

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

## Special Council Meeting

August 7, 2013

There was a Special Council Meeting held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday August 7, 2013. Present was Mayor Don Eady and Councillors Bob Kingsbury, Glen Campbell and Margaret Whyte. Absent was Councillor Jamey Larone.

Also present were the following Members of the Recreation Committee and the Beach sub-Committee: Arnold Dickson (Rec) Barb Dickson (Rec), Dave Bennett (Rec) Robert A. Johnston (Rec and Beach) Val Miller (Rec) Sandy Black (Beach) and Edgar Elliott (Beach)

Staff present was Kathleen Rogers, Recreation Program Manager and Mackie McLaren, CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eady called the Meeting to Order at 7 pm.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Edgar Elliott declared pecuniary interest and did not take part in the discussion. There was no other declaration of Pecuniary Interest by Members of Council, the Committees or Staff.

3. OPTION TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL BEACH PROPERTY

Mayor Eady informed the Committee Members present that approximately 3 weeks ago Edgar Elliott and Robert A. Johnston attended the Public Works Committee Meeting to discuss the specifications for the beach access road on behalf of the Beach Sub-Committee. At the end of the Meeting Mr. Elliott informed him that he had surveyed his son's lot adjacent to Farrells Landing Road and Mayor Eady went down to see if there was any indication of the boundary of Farrells Landing Road. When he was down there he found out that Mr. Elliott's son's property was for sale and he thought it might be an opportunity to develop the lot as a township beach. Because of its location adjacent to Farrells Landing he thought there may be an opportunity to partner with Heritage Renfrew as a heritage property.

Mayor Eady stated that the existing Beach Sub-Committee has been asked to review this additional property as part of their Terms of Reference for the Township Beach study. The CAO/Clerk, as Chair of this Sub-Committee stated that the study of this additional property was a good fit for the Sub-Committee as they can compare one property to the other and study which property would be easier and cheaper to develop.

Mayor Eady said Council has held two closed meetings to discuss this possibility and Council has agreed to offer a refundable deposit to Joel and Sherri Elliott to hold the property for up to 9 months for the Township to carry out its due diligence on the development of this property. He presented an aerial photograph showing the property. The neighbouring properties could also be seen in the photo. He pointed out that the former concession road 9 runs behind this property. This is one of the roads closed by the 1859 road closing by-law where the property was never conveyed to the adjoining owners. ½ of this former road allowance is still owned by the Township which could be added to the lot to make it larger.

He said that the lot contains a house that does not have any value, a septic system, well and hydro connection.

Dave Bennett asked what the zoning on the property was. The CAO/Clerk said Limited Service Residential (LSR). He asked what the value of the property would be and Mayor Eady said we haven't talked value as it requires an appraisal. Mayor Eady said the measurements of the property are 78 feet waterfront which is adjacent to the 20 or 24' wide Farrells Landing Road, 374.66 feet next Farrells Landing, 311.05 next Phillips and 160 across the rear plus the 33 feet of the unopened road allowance.

Dave Bennett said there is no reason not to investigate this opportunity. Mayor Eady said we still have to carry out an appraisal and possibly a survey of the Farrells Landing road.

Councillor Kingsbury noted that the property is next to a residential area. Mr. Bennett also pointed out it is adjacent to a campground. Robert A. Johnston suggested that the Township will get opposition from neighbours.

Robert A. Johnston informed Council that he was extremely upset because this opportunity was not discussed with the Recreation Committee before Council considered the proposal. Barb Dickson said she would like to see Council complete a project before they start another. Mayor Eady said one reason Council acted quickly was that the property was for sale and if it sold, it was gone forever.

Sandy Black said why can't we keep both beach properties as they both offer something different. Mayor Eady said we can't afford both.

Councillor Campbell said he made sure during the Council discussion that the deposit was for investigation only. He heard loud and clear about communication issues between the Rec Committee and Council. He voted in favour of going this route provided the Committees are involved. He is excited that the Beach Sub-committee is going to add this investigation to the study they are conducting on the Township's beach property. He said the Township is doing its due diligence as the property was up for sale. He is not commenting on one property over the other as he knows there is no money for both. The reason for his support was that this is another option to look at.

