

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Special Public Meeting

May 15th, 2017

There was a Special Council Meeting held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Monday May 15th, 2017. Present was Mayor Robert Kingsbury, Dave Bennett, Councillor Glen Campbell and Councillor Jamey Larone. Deputy Mayor Johnston was absent. Staff present was Suzanne Klatt, CAO/Clerk, Jennifer Barr, Treasurer, Janet Collins, Public Works Manager, Rod Eady, Public Works Supervisor, Dennis Fridgen, Chief Building Official, Hope Dillabough, Deputy Clerk – Recording Secretary and Nikky Dubeau, Receptionist/Clerk. Also present was CEMC Steve Osipenko and Alternate CEMC Amber Hultink.

Members of Agencies present:

- Stephen Seller, Municipal Advisor, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ministry of Housing
- Philippe Geoffrion, Field Officer, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, OFMEM
- Dave Tantalo, Coordinator of Environmental Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit
- Mary-Alice Lyons, Lands and Waters Technical Specialist, Ministry of Natural Resources
- Red Cross

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kingsbury called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 pm. Mayor Kingsbury requested Members, Staff and the Public to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.

2. MAYOR – PURPOSE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Kingsbury opened up the meeting and stated the purpose of the meeting was to invite all of the community members affected by the flood to learn of any updates the Township has, listen to the presentations from the Agencies present and have the ability to ask any questions they may have.

3. CEMC UPDATE

Steve Osipenko, CEMC spoke of the extensiveness of the flood and damage that happened within Horton Township and thanked all of the volunteers, the Community, Township Staff and Council for all of their support. He discussed why the Emergency Response Plan was activated but there was no declaration of a 'State of Emergency'. There was no advantage into declaring as the Province had already committed to funding for flood victims under the Disaster Relief Program.

Mr. Osipenko explained the next step is the recovery process which will be the most difficult for all. As everyone is aware, the clean-up of debris and the sandbags will be difficult. He encouraged residents not to touch sandbags for now and explained that because they have touched the river waters, there will be bacteria within the bags and is deemed contaminated. The sand cannot be used for beach sand, or in a child's sandbox, however it can be reclaimed by the Township for filling in roads, winter sand (with no plastic), cover at the landfill site and can also be used for cement.

4. SAND AND SANDBAG RECOVERY & LANDFILL SITE INFORMATION

CAO/Clerk Suzanne Klatt graciously thanked Steve Osipenko and Amber Hultink, CEMC's for the Township of Horton for all of their hard work throughout the past few weeks. She also extended her gratitude to staff, Council, and the Fire Department for their continuous dedication and support. She added that Treasurer Jennifer Barr and Deputy Clerk Hope Dillabough had prepared a list off the tax roll that will assist with claim submission and identifying primary and seasonal residents. She referred the public to the maps at the back of the room which indicated which roads had been affected by the flooding. In addition, she spoke of the wellness checks performed by the CEMC's and staff which assisted in the compilation of data to determine how many primary residential homes and

seasonal homes were affected. It was explained to the public the strategies Council and Staff are developing to address all issues with sandbag recovery and private roads. She stressed that there is no funding for private roads but the township is willing to work at bringing private roads back to pre-flood conditions. Only roads identified on the map which was prepared for the Ministry will qualify for rehabilitation. This will not include any further maintenance or up-keep. This particular strategy is required to be approved by Council and Staff first prior to any work being done.

The Landfill Site was discussed. Great consideration must be given to the strategy for the disposal of and amount of construction debris/household garbage that will be brought to the landfill site. This will greatly impact future landfill site capacity and could drastically reduce the life of the landfill site.

This strategy includes items such as:

- Advertisements for equipment/contractor pricing to adhere to grant requirements;
- The province will accept grinding of construction debris/etc. Grant requirement includes delineation and photographs before accepting flooding debris and separating for grinding;
- Our ECA allows for contaminated waste(if Council decides to use some of the sand from sand bags as cover)this is permissible
- To avoid wear/tear of roads and controlling the dumping/sorting, staff proposes having bins at key locations based on the stages of receding waters. Bins could be used for construction debris, would be brought to the landfill site and sorted.

