towards the Reed Bed System, which was, originally, discussed before Lime Stabilization Treatment.

George Thompson suggested that Horton will come out of this OK but another municipality would have to pay for the entire project and it would cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Chair Bennett noted that no construction costs, only labour costs built this facility, so a new facility would cost another municipality between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

George Thompson said as a Hauler, his eyes have been opened, he will request the Municipality provide a waiver of liability for his Company to place septage into the tanks. He is concerned that he could potentially be liable once the septage is in the tanks.

Chair Bennett suggested that we should be able to follow Bonnechere Valley's Geo-tube liability waiver process.

George Thompson said he has dumped in Arnprior, previously, and we will check to see what he had sign with the Town for that purpose.

8. OPERATIONAL MANUAL AND INSPECTIONS POLICY

The Committee reviewed the draft Operation Manual and Inspection Policy. George Thompson noted that it states that if the load is rejected, it goes to Renfrew – was Renfrew willing to accept?

Jeff Schruder said this was wording suggested by Jenna Leavoy, MOE in Ottawa.

David Brown asked if there was a carbon filter on top of the tank?

Chair Bennett informed the Committee that we have designed this system that has looped both tanks together, therefore, we are a closed system, no outside air is brought into the system and the hope is that there is no need to put a carbon filter on the system. The capacity in the tanks should be large enough to handle this air.

George Thompson suggested that dumping 1,000 gallons of septic waste from his truck into a 10,000 gallon tank should not cause an odour problem.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Tom Reid informed the Committee that he was not satisfied with the location of the gate into the field, he wanted it closer to the Sand Dome, so the Manure Spreader travels along the headlands of his field. The current location is only good for that field next to the Garage. The Committee supported relocating the gate.

David Brown noted that Gerald VanderPloeg has requested that their water be tested as part of the required water testing. After discussion, the Committee believed that this would be outside the requirements of MOE, for their testing distance.

Tom Reid noted that the drainage in that area goes towards the fourth line or towards Stanley Campbells not in VanderPloeg's direction, as he owns the farm around their house.

10. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Dave Brown, seconded by George Thompson

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.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bruce Golden, seconded by Tom Reid

That this Committee Meeting be adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk