

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

June 29, 2009

There was a meeting of the Committee of the Whole held in the Horton Council Chambers on Monday June 29, 2009. All Members of Council were present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnston called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by Members of Council.

3. COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Johnston reviewed the June 2, 2009 Council Meeting Minutes, the Public Meeting for the Expansion of the Horton Landfill Site June 2, 2009, the Public Meeting for the 2009 Draft Municipal Budget June 2, 2009, the Pleau Zoning Amendment Meeting June 2, 2009, and the Special Council Meeting June 9, 2009.

Deputy Mayor Hall asked if the entrance to the Council Chambers has been looked after or re-sloped? The CAO/Clerk said no yet.

Councillor Kingsbury asked if the Infrastructure Manager had an update on the CNR Bridge repairs?

The CAO/Clerk referred to Mr Schruder's Report in which he stated that he has had difficulty arranging a meeting and communicating with the President of the Snowmobile Club.

Councillor Bennett said that his Boom Truck is not available until after August.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Committee Minutes

Councillor Bennett, Chair of Public Works Committee reviewed the June 1, 2009 Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes. Chair Bennett also reviewed Jeff Schruder, Infrastructure Manager's Report on activities in the month. He reported that on the Thompson Road Culvert repair, the surface has broken up already and that from July 15, 2009 for twenty days there will be a detour over Lochwinnoch Road and Thompson Road for a culvert replacement on River Road, near Castleford. Chair Bennett noted that Early Road was not specified as a detour route but Jeff Schruder anticipates that we will get traffic and asked if we should mark this road as restricted. After discussion the Council members agreed that this road should be restricted to truck traffic with 5 tonne per axle signs put up.

Road Closing – Concession Road 8 – Tom Orr

Chair Bennett informed the Committee of the Whole that Public Works Committee and Planning Committee have met at different times with Mr Orr and Mr Orr has been requested to make a written formal request to assume the road and an offer of purchase.

Councillor Eady expressed concern with the anticipation of a high cost or high value for this road as it touches water. He noted that the road is of no value to us at this time. There is a potential for increased taxes, lot development charges, and building permit fees. It would be a gated community which does not require services from the Township. He suggests that we go with the standard rate per acre. Councillor Kingsbury noted that this is a valuable piece of property. He has heard comments from members of the two Committees suggesting that we

should not give away the road allowance, it should be sold at market value. The regular rate is not sufficient enough. Mayor Johnston said the road allowance is not accessible to the Municipality, the Township is going to get all the benefits stated earlier by Councillor Eady and he noted that the Developer does not need this road allowance now as he thought he did. Chair Bennett suggested that as we are not holding up the development at this point in time, we need to move ahead cautiously with an appraisal. Major Johnston said he is willing to wait to see what Mr Orr's offer is.

Deputy Mayor Hall suggested that Council wait to continue this discussion once we have received Mr Orr's offer.

WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Eady, chair of the Waste Management Committee reviewed the June 18, 2009 Waste Management Committee Minutes and the June 18, 2009 Biodegradable Garbage Bag Study Public Meeting. He noted that last Saturday was the last free day at the Landfill Site and requested that Fast Eddy be brought in asap, as the grinding pile is large.

Chair Eady reported on the most recent Joint Recycling Meeting on the purchase of Beauman's. It appears that Waste Diversion Ontario has recommended to the Ministry of Environment that municipalities be removed from blue box service and that the packaging industry become responsible. The Recycling Committee has agreed to hold off for six months to see how this unfolds.

Chair Eady reported that the twenty-seven people are interested in participating in the Biodegradable Bag Study. The Committee discussed the need to build racks for the three-quarter ton truck that Bill will use to pick up the garbage.

Jeff Schruder reported in his Report that the small garbage pickup truck used by Beauman's will now arrange to meet the big Compactor truck when the small truck is full rather than piling the garbage on the side of the road for later pickup. There have been many complaints about broken bags and scattered garbage.

FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING

Councilor Bennett, chair of the Fire Committee reported that there was no meeting in June, they are having by-monthly meetings. He informed Council of a concern from a neighbour of someone burning manure, hay and straw in a barrel, which the Fire Department is checking into.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Deputy Mayor Hall, chair of Finance Committee reviewed the Budget Public Meeting of June 2, 2009. He suggested that for 2010 Budget the Treasurer start the work early this Fall and be responsible for the completion of the Budget.

Councillor Kingsbury said he noticed, when attending a meeting at the McNab/Braeside Council Chamber that the Treasurer attends all Council Meetings. There are two desks in the Council Chamber, one for the CAO/Clerk and one for the Treasurer and he suggests that we should require our Treasurer to be at our Council Meetings and Committee of the Whole Meetings as part of her duties, so that she is knowledgeable on issues in the absence of the CAO/Clerk.

The Committee discussed the need for a Human Resources Review and the Committee authorized the CAO/Clerk to check with County HR Staff for consultant contacts for HR Reviews.

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Hall presented the Remuneration Committee Report to Council at the May 5, 2009 Council Meeting. He noted that they are recommending increasing the remuneration of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor positions but taking

away the meeting allowances. There was a suggestion that Council meet with the Remuneration Committee to review their proposal.

