

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 17th, 2009 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

Huron County Planner - Joyce Wilson

Delegations

Bill & Pauline Atton; Gary Davidson; Beate Bowron, Planning Consultants
Dale Hunt, Peter Holland, Ryan Sanders - Wroxeter Village Management Committee
Phyllis Haverfield, Peter King, Jack Ruttan - Fordwich Village Management Committee

Reporter – Pat Bolen, Wingham Advance-Times

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 March 3rd was circulated in the Council package, and Minutes of the Special Meeting held March 12th were provided at the meeting.

MOTION #080/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2009, as circulated.		CARRIED

MOTION #081/09	Moved by Versteeg	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 12th, 2009, as circulated.		CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

1. Atton Development

Planning Consultant Gary Davidson was in attendance to represent Mr. and Mrs. Atton in their request to amend perceived discrepancies and inconsistencies in the township's Official Plan and Zoning By-Law documents relating to lands in their ownership.

Mr. Davidson explained that there are inconsistencies in the mapping Schedules – Schedule 'F' of the Official Plan differs from the Schedule 'B' map. The Schedule 'B' map indicates the boundary limit (eastern) of the Village of Wroxeter extends to the river, which corresponds with an historical map of the village found in "The Lines of Howick" history book. Schedule 'F' indicates the boundary as being south of the river, thus removing a portion of the Atton property from inclusion within the village limits.

In addition, there appear to be discrepancies in the distance measurements shown on the mapping between the village boundary and the creek to the east. As well, a portion of the Atton lands appears to be lacking a zoning designation.

Mr. Davidson presented a draft resolution, requesting that Council correct and clarify the planning and zoning documents by enacting the following:

WHEREAS Schedule B of the existing Howick Official Plan shows part of the Atton lands north of Queen Street between the Maitland River and Sanderson Creek ("the Atton Lands") as being inside the Wroxeter settlement area;

WHEREAS there are discrepancies in the distances between the Wroxeter Settlement Area and Sanderson Creek in Schedules A and B of the existing Official Plan and in the current Zoning By-law, and the actual distance is actually only 60 m;

WHEREAS Schedule F of the existing Official Plan is inconsistent with the Schedule B and does not correspond with the historic boundaries of Wroxeter as shown on page 258 of "The Lines of Howick: The History of Howick Township 1856 – 1995, Volume Two", Howick Historical Society 1996;

WHEREAS the proposed Official Plan does not follow the historic boundaries of Wroxeter and removes some of the "Atton Lands" from the Howick Settlement Area shown on Schedule B of the existing Official Plan;

WHEREAS a detailed record of all of the above information has been filed with Howick Council;

ANDWHEREAS Howick Council is of the opinion that: the Attons' proposal is a clarification of the conflicting Wroxeter Settlement Area boundaries; uses Sanderson Creek as a natural boundary; respects Wroxeter's historic boundaries; does not require a comprehensive review; and conforms with the Provincial Policy Statement;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the proposed Official Plan be amended to include "the Atton Lands" north of Queen Street to the Maitland River and from Church Street to Sanderson Creek within the Wroxeter Settlement Area on the Schedules entitled "South West Howick" and "Wroxeter Main".

Mr. Davidson advised that Council has the authority to and should set definitive village boundaries to clear up these discrepancies. In his opinion, the Atton Lands in question have always been in the Village. He added that, ironically, as former Director of Planning for Huron County, he may have contributed to the errors. As well, the lands should be re-designated and zoned "residential" during this review process. It should not be necessary for the Attons to go through a planning application process and a comprehensive review in order to develop the land.

Huron County Planner Joyce Wilson responded to Mr. Davidson's information, firstly, agreeing that there may be discrepancies in existing mapping as different software systems were used to generate the data. Schedule B was prepared using GIS, and the Zoning By-Law and detailed schedules were prepared using a CAD program. New mapping has been prepared using GIS, which uses more recent data, is more accurate, and is intended to clarify any discrepancies. However, from her perspective, there is no question as to where the Settlement designation and zone exists. The eastern boundary of Wroxeter as shown on the mapping was carried over and follows the same line as was established in previous planning documents, as are the zoning designations, all of which have gone through previous review and approval processes.

Ms. Wilson clarified that the "Atton Lands" include the farm adjacent to the village, and a separate parcel within the village limits that is designated and zoned 'Development' land. In consultation with a Provincial Planning Advisor regarding the Attons' request to expand the village boundary east to the creek, she was advised that while there may be no opposition in principle to the proposal to adjust the village boundary, the legislation [*Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)*] protects agricultural land and requires that any expansion to a Settlement Area be supported by a demonstrated need and good rationale for the change [comprehensive review].

