

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.
AT THE HOWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

Attendance:

Council Members

Max Demaray, Reeve
Linda Henhoeffler, Councillor
Art Versteeg, Councillor

Andrea Yungblut, Deputy Reeve
Randy Scott, Councillor

Staff

Ronna Lee Johnson, Clerk
Wray Wilson, Public Works Co-ordinator

Mark Farinha, Treasurer/Tax Collector
Bruce SKillen, Recreation/Facilities Supervisor

Delegations

Dale Hunt, Peter Holland, Wroxeter Village Management Committee

Other

Peter Keil, Insurance Broker

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Demaray called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Reeve noted that if any member wished to declare a pecuniary interest regarding any matter on the agenda, it could be done at this time, when the matter arises, or both.
None declared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A copy of draft Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held November 17th, 2009 was circulated in the Council package, and a copy of draft Minutes of the Official Plan/Zoning By-Law Review Public Meeting held November 17th, 2009 was provided at the meeting.

MOTION #348/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, November 17th, 2009, as circulated.		
		CARRIED

MOTION #349/09	Moved by Versteeg	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Public Meeting for the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Review held on Tuesday, November 17th, 2009, as circulated.		
		CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

Council members were provided with a copy of Mr. Holland's letter to Treasurer Farinha concerning the snow removal contract for the Village of Wroxeter.

Dale Hunt, Peter Holland, Wroxeter Village Management Committee – Snow Removal

Mr. Holland explained that he was recently contacted by the contractor who has been providing snow removal services for the village, advising that he has learned that his present insurance does not cover him for doing "municipal" snow removal, and that obtaining coverage for that purpose will result in a dramatic increase in his insurance premium.

Mr. Holland noted that the contractor has been doing an excellent job, and it will be impossible to find a replacement at this point in time. Wroxeter snow removal is the only municipal work performed by this contractor, and in order for the Management Committee to keep him they are willing to pay the cost of his insurance premium increase. Treasurer Farinha noted that insurance is "a cost of doing business" for all contractors, and cautioned that it would not be appropriate to set such a precedent.

Peter Keil, Insurance Broker, answered a question from Council as to why the contractor's insurance cost is substantially higher for doing municipal work. He noted that when the

contractor first started doing snow removal in Wroxeter, it was incorrectly assumed that such work was included as “incidental” contracting under his farm policy. The insurance industry views municipal snow removal as “high-risk” (eg. increased liability due to “slip and fall” claims) and it cannot be included as “incidental” contracting. Mutual Insurance Companies do not have re-insurance for municipal snow removal work. Mr. Keil advised that he contacted various insurance markets, and none were willing to insure. He obtained 3 quotes from specialty insurers, all of which offered limited liability coverage at very high cost.

Responding to Mr. Holland’s question about snow removal in downtown Gorrie, PWC Wilson advised that the business owners pay the cost, so it is a private not a municipal contract.

Asked why the same could not be done in Wroxeter, Mr. Holland noted that the businesses have a hard enough time surviving as it is. Snow removal in Fordwich is done by a landscaping contractor who would have appropriate insurance coverage for his business.

Various options were suggested, discussed and deemed infeasible, such as, the Township hiring the contractor as an employee, or paying his insurance cost. It would be more appropriate for the contractor to increase his fee to cover his costs, or the Committee could pay a retainer or stand-by fee to supplement an hourly work rate.

Mr. Holland asked about the Township’s Public Works department doing the snow removal. Mr. Keil noted that this option could be advantageous from an insurance perspective, with the work being done under the Township’s insurance umbrella. Mr. Hunt noted that the present contractor completes the task very early in the morning, and the Committee would prefer to retain that level of service.

It was suggested that, in future, the Township could call tenders for village snow removal, similar to the tender for township grass cutting, so it would not be Village Management’s responsibility.

It was generally agreed that for this winter season, the Management Committee will retain the services of the present contractor, the cost of which will be paid from the Village levy. It was noted that Wroxeter does have a reserve fund, which is designated for sidewalk construction, and the Committee Members hope it will not be necessary to use any of it for this purpose. The Village Management Committee will consider the options and work out details for an offer of reimbursement to propose to the contractor. They will advise the Township of his response.

