

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 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

Delegations

Station Chief Bill Doig; Deputy Chief Dale Edgar – Howick Fire Services
David Shaw – Gorrie Village Management

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 February 3rd was circulated in the Council package.

MOTION #056/09

Moved by Versteeg

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 3rd, 2009, as circulated.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

1. Station Chief Bill Doig and Deputy Chief Dale Edgar – Howick Fire Services

(Copies of 'Public Fire Safety Guidelines – Optimizing Rural Emergency Response' were circulated in the Council package)

Council invited Station Chief Doig and Deputy Chief Edgar to attend the meeting to discuss and provide Council with their expertise and perspectives regarding future provision of fire services for Howick Township following dissolution of the current Fire Agreement.

Discussion began with comments about the 'draft' asset valuation report submitted to the Wingham Area Fire Board by American Appraisal (NB. See Treasurer's Report for further information). The values attributed to the vehicles were disputed, particularly the trucks presently located in Howick, since it was noted in the report that the appraiser did not visit the Gorrie Fire Station. It was generally agreed that for this and other reasons, it is unfortunate that a second appraiser has not been found to provide a comparator report. As well, requests went out for a separate appraisal to be done on the fire hall and lot in Wingham, but no one is willing to undertake the project. Therefore, the valuation assigned to the property in the appraisal report is the assessed value as determined by the Municipal Property Assessment Corp.

The question of how to determine what Howick should accept as settlement of our share of the Fire Board assets - be it cash and/or equipment - prompted discussion about the age, condition, mileage, usage, care and maintenance of the various emergency vehicles.

It was noted that a letter was sent the Town of North Huron requesting information, including their intentions concerning continued operation of the satellite fire station in Gorrie, and to date, no response has been received. Chief Doig and Deputy Edgar were asked to comment on the prospect of Howick establishing and operating an independent fire department. Both

recommended that Howick pursue that course of action, stating that Howick's Firefighters are well-trained and ready, and the transition to an independent fire department would be relatively easy. Discussion then turned to the vehicles and equipment that would be required to provide fire services, and estimates of costs of operation (based on information from neighbouring fire departments of similar size), versus the option of purchasing services from surrounding municipalities.

It was agreed that it is important that all equipment, large and small, presently located at the Gorrie Fire Station be properly identified, evaluated and appraised, in order to accurately reflect the total assets of the Fire Board. It was suggested that, in the absence of a second appraisal, the Board could seek prices or valuations on individual vehicles from dealer sources.

Reeve Demaray thanked Mr. Doig and Mr. Edgar for providing their informed and valuable input to the fire services discussion. Mr. Doig and Mr. Edgar left at this time (8:05 pm).

2. David Shaw - Gorrie Village Management

Mr. Shaw was in attendance at the invitation of Council to address the resignation of the Chair of the Gorrie Village Management Committee and to advise Council of any issues the Committee may be encountering.

Mr. Shaw advised that he was unaware of Ms. Budgell's resignation until he received Council's invitation, and noted that he had been unable to contact Mr. Krotz, the other member of the Committee, and thus had no knowledge of whether or not he intends to continue to serve on the Committee. Mr. Shaw volunteered to contact Mr. Krotz, and will also contact other Gorrie residents in an attempt to find a replacement to fill the vacancy. If Mr. Krotz is willing to continue, he and Mr. Shaw will decide which of them will act as Committee Chair. Mr. Shaw will contact the Clerk if he is unsuccessful in finding a replacement, and the Township will then advertise to fill the position.

Reeve Demaray thanked Mr. Shaw for his attendance and co-operation, and Mr. Shaw left the meeting at 8:10 pm.

COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Council / Staff Social

Reeve Demaray asked for input regarding a summer social get-together. Councillor Versteeg volunteered to host the event at this home. Further details will be available at a later date.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Canada Economic Action Plan

Correspondence from Ben Lobb M.P. regarding financial assistance for recreational facilities is attached. Note the last paragraph stating that information for applying will be announced soon. I am asking Council to send a letter to Mr. Lobb advising him that the application process for funding is generally always tedious and receipt of funds under the application process long and drawn out. Ideally, we would like the Government to just send us a cheque for use in upgrading our recreational facilities. The Government is then welcome to audit what we have done with the funds. If the stated intention is to stimulate the local economy, Municipalities need these funds right now rather than possibly some time in the future.