Ms. Wilson pointed out that there is a difference between setting a boundary line and the assignment of zoning designations for land types and uses. (ie. Changing a lot line or boundary does not automatically change the zoning assigned to the land). She disagreed that a portion of the Atton Lands (on Key Map 25) does not have a zoning designation – it is zoned 'Natural Environment' (NE1). Although Council could arbitrarily choose to make the requested changes in the planning documents, final approval authority is vested in the County Council, and the Province has the right to appeal a decision that is not consistent with the PPS.

Mr. Davidson responded to a question about what a "comprehensive review" entails, stating that it is usually a lengthy and costly process, and should not be necessary in this case. Council should simply "pick" a boundary and set it in the plan.

During further discussion, concern was expressed that the proposal [to expand the village boundary north to the river and east to the creek] is substantially more than the original request [to correct discrepancies in the mapping]. There seems to be confusion about the location of the boundary line, and unless some concrete proof is provided to the contrary, Council must abide by its planning documents (Official Plan and Zoning By-Law). An opposing view was expressed that the creek represents a "natural severance", so why not adjust the map to make the creek the boundary.

The Attons were asked why they have not proceeded to develop the parcel that is in the village, noting that it is difficult to justify the need for more development land when there already is a good deal of undeveloped land in the villages.

Reeve Demaray thanked the participants, noting that Council will give further consideration to the requests, perhaps later at this meeting or at a future meeting, and will advise of the decision. The members of the delegation and Ms. Wilson left the meeting at this time (7:45 pm).

Village Management Committees

Members of Wroxeter and Fordwich Village Management Committees attended, at the invitation of Council, to present and discuss any issues or matters of interest.

2. Wroxeter Village Management - Dale Hunt, Peter Holland and Ryan Sanders

Mr. Hunt enquired about the status of the riverbank repair. PWC Wilson provided an update on what has occurred to date, noting that applications for approvals have been sent to various authorities (Ministry of Natural Resources; Department of Fisheries and Oceans). Maitland Valley Conservation Authority was consulted, and the in-house Engineer was asked if he would provide engineering services for the project. He declined, presumably since MVCA will be an approval authority on this undertaking, and volunteered to obtain information on others who could provide the service.

Mr. Hunt advised that, contrary to comments about the water level being too high, the Village Management lowered the level of the dam several years ago. It is his opinion that it is snow and ice that erode the riverbank. He notes that the Wroxeter dam is better monitored than most others in the area.

Mr. Hunt requested Council's input regarding street lighting. He noted that presently the village has high pressure sodium type lights, and asked if they should be moving to LED type. Although LED is more expensive to install, they have a longer life, are more energy efficient, and when repairs are necessary, only the LED can be replaced, not the whole light fixture. LED fixtures could be substituted as street lights need to be replaced, and installed where new fixtures are needed. Council agreed that the Village Management Committee has the authority to make these decisions. Staff were instructed to research the availability of grant funding. The Committee members thanked Council, and departed at this time (8:05 pm).

3. Fordwich Village Management – Phyllis Haverfield, Peter King, Jack Ruttan

The Committee presented their budget for 2009.

Mr. King advised that they are working to complete the installation of the sign promoting the businesses in the village. Councillor Henhoeffler suggested they contact Paul Nichol at the County of Huron about accessing funding through the Huron Economic Development Fund. Mr. King confirmed that they had attempted to do that last year, but were unsuccessful.

The Committee asked if Council had a solution to a problem they have encountered with sidewalk snow removal in the village. One resident has complained aggressively and continually, including harassing the contractor, about the snow from the sidewalk being put onto his property. The Committee instructed the contractor to cease removing snow from the sidewalk in front of this residence, but then received calls of complaint from the school about the children being on the road. The Committee took the issue to a town meeting, and everyone agreed that the sidewalk should be cleared. It was suggested that the contractor be allowed to decide how he wants to handle the situation.

The Committee anticipates replacing some sections of sidewalk, which will be done in conjunction with the street reconstruction work.

The Committee members thanked Council for their time, and left the meeting at 8:16 pm.

COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

North Huron Economic Development Meeting

Reeve Demaray and Councillor Scott reported on the meeting held on March 5th in Blyth:

- Representatives from 5 municipalities were in attendance – Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh; Howick; Huron East; Morris-Turnberry; North Huron
- Discussed re-naming to be called the “Maitland” committee
- Several initiatives were brought forward for discussion, such as
 - Amalgamating for the purpose of calling tenders (ie. for engineering services at landfill sites)
 - Combining efforts on strategies for “marketing” the area
 - Joint “growth” strategies
 - Co-ordinate development of similar policies, ie. 4-wheelers on municipal roads, and establishing trail systems

Municipalities are requested to compile a list of features/attractions/events unique to their area to contribute to a joint advertising venture designed to entice people to “vacation here”. A sample of Huron East’s promotional brochure was provided.