Reeve Demaray thanked the Wroxeter Committee Members and Mr. Keil for their input and discussion, and the three visitors left the Council meeting at this time (7:40 pm).

RECREATION/FACILITIES SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Hiring Casual Labour at Arena

Purpose: To assist full time staff at tournaments

Duties - to move goal nets during ice surface flooding to help keep the schedule on time
- to check dressing rooms between games for damage and cleaning
- to do on-going cleaning of lobby and upstairs hall

Tournaments involved: Dec. 5 & 6; Jan. 2 & 3; Feb. 20 & 21; Mar. 6 & 7

Hours involved: 10 hours per tournament

Total Commitment: 8 dates x 10 hrs = 80 hrs x 8.90 per hour = \$712.00 total

Mr. Skillen added that the total would be divided between 2009 and 2010 budget years, and Treasurer Farinha confirmed that funding is available to cover this year’s portion.

MOTION #350/09

Moved by Yungblut

Seconded by Versteeg

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Recreation/Facilities Supervisor to hire student (s) to supplement arena staff on a casual basis (ie. during tournaments) as needed. Remuneration for this casual position will be at the current Student Minimum Wage rate. CARRIED

Repairs to Elevator

Mr. Skillen reported that on Thursday, November 19th, a power “brownout” occurred at the arena when one of the two phases shut down causing motors to slow down due to insufficient power. It just happened that the elevator service man was there when it happened, and they managed to shut everything down before any damage was done. The same thing happened again the next day, and staff again managed to shut things down to prevent damage to motors. Unfortunately, this happened at a time when the elevator was in use, which caused the elevator motor to burn out, resulting in repairs of almost \$5,000.00 to purchase and install a new motor (copy of invoice in Council package). Treasurer Farinha requested authorization to transfer funds from the Arena Reserve to cover this cost.

MOTION #351/09**Moved by Scott****Seconded by Yungblut**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Treasurer to transfer the amount of \$4,955.00 from the Arena Reserve to cover the costs of repairs to the elevator at the Howick Community Centre.

CARRIED**ADDENDA****Hydro Interruption Protection**

Mr. Skillen provided information and a price quote for the purchase of a protection system that can be installed to prevent damage to equipment when hydro interruptions occur. Cost of installation was not provided, but Mr. Skillen estimated a total cost of about \$8,000.00 to buy and install this unit, which would provide protection for the entire facility.

Council instructed Mr. Skillen to obtain 2 more price quotes (to include cost of purchase and installation) to bring to next Council meeting.

Auditorium Renovations

Mr. Skillen provided copies of a floor plan received today from the designer for the auditorium renovation project, which will include:

- reducing and enclosing the bar area and adding a closed storage room (for better security)
- repairing walls/drywall as required and replacing ceiling tiles
- refinishing parquet floor and flooring in kitchen and washrooms
- lowering and expanding the bank of windows overlooking the ice surface

The Designer hopes to have specifications ready before the end of the week, enabling staff to advertise for tenders as soon as possible, so the work can be undertaken in January when the auditorium is not busy.

Councillor Henhoeffler asked if major kitchen renovations were planned as well, including new cabinets, dishwasher, dishes, cutlery, etc. Although not part of the original project as outlined in the application for RInC funding, it was suggested that if money is still available after the other work has been completed, perhaps some of those things could be included. Funds are also required to paint the roof, which was last done 15 years ago.

Mr. Skillen thanked Council and left the meeting at this time (8:05 pm)

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

The following report was circulated in the Council package:

Thermal Imaging Camera

Requesting camera quotes.

Morris-Turnberry Fire Services

Discussed Morris-Turnberry [coverage area] boundaries. Checked fire locator numbering in the Turnberry Ward of the Morris-Turnberry Municipality with Reeve, Max Demaray.

Reeve Demaray reported that he and Chief Doig travelled the area of Morris-Turnberry that Howick Fire Department will be servicing and confirmed the 911 numbers for all properties. He noted that Morris-Turnberry has not numbered the vacant properties in that municipality.

Council instructed the Clerk to contact Morris-Turnberry to enquire about the status of the Fire Protection Services Agreement, which has not yet been received. It was reported that the North Huron Fire Chief is not in agreement with the proposed coverage boundaries, and this may be holding up the process.

Wroxeter Parade

Fire trucks from the Howick Fire Station will be entered into the Wroxeter Santa Parade.