Mr. Johnston said he never said he was against this review. He is against the fact that the Recreation Committee was not polled first. If that was done he would have supported the idea. He sees pros and con for this development.

Mayor Eady said he is against these comments. This is private property. They had to keep certain details private. Now is the time to release the information. Councillor Kingsbury said when he supported this decision he had two requests – Recreation Committee be involved and that there be a public meeting.

Arnold Dickson said he is concerned that Council goes behind the Recreation Committee. The committee is not asked for input on all decisions made by Council on their behalf.

Dave Bennett said he thought the communication issue was hammered out at the last Recreation Committee meeting. He accepts that there has to be confidentiality, but members would have agreed to keep it confidential. Council should have at least informed the Committee that there was an investigation of the property which would have been good enough. He feels that there is ramrodding of the committee.

Mayor Eady in this case, private property, for sale sign on it – did as we thought was right. Council informed the Committee within two working days of when we had a verbal approval.

Councillor Whyte, Chair of the Recreation Committee said our intentions are good. She said she feels she is still banging her head against the wall. Mr. Bennett said the Committee feels the same way. He said he is glad Council is looking at other prospects, just keep them informed.

Councillor Campbell said all of Council has said they heard loud and clear there were communication issues and he thought Council was doing it properly as the Recreation Committee was immediately informed of the verbal acceptance of the terms. He said they are hearing loud and clear again. It gives a Council a hint of how we are doing. Now the circle is getting a little closer. He said this is the perfect thing to get communication back. He said he can only assume things are going through proper channels and if they aren't he wants to know.

Mayor Eady said the fees and charges went to the Committees for input before they were established. Mr. Dickson said they never came to Recreation committee. Councillor Campbell assured them that the changes start at Committee.

Councillor Campbell all the information to be gathered is food for thought. They are not determining 1 property over the next. This was the first opportunity to communicate with Recreation Committee and he was excited about this prospect.

Councillor Kingsbury said that Council Members have not made up their minds to purchase the property. They all were happy it was going to Recreation to investigate. Mr. Bennett said this group of volunteers is putting in 100% and the volunteers need to feel they are brought in through the front door rather than the back door.

Councillor Whyte said there are historic opportunities for this property and once property is sold to someone else and a house erected we couldn't afford it. Val Miller agreed this was an excellent opportunity. Councillor Campbell said it was a unanimous decision of Council Members to submit this to the Recreation and Beach committees.

Mayor Eady said the information presented tonight should have been the first time that Committee Members would have learned about this proposal yet it appears some knew ahead and he was very concerned about this as the topic was discuss in Closed Meeting. Mr. Johnston said that the resolution of Council was made in open session.

### **Community Centre Expansion Building Committee**

Mayor Eady informed the Recreation Committee Members that there was a meeting with Cheryl Gallant MP last week and the expansion is back on. The next meeting of the Building Committee is next Tuesday August 13 at 6 pm with the Fundraising Committee meeting at 7 pm.

Councillor Kingsbury as Chair of the Fundraising Committee informed the Members that we can't sell tickets at the Renfrew Fair. The staff is investigating new lottery licence rules. We would need a charitable organization to sponsor the licence. Councillor Campbell agreed to contact someone about Junior Farmers helping out as they fundraise for community events. Mayor Eady said this would be discussed at next week's meeting.

5. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

Moved by Glen Campbell  
Seconded by Bob Kingsbury

**Resolution No. 2013-248**

That Council enacts By-law 2013-37, a by-law to confirm proceedings of the Council of the Township of Horton at the Special Council Meeting held on August 7, 2013.

Carried

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Margaret Whyte  
Seconded by Glen Campbell

**Resolution No. 2013-249**

That Council adjourns the Special Council Meeting held on August 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 7:56 p.m.

Carried

---

MAYOR

---

CAO/CLERK