Request for Donation

Reeve Demaray advised that the Howick Minor Hockey night is being held this weekend, and the Howick Skating Club finale will be soon after. He asked Council to consider donating a set of Howick History Books to each for fundraising.

MOTION #082/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council authorizes the donation of 1 set of Howick “Lines of Howick” history books to the Howick Athletic Association and 1 set to the Howick Skating Club.		
		CARRIED

ADDENDUM

Report from the OGRA/ROMA Conference

Councillor Henhoeffler’s report from the conference was provided at the meeting. Ms. Henhoeffler answered questions about the section entitled “Savouring Success – Marketing Ontario’s Food”, noting that Huron County has applied to the ‘Ontario Market Investment Fund’ for \$100,000. which will be available for ventures such as the Farmers Market proposed for Howick Township. Ms. Henhoeffler provided an update, noting that Howick Agricultural Society representatives have attended meetings with the Ontario Farmers Market Group; the Health Unit will be involved in providing standards, regulations and inspections; it is hoped to generate interest among prospective local vendors through public meetings and school venues; it appears that it is a large undertaking and may not get underway until next year.

ADDENDUM

RECREATION/FACILITIES SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

The following report was provided at the meeting:

Staff Training

One recreation staff (Dale Hunt) has indicated an interest in taking training for arena refrigeration. This course is offered at the ORFA Professional Development Program as per the annual training sessions at the U of G the last week of April / 09. The cost of this course is \$740.00 plus \$55.00 parking pass. I recommend a resolution to send Mr. Hunt as he has indicated an interest in working in the arena for future years. Other staff members attended ORFA courses last year. There may be short training (1 or 2 day) sessions offered throughout the year that others might attend.

MOTION #083/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott
THAT Howick Township Council authorizes the attendance of Arena Attendant Dale Hunt at the ORFA ‘Arena Refrigeration’ course being held in Guelph April 27-30, 2009, and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$740.00 plus Parking Pass of \$55.00, and any other costs associated with his attendance at the course.		
		CARRIED

TREASURER’S REPORT

The following report and supporting information were circulated in the Council package:

Federal Funding for Construction Projects

There is street talk about Government Funding being available for construction projects. It seems there may be no application process. Would Council direct the Clerk to write MP Lobb asking him the status of these funds and asking for funding for the Fordwich Street Project. Treasurer Farinha added that since the writing of this report, information was received from MP Ben Lobb’s office about the ‘Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) program, to which he responded requesting allocations for the pool and the community centre. In subsequent discussion with Becky Smith, Mr. Lobb’s Executive Assistant, Mr. Farinha also asked about funding for the Fordwich Street construction project, and was directed to forward documentation about same. Treasurer Farinha and PWC Wilson prepared and presented for Council’s approval, a draft compilation of information about the project. Council directed that the information be forwarded to Mr. Lobb for consideration.

Township Debt Repayment Limits

Correspondence attached from MMAH. Our repayment limit is \$382K based on 2007 Revenues. It was previously \$471K based on 2006 Revenues. The reduction is due to lower 2007 Revenues, of course as a result of lower expenses.

Annual External Audit

The auditors completed their audit in 4 days with 2 people versus the previous year when it took 5 days and 3-4 auditors. There was very little disruption compared to prior times when staff was constantly interrupted. The auditors commented on the soundness of our operations and the high quality of our financial and all other records. They plan to present to Council sometime in May as they are presently working on completing the audits & taxes for several other clients.

In 2008 our expenses were within the approved budget even after transfers to reserves approved by Council. Our surplus is \$17K which will be brought forward to fund 2009 operations. All staff and Council contributed to this successful outcome and deserve compliments for this great work. We expect nothing less for 2009!

Letter requesting Credit re Drain Debentures

Letter attached from Treasurer to Minister Dombrowsky of OMAFRA asking her to intervene with her staff. The Ministry owes us \$1,296. since 2006 and we have been unable to get a refund cheque or credit.

ADDENDUM

Request for Donation – Village Beautification

A letter and budget projection received from the “Howick Bloomers” Garden Club, outlines a proposed village beautification project to place flower boxes on the bridges and planters on the main streets of the three villages. The \$20,000.00 project would be funded with assistance from the Huron Economic Development “Main Street Revitalization” fund, in-kind donations of volunteer work and hours, and hopefully, a grant of \$3,000.00 from Howick Township. Councillor Henhoeffter answered questions and clarified information about the project. At this time, Councillor Henhoeffter declared a conflict of interest, as she is the Chair of the Howick Bloomers Club, and Reeve Demaray called for a resolution regarding the request for donation.