Aerial Ladder Truck Services- Town of Minto

I met with Chris Harrow, Fire Chief from the Town of Minto with regards to Aerial Ladder Truck Services. It is my understanding the charges billed for this service would be the responsibility of the insurance company of the homeowner where the fire took place, if we were to utilize this option. The same rules would apply for the use of a hy-hoe, bulldozer or any other machinery. Chief Harrow will be forwarding a contract for Howick on the cost of Aerial Truck Services. I will be talking to the Township of North Perth about the usage of their Aerial Truck as well.

Meeting with Jamie Zimmerman, Fire Advisor

Dale Edgar and I met with Jamie Zimmerman, Fire Advisor for Huron County to discuss equipment, training, inspections, fire prevention as well as courses required.

Fire Call

The Howick Fire Station received a call in regards to a chimney fire at 87690 Malcolm Line on Thursday November 26th. This call took approximately 5 hours of response time.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The following report and supporting information were provided at the Council meeting:

Assessment Adjustments

Attached are adjustments MPAC have made to the assessment roll. The net result is a \$97K reduction in assessment.

MOTION #352/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut	
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Treasurer to apply revisions to the assessment of, and process property tax adjustments for the affected properties as listed on Schedule ‘A’ attached hereto, said schedule reflecting amended property assessments as follows:			
	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Net Adjustment</u>
For the Year 2007	\$144,000.00	0	(\$144,000.00)
For the Year 2008	\$190,000.00	\$189,000.00	(\$ 1,000.00)
For the Year 2009	\$191,017.00	\$239,087.00	\$ 48,070.00
	\$525,017.00	\$428,087.00	(\$ 96,930.00) CARRIED

Cash Payout from WAFB

The WAFB owes us a \$120K cash payout upon the wrap up of the Board. The cheque should be received around the middle of December.

I will place the funds in the Fire Reserve. The Fire Chief, with Council’s approval, will be able to access these dollars for operating and capital expenses as the need arises

Rural Summer jobs Grant

We budgeted \$2,275 and received \$2,646 from OMAFRA. The additional \$371 in revenues is welcome and every little bit helps. Correspondence attached.

Accounts Payable

The attached Accounts are presented for Council’s review and approval.

MOTION #353/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut	
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of \$191,814.56 under date December 1, 2009 as cheques #8671 to #8724 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council meeting held December 1st, 2009.			
			CARRIED

ADDENDA

County and School Board Remittances

Treasurer Farinha provided a listing of the accounts and amounts due to the County and School Boards, advising that the payments are due by December 15th. In order to avoid penalty charges, he requested Council’s authorization to remit the payments immediately rather than hold them until the next Council meeting on December 15th.

MOTION #354/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut	
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes and instructs the Treasurer to make the following remittances immediately for accounts due on December 15 th , 2009:			
County of Huron		- \$336,767.76	
Avon Maitland District School Board		- \$150,985.17	
Huron Perth Separate School Board		- \$ 9,375.88	
French Public School Board		- \$ 46.51	
French Separate School Board		- \$ 425.61	CARRIED

Preparation for PSAB

Deputy Reeve Yungblut made reference to information provided to Council by Treasurer Farinha concerning the PSAB project, the contract with KPMG, and the substantial savings (63%) realized due to the amount of work completed by Howick Staff. Council acknowledged and expressed thanks to staff for their efforts.

Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding (OMPF)

Council received AMO Alert No. 09/081 advising that the Province has not yet committed to providing OMPF Mitigation Funding for 2010, and urging municipalities to advocate for its continuation. Treasurer Farinha explained that although the Mitigation Funding was to be a one-time payment, it has been ongoing since 2005, and termination of this funding would result in unacceptable increases in municipal property taxes. He requested Council’s authorization to send a letter urging the government to continue the payments.

MOTION #355/09**Moved by Scott****Seconded by Yungblut**

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has not as yet provided information about the 2010 Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding (OMPF) allocations, including whether the OMPF Mitigation Funding will be provided in 2010,
 AND WHEREAS loss of these support funds would result in significant municipal property tax increases,
 NOW THEREFORE, Howick Township Council hereby instructs staff to send a letter to the Minister of Finance, with copies to MPP Carol Mitchell, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, advocating for the continued payment of the OMPF Mitigation Funding to ensure municipal stability.

