

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON  
COUNCIL BEAR PIT SESSION  
MAY 18, 2011

There was a meeting of Horton Township Council held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday, May 18, 2011. All members of Council were present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eady called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. He informed Council Members that he called the meeting to have a casual discussion on how Council is operating at Council meetings and how we can improve. He informed Council Members that the CAO/Clerk and himself have reviewed and updated a draft of the Procedural By-law and there are a few items he noticed at the Council Table that could be changed.

- No member should be afraid to second a motion as all that does is bring the resolution to the table for discussion. When a vote is taken you can vote against the motion if you do not support it. Councillor Kingsbury said that this concerns him. He doesn't believe in seconding a motion if he personally does not support it.
- Mayor Eady asked if there was a way that when the Committee Chair presenting a report to Council can state something similar to "*this is the Committee report does any Council Member have questions or comments?*", rather than reading the whole report and/or minutes. Councillor Kingsbury asked how much of the report should he as Chair be reviewing with Council – just the highlights? Mayor Eady said that it was a good idea to hit some of the highlights but full discussion of the highlights is not necessary. Councillor Larone says that he has struggled with what to report at Council meetings. Mackie McLaren, CAO/Clerk suggested that the Committee Chair could point out the recommendations contained in the Committee minutes rather than reviewing the minutes as the minutes are included in the Council Package for review. However, a new topic should be discussed deeper. Councillor Whyte says that she is not at all Committee meetings. She likes when there is discussion on topics as this helps her understand the issues better. Councillor Campbell says that he considers that we have to inform the audience in more detail for their information. He likes to set out more information for that reason but he understands the need not to get too carried away with it. Mayor Eady reminded members that the Press gets a Council Meeting package as does the regular attendees.
- Councillor Whyte says she is concerned with the time delay in getting the budget this year. Next time we will have to start earlier i.e. late Fall. Mayor Eady agreed and briefly discussed the budget issues. Councillor Whyte said that the Recreation Program Manager is in the process of completing a Farm Credit Agrispirit Grant Application for the ice pad. However, we need a business plan. Mayor Eady suggested that Bruce McIntyre, County of Renfrew should be asked to assist us. Councillor Whyte said that we need the business plan with the cost of the concrete and how the money is to be raised. Can Jeff Schruder, Municipal Infrastructure Manager prepare a presentation on concrete costs?

- Councillor Kingsbury discussed rumours in the community that he was being pushed by people to be Mayor. He says that he has no desire to be Mayor. Secondly, when he was asked by Mayor Eady to be the Acting Mayor he agreed. He believes that the title of Deputy-Mayor is more appropriate but that the position be appointed by the Mayor at the start of the term not elected. Councillor Campbell asked why the position was changed to Councillor in the last election. Councillor Kingsbury explained the reason the past Council had for changing the Deputy-Mayor position to Councillor. Mayor Eady said that this change would have to go back to terminology in the procedural by-law. It would have to include a fair amount of discussion. He voted against changing the position last term as he was concerned about Council stability. Councillor Whyte said that the Mayor should have a chain of office, can we order one? Mayor Eady said the feeling is mixed. At a function at Camp Petawawa where there were dignitaries he was asked where his chain of office was as this was an identifier for Mayors in the audience, but this is not the year to purchase a Chain of Office.
- Mayor Eady noted that Councillor Campbell had come to him with an issue about feeling left out of the budget process. Councillor Campbell said that as Chair of one of the Departments with a large budget he felt he should have been part of the development of the budget particularly the project. He needs to be more comfortable with the feedback he is getting from the Manager. There are issues he wanted to see that are not included in the budget. He felt that he should've been more hands on. There are two projects in this budget. He supports one but not the other. Mayor Eady said that he agreed with Councillor Campbell for the most part. The Treasurer and the Municipal Infrastructure Manager developed the draft Public Works budget. Part of the process were the changes required by the Acting Treasurer to formalize the budget document better than in other years. Councillor Kingsbury said that he doesn't have the background on how these budget amounts were determined. He did note that he was not available for the Committee of the Whole budget meeting.
- Mayor Eady said that the process will be changed for the Fall 2011 start of the 2012 budget. He agreed we need to do a better job. This is why he favours this type of meeting so that issues can get out in the open rather than fester. Councillor Larone asked if we should have a meeting every 3 to 4 months so that nothing slides and small issues don't become big issues. Councillor Campbell said that he had a Thank You call from two ratepayers this afternoon happy that the grader came down their road.

Mayor Eady thanked all Members of Council for their frankness and for supporting this format.

## 2. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Jamey Larone, seconded by Margaret Whyte

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

Carried.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, seconded by Glen Campbell  
That this Bear Pit Session Meeting be closed at 6:30 p.m.

Carried.

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MAYOR

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CAO/CLERK