

**TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**AT THE HOWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:**

**Council Members**

Max Demaray, Reeve  
Linda Henhoeffter, 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

**Delegations**

Rex McClory - did not attend

**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 18<sup>th</sup> was circulated in the Council package. Clerk Johnson advised that Resolution #338/08 had been omitted from the draft minutes, and that error has been corrected.

**MOTION #340/08**

**Moved by Versteeg**

**Seconded by Yungblut**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 18th, 2008, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**DELEGATION**

**Rex McClory** – did not attend

**COUNCILLORS' ISSUES**

**Complaints re. Speeding Trucks**

Councillor Scott has received calls about the tractor-trailer trucks hauling salt speeding through the villages. He has contacted the Ontario Provincial Police about the problem and is awaiting a reply. Councillor Henhoeffter added that the electronic speed monitoring sign, set up in Howick last week, clearly showed that these trucks are speeding offenders.

**Presentation of Certificates Recognizing Employee Service**

It was noted that when the Certificates of Recognition were presented during the Council/Staff Christmas Social, no one had a camera to record the occasion. The employees will be asked to come to the office on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> with the Certificates to have photos taken, and copies will be framed for hanging in the municipal office.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The following report was circulated in the Council package:

**Policing Costs-OPP**

The OPP has recalculated their costs for the next 5 years for all Huron Lower Tier members except Goderich, North Huron and Bluewater. At time of this report I do not have these revised costs but am pursuing the schedules.



**MOTION #343/08****Moved by Yungblut****Seconded by Versteeg**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Treasurer to apply revisions to the assessment of, and process tax adjustments for the affected properties as listed on Schedule 'A' attached hereto, said Schedule reflecting assessment changes as follows:

<u>Minutes of Settlement/Supps/Omits</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Net Change</u>
For the Year 2007	\$159,000.	\$122,000.	(\$37,000.)
For the Year 2008	\$235,295.	\$162,595.	(\$72,700.)
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>\$394,295.</b>	<b>\$284,595.</b>	<b>(\$109,700.)</b>

CARRIED

Treasurer Farinha requested Council's direction regarding the need to obtain a resolution to authorize processing assessment adjustments. Generally, the adjustments result in assessment increases, and it is unlikely Council would wish to appeal decisions made by Municipal Property Assessment Corp. There was a question that perhaps the *Municipal Act* requires Council's written authorization. The Treasurer will investigate the legislative requirements.

**OPP Contract - Revised Submission and Cost Calculations attached**

Goderich, Bluewater and North Huron have dropped out of the group. Goderich negotiated a separate agreement and the other 2 refused to be rushed into a commitment with the OPP given the Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 deadline.

Recommendations (based upon recalculated cost projections):

- a) That Howick Township NOT enter into a group agreement with the OPP at this time.
- b) That Howick Township maintain the status quo for the short term in regard to OPP services.
- c) That early in 2009 the Treasurer is directed to pursue a contract with the OPP for Howick Township alone.

Following discussion that examined the various options, the benefits and drawbacks of non-contract vs. contract OPP servicing, and resulting cost impacts, Council concurred with Treasurer Farinha's recommendations as being the most cost-effective for Howick Township.

**MOTION #344/08****Moved by Henhoeffter****Seconded by Scott**

THAT Howick Township Council, after due consideration to the "*Huron Group Contract Policing Proposal*", hereby instructs as follows:

1. That Howick Township declines the proposed Huron Group Ontario Provincial Police contract;
2. That Howick Township at this time shall maintain the status quo for policing, that being Ontario Provincial Police providing services on a non-contract basis;
3. That the Treasurer is directed to examine the feasibility of the Corporation entering into an individual contract with the OPP for provision of policing services in 2009.

CARRIED

**PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

The following report as at November 28th was circulated in the Council package:

**ROADS****PUBLIC WORKS STAFF OPERATIONS**

- SNOW, SNOW & MORE SNOW!
- Contract plows begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>

Mr. Wilson reported that one of the contract plows is presently out-of-service due to a mishap yesterday while plowing in Lakelet when the blade dug in and caught on pavement, seriously damaging the equipment. The contractor is attempting to find a replacement.

**MARY STREET – FORDWICH**

Tim and David Horst have completed the work required on Mary Street and the one year Period of Guaranteed Maintenance is over. They have, by letter asked that the Township of Howick assume Mary Street. I will have Ross Davies prepare an assumption By-law for Council to review at the next meeting.

