

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6th, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.
AT THE HOWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

Attendance:

Council Members

Max Demaray, Reeve

Linda Henhoeffter, 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

Hazel Rae-Versteeg - Howick Central School Playground Committee

Greg McClinchey, Connie Goodale - North Huron Economic Development

Marion Feldskov - Howick Newsletter

Others

Jeanette Versteeg; Laurie Myer;

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

Copies of draft Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held December 16th, Special Council Meeting held December 18th, and Special Council Meeting held December 22nd, were circulated in the Council package.

MOTION #001/09

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on December 16th, 2008, as circulated.

CARRIED

MOTION #002/09

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on December 18th, 2008, as circulated.

CARRIED

MOTION #003/09

Moved by Henhoeffter

Seconded by Scott

THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on December 22nd, 2008, as circulated.

CARRIED

CONFIRMATION OF 2008 COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

By-Law No. 27-2008

MOTION #004/09

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 27-2008, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Township of Howick for the year 2008.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

1. Hazel Rae-Versteeg, Howick Central School Playground Committee

Three members of the Playground Committee, Hazel Rae-Versteeg, Laurie Myer and Jeanette Versteeg, were in attendance to discuss plans to replace playground equipment at the School. Ms. Hazel Rae-Versteeg distributed and reviewed printed information "*Points to Ponder*" concerning removal this past weekend of the "unsafe" playground equipment from Howick Central, and 22 other schools in the Avon Maitland School District. As a result, there is little left to keep the children physically active on the playground. The School Board has advised that there is no funding available for replacing the playground equipment.

A Committee of concerned parents was formed to undertake fundraising to replace the equipment. The Committee conducted a survey among primary grade children to find out what they wanted most for the playground. An equipment dealer was then contacted. Plans were drawn up, and Ms. Versteeg presented a poster showing the configuration they are hoping to build, which includes a wheelchair accessible section.

The goal of the Committee is to raise \$58,000.00, which would cover the cost of purchase and installation. Applications to various sources for grant funding have all been fruitless. Ms. Versteeg listed some of the fundraising efforts that, to date, have raised \$5,000.00.

It is the Committee's aim to have at least some of the equipment installed by September 1, 2009 for the children's return to school.

In conclusion, Ms. Versteeg thanked Council for the assistance with creation of "the hill" at the school, and noted it is the Committee's hope that they can count on Council to also help with the playground equipment.

During subsequent discussion, it was noted that the School Board removed equipment that was paid for in large part by the Howick Optimist Club, and what guarantee is there that this new equipment won't disappear a few years from now when new regulations come out. Ms. Versteeg advised that the Company they are dealing with has advised that they must give at least a year's notice if regulations change, to allow the customer time to fix or replace. The Company guarantees the equipment for 15 years, and it is constructed to allow for replacement of parts.

It was noted that the process and method of removal of the equipment is very upsetting. It would have been preferable and easier to support if, over the years, pieces of equipment had been identified as needing replacement. The sudden removal of the equipment happened because there had been no inspections done for many years, and recent inspection found that it was not in compliance with safety regulations.

Another question addressed the possibility that Howick School might be considered for closure in the near future. It was the general consensus of the Committee members that Howick is considered a "large" school covering a sizeable area, and while a few schools in the north Huron area are slated for review, Howick Central is not one of them.

Another issue raised was the fact that the School Board is not providing funding – property owners contribute a sizeable portion to school taxes, and it is unfair to burden the municipal taxes with this cost. It was noted that the School Board will assist with installation of the equipment, but volunteers will not be allowed to help.

Asked if other companies were contacted, Ms. Versteeg advised that the School Board had provided the names of 5 companies. The chosen supplier is headquartered in Stratford and the product is Canadian made and very well constructed. The Committee is confident that the Company will keep the equipment in good repair.

Reeve Demaray thanked the Committee members for the information, and advised that Council will consider the request during budget deliberations, and give them an answer in the near future. The Committee members left the meeting at this time (7:25 pm).

2. Greg McClinchey, Connie Goodale – Economic Development

Mr. McClinchey, North Huron Councillor and Ms. Goodale, North Huron Economic Development Co-ordinator, were in attendance to generate discussion between North Huron and Howick Township about working co-operatively on economic development initiatives.