It was asked of residents to expect to fill out information at the landfill and drop off only household debris from the affected areas and it will be relocated to the 'flood area'. Staff will be tracking volume entering the site. Bins may also be provided and it was asked of the public to please be respectful and be responsible which would subsequently lessen the traffic at the landfill. A strategy is also required for flood debris and staff and council must ensure the approved strategy meets Ministry requirements and municipal procurement by-laws.

The CAO/Clerk also went over Building Department information and when permits are required or not. She offered that if anyone needs an inspection of the current state of their structure if they think it has been compromised by the flood, to contact the office

CAO/Clerk thanked the public for their patience during this difficult time.

- 5. PRESENTATION FROM MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING**
Stephen Seller, Municipal Advisor, was present to discuss program information regarding funding assistance from the Province. Homeowners and residential tenants, small business owners, farmers, and not-for-profit organizations can apply for assistance under the program if they are located in the defined geographical area for which the program has been activated following a natural disaster. Mr. Seller discussed the process of claims and explained there is very little of a role for municipalities at this point, as it's all run through the Ministry. He indicated this program is not a substitute for insurance, it's a program designed to help to cover the costs of cleaning, repairing and replacing essential property, so people's lives can get back to normal. It helps cover emergency expenses, repairs, or replacement of essential property after a natural disaster. He offered examples of eligible and ineligible costs. All information can be found online at www.ontario.ca/disasterassistance
- 6. PRESENTATION FROM RENFREW COUNTY & DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT**
Dave Tantalo, Coordinator of Environmental Health, Renfrew County and District Health Unit, was present to discuss water quality and information on septic systems. He stressed that anyone involved within the affected areas of the flooding should have their water tested by using the Health Unit's free service. There were testing bottles provided at the meeting. Samples can be brought to

their office located at 450 O'Brien Road, Renfrew and will subsequently be sent to Ottawa for testing. Residents can call 2 days after for results or can wait to have results mailed to them within 7 days.

7. MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND FORESTRY – INFORMATION

Mary-Alice Lyons, Lands and Waters Technical Specialist, was present to discuss information relating to water and shoreline work. She stated that work permits are required for shoreline work. Work can be done in water after July 15th. She noted there is more information on www.ontario.ca.

8. MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Philippe Geoffrion, Field Officer, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, OFMEM, was present. He wanted to stress to the Community that the key message for everyone is to keep safe at all times. The ground remains saturated with water and there are still many items floating in the water such as trees and other dangerous items to watch for. He cautioned the public to take the time to clean houses and cottages and let them dry completely so there won't be any mould issues in the future. He reiterated the CAO/Clerk's comment to the public to be patient with the entire process and that everyone at the meeting is there to help and support one another.

9. RED CROSS

A representative from the Red Cross was present. The gentleman stated the Red Cross is primarily known for relief efforts and recovery. They have clean-up kits and information booklets for the public to take and if they need further assistance, they can register with the Red Cross and they will help them move down the recovery road.

Mayor Kingsbury opened up the floor for questions.

The following questions were asked:

1. Are septic repairs covered? **Any costs to be covered are to bring back to pre-disaster conditions and will have to check under the parameters of the program.**
2. Are Retaining Wall repairs covered? **Retaining Walls are not covered under the program as it's only for home/structural only.**
3. Should the public contact the local MP and MPP with calls with requests for answers as to why the flood took place? **CAO/Clerk Klatt stated she will draft a resolution regarding the concerns and will forward a copy of that resolution to the local MP and MPP's for their consideration.**
4. Can natural debris (trees, stumps etc.) be burned? **Mayor Kingsbury stated the direction he received from the Fire Chief was that it is not recommended as there is a municipal burning by-law in effect. The debris will likely be collected by bins or received at the landfill site.**
5. Usually it takes a considerable amount of time to get a work permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources, will there be any consideration to speed up the process? **Mary-Alice Lyons of the MNR stated the MNR District Manager has reached out to make the issuance of work permits a priority.**
6. Is a permit required if lost part of an existing retaining wall and it is just being replaced? **If it's a replacement of existing and not going over the original footprint then the property owner is exempt from getting a permit but still needs to contact the MNR to register the information.**

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kingsbury adjourned the Meeting at 7:15 p.m.