In the interest of forward planning, discussion was generated about the necessity for the Township to begin a search for alternate legal services, given that the Solicitors in the present firm are near retirement, and no replacements are coming in. Staff were instructed to research options, and contact other local municipalities for references.

**BUILDING** – No Report

**DRAINAGE****Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

At this time Councillor Versteeg declared an interest regarding this matter as the Bolton Drain runs through his property.

### **BOLTON MUNICIPAL DRAIN**

Section 39(1) of the *Drainage Act* indicates that the Drainage Engineer is to file the Report as soon as possible or within six months after his appointment. This time frame may be extended by Council. The Engineer is requesting an extension on this time to April 30, 2009.

A meeting was held on November 26<sup>th</sup> with the landowners to advise them of the progress to date on this project. Responding to a question about the reason an extension is necessary, Mr. Wilson explained that environmental issues, tests and reports have been the cause of delays.

#### **MOTION #345/08**

**Moved by Yungblut**

**Seconded by Henhoeffler**

THAT Howick Township Council, in accordance with Section 39(1) of the *Drainage Act*, hereby grants R.J. Burnside and Associates an extension of time for filing the Engineer's Report on the Bolton Municipal Drain project, said Report to be filed on or before April 30, 2009.

**CARRIED**

### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

#### **MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH BRUCE**

A copy of the Bruce County Land Division Committee's decision on the Inglis severance is enclosed.

Mr. Wilson noted that Bruce County did not respond to or even acknowledge receipt of Howick Council's objections and concerns to this application. Although Council agreed that such a decision should be challenged, it was agreed that an appeal will not be filed.

### **LANDFILL**

#### **SCRAP STEEL**

We received a cheque for \$4,452.00 representing payment for 89.04 ton of scrap steel.

### **CORRESPONDENCE (Information only)**

- OMAFRA Environmental Management Newsletter
- Morris-Turnberry: Notice of Decision on Official Plan Amendment
- Huron County Planning & Development: Notice of Howick Official Plan Review
- MOE: Information on 2007 Annual Landfill Report – indicates the more test wells will need to be added some time in the future.

### **CLERKS REPORT**

The following report as at November 28th and copies of supporting information were circulated in the Council package:

#### **Emergency Management**

##### **1. Morris-Turnberry – Evacuation Shelter at Belmore Community Centre**

Status of Belmore Community Centre Board approval for Morris-Turnberry to use that facility as an evacuation shelter.

Councillor Scott reported that the matter had been discussed at the Board meeting, and it was his impression that the Board would be agreeable to such use. He will attempt to get a definitive answer at the next meeting.

##### **2. Emergency Management Training**

- a) Emergency Information Officer Workshop – Reeve Demaray, Treasurer Farinha, Administrative Assistant Bennett and Clerk Johnson attended the EIO workshop presented by Emergency Management Ontario in Clinton on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>. It was an excellent, informative presentation, with EMO Field Officer Steve Beatty, OPP Media Relations Officer Sgt. Dave Rektor (copy of presentation material available), and local media representatives Ray Baynton, News Director, CKNX Radio, Reporter/Videographer Scott Miller of 'A' Channel News, and Goderich Signal Star Editorial Supervisors Dominique and Gerard Creces.
- b) Emergency Management Exercise – Reeve Demaray and Clerk Johnson were observers at the "flood" exercise presented by Morris-Turnberry on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>.
- c) Risk Management Workshop – Middlesex-London Health Unit is offering this workshop in London on Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (information attached).

Members expressed an interest in attending this session, but information about content was unclear and no registration fee was listed. The Clerk was instructed to get more information and bring this back to the next Council meeting.

3. **Emergency Management Program Committee** – reminder of meeting at Municipal Office on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am.

Tentative dates were set for holding the Emergency Plan exercise – Dec. 15 or Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk will check those dates with other participants to see which is preferable.

### **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities**

1. **Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC)**

HCAAC will be holding a strategic planning day on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in Goderich. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, the Accessibility Working Group met to review and discuss the HCAAC “Terms of Reference” (copy attached), the roles of HCAAC and the ODO Working Group, the relationships between the Working Group and HCAAC and the County Accessibility Co-ordinator, and the legislative requirements for the *Customer Service Standard*.

