

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Special Council Meeting

November 14, 2013

There was a Meeting of three Council Members called by Mayor Eady to review a Recreation Committee governance concern held in the Municipal Council Chamber on Thursday November 14, 2013. Present was Mayor Don Eady, Councillor Bob Kingsbury and Councillor Margaret Whyte. Staff present was Mackie McLaren, CAO/Clerk.

Mayor Eady called the Meeting to Order at 10:10 a.m.

Mayor Eady informed the Councillor Margaret Whyte, Recreation Committee Chair and Councillor Bob Kingsbury that he had received information from the CAO/Clerk after the staff member had received information from Councillor Kingsbury about a governance question with the Recreation Committee.

Councillor Whyte said that she has asked several times to be relieved of the Committee Chair or that the Recreation Committee become a Committee of the Whole of Council.

Mayor Eady agreed that the Committee cannot continue with the present governance setup. He agreed that either it become a Committee of the Whole or some other structure change. Councillor Kingsbury said that a Committee of the Whole may not work as the members may consider that Council will be dominating them.

Councillor Whyte noted that many times, members of the public who were not appointed as a Sub-Committee Chair and therefore do not have the authorization to sit at the Table and participate in the meeting, are moving and seconding recommendation motions.

Mayor Eady reviewed the Committee appointments for their 2010-14 Council term. The appointment for Recreation Committee was 2 Members of Council plus 7 sub-chairs. He noted that in 2004 there were only 5 sub chairs.

Mayor Eady suggested part of the issue is establishment of the Capital Purchasing Account for capital kitchen purchases. The kitchen sub-committee provides a catering service and profits are built up in an account. The sub-committee members have considered that this money is available for them to purchase kitchen equipment at their request. However, staff have it set up that a request for purchase is required which requires a Recreation Committee recommendation and a Council approval. He said the actual motions – May 23, 2012 Recreation Committee Meeting and resolution 2012-185 June 5, 2012 Council Meeting – are silent on how the purchases are to be made. He suggests that the sub-chair should have some authority on purchases, or a committee approval rather than a Council approval.

Mayor Eady noted that the members who approached Councillor Kingsbury should have contacted Councillor Whyte with their concerns. Councillor Kingsbury said people have come to him in the past because he has been on council for 18 years. Mayor Eady noted that he does get calls relating to individual Committees, but he requests the caller to speak to the Chair, and he contacts the Chair as well.

Mayor Eady noted that Councillor Whyte has gone along with every issue that has been recommended by the Committee. He noted that there is too much on the Committee's plate. There has to be a consensus of some kind.

Councillor Whyte offered to withdraw herself from the Committee but will remain as Chair of Fire Committee.

Mayor Eady asked how the Recreation Program Manager functions through this. Councillor Whyte said the Manager supports Council's requirements for spending

approvals but has run into issues from members and is pulled in too many directions by the Committee Members.

Councillor Whyte said she is being held hostage then if Members won't accept the controls that are now in place. She said she felt that she was open to the Committee's requests. She asked why there has been a number of sub-chairs resign over the years.

Councillor Kingsbury was asked if he would take the Chair for Recreation Committee. He said he could not do so and still keep all his current Committee's. Mayor Eady asked if both Members would consider trading off some Committees and suggested that Councillor Whyte could take Human Resources, Health and Safety and Horton's representative on the Renfrew and Area Chamber of Commerce. Councillor Kingsbury said he would consider the Recreation Chair if these Committees were removed from him.

Both Councillor Kingsbury and Councillor Whyte took some time to advise the other on some of the issues that each Committee was working on.

Mayor Eady thanked Councillor Kingsbury and Councillor Whyte for accepting the change of Committee Chair ships. He noted that the Recreation Committee Meeting scheduled for November 20th will be cancelled as Councillor Kingsbury is not available that evening. A date will be determined. He asked Councillor Whyte to sit with the Finance Officer to complete the draft Recreation Budget. Councillor Kingsbury said he would like to meet with Councillor Whyte and staff as a part of the hand off. Mayor Eady offered to participate as well.

Councillor Kingsbury said he would require the Recreation Members to confirm the original committee setup of 7 sub chairs at the table. He also informed Councillor Whyte that the Health and Safety Committee requires a staff rep from the Public Works Garage to sit on the Committee. He has been unsuccessful getting a representative after the previous rep left our employment.

Mayor Eady thanked the two Councillors for agreeing to exchange committees. He noted that Councillor Whyte has carried out an excellent job in a difficult situation. He will meet with staff to prepare an announcement of these changes, and will inform the two other council members of these changes. He will have staff prepare an introduction letter for Councillor Whyte to be sent to the Chamber of Commerce. He said he would speak to the Chair of Fundraising on the Recreation Committee.

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, Seconded by Margaret Whyte that this Meeting be adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Carried.

MAYOR

CAO/Clerk