Mr. McClinchey introduced Ms. Goodale, and thanked Council for the opportunity to make a presentation, which he has already given at Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh and Morris-Turnberry, and intends to present to Huron East Council. He provided copies to all of North Huron's "*Community Information Package*" and "*North Huron Tourist Map*" publications.

Mr. McClinchey believes that, in order to survive, municipalities must focus proactively on marketing and economic development. Tourism, agriculture and manufacturing are our primary economic drivers, all of which are in trouble in the current state of the economy. We cannot continue to tax residents to cover skyrocketing costs, so "*we must find other, more effective methods of raising our economic profile*". Doing so means competing with nearby

Kitchener, Guelph, London and Owen Sound. Since we cannot outspend the larger centres, *“we must seek to work smarter so as to maximize our potential, communications abilities, our hard resources and our existing assets”*.

How to do this is the question. North Huron is in the process of re-launching their brand, and identifying strengths and weaknesses through a strategic plan. They are embarking on an ambitious plan that, to be successful, will require working with other municipalities in this region by rekindling a co-operative approach to regional economic development. A “formal structure” should be established to explore the options. He provided examples of some initiatives North Huron has identified:

- Joint marketing initiative for the Blyth Festival Theatre.
- Joint growth strategy – North Huron has infrastructure and services; neighbouring municipalities have abundance of land to be utilized for development.
- Airport Development Plan – to better utilize the facility.
- Highway 86 / County Road 25 Development Strategy – to divert tourist traffic passing through to the lake.

During ensuing discussion, it was noted that a few years ago, there had been a Joint North Huron Economic Committee that worked well together, and among its initiatives, succeeded in attracting Union Gas to the Wingham area, but the Committee was discontinued (at the time of municipal amalgamations).

Mr. McClinchey reiterated the need to combine and co-ordinate our efforts and resources to get more for our money, to the mutual benefit of all. A formal committee should be established comprised of representatives from all participating municipalities. He notes that while a Strategic Plan is beneficial, its potential is limited, being constrained by the fact that it looks only within its own municipal boundaries. We need to encompass the whole region, to identify the resources and features of the area and focus on marketing.

Responding to a question about co-ordinating efforts with the County Planning Department, Mr. McClinchey felt it was important at this point to determine our own direction – what we plan to do and how. We need to have discussion within our own Councils first, and then “think bigger”. He noted that he is visiting Council at this particular time by design - early in the year when budgets are on the table - hoping that Council will consider setting aside money for economic development.

Reeve Demaray thanked Mr. McClinchey and Ms. Goodale, and advised that Council will give the matter further consideration and give a response as soon as possible. Mr. McClinchey and Ms. Goodale left the meeting at this time (8:00 pm).

NOTE: See Delegation #3 after Public Works Co-ordinator’s Report

COUNCILLORS’ ISSUES - none at this time

TREASURER’S REPORT

The following report was provided at the meeting :

Assessment 2009 and Impact on Levies

The attached schedule shows assessments for 2008 and 2009. The 2009 taxable assessment is \$337.7M compared to \$325.2M of 2008. The increase is \$12.5M or 3.86%. This increase represents approximately ¼ of the increase in assessment between the official assessment dates of 2005 & 2008. In other words, the assessment increase between the 2 assessment dates is being phased in over a 4-year period.

If last years tax rates are applied to 2009 assessment the additional revenues are:

**Howick	\$72K
**County	\$81K
**Education	<u>\$36K</u>
**Total	<u>\$189K</u>

These represent on average a 6% increase for each of the 3 categories.

Therefore, the effect of County Levies on Howick must be restricted to \$81K or less. Although our potential additional levy for the County will increase by 6%, we need to consider that a 6% increase in County expenditures may be higher than a 6% increase in Howick levy raised for County purposes. If levy remains the same as last year the tax rates will decline by 5.77%

PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR’S REPORT

The following report as at January 2nd was circulated in the Council package:

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF OPERATIONS

- More snow and ice but this time we added water
- Tree trimming as weather permits – recent winds caused lots of tree work

FORDWICH STREET RE-CONSTRUCTION

The Engineers are nearing completion of the detailed design estimates. They expect to have them early in January so that we could include this project with the County if that is your wish.