MOTION #084/09

Moved by Yungblut

Seconded by Scott

THAT Howick Township Council authorizes a donation of \$3,000.00 to the proposed ‘Main Street Revitalization Project’ being undertaken by The Howick Bloomers Garden Club, and agrees that all finances associated with this project will be administered by the Township Treasurer. CARRIED

Councillor Henhoeffter confirmed that undertaking the project is contingent upon receipt of funding from the Huron Economic Development Committee, and the Township’s donation is complementary to the “Main Street Revitalization Fund” contribution.

Budget 2009

The 2009 Budget package was handed out at the last Council Meeting for Council’s review, questions and revisions. I ask that we now discuss the Budget and approve it for 2009. The Treasurer provided updated pages for ‘Roads Vehicles Forecast’ and ‘Statement of Reserves’ to be inserted in the budget package.

Treasurer Farinha noted that the budget as proposed results in an increase of 2.1% in the total tax levy, or approximately \$36.00 on an average residence.

Councillor Scott voiced his objection to the amount of increase, stating it is too much in light of job losses and tough economic times, and recommended that there be 0% increase. Treasurer Farinha responded that funding could be moved from reserves to offset the increase, but cautioned that expenses continue to increase, and the municipality cannot afford to keep reducing reserves to fund operations. Various lines and sections of the operating and capital budgets were questioned and discussed, and items considered for change or deferral. It was pointed out that the consequence of veering from the Capital Equipment Forecast and deferring planned capital purchases this year is that the burden is compounded the next year. Council directed that the budget increase be limited to 1.5%. The Treasurer will bring an amended proposal to the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR’S REPORT

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

ROADS

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF OPERATIONS

- Cold patching potholes in pavement
- Hopefully we will have some milder weather soon to enable staff to grade the gravel roads. Mr. Wilson added that grading started yesterday, continues today and by tomorrow, if it does not rain, all roads will have been covered.
- Replacing and straightening signs

- Tree cutting/trimming as weather permits
- Bartman Tree Service is cutting trees where a bucket truck is required
Mr. Wilson reported that both tree complaints have been resolved.

GRAVEL TENDER

Tenders are to close on March 24th. Tender results and a recommendation will be available at the April 7th meeting. The tender ad was placed in Daily Commercial News and also on the Township Website.

CALCIUM CHLORIDE TENDER RESULTS

The Municipality of South Bruce looked after the joint tender for dust suppression again this year. The tender was called specifying 35% Calcium Chloride only. The 2009 bid from Dal Lee Dust Control is the same price as in 2007 and that is 10% higher than 2008. I would recommend the tender from Da Lee be accepted at \$0.176 per litre. We generally apply around 560,000 litres. This will have to be reduced this year in order to stay within the budget amount.

MOTION #085/09 **Moved by Versteeg** **Seconded by Scott**
 THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Public Works Co-ordinator to accept the tendered price of \$0.176 per litre for calcium chloride submitted by Da Lee Dust Control to the Municipality of South Bruce in response to the request for joint tender. CARRIED

TRUCK ROADEO

The Huron/Wellington Truck Rodeo is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th at the Howick Community Centre. I would like authorization for Public Works staff to participate. The cost is \$100.00 per driver.

MOTION #086/09 **Moved by Henhoeffter** **Seconded by Scott**
 THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the participation of Howick Township Public Works staff in the annual Truck Safety Rodeo being held at the Howick Community Centre on April 29, 2009, and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$100.00 ea. CARRIED

PRIVATE DRAIN

Ken & Sheila Rich are requesting permission to connect a basement drain into a roadside catch basin. I would recommend that they be allowed to do this work subject to:

- A backflow prevention device must be connected between the house and the catch basin;
- All work is at the expense of the owners of Lot 11, Plan 243, North Side of Mary Street, Village of Fordwich;
- All work is to be completed to the satisfaction of the Township of Howick;
- The owner is responsible for obtaining cable locates;
- Any future maintenance of this drain is the responsibility of the present or future owners of Lot 11, Plan 243, North Side of Mary Street, Village of Fordwich.

MOTION #087/09 **Moved by Yungblut** **Seconded by Scott**
 THAT Howick Township Council hereby gives authorization to the owners of Lot 11, Plan 243, north side of Mary Street, Village of Fordwich (Ken & Sheila Rich) to connect a basement drain to the roadside catch basin, subject to the following conditions:
 1. A backflow prevention device must be connected between the house and the catch basin;
 2. All work is at the expense of the owners of Lot 11, Plan 243, North Side of Mary Street, Village of Fordwich;
 3. All work is to be completed to the satisfaction of the Township of Howick;
 4. The owner is responsible for obtaining cable locates;
 5. Any future maintenance of this drain is the responsibility of the present or future owners of Lot 11, Plan 243, North Side of Mary Street, Village of Fordwich. CARRIED

BUILDING

BUILDING REPORT

Deputy Treasurer Weishar prepared the attached Report indicating building activity to date:
 7 Building Permits issued valued at \$282,500.00 and fees collected in the amount of \$1,515.33;
 1 Septic System Permit issued valued at \$11,000.00 with a fee of \$300.00.