CARRIED**Local Boards and Lotteries**

Councillor Scott advised that he had received information from the MPP's office in response to his enquiry about municipal local boards conducting lotteries for fundraising. The information confirmed that such lotteries are not permitted. Mr. Scott has relayed this information to the Wroxeter Hall Board, and they have agreed to discontinue the 50-50 draws. Council instructed the Clerk to send a letter to all local boards reminding them of the regulations prohibiting lotteries.

Treasurer Farinha requested Council's permission to be excused at this time, and he left the meeting at 8:37 pm.

PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The following report as at November 27th and supporting documentation were circulated in the Council package:

ROADS**PUBLIC WORKS STAFF OPERATIONS**

- Grading as required
- Plow Equipment on all machines
- Roadside ditching
- Municipal Drain Repairs

MUNICIPAL GARAGE ADDITION

The floor is poured, framing is complete, the steel roof is on, and it is now ready for siding and interior work. Work is progressing as planned.

SEASONAL OPERATOR/LABOURER

Shawn Nicholson is going to come back and work from approximately December 1, 2009 until March 31, 2010. I would recommend Shawn be paid at Level 5 on the 2009 Pay Grid for Machine Operator/Labourer, part time seasonal.

MOTION #356/09**Moved by Versteeg****Seconded by Scott**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Public Works Co-ordinator to employ Shawn Nicholson as a part-time, seasonal Machine Operator/Labourer for the winter season from December 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, and that the remuneration for Mr. Nicholson be paid at Level 5 on the 2009 Pay Grid for that position.

CARRIED**BACKHOE TENDER**

A copy of the prices is enclosed. All Public Works staff had an opportunity to test a JCB, Terex, John Deere, Case and a Cat. Case, Deere, Volvo, New Holland and Cat met the specifications in the majority of the areas.

We had budgeted \$105,000.00 for the replacement of this backhoe. We are recommending the purchase from Toromont Cat, a 2010 Cat 420E at the quoted price of \$77,970.00 with trade of the 2001 JCB 214.

Responding to a question concerning trade-in value of the Cat, Mr. Wilson provided pricing information from a recent used equipment publication that indicates significantly higher re-sale values for Cat backhoes compared to other makes.

MOTION #357/09**Moved by Scott****Seconded by Versteeg**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby awards the tractor/loader/backhoe tender to the firm of Tormont Cat for the purchase of a 2010 Cat 420E tractor/loader/backhoe at the quoted purchase price of \$77,970.00 (taxes included) with trade of 2001 JCB 214.

CARRIED

STRONGCO EQUIPMENT

We received notice that Strongco is closing their Goderich branch effective November 30th. We will now receive grader service from London or Kitchener.

BUILDING

BUILDING REPORT

Deputy Treasurer Weishar prepared the enclosed report for Council’s information, showing the following activity to date:

<u>Permits Issued</u>	<u>Value of Construction</u>	<u>Fees Collected</u>
76 Building Permits	\$5,848,300.	\$29,930.02
19 Septic System Permits	\$ 190,500.	\$ 5,175.00
2 Demolition Permits	\$ 30.	0

Mr. Wilson added that although the number of permits is down slightly compared to last year, the value of construction is higher due to several large residential projects, and a large commercial building north of Fordwich (Topnotch Furniture).

DRAINAGE

DRAIN MAINTENANCE

Repairs have been completed on the Thornton, Wroxeter-Marietta Street, Stephen-Douglas and the Littlejohn Municipal Drains. Other work is planned before the end of the year, weather permitting. Mr. Wilson added that DFO permission is required for a cleanout on a relatively short piece of drain, which DFO has classified as a “trout stream” even though the waterway is fed by a closed municipal drain.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

An application was submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to allow the Township to enter into an agreement with the MNR. This will give authorization for work on Municipal Drains where identified species may be present. If an agreement is not in place, work can only be done under a permit. It may take up to a year to receive a permit after an application is submitted. A copy of the application is enclosed. This identifies the species that are present within the Township.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH PERTH – Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment

North Perth will hold a Public Meeting on December 7th regarding a by-law amendment. This is general housekeeping amendment. I don’t believe it has any effect on Howick Township. The entire draft is available if anyone wishes to review it.