OGRA/ROMA CONFERENCE

The Conference registration form is enclosed. It should be sent in soon, so if you can let me know what tickets you want, I will look after that.

Reeve Demaray and Councillor Henhoeffler provided the required information. Mr. Wilson will contact Councillor Versteeg.

BUILDING - NO REPORT

DRAINAGE

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

An information session on the new *Endangered Species Act* is to be held in Seaforth on February 4th. I am planning on attending this session.

MOTION #005/09 **Moved by Henhoeffler** **Seconded by Yungblut**
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the following to attend the *Endangered Species Act* information session being held in Seaforth on February 4th, and agrees to pay the costs of attendance at this event: PWC Wilson; Councillor Scott. CARRIED

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PROPOSED ZONING AMENDMENT – Municipality of Morris-Turnberry

This is an application to change the zoning of the former United Church property in Belmore from Institutional to special residential zone. This proposal should not have any affect on Howick Township. Mr. Wilson explained the amendment is to give recognition to an existing situation. Council had no objections to the application, and Mr. Wilson will respond to Morris-Turnberry accordingly.

LANDFILL

HAZARDOUS WASTE

The permanent year-round facility at Holmesville will be opening in early January. Mr. Wilson will check with the County to see if this means the annual temporary collection at Wingham will no longer be continued. He noted that we will need to promote this year-round facility and inform and advise Howick residents about it.

OTHER

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Wilson advised that his closed session item is not yet ready for discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE

- OGRA Board of Directors Meeting Information

Mr. Wilson pointed out the article about Bill 118 proposing a ban on used of cell phones and other wireless devices while driving, and noted that OGRA will be requesting an exemption for Public Works vehicles.

DELEGATIONS – Continued

3. Marion Feldskov – Howick Newsletter Publication

Ms. Feldskov was in attendance at the Reeve’s invitation to inform Council about the production of her newsletter “*What’s Happening in Howick*”.

Ms. Feldskov commented that she got the idea when she saw a similar publication in a town in western Canada, and recognized that it was something that was needed in Howick to keep everyone informed about who is doing what, and when. She said, with a laugh, that when she started the project, she had not given much thought to what it would cost. She reported that she prints about 1,400 copies each month on her own photocopier at a cost of 11.2 cents each and pays about \$135.00 for mailing. As well, investment of her time is considerable, not just for the actual production, but in gathering information from the various sources.

Financial support would be greatly appreciated, but Ms. Feldskov would prefer that it be in the form of voluntary donations or sponsorships – not through the sale of advertising. Many of the groups and organizations that benefit from the newsletter cannot afford to pay.

Further discussion included suggestions for cutting costs, such as distributing at local stores rather than mailing, and publishing bi-monthly. Ms. Feldskov felt that the purpose of the project

was to reach all residents with current, up-to-date information, and mailing is the only way to ensure that everyone is contacted. Going to bi-monthly production would mean that some events and happenings would be missed.

Council congratulated Ms. Feldskov on the work she has put into this very worthwhile and beneficial project. Reeve Demaray thanked her for bringing the information to Council, and advised that Council will consider how they can assist when undertaking budget discussions.

Donation to Howick Agricultural Society

Ms. Feldskov asked if the annual donation to the Agricultural Society would be forthcoming for 2008. Treasurer Farinha volunteered to investigate the matter.

CLERKS REPORT

The following report as at December 31st and copies of supporting information were circulated in the Council package:

Emergency Situation Report

Enclosed is the report from the CEMC concerning the flooding situation in Howick on Sunday, December 28th. On the advice of MVCA, the Emergency Control Group was called in to deal with notifying Gorrie residents downstream from the Gorrie dam, due to concerns about the stability of the dam. The Fire Hall in Gorrie was designated as a temporary evacuation center due to hydro problems at the Howick Community Centre. With the help of Public Works employees and Howick Firefighters, the residents in proximity to the river in Gorrie were notified.

Annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) Adjustment – Employee & Council Remuneration

By-Laws have been prepared to adopt 2009 Employee Salary Grids and to adjust Council honourariums to reflect the CPI adjustment approved at the last meeting.