DRAINAGE

BOLTON MUNICIPAL DRAIN

The second meeting with the landowners is scheduled for March 26th. The purpose of this meeting is to go over the final design, cost estimates and assessments before the Report is prepared. All landowners upstream of Lot 21, Concession 2 will be invited to the meeting since

they will be assessed for a portion of the costs associated with the improvement to the main channel. This includes landowners in North Perth.

It is Jeremy Taylor's plan to have the Report for the April 21st Council meeting unless Council think a special meeting should be scheduled.

Mr. Wilson advised that with over 60 properties involved in this drain, there is potential for a large turnout at the meeting. He believes that the outcome of the March 26th meeting may give an indication of whether or not there will be a large attendance, which would indicate that a Special Meeting would be more appropriate. Mr. Wilson was instructed to e-mail Council after the March 26th meeting so that a determination can be made in time to send out appropriate notification.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ATTON PROPERTY

Joyce Wilson is planning on attending the meeting while Gary Davidson and Bill and Pauline Atton deliver their presentation to Council. NB – See Delegation No. 1

OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT – Municipality of Morris-Turnberry

The Municipality of Morris-Turnberry has scheduled a public meeting on April 7th, to consider an amendment to their Official Plan. The purpose of this amendment is to add Consent policies in the plan that would permit the severance of 38 hectare parcels of land designated Natural Environment provided there is a suitable building location on both the severed and retained parcels. Details of the proposed amendment are included. In discussion with the County Planner, Mr. Wilson learned that there may be as many as 10 properties in Morris-Turnberry affected by this proposal.

Mr. Wilson was directed to respond that Howick Council has no objections or concerns.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLAN OF CONDOMINIUM

Information is enclosed regarding the proposed application from Howick Apartments Limited to convert an existing residential development from rental units to a standard plan of condominium.

Mr. Wilson advised that this is a notice only and a Planning Report will follow. He has requested information about such conversions from other local Building Departments.

LANDFILL

ANNUAL REPORT

R. J. Burnside is finalizing the 2008 Report for the Howick Landfill Site. A copy of the draft report is available. Draft conclusions and recommendations are included for your review.

Mr. Wilson added that Burnside is awaiting information from Waste Management about quantities of recycled materials.

OTHER

WROXETER DAM

I haven't received information from Steve Jackson, from MVCA regarding contact names for engineering services. Do you want me to send a Request For Proposal to several Engineering firms to see if there is any interest?

Mr. Wilson was asked to contact MVCA to see if that information is available, and if not, to send out Requests for Proposal to appropriate local firms.

ARENA INSPECTIONS

Three Proposals were received. Copies of proposals from RJ Burnside, Gamsby & Mannerow and BM Ross are included for your review. A copy our request is included in order for you to complete your review. Treasurer Mark, Clerk Johnson and I have completed our review of the proposals and are recommending the acceptance of the Burnside proposal.

MOTION #088/09

Moved by Versteeg

Seconded by Scott

THAT Howick Township Council accepts the proposal the perform structural inspections on the Howick Community Centre and the Belmore Community Centre from the firm of R.J. Burnside at the quote price of \$2,175.00 + GST.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE (Information only)

- OGRA HEADS UP ALERT – Information on the Cosmetic Pesticides Ban
- NEWS ARTICLE – Huron County Federation of Agriculture's annual MP/MPP Luncheon

CLOSED SESSION - LEGAL MATTER - SALE OF LAND

Information from Crawford, Mill and Davies regarding the Offer to Purchase for Township land was received this week. This should be discussed in closed session.

CLERKS REPORT

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

Huron County Accessibility ‘Customer Service Standard’ Policy and Training

Per attached information from Lynda Rotteau, Goderich Accessibility Co-ordinator, the County Human Resources Director can be available for the information session for Councils and Senior Staff (previously cancelled) on Wed. April 29th or Thurs. April 30th. There will be a cost for Mr. Michaud’s services (\$25.33 /afternoon or \$41.77 /evening. We are asked to respond with the number attending and state a preference for afternoon or evening.

Fire Protection & Prevention

1. Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

Politicians Seminar: Firefighting 101, May 3rd & 4th in Toronto, \$350.00

Reeve Demaray reported that at the Wingham Area Fire Board meeting, the Board agreed to register Station Chief Bill Doig to attend the full conference. Reeve Demaray suggested that Howick Council pay the registration and expenses for Deputy Chief Dale Edgar to attend.

