

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Special Council Meeting

January 20, 2011

There was a Special Meeting of Council held in the Municipal Council Chamber on Thursday January 20, 2011. All members of Council were present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eady called the Meeting to Order at 4:25 p.m.

2. SHERI SEXTON AND PETER TIPPINS

Sheri Sexton and Peter Tippins were present at Council's request to discuss a letter to each individual Council Member and the CAO/Clerk dated January 10, 2011 that was delivered to the municipal office on January 18 and which Council Members discussed following the Planning Committee meeting that afternoon.

This letter informed Council that "a number of Horton residents have expressed interest in having a forensic audit or investigation done of council activities". The letter also indicated that a petition was circulating through the township and would be presented to Council when complete.

Mayor Eady asked for an explanation of the letter. Sheri Sexton said the letter speaks for itself. Mayor Eady asked if they would be presenting the petition at the February 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting. Sheri said they hoped to but it may not be ready.

Councillor Larone asked why the group is requesting this Council carry out an investigation. Sheri said any wrong doing must be investigated.

Councillor Kingsbury informed the two that he had declared pecuniary interest as Mr. Bennett is a nephew of his wife when the first letter from Mr. Bennett was considered by Council at a Special Meeting on December 21, 2010.

Councillor Kingsbury said if there is any perceived wrong doing a member of the public can take their concerns to the OMB. Sheri Sexton said they did speak to the OMB and were told to start here. She noted that there was tension in the community before the information hit the newspapers. People feel some things weren't handled properly and this is their opportunity.

Councillor Kingsbury said a forensic audit is to uncover embezzlement and fraud. Peter Tippins said that they want more investigation than just looking at numbers.

Councillor Whyte asked if they had any idea of the cost of such an investigation. She asked if the group is paying for the investigation. Sheri Sexton said the group is considering involving the police which would be paid for out of their yearly invoice to the Township. Councillor Kingsbury said if the cost was \$25,000 to \$30,000 he wouldn't support it.

Councillor Larone asked how many people would have attended a Council Meeting prior to the election. Sheri Sexton said some people did.

Sheri Sexton said that the public discussion in the newspaper started people talking and this letter and petition is the result. Peter Tippins said that tendering process is part of the issue. Councillor Kingsbury said the Meeting Minutes will reflect the proper handling of tenders. He asked if Council held a public meeting to discuss tendering would this satisfy the people. Sheri said she didn't know. Peter Tippins said he will ask people if they have certain tender issues that they want examined and if pulling out the information would satisfy them.

Mayor Eady reviewed the award process for Thomson Road culvert replacement and the rink construction tenders both won by Marshall's as they were the low tenders.

Peter Tippins asked why Council wouldn't pass a by-law stating no Council Member can do business with the Township. That would end the concerns.

Councillor Kingsbury suggested that such a by-law may infringe on people's rights.

Councillor Campbell said he ran on the issue of full open public tendering and award process.

Peter Tippins asked if they could tell the public that the Township would investigate a by-law about Council Members doing business with the Township.

Mayor Eady said we have training coming up next week which may cover this topic.

Mayor Eady thanked Sheri and Peter for coming and informing Council of their concerns.

3. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Glen Campbell  
Seconded by Jamey Larone

**Resolution No. 11-026**

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

**Carried.**

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jamey Larone,  
Seconded by Margaret Whyte

**Resolution No.11-027**

That this Special Council Meeting be adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

**Carried.**

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Mayor

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CAO/Clerk