Annual Performance Evaluations

Just a reminder that Performance Evaluations for the Senior Management positions are due. It was noted that this matter has now been completed.

Authorization of Meeting

For audit purposes, a resolution is required to authorize payment for Council members who attended a meeting with Howick Firefighters on December 9th.

MOTION #006/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the attendance of Council members at a meeting with Howick Firefighters held December 9 th , 2008, and agrees to pay the costs associated with their attendance at that meeting.		
		CARRIED

Holiday Office Hours

To facilitate and clarify for future reference, staff is requesting authorization from Council to close municipal operations early on Christmas Eve (noon) and New Year's eve (1:00 pm).

MOTION #007/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes an addendum to the 'Schedule of Statutory/ Public Holidays', which provides for early closing of municipal operations as follows:		
	Christmas Eve, December 24 th	- closing at 12:00 noon
	New Year's Eve, December 31 st	- closing at 1:00 pm
		CARRIED

Unused Vacation Days

This year, I had saved a few vacation days in order to take time off over the Christmas season, but due to extra Council meetings, minutes, etc., I was not able to use those days. I respectfully request Council's permission to carry my unused vacation days over to 2009.

MOTION #008/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Henhoeffter
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Clerk to retain 5.5 unused 2008 vacation days and carry them over to be used in 2009.		
		CARRIED

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority – Appointment of Representative

A resolution is required to appoint Mr. Carl Zettel to represent Howick Township of the Board of the SVCA for 2009.

MOTION #009/09**Moved by Henhoeffer****Seconded by Yungblut**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby appoints Mr. Carl Zettel to represent the Township of Howick on the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Board of Directors for a term of one year from January 1st to December 31st, 2009.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE Requiring Council Action

1. **Association of Municipalities of Ontario – Alert No. 08/064** – Seeking municipal support of AMO’s position on the Waste Diversion Act and Blue Box Program Plan Review. (Summary letter from AMO President enclosed - Comprehensive response available)

MOTION #010/09**Moved by Yungblut****Seconded by Scott**

WHEREAS Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting correspondence and information from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) contained in the Member Communication Alert No. 08/064, as well as President Hume’s letter of response to the Minister of the Environment and Waste Diversion Ontario dated December 19, 2008 concerning review of the *Waste Diversion Act* and the *Blue Box Program Plan*,

NOW THEREFORE Howick Township Council hereby supports AMO’s stated position and the recommended policy changes outlined in the above-noted correspondence.

CARRIED

2. **Ministry of Natural Resources** – invitation to attend an information session about the new *Endangered Species Act* to be held at the Seaforth Community Centre on Wed. Feb. 4th. RSVP requested by January 13th.
NOTE: See Public Works Co-ordinator’s Report – Motion #005/09
3. **Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority** – invitation to attend the Annual Meeting on Friday, January 16th. RSVP requested by January 9th.
No one from Howick Council is able to attend.
4. **Ontario Egg Farmers** – encouraging Council to support the practice of purchasing locally-grown food, and requesting that Council pass a resolution endorsing the purchase of eggs from Ontario Egg Farmers (a sample resolution was supplied).

MOTION #011/09**Moved by Scott****Seconded by Henhoeffer**

WHEREAS Howick Township Council supports practices that contribute to the creation of a sustainable environment,

AND WHEREAS Ontario egg farmers currently provide our community with fresh, locally produced Grade A eggs, which travel from farm to table in 4 to 7 days,

AND WHEREAS Ontario egg farmers take pride in caring for their hens while offering consumers a variety of egg choices,

AND WHEREAS the purchase of Ontario eggs contributes to the creation of a sustainable environment in which consumers and farmers benefit,

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Howick Township Council hereby identifies procurement of eggs produced by Ontario egg farmers as the preferred local sustainable procurement practice. CARRIED

5. **Townships of Canton-Bonfield & East Ferris** – requesting a financial contribution to the Flood Relief Fund. Noted and discussed. Action: File

ADDENDA

6. **Ministry of Tourism** - reminder of January 16, 2009 deadline for submitting application for *Celebrate Ontario 2009* grant funding. Noted and discussed. Action: File
7. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing** – invitation to attend a session called “*Braiding Cultural Bridges*”, an opportunity to learn about native culture, traditions and heritage, being presented in London Feb. 5th. Registration \$45.00 by Jan. 26th. Noted and discussed. Action: File
8. **Municipality of Morris-Turnberry** – notice of receipt of refund of \$6,000.00 from solicitor. It was noted that a cheque payable to Morris-Turnberry, included in the accounts for this meeting, will be cancelled and re-issued in the amount adjusted to reflect the credit.