MOTION #089/09 **Moved by Scott** **Seconded by Yungblut**
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes attendance of the Deputy Chief Dale Edgar at the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference in Toronto on May 2-6, 2009, and agrees to pay the prescribed registration fee of \$850.00 and any other costs associated with attendance at this event. CARRIED

2. Wingham Area Fire Department

Requesting sponsorship of the ‘Community Safety Net’ “*Fire Safety for Kids*” program

MOTION #090/09 **Moved by Scott** **Seconded by Yungblut**
THAT Howick Township Council authorizes payment of \$157.50 (GST incl.) in support of the “Community Safety Net” Fire Safety Program to provide funding for 10 students. CARRIED

Emergency Management

1. Emergency Management Program Committee

Minutes of the Committee meeting held March 10th enclosed. The following recommendations are presented for Council’s approval:

- That Reeve Demaray be authorized to attend the Basic Emergency Management (BEM) Course in Strathroy on April 7-9. Registration fee is \$125.00.

Reeve Demaray advised that he is unable to attend the training course.

- That CEMC Johnson and Administrative Assistant Bennett be authorized to attend the Registration & Inquiry Intake workshop in Ailsa Craig on Oct. 27th. Registration Fee \$31.80 ea.

MOTION #091/09 **Moved by Versteeg** **Seconded by Scott**
THAT Howick Township Council authorizes attendance of Clerk/CEMC Johnson and Administrative Assistant Bennett at the ‘Registration and Inquiry Intake’ workshop in Ailsa Craig on October 27, 2009, and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$31.80 each and any other costs associated with their attendance at this training workshop. CARRIED

- That the Township “Flood Emergency Plan” be submitted for adoption by Council.
(By-Law No. 09-2009 to adopt the Plan included)
The By-Law will be considered for enactment later on the agenda.

Plans for *Emergency Preparedness Week* (May 3-9) were discussed, and it was thought that Howick had committed to sponsor the Advance-Times publication for that event. Upon checking the records, I find that “*Emergency Preparedness Week*” was not included on the list. Would Council consider adding this sponsorship, the cost of which is \$37.00/single or \$62.00/double. This would serve as a ‘public education’ initiative for our program compliance. We will also be obtaining posters and pamphlets to be distributed around the Township.

MOTION #092/09 **Moved by Henhoeffler** **Seconded by Yungblut**
THAT Howick Township Council authorizes the purchase of sponsorship in the amount of \$37.00 in the Wingham Advance-Times April 29th “Emergency Preparedness” publication. CARRIED

2. CANWARN Training Sessions

Emergency Management Ontario schedule of CANWARN severe weather training sessions is attached. The closest venues are Waterloo on April 16th and Markdale on April 29th, both of which are evening sessions (7:00 pm). There is no fee for these workshops. Note and File.

CORRESPONDENCE Requiring Council Action (copies attached)

1. **Polaris Institute** – asking municipalities to take action to ban the sale of bottled water. Note and File.
2. **Child Find Ontario** – seeking Council's support in the search for missing children by proclaiming May as Missing Children's Month. Note and File.
3. **Huron Perth Children's Aid Society** – requesting a donation toward summer recreation activities. Note and File.

ADDENDA

4. **Burnside Client Appreciation Night** – Clerk Johnson requested confirmation of those planning to attend this event on March 25th.
5. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** – encouraging municipalities to participate in "Earth Hour" on Saturday, March 28th between 8:30 and 9:30 pm. Council instructed that the information be posted on the Township web-site encouraging residents to participate.

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS

1. **Greater Sudbury, City of** – asking all Ontario municipalities to lobby the Provincial government to pass legislation that will regulate and provide resources to monitor all retirement homes. Note and File.
2. **Middlesex Centre, Municipality of** – petitioning the Department of Oceans and Fisheries to review and shorten time frame for approval of drainage and bridge projects to allow a more reasonable construction season; and to delegate their authority in these matters to the Conservation Authorities. Note and File.

Closed Session Items

- Minutes of the closed session held March 3rd, 2008

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

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

MOTION #093/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of \$599,139.09 under date March 17, 2009 as cheques #7932 to #7972 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council meeting held March 17th, 2009.		
		CARRIED

BY-LAWS

By-Law No. 09-2009 – Adopt Emergency Flood Plan

MOTION #094/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott
THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 09-2009, being a by-law to adopt a Flood Emergency Plan for the Villages of Fordwich, Gorrie and Wroxeter in the Township of Howick.		
		CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Belmore Community Centre Board

Councillor Scott reported from the March 16th Board Meeting:

- Feb. accounts totaled \$19,238.00
- Repair of the brine pump cost \$6800.00
- Ice rental are declining, and contacts are being made to attract outside rentals
- If rental revenues do not improve, the Board may consider not making ice
- The curling ice will be continued
- The facility is being readied for the Maple Syrup Festival in April
- When weather permits, outside improvements will be undertaken
- Continue to receive bookings for functions such as 'Buck & Doe' and Wedding receptions

Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention (CHIP)

- Master Training day for ATV's is on April 4th
- Next meeting of CHIP is April 8th

County of Huron

Reeve Demaray reported:

- The issue of restructuring County Council was raised again, but did not get the 2/3 majority vote required to bring it back to the table.
- 911 PRISM Emergency Alerting system was introduced today.
- A 2-hour closed session was held regarding the Health Board to deal with the issue of information from closed session meetings being released to the public.

