

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

FINANCE COMMITTEE

September 23, 2008

There was a meeting of the Finance Committee held in the Horton Community Centre, following the Committee of Adjustment Meeting. Present were Deputy Mayor Bob Hall, Mayor Robert A. Johnston, Councillors Dave Bennett and Bob Kingsbury. Councillor Eady is still on leave

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
There was no declaration of pecuniary interest by Members of the Committee.
3. **MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2008 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING.**
The Committee briefly reviewed the May 12, 2008 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.
4. **BUSINESS ARISING**
There was no business arising.
5. **2008 BUDGET TO ACTUAL REVIEW**
The Committee briefly reviewed the 2008 budget to actual review as of September 22, 2008. It was agreed to follow the usual review at the two-thirds mark (September 30, 2008) and report back to the following meeting any anomalies.
6. **2009 DRAFT MUNICIPAL BUDGET**
The CAO/Clerk reported that all Committees have received worksheets to prepare the 2008 draft budgets. The Committee members have directed the appropriate staff members to draft the budgets for review at the October Committee Meeting. All Committees should have reported by the end of October.

The Committee discussed the potential impact of the new assessment which is coming out in 2009. It was agreed that when the Finance Committee looks at the overall budget received from the Committees that they will also see what effect this will have on the assessment increase on the new tax rates.

7. **BROADBAND FUNDING PROGRAM UPDATE**
Chair Hall reported that he attended a meeting on September 22, 2008 in Greater Madawaska. This is the third meeting they have had. He presented a summary of the discussions. A report from the Chair of Economic Committee noted that they spent 220 hours preparing for the application for Broadband funding. Chair Hall noted that the Program/Coordinator/Facilitator will be hired by the County on October 21, 2008. We will then feed information to this person who will assist us with any application. We would most likely be grouped with McNab-Braeside, Admaston-Bromley and Greater Madawaska for a joint application.

Chair Hall noted that Council would be responsible for one-third of the program costs under this grant program. A resolution of Council would be required. There would be a potential cost to the Municipality or there could be opportunities to cover the costs with in-kind services.

Greater Madawaska's application was for \$722,000, their one-third was \$240,000. He questioned if we have time to prepare all the necessary documentation within the time line. He suggested we would have to have a decision whether we are going to participate by the time the coordinator is appointed by the County.

Councillor Bennett asked where the Township stands with the Bell proposal of high speed internet in the municipality?

Chair Hall said he understood that those plans never materialized. The CAO/Clerk was requested to invite a representative of Explornet from Noron in Renfrew to come to the next Council meeting to talk about their proposal.

There is a meeting on October 21, 2008 at the County. The Chair and the CAO/Clerk will plan to attend. The next Committee Meeting at Greater Madawaska is October 27, 2008 which Chair Hall will attend.

8. OTTAWA VALLEY TOURISM ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That Finance Committee recommends to Council that they purchase a membership in the Ottawa Valley Tourism Association.

Carried.

9. BONNECHERE RIVER STEWARDSHIP – REQUEST FOR \$1,000 GRANT

The Committee briefly discussed this request and asked for someone to attend the next Council meeting to speak on this request.

10. RECOMMENDATION FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE ON TOWNSHIP SIGNS ON HWY 17 AND COUNTY ROADS

The CAO/Clerk presented a report on costs prepared by Jeff Schruder, Infrastructure Manager. In addition to the costs of the signs of \$3,400, there would be \$200 for an addition of “Support the Troops” on Highway 17 sign and \$900 for permits. It was noted that this amount of money is not in the 2008 budget. Councillor Bennett suggested that as we are late in the season that this item be put off until the 2009 budget deliberations. The Committee members agreed.

11. COMPUTER FINANCIAL PROGRAM – AUTOMATIC DOWNLOAD OF PROGRAM UPDATES \$1200 PER YEAR

The CAO/Clerk presented a report on an Automated Update Service offered by USTI, our computer software company. The cost to manually download the updates is expensive as it takes approximately one half day to do the three computers, no one else can be in the program while the updates are carried out.

Moved by Dave Bennett, seconded by Robert A. Johnston

That Finance Committee recommends to Council that they purchase the Automatic Update Service from USTI.

Carried.

12. DEBIT MACHINE FOR FRONT COUNTER

The CAO/Clerk presented a report which recommended the Township provide a Debit Machine for people paying taxes and accounts at the front counter. The cost for this machine is \$35 per month, 12 cents per transaction. The machine is also capable of processing Visa at not extra cost although there is a transaction fee of 2.1%. The COA/Clerk recommended the debit machine but not the Visa, due to the transaction fee. Councillor Bennett suggested that we consider Visa as there may be an opportunity for people paying community hall rentals, rink rentals etc on Visa. He suggested that we put a limit on the amount through Visa of \$2500. After discussion the following resolution was put forward.

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Dave Bennett

That Finance Committee recommends to Council that the Township install a Debit Machine at a cost of \$35 per month plus 12 cents per transaction, plus Visa with a transaction limit of \$2500. to be monitored for six months.

Carried.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Fee for NSF Cheques

The CAO/Clerk reported that we recently received a NSF cheque and we do not have any fees to recover our costs. He reported that we would have to amend our By-law 2002-31 to establish this fee which means a public meeting would be required.

After discussion the Committee members agreed not to make any recommendation.

Livestock Valuation

Mayor Johnston informed the Committee that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will contact municipalities to prepare a report on how each municipality values livestock. Do they value livestock for current value, or for future value? The CAO/Clerk reported that Norman Eady, our Livestock Valuator values for future value, i.e .a lamb worth \$50 gets paid out as a full market lamb at \$200.

14. CONFIRMING RESOLUTION

Moved by Bob Kingsbury, seconded by Dave Bennett

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

Carried.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Robert A. Johnston, seconded by Bob Kingsbury

That this Committee Meeting be adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Carried.

Chair

CAO/Clerk