

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M.
AT THE HOWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

Attendance:

Council Members

Max Demaray, Reeve	Andrea Yungblut, Deputy Reeve
Linda Henhoeffter, Councillor	Randy Scott, Councillor
Art Versteeg, Councillor	

Staff

Michael Givens, Administrator-Treasurer	Ronna Lee Johnson, Clerk
Wray Wilson, Public Works Co-ordinator	Brad Watt, Recreation/Facilities Supervisor

Others

Reporter – Andrew Smith

Delegations – 7:05 pm Howick Agricultural Society: Bart Scherpenzeel, Norm Fairles
Howick Athletic Association: Kirk Hussey, Steve Espensen
Howick Figure Skating Club: Angela Meyer
Howick Old-timers Hockey: Murray Gilkinson
Maitland Saugeen Girls Hockey: Rob Wagner

Other Interested Persons: Bob Edgar; Marion Pfeffer; Aleida Murray; Glenn McMichael; Margaret Roland; Ann Darling; Sharon Douglas; Ron Douglas; Edna Fairles; Clara Gibson; Rosemary Rognvaldson, Bill Rognvaldson; Murray Donaldson; Carol Donaldson; Gordon McKeen; Lorraine Strong; Shirley Hart; Ethel McMichael; David Dinsmore, Jean Dinsmore; Lyle Foeter; Leone Foeter; Laurie Willits; Marianne Aeberhard; Lovina Ruttan; Wendell Stamper; Ruth Harding.

8:00 pm Joyce Wilson, Huron County Planner

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.

Councillor Henhoeffter declared a conflict regarding a complaint about a drainage problem at the soccer field at the Howick Community Centre (see PWC Report). Reason for declaration: Property owned by the Henhoeffers is part of the #26 Municipal Drain.

DELEGATIONS

1. Request for Early Installation of Ice Surface

Reeve Demaray prefaced the discussion advising that, at Mr. Scherpenzeel's request, the Reeve had met previously with representatives of the Howick Agricultural Society (Bob Edgar, Norm Fairles and Mr. Scherpenzeel) to discuss rumours they had heard. Reeve Demaray noted that apparently there is a lot of incorrect information circulating – Council has not voted and nothing has been decided regarding this issue. In the interest of informing everyone involved, Council has asked representatives of all interested groups to attend this meeting and give their input.

Reeve Demaray provided the following information regarding the conduct of the delegations:

In accordance with the Township's ***Procedural By-Law (No.05-2006) Sec.5.7*** "persons listed on the agenda, or otherwise approved to appear before Council, shall be allowed up to fifteen (15) minutes to speak regarding the issue. A group wishing to present, shall be permitted two (2) designated speakers, each of whom will be limited to not more than ten (10) minutes each."

Each group is asked to declare and introduce its designated speaker (or speakers);

Council will hear the presentations of all groups and speakers without interruption – the question period will follow;

A time keeper will be appointed;

Questions:

- Please raise your hand, stand when recognized by the Chair, and direct your question to the appropriate person (ie. Council, staff, other participant).
- Because time is limited, state your question clearly and to the point – please do not give a speech.

Speakers: (NB. Comments, questions, responses have been paraphrased)

Howick Agricultural Society

Mr. Scherpenzeel:

- Who will be paying for the early ice?
- The Fair Board does not want to change the date of the Fall Fair.
- They (Agricultural Society) have as much right to use the arena as the hockey groups.
- (Deputy Reeve) Andrea Yungblut has no right to be discussing this matter, and should declare a conflict of interest because she is President of the Skating Club.

Reeve Demaray interjected that it is not Mr. Scherpenzeel's place to determine if a Councillor has a conflict – it is up to Deputy Reeve Yungblut to make that decision.

- Last year the Junior Department had 383 entries in the Fair and 195 prizes were paid; 950 admissions were sold, and hundreds of free passes were given out to children.
- Fall Fairs that change the date of the event usually “go under”.
- If the Fair is held earlier there would be no entries for such things as field crops, sun-flowers, pumpkins, etc.

Mr. Fairles:

- I was around when this arena was started, and have the original contract between the Township and the Fair Board dated August, 1974, which grants the Agricultural Society the right to use the arena for the Fall Fair (specific terms were noted).
- The Agricultural Society donated \$25,000.00 toward the construction of the arena in return for the right to use it.
- Half the money for construction was raised by the community, and the other half was debentured. No government grants were available at that time.
- The date of the fair cannot be moved – that could result in interfering with other fairs, and judges are previously booked.