Reeve Demaray reported that Mr. Lobb recently attended a County Council meeting, at which time he advised that the government intends to distribute funding in a manner such as Treasurer Farinha has described. Council agreed that it would be advantageous to send a letter of response to MP Lobb's correspondence.

Girl Guides and Scouts - 100th Anniversary in 2010

They are asking for a dedicated flower bed in towns and villages across Ontario to recognize this event. After some discussion, it was suggested that this project may be of interest to the new Howick Gardening Group. Councillor Henhoeffer volunteered to liaise with a local Girl Guide contact person to discuss the matter.

Wingham Area Fire Board 2009 Budget

Their 2009 Budget submission is attached. Comparables are:

	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
Operations	\$ 48,316	\$49,649
Capital	\$122,499	\$15,039

The Operations budget seems reasonable reflecting a 2.75% increase while the 2008 Budget for Capital is much higher due to Fire Truck purchase

Wingham Area Fire Board-Appraisal of Assets

The appraisal of the assets has been received. The total appraisal is \$1,453M. Howick's share at 27% is \$392,310 less 27% of an additional year's depreciation (20K * .27=\$5.5K).

Howick's share per appraisal adjusted for 1 year's depreciation is \$387K compared to the PSAB values detailed in my report to Council of \$396. The values are close and look reasonable.

Please note that Howick will also share in Equity at the end of 2009. The Fire Board had Equity of \$89K at the end of 2007 plus an estimated surplus of \$20 this year for a total of \$109. Howick's share is \$29K which is in addition our share of assets above

In summary, Howick's total estimated distribution at Dec 2009:

-Appraisal plus Equity	\$416 K
-Treasurers Estimate	<u>\$420 K</u>
-Variance	<u>(4) K</u>

Howick Operations 2008

2008 Statements of Revenues and Expenses for the Township are attached. These are UNAUDITED and may still change due to receipt of late invoices or adjustment by the external auditors. Also attached are:

- Statement of Reserves
- Summary of Capital Expenditures (Budget & Actual) and sources of funding

Treasurer Farinha briefly reviewed the financial statements and information provided.

Council's approval is also requested to transfer \$42,968 to Reserves, represents surpluses from some capital expenditures being lower than budgeted (as shown in the above statements).

MOTION #057/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffer	
WHEREAS some 2008 Capital expenditures were lower than budgeted, Council now directs the Treasurer to transfer the savings to the following reserves:			
	General Government Reserve	\$ 2,755.64	
	Bridges and Culverts Reserve	\$ 7,000.00	
	oads Equipment Reserve	\$24,777.08	
	Landfill Reserve	\$ 5,258.95	
	Arena Reserve	<u>\$ 3,176.22</u>	
	TOTAL	<u>\$42,967.89</u>	CARRIED

Treasurer Farinha advised that accounts are ready for the Accountant's final audit for 2008, and the Township is in a solid financial position.

PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The following report as at February 13th was circulated in the Council package:

ROADS

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF OPERATIONS

- Dean and his family are away to Florida on vacation
- Still snowing and more rain
- Tree cutting/trimming as weather permits

FORDWICH STREET RE-CONSTRUCTION

Tenders close on February 20th and will be opened publicly (in Goderich) at 2:35 p.m. I will be at the tender opening along with Dave Laurie (Huron County) and John Kerr, P.Eng. from Gamsby and Mannerow. Will it be acceptable to Howick Council to proceed with awarding the tender provided tenders are at or below the Engineer's estimate?

Mr. Wilson explained that, due to the scope of the project, the tenders will be opened and the Engineer will check the documents for accuracy prior to awarding the contract. Mr. Wilson will contact Council members by e-mail following the opening, to advise how the bids compare to the estimated costs.

1994 CHAMPION GRADER

The differential has failed in this grader after 12,000 hours of service. A rebuilt unit will be installed at a cost of approximately \$10,000. Other work is required on the front end, which will likely be in the \$2,000 to \$3,000 range. The grader was delivered to Goderich, which is more cost-effective that paying time and travel costs for the mechanic to make multiple trips here.

BUILDING

CONSULTATION PROCESS for WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES

The law firm of Thomson Rogers has been retained by Bell Mobility, Rogers Wireless and TELUS Mobility to act on their behalf to enter into an agreement for the acceptance of a protocol for siting towers. Part of the protocol is also for Council to delegate the consultation function to a suitable official in order to facilitate the process (copy of their letter and the generic protocol are enclosed).

Mr. Wilson advised that he sent information to other Building Officials in the area, asking if their municipalities have protocols in place. It was decided that action will be deferred until responses have been received.