LANDFILL - NO REPORT

OTHER - NO REPORT

CLERKS REPORT

The following report as at Nov. 30th was e-mailed to Council November 30th, and copies of supporting information were presented at the meeting:

ACCESSIBILITY FOR ONTARIANS WITH DISABILITIES (AODA)

‘Customer Service’ Training

A total of 66 Howick people, including Councillors, Staff and Board members, registered to receive the Customer Service training (see attached list), with 46 (including 10 from North Huron) attending the session held at the Gorrie Fire Hall.

Attached is a copy of comments received from the Chairman of the Wroxeter Hall Board who felt the training was “an insult to our intelligence”.

Members of Council commented that they felt they had gained some insight from the session, which was the purpose of the training – to raise awareness of the needs of disable persons. Clerk Johnson noted that a few of the Township Local Boards were not represented, so she will attempt to get the training information to them in some other form.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

1. Emergency Management Program Committee

Just a reminder that the Program Committee will meet on Friday, December 4th at 10:00 am.

2. Annual Emergency Management Training and Exercise

It was not convenient for EMO Field Officer Steve Beatty and County CEMC Gary Wood to change the date for the Training and Exercise day, so it will proceed on Wed., December 16th as planned. The Emergency Control Group (ECG) training will take place in the morning (9:30 am) and the exercise in the afternoon starting at 1:00 pm.

Council concurred with Clerk Johnson’s suggestion that Jean Price be asked again this year to cover the office during the training day.

OFFICIAL PLAN / ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW

At the Public Meeting on Nov. 17th, Huron County Planner Denise Carnochan requested a resolution from Council clarifying how you would like the Atton lands designated on the planning maps. It was my understanding that Council agreed that an asterisk should be placed on the lands to clarify that a restriction is in place. A resolution has been prepared to deal with this matter.

MOTION #358/09 **Moved by Yungblut** **Seconded by Henhoeffter**
THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the recommendation of the Huron County Planner regarding the placement of an asterisk (*) on the portions of Conc. B, S. Part Lot 26, E. Part Lot 27, and N. Part Lot 28 which are to be brought into the Wroxeter Settlement Area.
The said asterisk (*) demarcation will be accompanied by an explanatory note as follows:
“NOTE: Properties marked with an asterisk (*) may contain significant natural features. Prior to development taking place, an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) must be prepared to the satisfaction of the Township of Howick and the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Removal of the asterisk (*) restriction does not require an Official Plan Amendment”.
CARRIED

Huron County Clerks & Treasurers Association (HCCTA)

Attached is a copy of the agenda for the upcoming HCCTA December Meeting and Christmas Social. Treasurer Farinha and Deputy Treasurer Weishar request authorization to attend this meeting.

Also attached for your information is an update from the HCCTA ‘Benefits Review’ Committee regarding the Group Insurance plan, outlining actions to date and timelines for proceedings hereafter.

MOTION #359/09 **Moved by Henhoeffter** **Seconded by Yungblut**
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the attendance of the following at the Huron County Clerks and Treasurers Association meeting being held in Wingham on Dec. 11th, 2009, and agrees to pay the costs associated with their attendance at this meeting:
Treasurer Farinha; Deputy Treasurer Weishar.
CARRIED

Wroxeter Village Management

Committee member Ryan Sanders has submitted his resignation (copy attached) from Wroxeter Village Management effective at the end of this year. Mr. Brian Hope has agreed to fill this vacancy.

CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING COUNCIL ACTION

- 1. **Mike Alcock, Huron County Weed Control Program** – comprehensive information about the County’s “Vegetation Management Program”, and notice that an “industry specialist” will be coming in December to assist with the process of developing the program. Any Municipalities interested are invited to attend this session. RSVP is requested by December 4th. PWC Wilson will attend the session.

MOTION #360/09 **Moved by Scott** **Seconded by Yungblut**
THAT Howick Township Council received the information dated Nov. 27, 2009 from Mr. Mike Alcock of Huron County Public Works concerning the County Weed Control Program, and hereby authorizes the attendance of the following at a Weed Control Program information meeting to be held by the County:
PWC Wilson
CARRIED

- 2. **Township of McNab/Braeside Disaster Relief Committee** – request for financial support for recovery following a flood disaster. Noted and discussed. Action: File

- 3. **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** – notice of a resolution adopted at the November meeting pledging support for the Government of Canada’s commitment to provide leadership on Climate Change, and to achieving “a deal with real and meaningful action in Copenhagen”; to recognize the role of municipalities in providing local solutions for

reducing emissions; and, to partner with and support municipalities in reduction projects.