Howick Athletic Association

Mr. Hussey:

- The original intent of asking for early ice is to get the players on the ice sooner, so they are not behind the other teams in their leagues.
- Right now, coaches must go to other centres if they want to start early, and have to pay more for the ice time.
- Howick Athletic Association paid over \$1,200.00 last season for extra ice time elsewhere.
- Starting earlier will make Howick teams more competitive.
- Players will be better prepared and have more time to develop skating skills.
- It would allow time to run a power skate clinic.
- We have 9 teams of 110 – 120 players, and could use more than 27 hours of early ice. rentals
- Howick Athletic values the involvement of Saugeen-Maitland teams and hopes it will continue, as they contribute significant revenue to the Howick arena.

Steve Espensen:

- The Howick Athletic Association has discussed the idea of early ice in the past.
- It is certainly not their intent to harm the Fall Fair in any way.
- It would be beneficial to move the fair ahead to have nicer weather.
- Early ice would be a great benefit to the teams.
- We are planning a drive to increase participation in hockey.
- Howick Athletic fees are low. Beginner players pay a very low registration fee (\$50.00).
- The main focus is to get the kids involved.
- I participated in walkathons, etc. to raise money when the arena was built.

Howick Figure Skating Club

Angela Meyer:

- Would early ice be a higher cost?
- The Skating Club can't afford higher costs.
- Early ice would be a benefit to both the hockey and the skating club.

Howick Recreational Hockey (Old-timers)

Murray Gilkinson:

- The sooner the ice goes in the better.

Saugeen-Maitland Girls Hockey

Rob Wagner:

- Last season the league spent \$15,500. in Howick for ice time.
- They spent \$11,130. for early ice time at other arenas.
- Howick is the league's Home centre, where they play many teams from all over Ontario, and teams from the US.
- They would prefer to put all their money in Howick.
- They would be prepared to commit to 87.5 hours of early ice time.
- They will spend a total of about \$37,000. for ice rentals this year.
- Noted that Listowel puts boards on top of the ice surface (for Paddyfest) and wondered if the same could be done here for the Fair.

Questions (Q) / Responses (R) / Comments (C):

- Q. What date would early ice be installed?
R. That has not been determined. A lot of research needs to be done before a decision is made. That would be negotiable.
- Q. What will it cost to put ice in early, and will the equipment do the job?
R. We are in the process of getting the equipment checked and assessed to determine if it will be capable to support warm weather ice. Money has already been set aside in the equipment reserve to replace the compressor because it is over 30-years old.
- Q. Is the arena well-enough insulated to maintain early ice? We know electricity is expensive - can we afford the cost of the electricity for this convenience? Council needs to look at the total cost - not only to the Township, but environmentally. Can you guarantee that this will not be a foolish expenditure?
R. Preliminary costs, for hydro, staffing, supplies/service/maintenance, etc., are estimated at about \$10,000. We don't have an estimate of revenues – Saugeen Maitland has stated they would commit to additional hours. We would look for commitments from all users. There are a lot of "intangibles" to be considered.
- Q. What impact will this have on the insurance?
R. There would be no change.
- Q. Is this being pushed because of the Saugeen-Maitland teams?
R. No. The local users made the request. We have had many good comments about the improvements and should be proud of our facility and make good use of it. It sits empty for too long, so extending the ice time would keep it busy longer, and keep the kids busy longer. Last season, one of our young teams played their first game and lost 24-0. Our focus is on the kids and helping them be more competitive. We realize the Fair is for the kids too, and it is not our intent to hurt the Fair.
- C. The Howick Fair has been going on for over 140 years and should not be changed.
- C. Covering the ice for the Fair will not work. Many of the volunteers are older people. They work long days setting up, and do not want to work in a cold arena.
- C. My son plays hockey, and started early last year going to Wingham. In my opinion, the kids should be outside on beautiful September days, not in an arena. They start hockey in September and are done by the end of February. They should be starting in October and play through March.
R. That is the fault of the Ontario Hockey Association – we can't control that.
- Q. Doesn't the arena operate at a deficit every year?
R. Yes.
- C. No one said the Fall Fair should be moved. At Listowel's Paddyfest, once the boards are down on the ice, it is not cold in the building. The boards could probably be rented from Listowel, and we could get volunteers to lay them. Other arenas put ice in early, and I would think they wouldn't do it if it didn't pay.
- Q. Are the boards insulated?
R. No – they are plain ¾ inch plywood.
- Q. Would Listowel's boards fit our arena?
R. We may need to fit the outside sections.
- Q. Would Saugeen-Maitland look for another arena if they do not get early ice here?
R. We consider Howick to be our home ice. It is inconvenient to go elsewhere for early ice.