DRAINAGE

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

Councillor Scott and I attended the ESA workshop on February 4th in Seaforth. This session was a basic overview of the Act and regulations. The main message is that it is the responsibility of the "person" to either get a permit or enter into an agreement if they may do any work or anything that may harm or destroy species or the habitat of that species. A list of known species in Huron County was provided and is enclosed.

Ministry of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Board of Directors for the Drainage Superintendents Association, is working on a draft agreement for municipalities. The Agreement is to be in place by June 30, 2009. A session about this issue will be presented at the upcoming ROMA/OGRA conference.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT & ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW

Joyce Wilson is now scheduled to attend the March 3rd meeting.

OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT – Municipality of Huron East

Information is enclosed regarding the proposed Official Plan Amendment for Huron East. The complete document and maps are available if Council would like a copy.

APPLICATION FOR SEVERANCE – Paul H. Martin, Lots 34 & 35, Concession C

This application is to sever the two lots along the original lot boundary. Both the severed and retained meet the minimum lot area required in our planning documents.

Mr. Wilson will advise that Howick Council has no concerns with or objections to the application.

LANDFILL - NO REPORT

OTHER

WROXETER DAM

Confirmation has been received from Geoff King, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) that work permits are required from MVCA, Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada. If Council plans to proceed with this project the applications can be submitted.

Discussion ensued concerning funding for the project, and letters will be sent to the MP and MPP requesting assistance. Mr. Wilson will contact the MVCA Engineer to ask about engineering design for the project.

ARENA INSPECTIONS

The last structural inspections for the Belmore Community Centre and the Howick Community Centre were completed in May of 2004 by Art Clark, P.Eng. from Burnside & Associates. His recommendation at that time was for an inspection again in 5 years. The Ministry of Labour places the responsibility for structural inspections on building owners.

MOTION #058/09

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Henhoeffler

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes and instructs the Chief Building Official to engage the services of a qualified engineering firm to undertake the required structural inspections of the Howick Community Centre and the Belmore Community Centre.

CARRIED

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

A "draft" newsletter is enclosed for Council review. If this meets with your approval, it will be mailed as a flyer to all residents in Howick and posted on the website. Other municipal information could be included on the reverse side. The Clerk suggested that information pertaining to Fire Protection and Prevention, and Emergency Management, could be inserted on the reverse side. Council agreed that circulation of the flyer is a good idea.

CORRESPONDENCE (Information only)

- **Belmore Chamber of Commerce** – Street Decorations and Pole Banners for Belmore (a proposal for the purchase, installation and future costs of operation and maintenance)
(Councillor Scott may wish to speak to this matter)

Councillor Scott advised that this proposal was presented to the Belmore Chamber of Commerce for consideration, and it is his understanding that the proposal has been “shelved”.

CLERKS REPORT

The following report as at February 13th and copies of supporting information were circulated in the Council package:

Minutes of February 3rd Council Meeting

A correction is required to Resolution No. 046/09 authorizing the Fordwich Street Construction. The project includes Louisa Street east and west, whereas the resolution stated Louisa Street West. The change to the resolution was endorsed by Council, initialed by the mover, second, and Reeve.

Clerk Johnson noted that Resolution No. 047/09 (authorizing attendance at the Huron County Accessibility meeting on February 26th) also required correction, which was approved and signed.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA)

AMO Alert No. 09/008 – AMO expresses concerns and provides recommendations on the proposed AODA *Information & Communications Standard* (copy of President’s letter attached).

Emergency Management

1. **2008 Compliance**

Enclosed for information is a copy of a letter from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services congratulating Howick on completion of the mandatory components of the Emergency Management program for 2008.

2. **Program Committee Meeting**

The Emergency Management Program Committee should meet in the near future to finalize the amendments to the Emergency Plan, to set up a schedule of activities for this year’s compliance, and set a budget for Emergency Management for 2009.

A Committee meeting was set for Tuesday, March 10th at 10:00 am.

CORRESPONDENCE Requiring Council Action (copies attached)

R.J. Burnside – Invitation to the annual Client Appreciation Night on Wed., March 25th at the Wingham Golf and Curling Club. RSVP requested before March 18th.

Council members planning to attend responded. Clerk Johnson will check with staff members, and a response will be forwarded to Burnside.

