

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

LIME STABILIZATION COMMITTEE

June 01, 2010

There was a Meeting of the Lime Stabilization Committee with members of Provincial Ministries held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Tuesday June 01, 2010. Present from Horton were Chair David Bennett, Mayor Robert A Johnston, Councillor Bob Kingsbury, Tom Reid, David Brown, George Thompsen and Bruce Golden. Absent was Reg Lavenger. Present from Provincial Ministries were Shelly Bonte-Gelok MOE Toronto, Nina Koskenoja MOE Toronto, Paul Kehoe MOE Ottawa, Christian Grothe, MOE Ottawa, Michael Payne OMAFRA, Benoit Lebeau OMAFRA, and Ryan Marchant OMAFRA Eastern Ontario. Present from County of Renfrew was Dave Darch. Staff Present were Jeff Schruder Municipal Infrastructure Manager and Mackie McLaren CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Chair Bennett informed the people present that there was a topics list prepared by Township Staff and forwarded to the Ministry of Environment and he will follow that list for discussion purposes.

2. OPERATION MANUAL – What is to be included

Jeff Schruder informed the group that he had prepared a draft manual consisting of 8 – 10 pages. Jenna Levoy MOE Ottawa had suggested the draft should be expanded. Jeff asked what should be included. Paul Kehoe said he will review the draft and he will let us know what more information is required.

3. TRAINING

The CAO/Clerk recalled that Tony Ho former MOE Representative on the pilot project promised to provide training for the handling of the waste and he is no longer with the Ministry. Shelly Bonte-Gelok who has assumed the position Tony Ho held, suggested that the Township contact the Ontario Waste Water Centre in Guelph, Ontario who can provide this training. They also have a draft Lime Stabilization guide. The spreading rates aren't set out in the Ministry guidelines. She will provide sample bottles and submission forms which will be submitted to the MOE Lab at no cost to the Municipality.

George Thompson said he is feeling uncertain on this project due to the length of time it is taking to get up and running. He asked what is involved as a hauler with this project. When he comes to dump his load is he going to be sitting for 5 hours or will he be out in 5 minutes. He says he only has a small truck and they need to work together as required. He wanted to know who is responsible for training. Shelly said that Mr. Thompson

should be in and out in 5 minutes, there will be one sample collected of the raw sewage as it is dumped into the tank and there is no paper work other than a short form date, time and location of where the product came from. Chair Bennett said the process will be as simple as it can be, one of our staff will be present when he is dumping the waste. Chair Bennett asked George Thompson if other haulers would be participating and George he said he didn't think so due to the long distance hauling requirement. Chair Bennett said the site will be open during staff hours and he will be in and out as quick as it takes to unload his truck.

Shelly informed the group that the province has amended the guideline in September of 2009. Michael Payne asked what the Townships intentions were. Chair Bennett said to fill the two tanks up to 16,000 gallons, stabilize the waste, and spread the material. Mr. Payne said he will be available to assist in calculating the spreading rates. We need to have an analysis of the waste, they would have to transport nitrogen, ecoli, and amars balance test. Shelly suggested this could take up to two weeks to get, and then the Township could spread. Mayor Johnston asked if this is the process in the future if we have a permanent facility. Shelly says just during the test, and then the regulation requirements would take over. George Thompson and Chair Bennett described the original concept when we applied for the pilot project which is vastly different from the requirements of today. They expressed concern in the timeline between treatment and the spreading, two weeks is not sufficient. Shelly suggested that a consulting lab would be quicker. George Thompson said the capacity of the tanks and the time the lab will take to report on the sample will be a stumbling block, particularly in the fall when there is big demand by people to have their septic tanks pumped out before winter. Five to Six thousand gallons per day in the fall months is possible. Dave Darch said that we would always have to test, even in a permanent operation. Shelly added that every time you land apply, you would have to prove material. Chair Bennett said the turnaround time is a concern.

George Thompson expressed concern that this process will be very expensive in the future, something we were told it would not be, particularly in the Dillon Report prepared for the County of Renfrew. Dave Darch questioned why the Ministry would require continual testing when test results would continually show good results. Shelly said the public demands this waste be proven to be safe and that nothing toxic is being spread. David Brown asked if there are any guidelines in spreading on property with hills. He suggested cutting furrows on the side hills to catch any runoff if there is a major rain storm shortly after spreading. He noted that this area is prone for heavy rainfalls that aren't forecasted. Shelly said that there are regulations on the slope of land that the material can be spread on. Michael Payne said that there would be lower limits on side hills that would be permitted. Tom Reid noted that the features of the land had been described on the application for approval and areas of the farm had been secluded. Chair Bennett said the Township is using a liquid manure spreader which we have converted to gravity discharge and we need to know the rates so we can put the right size holes in the spreader bar. He noted that we do have a butterfly valve before the spreader bar that can control the rate of emptying the spreader.

4. ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Chair Bennett noted that the Municipalities original commitment was \$25,000.00 dollars and we have far exceeded this original amount due to the drastic changes in the plan requirements. No one else has come to the table to help cover costs. It's been a hard sell with our ratepayers. We request assistance from our partners. Dave Darch asked what would be required to complete the project. Chair Bennett suggested \$40,000.00 dollars. Shelly noted that cutbacks have been severe in the Ministry. Dave Darch pointed out though that there has been a scope change, and usually with the scope change there is compensation provided. Shelly noted that we received the funding we have from a "grant pot" which doesn't exist anymore. Dave Darch asked how we can build a business case. He agrees that this project is a provincial benefit and suggested we may have to push this request up the line of authority with the Ministry of Environment. George Thompson expressed his disappointment, he wants a project that is portable, if this has to be repeated across Ontario to satisfy treatment requirements, and it will cost each Municipality \$250,000.00 dollars.

Bob Kingsbury asked what happens if the Township says no more. We don't have any more dollars to put into the project. Dave Darch says the County wouldn't have assistance. Pilot programs are critical to the Province to demonstrate that they have viable alternatives. The issue is changes to the scope of the pilot project without additional funding. He asked if the Township would ever say pull the plug. Councillor Kingsbury noted that is it not a bottomless pot that we have. Dave Darch noted that \$40,000.00 for the Province is a small amount.

5. WHEN WILL FIELD SPREADING OF TREATED SEPTAGE BE REQUIRED ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Shelly said this is a policy question for Nina Koskenoja. She has encouraged her superiors to implement this without success. Nina noted that several Municipalities have used infrastructure grants to add to their treatment facility for septic waste to be added to the process. The question is, is there capacity to handle treatment in the rural areas. There has been some suggestion of a phased in ban of spreading raw septage which would require legislation. Her policy branch is receiving more information on capacity on which areas would have capacity and which would not at this time. They have asked the haulers for information through survey. Dave Darch said he would expect the Ministry would have to give technologies that would work and these would have to be in place before the regulation is put in place. Mayor Johnston noted that Mississippi Mills were waiting on information about when field spreading would be banned without treatment as they are in the process of constructing a treatment facility. Nina and Paul said that they had a meeting last week and the Township of Mississippi Mills was told that there was not a date. Mayor Johnston requested answers to this question as soon as they have them.

Chair Bennett thanked everyone for attending.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. and the group went over to view the treatment facility.

Chair

CAO/Clerk