- C. I Want to clarify that Council has had no discussion about changing the date of the Fair.
- C. I recently attended a funeral held on the covered ice surface in Wingham, and after sitting for a few minutes my feet were cold. I doubt that the boards would be effective.
- Q. Who pays the cost of renting or purchasing the boards? If purchased, where would they be stored? They would only be used 2 – 3 days each year.
- C. In the country where I come from, heritage and traditions are cherished. The Howick Fair has been held on the first weekend in October for 148 years.
- C. It was a good decision to make the improvements to the arena. It is hoped that Council will consider all aspects of this issue, and it should be possible to achieve some compromise.
- Q. Why was the ice not in earlier last year?
- R. The ice was installed within the same time frame after the Fair as in other years, but last year the Fair was not over until October 8th, and Monday, October 9th was a holiday. After that it takes time to make the ice.
- C. If the date of the Fair was to be changed, the Agricultural Society would need at least a year's advance notice. The school year starts in September, so we would lose the participation of the kids because the teachers and students couldn't be ready. The whole book of entries and competitions would change. We don't want to see the community split on this issue. The Fair Board thanks Council for the support they have given.

Reeve Demaray stated, in summary, that Council will consider all the information and try to come up with a solution that hopefully will suit everyone. He added that in speaking with a resident of Teeswater, he was told that when Teeswater moved up the date of their Fair the attendance improved. He noted that Council will not be making any decisions at this meeting, and suggested that perhaps a Committee could be formed, comprised of Council representatives and members from the other interested organizations who could work together to come up with a solution. It was generally agreed that a Committee would be a good idea.

Reeve Demaray thanked everyone for their attendance and input, and at this time (7:52 pm) the first delegation speakers and other interested persons left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes of the March 6th Regular Council Meeting and the March 8th Special Meeting were circulated in the Council package.

Councillor Henhoeffler requested that the Minutes of the March 8th Special Meeting be corrected as follows:

Under "Other" - "Meeting with Howick Agricultural Society": that paragraph 2, line 1, be amended to read "*....Councillor Henhoeffler advised that Mr. Jim Doig had offered to inspect and assess the refrigeration equipment and arena building as to its capability to produce and maintain warm weather ice.*" Council approved the amendment.

MOTION #063/07	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, March 6 th , 2007 as presented, and the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Thursday, March 8 th , 2007, as corrected.		
		CARRIED

RECREATION/FACILITIES SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The following report as at March 15, 2007 was circulated in the Council package:

Arena:

- Health Unit was in for annual inspection of air quality in arena and also checked general items in concession and kitchen (cleanliness, thermometers in fridges/freezers).
- suggested possibly getting an air quality sensor for arena operations (measures carbon monoxide, etc.).
- everything with the exception of mirror has been replaced/repared in men's washroom after vandalism incident. No other updates on the incident at this time – waiting to hear from the OPP.
- roof top heating units continue to be a problem and the lack of heat was due to a burnt out transformer and blower motor (subcontractor is dealing with manufacturer for replacement parts under warranty). The library unit is now repaired but auditorium unit remains down at this time.
- last day of rentals will be April 1 but some part time staff hours will be required for first 2 weeks of Apr. to assist with cleanup and maintenance.
- lost another 7 hours of ice rentals on Mar. 5 & 6 due to weather and school closure.

Pool:

- job advertisements for part time pool staff will be in the local newspapers the last 2 weeks of March.

Parks:

- recommended Council look at hiring a playground inspection company to assess playground safety in each village. This would help support his previous general inspections done each spring, and the findings reported by the insurance company, which recommended changes that should be done to reduce liability. Mr. Watt added that he is not a licenced inspector, and suggested a couple of possibilities:

a) a staff member of North Huron Recreation is licenced; b) could arrange for an inspector through the PARCS organization. Mr. Watt was instructed to get a quote from PARCS.

Training:

Mr. Watt requested permission to attend a course at the annual ORFA training conference in Guelph, and to send Arena Attendant Jeremy Herdman to a course as well. Mr. Watt would be applying for 'Strategic Business Administration and Performance Measurement' and Jeremy's would be 'Ice Maintenance and Equipment Operator'.