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS

Ajax, Town – seeking support for a resolution requesting amendment to the *Municipal Elections Act* to provide all Ontario Municipalities with the authority to pass a by-law that would prohibit Corporations and/or trade unions operating in Ontario from making contributions to or for any candidate for an office on a municipal council. Noted and discussed. Action: File

Chatsworth, Township – supporting a maximum levy increase of 2.5% for the Grey Sauble and Saugeen Valley Conservation Authorities, and requesting the CA Board Chair and General Manager be invited to attend a Council meeting to address budget increases.

Noted and discussed. Action: File

Hamilton, City – seeking support for Private Member’s Bill 138, *Protection of Public Participation Act, 2008*, a bill to counter *Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP)*.

Noted and discussed. Action: File

Madawaska Valley, Township – requesting that the Province of Ontario change assessment legislation to freeze values at the 2008 rate for the next four years; return to one-year annual assessment; create a 2nd class of tax to recognize waterfront properties. Noted and discussed.

Action: File

Madawaska Valley, Township – requesting that the County lobby the Provincial Government for an increase in Homecare Access Programs, including increased funding, support and assistance.

Noted and discussed. Action: File

Prince Edward, County – regarding wind energy, requesting the Federal and Provincial governments to:

1. Dedicate resources to scientific research to consider the impact of low frequency noise and electrical and electromagnetic disturbances in areas of industrial wind turbines, with the intent to confirm/deny public health implications, and
2. Create authoritative regulations and guidelines for locating wind turbines.

MOTION #059/09

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting the resolution from the County of Prince Edward regarding wind energy, requesting the Federal and Provincial governments to:

1. Dedicate resources to scientific research to consider the impact of low frequency noise and electrical and electromagnetic disturbances in areas of industrial wind turbines, with the intent to confirm/deny public health implications, and
2. Create authoritative regulations and guidelines for locating wind turbines,

and Howick Council hereby resolves to support the resolution from the County of Prince Edward.

CARRIED

Closed Session Items

- Minutes of the closed session held February 3rd, 2008
- By-Law Enforcement Officer's Report – no report

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The listing of Accounts Payable for February 17th, 2009 was circulated in the Council package.

MOTION #060/09

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Versteeg

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of **\$151,642.05** under date February 17, 2009 as cheques #7846 to #7889 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council meeting held February 17th, 2009.

CARRIED

BY-LAWS - none

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Belmore Community Centre Board

Councillor Scott reported from the Board meeting held February 16th:

- The Board is working on this year's budget.
- Seeking prices for new skating rink boards, or repairs to boards.
- Discussed the prospect of billing by the Township for time spent on Board accounts.
- Treasurer advises that bills have been sent out for outstanding accounts receivable
- A listing of outstanding accounts receivable is to be presented to the Board
- Because of a shortage of funds (due to the installation of new furnaces and work done in the kitchen) at this time, only a portion of the Township's bill for the Board's share of insurance will be paid this month, with the balance to be paid next month.
- The Board has received funding of \$5,000. from Farm Credit AgriSpirit, and \$3,000. from the International Plowing Match, to be used for arena renovations.
- The annual Gay Lea Bonspiel is scheduled for the last 2 weekends in March.
- Councillor Scott requested a copy of the TSSA Certification for the compressors at Belmore.

Clerk Johnson clarified with Councillor Scott the listing of members for the Belmore Community Centre Board for 2009.

Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention (CHIP)

Copies of Minutes of the January 14th meeting were circulated in the Council package. Councillor Henhoeffler noted the next meeting will be held February 18th.

County of Huron

Reeve Demaray reported:

- Attended a meeting in Goderich last Saturday announcing infrastructure funding to municipalities
- It was decided that Friday hours at Howick's library will not be changed, after Reeve Demaray read a letter sent to the Library Board by Deputy Reeve Andrea Yungblut.
- Other Library Board issues are to be addressed in the future.

Huron County Farm and Home Safety - meeting to be held next week

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)

Copies of the following were circulated in the Council package:

- Minutes of Board Meeting #11/08 held Dec. 17th, 2008
- Minutes of Source Protection Committee meeting #7/08 held Dec. 17th, 2008
- Minutes of Special Meeting held January 23rd, 2009
- Receipt of 2009 Flood Contingency Plan
- Invitation and Agenda for Annual Meeting Feb. 18th, 2009

Councillor Versteeg reported:

- Reminder about the Annual Meeting on February 18th.
- Construction of a "Challenge Course" at the Falls Reserve at a cost of approximately \$400,000. has been approved in principle. The project will be self-supporting and no money will be raised through municipal tax levy. Fundraising efforts will now proceed.
- Allison Lobb has been nominated for position of Chair, and Wilf Gamble for Vice-Chair

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA)

Statement of Director's 2008 Remuneration / Expenses was circulated in the Council package.