Noted and discussed. Action: File

ADDENDUM

4. County of Huron – passed a resolution requesting that the Avon Maitland District School Board stop the current Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process as it pertains to the closures of village and township schools within Huron and Perth Counties, until after the review of the funding formula for 2010.

Reeve Demaray responded to a question about why County Council was involved in a matter that is the responsibility of elected School Board officials. A County Council member initiated the action as he was concerned that the ARC was basing decisions on incorrect information, particularly concerning the Brussels Public School. Councillor Versteeg countered that the County Council member's information is incorrect.

In view of conflicting information, it was Howick Council's opinion that these matters are the responsibility of the School Board officials who have been elected to deal with them.

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS

Madawaska Valley, Township of – requesting that the Province change property assessment legislation back to 2008 values, and back to one year annual assessment; and, to draft legislation to recognize the tax burden of waterfront property owners.

Noted and discussed. Action: File

BY-LAWS

By-Law No. 26-2009 – to authorize the sale of property (Part Park Lot 17, Village of Gorrie)

MOTION #361/09

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Henhoeffter

THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 26-2009, being a by-law to authorize the sale of land (part Park Lot 17, Gorrie).

CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

- Minutes of the closed session held November 17th, 2009
- Legal Matter – Statement of Claim

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Belmore Community Centre Board

Councillor Scott confirmed that the financial records have been delivered to the Township as required, and reported that he emphasized to the Board that this information must be provided every two months in accordance with policies (not after 10 months).

Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention (CHIP)

Councillor Henhoeffter reported from the November meeting:

- Tim Poole in the new Vice-Chair of the Committee
- North Huron has appointed a Councillor to join CHIP
- Working on the Strategic Plan and Budget for 2010
- Next meeting will be Dec. 9th

County of Huron

Reeve Demaray reported:

- He attended the last Economic Development meeting in Blyth. A new "Staycation" web site is being launched. The next meeting will be Dec. 17th in Blyth.
- Met with Bruce County Warden Bill Goetz regarding the intersection at McIntosh [traffic hazard]. Reeve Demaray has sent a letter to Bruce County Council, and Warden Goetz has written to Huron County Council, in hopes of getting better traffic controls.
- Mandatory septic inspections was again a topic of discussion. PWC Wilson advised that this matter was addressed at a recent Building Officials meeting, and it was the opinion of an Engineering consultant that this should not be handled at the County level, but should be local. As well, AMO expressed concerns recently about liability in this regard. The general consensus is that mandatory inspections will eventually be legislated, and we will deal with it at that time.
- County unanimously passed a resolution that the Avon Maitland District School Board stop the current Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) process as it pertains to the closures of village and township schools within Huron and Perth Counties, until after the review of the funding formula for 2010. (NOTE: Dealt with in Clerk's Report)
- A new Warden will be chosen tomorrow.
- The issue of providing lunch for County Councillors will be up for further discussion, as will the new system for County Council and Committee meetings. Changes may be pending.

Huron Bruce Transit

Councillor Scott reported from last meeting:

- The Board is attempting to arrange a meeting with the MPP to discuss policy changes.
- Money is available for capital purchases (vehicles), but not for operations.
- Usage has leveled off - there has been no increase in ridership.
- As things are now, if changes are not made, the operation will fail.
- Changes could include having disability transit paid by the medical system.
- Another change would have participating municipalities more involved in administration and operation to reduce costs.

Huron County Farm and Home Safety - no report

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)

Councillor Versteeg reported from the November Board meeting:

- Staff have been directed to hold the 2010 budget increase to no more than 5%.
- The new pay grid has been implemented, and staff are gradually being moved to the new rates.
- Minor adjustments are being made to permit fee charges to bring them in line with inflation and with other Conservation Authorities.
- MVCA is in a better financial position than some CA's because they have fewer major capital projects requiring funding.
- The Board is pricing a better crane system for lifting the logs at the Bluevale dam.