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS

1. **Clarington, Municipality of** – seeking support of a resolution requesting that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) expedite the *Modernization of Charitable Gaming Project*, in particular the application, reporting and administration processes.

Noted and discussed. Action: File

2. **Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Counties** – seeking support of a resolution petitioning the Ministry of Community and Social Services to review and adjust recommended rates for indigent funerals, and to amend policies to provide financial assistance to cover funeral expenses for all needy individuals. Noted and discussed. Action: File

Closed Session Items

- Minutes of the closed session held December 16th, 2008
- By-Law Enforcement Officer's Report
- Personnel Matter

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The listing of Accounts Payable for January 6, 2009 was circulated in the Council package Cheque #7711 in the amount of \$\$8,755.82 payable to the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry was removed to be cancelled, and the accounts total adjusted accordingly.

MOTION #012/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffler	
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of \$128,865.76 under date January 6, 2008 as cheques #7681 to #7737 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council meeting held January 6, 2008.			CARRIED

BY-LAWS

By-Law No. 01-2009 – Borrowing By-Law

MOTION #013/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut	
THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 01-2009, being a by-law to authorize the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the Corporation for the year 2009.			CARRIED

By-Law No. 02-2009 – Adopt 2009 Pay Grids

MOTION #014/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut	
THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 02-2009, being a by-law to establish rates of pay for the employees of the Township of Howick for the year 2009.			CARRIED

By-Law No. 03-2009 – Appoint Municipal Auditor

MOTION #015/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut	
THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 03-2009, being a by-law to appoint a Municipal Auditor for the Corporation.			CARRIED

By-Law No. 04-2009 – Remuneration of Council and Reimbursement of Expenses

MOTION #016/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott	
THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 04-2009, being a by-law to fix the remuneration of members of Council and to authorize payment or reimbursement of expenses to Council and staff members.			CARRIED

By-Law No. 05-2009 – Interim Tax Levies

MOTION #017/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott	
THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 05-2009, being a by-law to provide for interim tax levies for the year 2009.			CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Belmore Community Centre Board - next meeting Jan. 19th

Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention (CHIP)

The following were circulated in the Council package:

- Minutes of the December 10th meeting
- A recap of action items being dealt with
- CHIP Information Sheet

Councillor Henhoeffler reported:

- The Committee will be making a presentation to County Council on January 14th
- Working with the Maitland ATV Club to get trainers to train youth on ATV safety
- The next meeting will be January 14th, 2009

County of Huron

Reeve Demaray reported:

- County Council meets January 7th – will ratify the Minutes and actions of the Committees.
- Friday, January 9th will be a Budget meeting - aiming for a 0% budget increase, means cuts will be made.
- Restructuring of County Council will also be discussed at a meeting of the Committee Heads on January 9th. Once a decision is made at the County level, it will need triple majority approval by the end of this year.

NOTE: See further discussion of this matter later in the Minutes, after 'Closed Session'.

Huron County Farm and Home Safety - no report

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) - no report

The following were circulated in the Council package:

- Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting #10/08, November 19, 2008
- Minutes of Board Hearing #6/08, November 19, 2008

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) - no report

MVCA Source Water Protection (SWP)

- next meeting of the Source Protection Committee January 9th, 2009
- next meeting of the Municipal Working Group January 7th, 2009

SVCA Source Water Protection (SWP) - no report

Wheels Away - next meeting January 14th, 2009

Wingham Area Fire Board - next meeting January 14th, 2009

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION #018/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffler
THAT Howick Township Council at this time (9:13 pm) closes this portion of the Jan. 6 th , 2009 Regular meeting of Howick Township Council in accordance with the <i>Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239 (2)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e)</i> to deal with personnel and personal matters.		
		CARRIED