MVCA Source Water Protection (SWP) - next meeting to be held in March

SVCA Source Water Protection (SWP) - no report
2009 Flood Contingency Plan received.

Wheels Away - next meeting February 19th

Wingham Area Fire Board

Copies of the following were circulated in the Council package:

- Minutes of the Feb. 11th Board Meeting
- Chief's Report for January, 2009
- Draft Budget for 2009

Reeve Demaray noted that the draft budget does not include the 3% pay increases requested by the firefighters. The overall 2009 budget proposal is less than 2008 due to inclusion of the new fire truck purchase in the 2008. 2008 total actual expenditures are not yet available, but a surplus is expected.

Discussion resumed weighing the pros and cons of operating an independent fire department versus purchasing fire services from neighbouring municipalities.

CLOSED SESSION

The Clerk advised that no items were presented for closed session.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY (Copies included)

- a) **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - Alert No. 09/007 – Reminder to support *Earth Hour* (March 28th 8:30 - 9:30 pm) and *Energy Conservation Week* (May 17 – 23)
 - Alert No. 09/010 – Report to Members on Jan. 2009 Board Meeting
- b) **Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario** – call for nominations for *Order of Ontario*
- c) **Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration** – nominations open for *Newcomer Champion Awards*
- d) **Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services** – announcing appointment of new Commissioner of Community Safety, Mr. Ian Davidson
- e) **Ministry of Environment** – introducing new *Waste Comprehensives Certificate of Approval*
- f) **Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing** – accepting nominations for *Long-standing Service Awards* honouring local elected officials
- g) **Ontario Partnership for Active Youth** – *Play Works Youth Friendly Community* reports: *Recognition Program; Good Practices 2008; Small & Rural Communities – Lessons from the Field*
- h) **Parks & Recreation Ontario** – June is Recreation and Parks Month
- i) **Julian Fantino, Ontario Provincial Police** – OPP celebrating 100th year
- j) **Pitch-In Canada** – 2009 Operation Clean Sweep campaign, April 20-26
- k) **Ontario Farm Animal Council** – providing publication "*The Real Dirt on Farming*" - answers questions about agriculture and food production
- l) **Epilepsy Huron Perth** – March is Epilepsy Awareness Month – wear purple on March 26th to promote awareness.
- m) **North Huron Community Food Share** – Thank you for donation.
- n) **Listowel Salvation Army** - Thank you for donation.
- o) **The Goldie Company** – fundraising consulting firm offering assistance in accessing funding for municipal infrastructure projects.

CORRESPONDENCE forwarded via E-Mail (Feb. 2 – 13, 2009) (No copies attached)

- a) **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - FYI No. 09-002 – Municipalities taking action to limit use of bottled water

- FYI No. 09-003 – Waste Diversion Ontario workshop Feb. 12th to consult on draft recommendations resulting from public review of the Blue Box Program Plan
- b) **Ben Lobb, MP, Huron-Bruce** – announcing launch of Canada Summer Jobs 2009 program
- c) **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food** – Environmental Management Newsletter, Feb. 2009
- d) **Ontario Hospital Association** – ‘Climate Change in Ontario’ conference April 14 & 15, 2009
- e) **Citizens With Disabilities Ontario** – new and improved website
- f) **Huron Business Development Corp.**
 - Canada Summer Jobs 2009 information – application period Feb. 2 - 27, 2009
- g) **Huron Tourism**
 - Amazing Kreskin to appear at The Livery in Goderich Feb. 7th
 - Invitation to a public input meeting about a new performing arts centre, at Maitland Recreation Centre, Goderich on Sat. Feb. 7th
 - Concert by Tanglefoot at Clinton United Church on Feb. 8th
 - Invitation to reception at the Reuben Sallows Gallery on Feb. 23rd, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- h) **Municipality of Morris-Turnberry** – invitation to attend a Municipal Fire Services Public Meeting at the Bluevale Hall on Thurs., Feb. 19th at 7:30 pm

The above correspondence was noted. Action: File

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #061/09

Moved by Versteeg

Seconded by Scott

THAT Howick Township Council now adjourns the February 17th, 2009 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council at 10:14 pm, with Council to meet again at the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED

REEVE

CLERK