Council agreed that they did not like the suggestion of the meeting allowance being cancelled, as some Councillors carry a heavier load than others, this is the only fair way of compensation for that. The Council members noted that when Council authorized the Remuneration Committee to meet and consider remuneration they requested that this be in place for the next term of council on January 1, 2011. However, the Committee came back suggesting that their recommendations be in place a year earlier, January 1, 2010. It was noted that when Council brought in group benefits for the Councillors and Deputy Mayor that there was a commitment at that time that there be no further remuneration change for the balance of the term.

After discussion the Committee members agreed that they should meet with the Remuneration Committee to discuss their recommendations. But first, Council Members will meet to draft a response on their recommendations and the Committee agreed that this will be done at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

RECREATION

Councillor Kingsbury, chair of Recreation Committee reviewed the Recreation Committee Meeting of June 10, 2009. He reported on a meeting that Julie Hawley, Recreation Program Manager, Ralph Miller Bar Chair and he attended on Security and Liquor Licenses, which was very informative. We need to have two people designated as security and if we do not pay them, then they do not have to be licensed. He recommended that the Committee meet with a licensed security person to discuss what is involved in security. There was a suggestion that costs we pay for security could be charged back to the renter. Chair Kingsbury noted that Council Members could be charged individually under the Act. All workers need Smart Serve cards.

Scott Humphries – Authorize community Futures Grant Application

Scott Humphries was present and informed the Committee that following his meeting with the Recreation Committee and Council he heard about a Federal Grant through Community Futures of Renfrew County. He has been in contact with the organization in Pembroke and prepared an application to cover some indirect costs that would be part of his proposed visual and performing art technology program at the Community Centre.

The Committee members discussed correspondence received from Murray Adolph, owner of the O'Brien Theatre in Renfrew, who expressed concern that the Township was spending taxpayers dollars to assist Mr Humphries in the presentation of his program. Councillor Kingsbury noted that taxpayers dollars have been used to subsidize every program that is started at the Community Centre, as a way of promoting new activities. After discussion the following resolution was put forward.

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That this Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that they authorize the execution of the Community Futures Grant application for the Scott Humphries program at the Community Centre.

Carried.

The Committee also authorized the CAO/Clerk write Mr Adolph describing why the Township participated with \$1,000. in the program and noting that the Township will receive a value from Mr Humphries in the form of Web Site design for the Community Centre in exchange for this funding and also state that it has been the Committee's policy to use budget money to get programs started.

At this point 6:15 p.m. the Committee recessed for sandwiches.

At 6:30 p.m. the Committee resumed their meeting with all members present.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Bennett, chair of Planning Committee reviewed the Planning Committee Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2009. Councillor Eady expressed the need to consider other options for security deposits for the Cunningham Site Plan proposal. He asked if there was another approach we could work with Developers. Councillor Bennett suggested that staff check with other municipalities to see what their security requirements are. After discussion the Committee authorized the CAO/Clerk to check with neighbouring municipalities to see what their policy is for security for Site Plan Agreements.

The Committee reviewed the draft Chapeski Agreement for a yard sale for the July 1-4, 2009 period and August 1-3, 2009 period to be held on the vacant property at the corner of Bennett-Lafont Road and Storyland Road. The Committee Members agreed with the wording.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Committee Members reviewed the June 2008 draft of the Municipal Infrastructure Manager's job description. Councillor Kingsbury observed that Jeff Schruder is very busy and asked if he was working beyond his job description? After discussion the CAO/Clerk was authorized to meet with Mr Schruder to see if he has concerns with work load. The Committee also agreed that reference on page 4 of the Job Description concerning a responsibility for Recreation Budget be removed and transferred to Julie Hawley 's position.

LIME STABILIZATION COMMITTEE

Councillor Bennett reported that the steel pipe is installed and welded. The ABS pipe is three-quarters in place, all work below the ground will be completed by next Tuesday, the distribution box will be in this week. All that is left after this is the concrete pad on the front of the facility and the inner tanks. It was suggested that we arrange a Lime Stabilization Committee Meeting with the MOE and OMAFRA Officials for late July or early August when the Facility is ready to receive waste, for training.

Councillor Eady asked if there will be schematic drawings prepared for the facility for future needs? Councillor Bennett said that they will be prepared by Jeff Schruder and Garnet Headrick.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Issues at Council Table not Outside

Councillor Kingsbury informed the Committee he asked to have this item on the Agenda. He also noted that on the Regular Council Meeting Agenda there is an item called Council Members Concerns and suggested that this is the place where Council Members can raise any concerns they may have so issues are dealt with immediately.

Councillor Eady agreed and also supported the continuation of the Committee of the Whole for this purpose. He believes that Council is working better because of the Committee of the Whole.

Deputy Mayor Position

Councillor Bennett informed the Committee that he asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda of a previous Committee of the Whole Meeting to look at the pros and cons of having four councillors versus three councillors and a deputy mayor. He believes that Council will work well with four councillors.

Mayor Johnston reviewed a recent County Remuneration Report which listed approximately half of the municipalities in the County do not have a deputy mayor position.