Matters Discussed in Closed Session

- Minutes of December 16th, 2008 Closed Session (approved by Resolution #019/09)
- By-Law Enforcement Officer's Reports
- Personnel Matters: Performance Evaluations and Compensation
Unauthorized Absence

MOTION #020/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffler
THAT Howick Township Council now re-opens the January 6 th , 2009 Regular Council meeting to the public at this time (9:52 pm).		
		CARRIED

Approval of Remuneration – Supervisory Staff

MOTION #021/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Henhoeffler
THAT Howick Township Council hereby accepts the report concerning the Performance Evaluation for the Treasurer, and authorizes and directs that the Treasurer's remuneration effective January 1, 2009 be at Step 9 on the 2009 Pay Grid.		
		CARRIED

MOTION #022/09**Moved by Yungblut****Seconded by Versteeg**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby accepts the report concerning the Performance Evaluation for the Clerk, and authorizes and directs that the Clerk's remuneration effective January 1, 2009 be at Step 6 on the 2009 Pay Grid. CARRIED

MOTION #023/09**Moved by Yungblut****Seconded by Henhoeffer**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby accepts the report concerning the Performance Evaluation for the Public Works Co-ordinator, and authorizes and directs that the Public Works Co-ordinator's remuneration effective January 1, 2009 be at step 9 on the 2009 pay grid. CARRIED

MOTION #024/09**Moved by Yungblut****Seconded by Scott**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby accepts the report concerning the Performance Evaluation for the Recreation/Facilities Supervisor, and authorizes and directs that the Recreation/Facilities Supervisor's remuneration effective January 1, 2009 be at step 4 on the 2009 pay grid. CARRIED

Staff Replacement

Council authorized the Recreation/Facilities Supervisor to hire replacement staff for the Howick Community Centre in the absence of one of the part-time, seasonal Arena Assistants.

Write-off of Lost Petty Cash**MOTION #025/09****Moved by Henhoeffer****Seconded by Yungblut**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes and directs the Treasurer to write off an amount of cash totaling \$260.00 which has been lost from the Howick Community Centre and is considered irretrievable. CARRIED

ADDENDUM

COUNTY COUNCIL RESTRUCTURING

Reeve Demaray requested further discussion concerning the proposed restructuring of Huron County Council, and the following comments resulted:

- Each municipality should be represented by the Mayor/Reeve with the Deputy Mayor/ Reeve also sworn in, in order to fill in and act in the absence of the Mayor/Reeve.
- At present, some municipalities have 3 representatives on County Council – there have been times when voting on an issue that the 3 do not all vote the same way, which is counter-productive and means they are not representing the views of their municipality.
- Council should be reduced to 9 members – one for each municipality.
- Some feel that 1 vote per municipality is not a fair “representation by population” and that larger municipalities should have a “weighted vote”.
- Do as Wellington County – elect County representatives at-large.
- County Council is quite time-consuming, thus only those with available time (ie. retirees) could fill the position.
- County Council should abandon the Committee format, and operate as Committee of the Whole with Department Heads presenting reports directly to Council.

Reeve Demaray thanked all for the input and perspectives that he can take to the discussions on Friday.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY (Copies included)

- a) **AMO / LAS** – Municipal Energy Workshops in Markham Feb. 10th & 11th
- b) **Ministries of Finance & Municipal Affairs** – announcing Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) allocations for 2009, and *Combined Benefit Stable Funding Guarantee (CBSFG)* special one-time assistance for 2009.
- c) **Federation of Canadian Municipalities** – Member Advisory: Call to Action – 2009 Federal Budget Infrastructure Program as Economic Stimulus.
- d) **Ontario Provincial Police** – Snowmobile Safety
- e) **Ontario Planning Forum** – Land and Economic Development, Mar. 5th & 6th in Toronto
- f) **Mosey & Mosey Group Benefits News** – Termination of Employment; Employee Benefits after age 65: Influenza in the workplace
- g) **Nestle Waters Canada** – information re. bottled water sales and container recycling

The Clerk noted the timely receipt of the information from Mosey & Mosey listed above.