Huron County Farm and Home Safety - no report

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)

Councillor Versteeg reported the next meeting will be held March 18th, at which time the 2009 budget may be passed.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) - no report

MVCA Source Water Protection (SWP)

ADDENDUM

Deputy Reeve Yungblut provided a report from the March 6th Committee meeting

SVCA Source Water Protection (SWP) - no report

Wheels Away

Councillor Scott reported from the March meeting:

- The Board will be renting office space in downtown Wingham near the Post Office
- Will be hiring a part-time office staff person
- The name will be changed to 'Huron-Bruce Transit'
- Continuing to battle competitor transportation, which operates with volunteer drivers
- Attempting to get clarification about use of Gas Tax Funds – Councillor Henhoeffler called attention to an item in her OGRA/ROMA Conference Report from the “Minister’s Forum” which notes that a proposal will be going to the Minister of Finance regarding this matter.
- The Board will continue operations until the end of this year, and then “see what happens” thereafter.

Wingham Area Fire

The following information was circulated in the Council package:

- Minutes of the Feb. 11/09 Board Meeting
- Chief's Report for Feb./09
- Appraisal proposals for Wingham Fire Hall Property
- 2008 Financial Statements
- 2009 Draft Budget

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

- The proposed 2009 Budget (as circulated) was passed, in principle.
- A \$21,000.00 surplus was carried over and applied to 2009 operations.
- The Employer Appreciation Night will be held April 8th
- Repairs to the aerial ladder truck have been deferred – Reeve Demaray added that Station Chief Doig and Deputy Chief Edgar feel the repairs should proceed (for mutual aid purposes). It was noted that Minto and North Perth also have ladder trucks.
- The Board approved a 2.3% pay increase for fire personnel.
- The contract for dispatch was renewed.
- Morris-Turnberry provided the name of a firm that might provide a second appraisal of the Board's assets. The representative present at the meeting from Morris-Turnberry was unable to provide any information about the company and whether it is prepared to provide the service and when. Thus, it was difficult for the Board to support Morris-Turnberry in seeking services from this source since time is at a premium. The Board decided on a second option - to use the appraisal in hand, along with the data documented for PSAB (Public Service Accounting Board) for the vehicles and equipment. It was noted as well, that a motion had already been passed to purchase services to appraise the Wingham Fire Hall land and buildings. Morris-Turnberry is considering seeking legal advice about North Huron being required to provide two appraisals.

Motion to Extend the Council Meeting

MOTION #095/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council hereby moves to extend the March 17th, 2009 Regular Council Meeting beyond the curfew time of 11:00 pm in order to complete the business on the agenda.		
CARRIED		

Wingham Area Fire Board – Continued

Discussion moved to further consideration of Howick Township’s options for providing fire services upon dissolution of the Fire Agreement at the end of 2009.

Councillor Henhoeffler provided financial data (draft budgets) for the following options:

1. Outline of Operating Costs for 2010 to provide services via:
 - Contract with Minto, Contract with North Huron, plus Gorrie Fire Department @ \$200,000. Versus Contracts with Minto and North Huron only @ \$100,000. (per information obtained from Chairman of the Fire Board and North Huron Fire Chief)
 - Other “Possible Option” – Contract with North Huron for 1-year contract to provide same level of service as 2009 at same cost and with Gorrie Fire Station continuing operation. (purpose – to buy time for Howick to investigate options.)
2. Capital Equipment Forecast for 2010 – 2015:
 - Option A – Use Howick’s share of Board Equity to purchase trucks/equipment currently in Gorrie
 - Option B – Use cash share of equity to purchase new/used equipment.

Council questioned and/or disputed some of the information about the services and equipment listed on the proposals and the relating cost projections presented.

Treasurer Farinha presented and reviewed a ‘*Fire Services Study – Summary of Cash Flows*’ - a study that examines the costs, projected over the first five years and beyond, of operating a fire department in Howick. Mr. Farinha noted that the information contained therein must be “qualified” at this time, since the estimated numbers are subject to certain assumptions based on a complex situation that will be subject to constant change. Treasurer Farinha’s projections outline the following;

- incoming cash / equity;
- cash / expenses no longer paid out (ie. Wingham Fire Board levy and Fire Service calls);
- operating and capital cash / expenses to be paid out

The projections for net operating costs were derived using an average of operating costs from two existing local fire departments considered to be of similar size to that proposed for Howick. After much discussion of the information and options presented above, the following resolution was moved and seconded, and Councillor Henhoeffler requested a recorded vote on the resolution.