2. **Accessibility Standards for Customer Service & Use of Assistive Devices**

Huron County Council has adopted the proposed HR Policy No. 1.23 (see copy attached) concerning the above, and a workshop is being planned for late January, 2009 for lower tier staff and Council members to inform and educate about the policy. Each municipality will be required to adopt a similar policy locally. As well, the County is proposing development of a training program.

3. **Public Review for Proposed “Information and Communications Standard”**

Attached is a “Quick Read Summary” from the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario of the initial *Proposed Standard for Accessible Information and Communication*, and the call for public comment during the review period November 17, 2008 to January 16, 2009.

Also attached are AMO communications “Alert” No. 08/057 explaining the review process, and “Alert” No. 08/058 asking the Ministry to extend the review period.

### **CORRESPONDENCE Requiring Council Action**

1. **County of Dufferin** – asking for response from local municipalities interested in attending an AMO/LAS Town Hall Session if one was available in the Town of Shelburne. Note and file.

### **MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS**

1. **Cambridge, City of** – calling upon the Premier and Provincial Ministers to help soften the blow for residents and property owners, including deferral of the 4-year phase in for property tax increases. Note and file.

### **Closed Session Items**

- Minutes of the closed session held November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008
- By-Law Enforcement Officer’s report

### **PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS**

The listing of Accounts Payable for December 2, 2008 was circulated in the Council package.

<b>MOTION #346/08</b>	<b>Moved by Scott</b>	<b>Seconded by Yungblut</b>
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of <b>\$384,094.63</b> under date December 2, 2008 as cheques #7535 to #7637 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council meeting held December 2nd, 2008.		
		<b>CARRIED</b>

### **BY-LAWS** - None

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Belmore Community Centre Board**

Councillor Scott reported from the November 17<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting:

- Only one snow removal tender was received, and was awarded at \$90.00 per hour.
- The two furnaces have not yet been installed.
- Questions and discussion occurred concerning working volunteers, health and safety, liability and insurance coverage.

Treasurer Farinha responded to questions from Council about the problems with the Board’s financial accounting, noting that the current method is an unnecessary duplication of work and that it would be much more efficient for Township staff to be solely responsible for processing the accounts (since we are responsible for the audit and financial reporting to the Province). Given the perception that members of the Belmore Community view any Township involvement as an

intrusion into their affairs, further discussion was given to a previous suggestion that Belmore form a Corporation and purchase the facility from the Township. Councillor Scott will take this suggestion to the next meeting of the Board.

### **Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention (CHIP)**

Councillor Henhoeffler reported from the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- The electronic speed monitor sign has been to most Huron municipalities. It was in Howick last week, and showed that tractor-trailers are guilty of speeding. It also revealed that there is significant incidents of speeding within the towns as well.
- The Committee is currently working on ATV issues, and planning an ATV training session.

### **County of Huron**

Reeve Demaray reported:

- CHIP and County funding was discussed at County Council. Some members were not aware of the new organization (formerly Road Watch). Councillor Henhoeffler noted that the CHIP information is circulated by the Health Unit.
- The Warden's Election takes place tomorrow December 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a race between incumbent John Bezaire and South Huron Mayor Ken Oke. Vote is by secret ballot, and a tie will be broken by drawing a name from a hat.
- The Public Meeting for the Huron County Official Plan will be held at the High School Library room in Wingham on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Huron County Farm and Home Safety** - no report

### **Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)**

Minutes of Directors Meeting #9/08 and Board Hearing #5/08, held October 15, 2008, were circulated in the Council package.

Councillor Versteeg reported from the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- Two hearings were held – one for the Canadian Tire Store in Wingham, and the other for an application to replace a cottage on a site near Holmesville.
- Budget discussions continue and staff have been directed to reduce the anticipated levy increase for 2009 to under 7%.

### **Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA)** - No report

### **MVCA Source Water Protection (SWP)** - next meeting in January, 2009

### **SVCA Source Water Protection (SWP)** - No report

### **Wheels Away**

Councillor Scott reported from the Annual Meeting held November 26<sup>th</sup> in Bluevale:

- The Board reviewed and discussed the Morris-Turnberry administration agreement, and availability and use of the Gas Tax funds.
- Discussed ways and means of improving the operation, making it more visible in the community and attracting more business.
- Discussed the difficulties of competing with other local transportation provider that recently received a donation of a new van, and operates with volunteer drivers who are not properly trained.
- Anticipate changes in the organization and operation in the upcoming year.