Asked if repairs to the Gorrie dam were included in next year's budget, Mr. Versteeg noted that some repairs were done last year, and he is not aware that anything more is planned.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) - no report

MVCA Source Water Protection (SWP) - no report

SVCA Source Water Protection

ADDENDUM

Letter from Don Smith, Project Manager - suggesting that, as part of the Official Plan / Zoning By-Law review process, municipalities may wish to consider drinking water source protection issues. It was generally felt this is not applicable since Howick does not have municipal water systems. The County Planner will be made aware of the correspondence.

Wingham Area Fire Board (WAFB)

Reeve Demaray and Deputy Reeve Yungblut reported from the November meeting:

- Cheque for dollar share of Fire Board assets to be coming by mid-December.
- Fire trucks will be certified and transferred before the year end. Each Fire Department will pay the costs for the vehicles they are retaining.

COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Wroxeter Hall Board

Councillor Scott attended the Hall Board meeting to clarify the issue of 50-50 draws, and received assurance that there will be no further draws. They are looking at alternative fund-raising methods.

Christmas Parade – Village of Wroxeter

Councillor Scott reported that the Wroxeter parade was very successful, with over 50 parade entries. About 175-180 children visited Santa and received chocolate milk donated by Gay Lea of Teeswater. The day was very well organized and enjoyed by all.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION #362/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council at this time (10:00 pm) closes this portion of the December 1st, 2009 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council in accordance with the <i>Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239 (2) (b), (e), (f)</i> , to deal with personal and legal matters.		
		CARRIED

Matters Discussed in Closed Session

- Minutes of November 17th, 2009 Closed Session (approved by Resolution #363/09)
- By-Law Enforcement
- Legal Matter - Statement of Claim
- Employee Remuneration

MOTION #364/09**Moved by Versteeg****Seconded by Henhoeffler**

THAT Howick Township Council now re-opens the December 1st, 2009 Regular Council meeting to the public at this time (10:25 pm). CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) (copies attached)

- a) **Association of Municipalities of Ontario**
 - Alert #09/078 - Second Application Period for 2009-10 Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program is now open
 - Alert #09/080 - The Ministry of the Environment has issued proposed draft compost guidelines for consultation
 - Alert #09/81 - Advocacy for OMPF and OMPF Mitigation Funding for 2010
- b) **Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration** – 2010 Ontario’s Volunteer Recognition programs
- c) **One- The Public Sector Group of Funds**- 3rd Quarter 2009 Performance Report
- d) **Ontario Clean Water Agency** – Fall 2009 newsletter
- e) **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** FCM’s National Board of Directors approved a Resolution on municipal leadership in climate change action
- f) **Huron Tourism News** – 2009 Winter Newsletter

CORRESPONDENCE forwarded via E-Mail (Nov. 16 – Nov. 27, 2009) (No copies attached)

- a) **AMCTO** – Information regarding 2010-2011 Ontario Municipal Internship Program
- b) **Ontario PC Leader Tim Hudak** – An urgent request from Tim Hudak to help stop HST Tax Grab
- c) **IPAC** – Conference on March 11-12, 2010 at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa
- d) **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** – Update to November 2009 –e-newsletter
- e) **Middlesex-London Health Unit** – H1N1 Pandemic 2009 Update of Current Status and Issues.
- f) **Ministry of Health and Long Term Care** – Important Health Notices issued.
 - Information for Health Care providers. H1N1 Update, Volume 6, November 13th, 2009
- g) **Huron Business Development Corp**
 - Correction to the October issue of Business and Work in Huron County
 - Final 2009 Better Business Seminar- The Income Tax 2-Step
- h) **Huron Tourism**
 - Elizabeth’s Art Gallery Offer and Ladies Night
 - New Years Eve party at the Livery Theatre December 31, 2009 at 9:00 pm
 - Moonlight shopping and holiday cheer in Downtown Brussels starting Nov. 26, 2009
 - Huron Ridge Acres, Carole Steckle - Christmas 2009 December Issue

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION #365/09****Moved by Versteeg****Seconded by Henhoeffler**

THAT Howick Township Council now adjourns the December 1st, 2009 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council at 10:27 pm, with Council to meet again at the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair. CARRIED

 REEVE

 CLERK