Councillor Eady suggested keeping the deputy mayor position to have someone available to represent the mayor in his absence.

Deputy Mayor Hall informed Council that he heard, following the last election, that he got a free ride as he had been acclaimed, when there was a race for councillors. He noted that the timing was curious coming up to a municipal election again.

Councillor Kingsbury asked if this was not the time to look at the position.

Councillor Bennett said he would like to see if eliminating this position made council more accountable.

Councillor Eady said he likes the current governance model.

Chair Bennett said he is raising this so other municipalities that eliminated the deputy mayor position be asked why they changed and if it works out.

Spending Limits by Committee without Council Approval

The CAO/Clerk reported that this item was placed on the Agenda following the Waste Management Committee Meeting when John Wilson, member at large, questioned why authority was required from Council for spend \$1,000. He suggested that there should be some policy that eliminates this need for small purchases. Councillor Eady suggested that if the money is in the budget, he believes we should have authority to proceed to make purchases without waiting for Council approval. After discussion the following resolution was put forward.

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, seconded by Don Eady

That the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council that they establish a policy for discretionary spending of up to \$2,000 provided the funding is in the budget, if the need for funding is slightly over this amount, Council be polled for direction by Staff.

Carried.

Committee of the Whole Experiment – Three Meetings Completed – Continue?

The CAO/Clerk reported that this is the third meeting of a three meeting trial of the Committee of the Whole to review committee meeting minutes and discussions before the Regular Council Meeting.

Councillor Bennett suggested that the Township should continue with this method which creates another meeting or add all Council Members to the Standing Committees, so we would not have to have a Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Councillor Eady said he has no intention of attending all the Committee Meetings. He likes the Committee of the Whole Meeting and believes that it is working. He suggested that we could speed up reviewing the reports at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Councillor Bennett suggested that the Committee of the Whole only be used to review Committee Meeting Minutes, not other matters such as we dealt with tonight, that had been put off from other meetings.

Mayor Johnston suggested limiting questions to two questions each from members on Committee Meeting Minutes.

Councillor Bennett suggested that we limit the time frame of the meeting to two hours maximum.

Deputy Mayor Hall offered to chair the meeting, to guarantee the two hour time lines are kept.

Councillor Bennett said the issues that brought up the need for the Committee of the Whole meeting have now been addressed and Mayor Johnston suggested that the chair could be alternated by members of the Council.

Councillor Kingsbury suggested that at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting we try to move through the meeting faster.

All members of Council agreed that we continue with the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

The CAO/Clerk then referred to dates for the meeting, noting with the fourth Monday it is impossible to have all the Minutes prepared as many of the Committees meet in the third week of the month. After discussion it was agreed that future Committee of the Whole Meetings be held on the Monday proceeding the Council Meeting. The next meeting will be August 31, 2009 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. After discussion it was agreed that Mayor Johnston will continue to chair the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Hall said that the Chair must prepare himself by going over the package with Staff before the meeting. The CAO/Cerk discussed the need to amend the Procedural by-law for Committee of the Whole and suggested that we take this time to actually review sample by-laws of other Municipalities Procedural By-laws and create a new by-law. Our current by-law was passed in 1998 and there have been some amendments to that. The Committee agreed.

RINC Grant Program

Mayor Johnston reported that he has been informed by Cheryl Gallant MP that we have been awarded Federal approval of our grant application for a cover over our Rink, \$100,000 from the Federal Government, \$100,000 from the Provincial Government and \$100,000 locally.

Deputy Mayor Hall, chair of Finance asked if this is a proposal we want to complete, he supports the idea as with a good sheet of ice we could attract Renfrew's overflow needs for extra ice time.

Mayor Johnston agreed that the timing is right and we would get two-thirds paid.

Councillor Bennett said we need to get the engineer on this as soon as possible to see what the estimated cost would be. He referred to Northland Engineering out of Sudbury who has the design plans for the rink cover near Espanola. We could use the preliminary designs from the Engineer to see what our costs would be.

Councillor Eady suggested that the building needs to be well engineered so that it does not collapse under the snow load. Councillor Eady questioned if we could organize a fund raising campaign to offset the Municipal share of this grant. We would need to hire someone to run a campaign. He suggested that \$300,000 in the project budget was short.

Council Remuneration for Meetings

Councillor Eady expressed concern with what Council Members are putting down for meetings and are they all applying the same meeting rate.

After discussion, the Committee authorized staff to prepare a sign-in sheet for each meeting, Council and Committee, for Council to record their time and initial it.

Summer Students

The CAO/Clerk presented a Report on our successful applications for two summer student programs. In addition we will have a Co-op Student from Algonquin College here the two weeks of July 6 and July 13, 2009, to cover off the front desk.

6. NEXT MEETING

The Committee members had agreed that the next meeting would be August 31, 2009 and on that Agenda would be the Remuneration Committee Review.

7. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Don Eady

That the Committee pass this confirming resolution to validate any actions or directions given during the open portion of this Committee of the Whole Meeting which are minor in nature and which were not set out in By-law or Resolution.

Carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bob Hall, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That this meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

CAO/Clerk