### **Wingham Area Fire Board**

Discussion focused on Wingham's withdrawal from the Fire Board Agreement and examination of the options open to the remaining two participants (Howick and Morris-Turnberry). Howick Council will meet with Morris-Turnberry Council next Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm at the Morris-Turnberry municipal office, to continue discussions and mutually agree on a course of action.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

### **MOTION #347/08**

**Moved by Scott**

**Seconded by Yungblut**

THAT Howick Township Council at this time (9:35 pm) closes this portion of the Dec. 2, 2008 Regular Council meeting in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239 (2)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e)* to deal with personal and legal matters.

**CARRIED**

### **Matters Discussed in Closed Session**

- Minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Closed Session (approved by Resolution #348/08)
- By-Law Enforcement Officer's Report

**MOTION #349/08****Moved by Scott****Seconded by Versteeg**

THAT Howick Township Council now re-opens the Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 Regular Council meeting to the public at this time (9:42 pm).

**CARRIED****CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY (Copies included)**

- a) **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**  
- Alert No.08/51 –
- b) **Ministry of Finance** – Uploading of costs under the *Provincial-Municipal Fiscal & Service Delivery Review (PMFSDR)* will result in reduction of OMPF allocations to municipalities.
- c) **Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing / Finance / Energy & Infrastructure** – Allocation of *Investing in Ontario Act* capital grants, and criteria for use and reporting thereof.
- d) **Carol Mitchell, MPP** – advising Howick will be receiving *Investing In Ontario* funds of \$329,747. for infrastructure projects.
- e) **Municipal Property Assessment Corp.** – Update of MPAC activities.
- f) **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** – Alert: The economic crisis, infrastructure and municipal budgets – Federal Government implementing economic stimulus package.
- g) **Water Environment Assoc. of Ontario (WEAO)** – Information about WEAO – Vision, Goals, Benefits of Membership
- h) **Huron Tourism Assoc.** – Agenda for next meeting; Minutes of Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> meeting; Huron Tourism News Autumn-Winter 2008
- i) **Fordwich & Community Parks Assoc.** – Christmas Dinner & Dance Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at H.C.C.

Council discussed item f) concerning the anticipated increase in infrastructure funding through the Federal Government's *Building Canada Fund (BCF)*, the possible opportunities to access such funding for local projects, and the budget impact to pay our share. Treasurer Farinha interpreted the information as being more applicable to large projects in larger municipalities (ie. public transportation; water and sewage systems, etc.)

**CORRESPONDENCE forwarded via E-Mail (Nov. 17 - 28) (No copies attached)**

1. **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
  - Alert No.08/053 – Calling for participation at the *Waste Diversion Act* review consultations
  - Alert No.08/054 – Ministry issuing 2009 OMPF allocation notices.
  - Alert No.08/055 – Municipal support of Climate Station data needed.
  - Alert No.08/056 – AMO-Ontario First Joint Annual Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - AMO/LAS Energy NewfLASH – Issue No. 3, Nov. 2008
  - One Public Sector Group Funds – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2008 Performance Report
2. **Ben Lobb, MP** – Press Release – Contact information
3. **Ontario Provincial Police** – “Festive Ride Initiative” begins Friday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>
4. **Municipal Property Assessment Corp.** – Toronto Bank Tower appeal update.
5. **thehealthline Bulletin** – Nov. 17, 2008
6. **Huron Business Development Corp**
  - E-Agriculture Workshop Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> in Clinton
  - “Business & Work in Huron County” Newsletter Nov. 2008 edition
9. **Huron Tourism**
  - *Huron County Christmas Concert* Dec.14<sup>th</sup> at Clinton Town Hall – tickets \$10.00 ea. /Family \$25.00
  - Goderich Co-op Gallery presents Artist Irene Hartwick during December.
10. **Municipality of Morris-Turnberry** – agenda

The above correspondence was noted. Action: File

**ADJOURNMENT****MOTION #350/08****Moved by Versteeg****Seconded by Yungblut**

THAT Howick Township Council now adjourns the December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council at 9:46p.m., with Council to meet again at the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 16th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair.

**CARRIED**