MOTION #096/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott
THAT Howick Township Council establishes its own fire department to be operational beginning Jan. 1, 2010.		
Record of Vote:		
Councillor Versteeg	Yes	
Councillor Henhoeffler	No	
Councillor Scott	Yes	
Deputy Reeve Yungblut	Yes	
Reeve Demaray	Yes	
CARRIED		

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION #097/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council at this time (11:55 pm) closes this portion of the March 17 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 personal and legal matters. CARRIED		

Matters Discussed in Closed Session

- Minutes of Closed Session held March 3rd 2009 (approved by Resolution #098/09)
- Legal Matter – Disposition of Land: Offer of Purchase

MOTION #099/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council now re-opens the March 3rd, 2009 Regular Council meeting to the public at this time (12:00 am). CARRIED		

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY (Copies included)

a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- Alert No. 09/015 – Cosmetic use of pesticides ban effective April 22, 2009
- FYI No. 09/002 – Municipalities encouraging use of tap water, limiting bottled water

b) Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) – annual conference May 6-8 in Cornwall; Seeking nominations for 2009 Executive.

c) Huron Planning & Development – Huron Manufacturing Association organizing bus tours of Huron High Schools – seeking municipalities to host students for lunch.

d) Maitland Conservation Foundation – 21st Annual Dinner & Auction in support of conservation education programs, being held in Brussels on April 17th.

CORRESPONDENCE forwarded via E-Mail (March 2-13, 2009) (No copies attached)

a) Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- FYI No. 09-004 – Ontarians Walking Now (OWN) project to focus on pedestrians by using planning process to create “walkable” communities
- AMO / LAS – Launch of ‘Municipal Energy Performance Benchmarking’ project
- AMO Urban Symposium – “Diverse City”, April 6-7 in Brampton

b) Ministry of Health/Long Term Care –

- Emergency Preparedness Planner newsletter – February issue
- Two conferences: March 30th – “Economic Uncertainty: Insights from the Risk Officer”
April 15th – “Climate Change in Ontario: Adaptation & Business Strategies”

c) Ministry of Natural Resources – Flood Management information

d) Ontario Ombudsman – ‘Watchdog’ e-newsletter – March 2009 edition

e) Wind Concerns Ontario Coalition – analysis and commentary on what the ‘Green Energy Act’ means for rural Ontario.

f) Rural Matters – e-news Volume 2009 Issue 8 – Final Report released “One Vision, Many Voices: How to Build a Sustainable Rural Canada”

g) South Western Ontario Clean Air Council – Inaugural Meeting March 11th in London.

h) Forum Magazine – Jan.-Feb. 2009 electronic version

i) Polaris Institute – promoting use of municipal tap water and phase out of bottled water.

j) Municipality of Morris-Turnberry – invitation to Public meeting March 19th re. Fire Services

k) County of Huron – holding News Conference March 17th re. purchase of Prism 911 Community Notification system.

l) Huron Business Development Corp.

- “Business and Work in Huron County” Newsletter – Feb. 2009
- Better Business Seminar March 11th “No Plan? No Point: Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail”
- Better Business Seminar March 17th “Your Profile on the Web”
- Schedule of 2009 Spring Sessions ‘Better Business Seminars’
- *Small Business Success Newsletter*, February, 2009
- ‘Dragon’s Den’ auditions in Kitchener March 19th and in London March 18th

m) Huron Tourism

- March Special at Pine Dale Motor Inn
- Invitation to attend information session March 11th at the Blyth Centre for the Arts
- Get a taste of spring at a Conservation Area near you
- Zephyr Fine Foods, Goderich, cooking class April 18th
- Sarnia-Lambton Tourism: Return of the Swans March 14-April 5
Ipperwash Maple Syrup Festival March 21/22 & March 28/29
- Foragers ‘Fresh & News’ March 5th and March 11th
- 2009 Artists’ Workshop Series
- South Huron Chamber of Commerce “Surfing the Stress Wave” workshop in Exeter Mar. 25th
- Family fun at the Livery in Goderich – Disney’s “Aladdin Jr.” March 12 – 14
- “Beyond the City Lights” Rural Tourism Conference May 25th in Drumbo

The above correspondence was noted. Action: File

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #100/09

Moved by Versteeg

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council now adjourns the March 17th, 2009 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council at 12:01 am, with Council to meet again at the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED

REEVE

CLERK