

## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

### Meeting with Renfrew Public Library Board Representatives

July 6, 2011

There was a meeting with representatives of the Renfrew Public Library Board on Wednesday July 6, 2011 in the Horton Council Chambers. Present from the Library were Board Chair Lynda Janney and CEO/Librarian Betty Jane O'Neill. Present from the Township of Horton were Mayor Don Eady, Finance Manager Jennifer Barr and Mackie J. McLaren, CAO/Clerk.

Mayor Eady called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed Ms Janney and Ms O'Neill to Horton Township.

Lynda Janney made a presentation on the need for increased funding from Horton Township for the operation of the Library. She gave the following points:

- In 2002 the Township entered into an agreement where the township passed on the \$5,050 Provincial grant received;
- 2006 the Board made a presentation for more funding;
- 2007 the township added \$5,000 to the Provincial grant.
- the Board asked for an additional \$5,000 per year for 2008 and 2009 but township refused.

She noted that the Library Board acts as a Corporation which has the authority to operate as a Library and they give the CEO/Librarian the authority to put into place the Boards directions. But they are also dependant on municipal support.

Ms. Janney reviewed statistics:

- 27% increase of Horton users since 2007. Members grew from 751 to 954 between 2007 and 2011. Fastest growing section of patrons.
- \$112 paid by Horton for a Recreation User. \$10.53 paid for a member of the Library.
- Per Capita – Horton pays \$3.58  
Renfrew pays \$51.00, and  
Provincial grant pays \$73.00
- Contributions in 2010 – Renfrew has 76.4% of users and paid 93% of operating  
- Horton has 16.6% of users and paid 4% of operating

Ms. Janney said the Board would like to see a better relationship based on a shared vision of the Library services. She asked if there were certain priorities that the Library can help. She added that the Board would make themselves available to speak to Council.

She stated that the Library Board carries out a Strategic plan every 3 to 5 years. Next time they would carry out a fuller survey to include the outlying areas in the country.

Lynda Janney said they have contacted other Library Boards and their arrangements with contributing municipalities are based on several options including by population, by number of private dwellings and by number of library users. She reviewed what Horton's share would be using the following options.

#### Funding Contribution Based on Number of Library Users

Renfrew 76.4% of users would pay \$276,199.25. Actually pay \$347,240\*  
Horton 16.6% of users would pay \$ 53,590.42. Actually pay \$ 5,000

\* calculation based on payment of 93% of \$383,376 budget, Renfrew's actual contribution was not set out on the presentation material.

### Funding Contribution Based on Fixed Rate for Number of Library Users

The rate of \$65 to \$70 per person is required.

Renfrew – 4397 users x \$65 (minus grant) = \$269,105

Horton - 954 users x \$65 (minus grant) = \$ 32,460

Ms. Janney pointed out that this option would not cover the entire operating budget.

### Horton Residents Pay a Fixed Rate for Use of the Library

Ms. Janney said that Mayor Eady had previously mentioned this option. However she said that the Library Act does not permit a contracting municipality to pay extra. Mayor Eady explained his suggestion included the township paying a portion of the \$35.00 user fee for Horton users. \$35.00 user fee is the fee charged by the Library for a membership for a resident of a non-contributing municipality.

She added that the \$35.00 fee is low in comparison of other libraries. It should be up near \$50.00 and they will be looking to increase the rate this fall. She said that Admaston/Bromley Township does not have a library agreement. Their residents pay the \$35 fee but the township reimburses them a portion of the fee if they bring in a receipt.

Mayor Eady said that to increase Horton's contribution by \$32,000 represents a 3% tax increase and that is not possible. He said that the number of Renfrew residents who participate in Horton facilities has never been addressed. There could be 500 people. He asked if there was a different way we can approach the increased funding request. Lynda Janney suggested that the increase could be spread out over a number of years.

Mayor Eady said that Horton does not have a member on their Library Board. Ms. Janney said that the Board would want more contribution to consider adding a Board Member from Horton.

Mayor Eady said there appears to be two options: increase the contribution under the agreement or drop out and have people pay their own user fee. Ms. Janney said there was a 3<sup>rd</sup> option – keep doing as we have been doing.

Mayor Eady said the Province funds a major share of education. Libraries are education yet they don't receive enough provincial funding. Rural Ontario has been forgotten. He added that he was hoping we could come up with a funding formula that would work. He asked if it was Provincial policy that we couldn't have a service charge when we have a contract. Betty Jane O'Neill said she believes it is policy, but she will check.

Lynda Janney said that Renfrew pays all the Capital Budget. She suggested we could pick a capital project i.e. replace the carpet at \$40,000, as a project we could contribute towards. Jennifer Barr expressed caution as Horton should not get into asset sharing as we don't own the facility. Our contribution should be for operating costs only.

Ms. Janney requested that Horton Council think their request over. There could be other funding models that we are aware of. Mayor Eady agreed, adding that we are not closing the doors. We will keep communication lines open. We are starting to review our 2012 budget this September. He said that Ms. Janney could attend a Council Meeting. He also suggested that the Township could work on promoting fundraising opportunities with the Board as a joint effort.

Ms. Janney said they are a Charitable Organization and can give income tax receipts. Mayor Eady noted our Horton Corner weekly ad and said we could consider including Library ads for fundraising events.

Betty Jane O'Neill invited Council and staff to come to the Library when they have a new inventory system installed for a tour.

Mayor Eady thanked the Library representatives for attending.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

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Mayor

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CAO/Clerk