The courses will be held at the University of Guelph and are running from April 29 to May 3. The course cost is \$630 each plus taxes and parking passes. Meals and travel would be extra. Rooms are available if that would be a preferred choice by council. Jeremy would be commuting from Fergus and Mr. Watt would be commuting from Palmerston.

MOTION #064/07 **Moved by Versteeg** **Seconded by Scott**
THAT Howick Township Council authorizes the Recreation/Facilities Supervisor to attend the ORFA training course '*Strategic Business Administration and Performance Measurement*', and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$630.00 plus tax and all other costs associated with his attendance at this training course. CARRIED

MOTION #065/07 **Moved by Versteeg** **Seconded by Yungblut**
THAT Howick Township Council authorizes Arena Assistant Jeremy Herdman to attend the ORFA training course '*Ice Maintenance and Equipment Operator*', and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$630.00 plus tax and all other costs associated with his attendance at this training course. CARRIED

DELEGATIONS - Continued

2. Official Plan / Zoning By-Law Review – Joyce Wilson, Huron County Planner

In Ms. Wilson's "Update" report (circulated in the Council package) responding to Council's interest in initiating the review, it was her recommendation that Council commence with the process for review of the Township's Official Plan and corresponding Zoning By-Law. The purpose of her report and visit was to discuss the potential process, scheduling, and issues to be addressed.

Following are potential changes to the Official Plan:

- Add: Table of Contents and Wind Energy polices (recommends using other models)
- Remove: 'Restricted Agriculture' designation (increased distances around settlement areas now addressed through new Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) tables)
- Review:
 - 'Extractive Resources' policies and mapping, and potential changes based on the recommendations of the County 'Aggregates Study' (Howick may want to use a different approach because of the volume of lands involved);
 - 'Institutional' uses in agricultural areas;
 - 2005 Provincial Policy Statement to ensure Howick Official Plan policies are consistent
- Consider Bill 51 (Planning Act) reforms regarding:
 - Completeness of Application checklist (this may be delegated to Clerk of Zoning Administrator)
 - Zoning "with conditions" policy (optional)
 - Exterior Design controls (optional) (need to establish guidelines)
 - Community Improvement policies (optional) (funding available for providing incentives)

Ms. Wilson added that in order to implement any of the above three optional controls, it is necessary to have policies in place. Such policies help to keep local decision-making local.

Following are potential changes to the Zoning By-Law:

- Mapping:
 - Use GIS to develop new Zoning By-Law mapping (one-map concept will be further explored and explained by County GIS staff). Web GIS will enable access on line for staff and public.
 - Consider how to display Conservation Authority 'Regulated Areas'
- Permit residences in 'Village Commercial' (VC1) zones as-of-right
- Remove 'Restricted Agriculture' (AG2) zone
- Permit residences (1 structure) containing two dwelling units within AG1 zones.

Ms. Wilson noted that a separate amendment will be done as soon as possible to incorporate the changes to the Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) regulations.

The following processes and scheduling were proposed:

Timeline	Process
March 20, 2007	Meet with Council to discuss potential schedule and obtain input on land use planning issues / concerns.
	<i>Gather information and prepare presentation</i>
Mid-June, 2007	Public Open House – present basic information, gather input from the public - Council members should be present. (Council should give thought to how best to advertise this)
	<i>Prepare draft documents and mapping based on Staff, Council, Public input.</i>
September, 2007	Meet with Council to present draft documents and mapping.
	<i>Make changes to documents as necessary</i>
November, 2007	Public Open House / Public Meeting – additional discussion on planning issues can occur, and review of draft mapping.
	<i>Make changes to documents as necessary</i>
Early December, 2007	Official Public Meeting for adoption of OPA and approval of ZBL.
January/February, 2008	PAPW Committee / County – for approval
?	OMB Appeals, if received

Ms. Wilson noted that the proposed process provides various opportunities for public input. The schedule sets out to have a revised Official Plan and Zoning By-Law by early 2008, barring appeals.

Reeve Demaray thanked Ms. Wilson for attending the meeting and bringing the information, and Ms. Wilson left the meeting at this time (8:26 pm).

PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR’S REPORT

The following report, as at March 16th, was circulated in the Council package:

2007 GRAVEL TENDER

Tenders for maintenance gravel are to be received at the office by 4:00 p.m. on March 20th. The following tenders were received, and were opened by the Reeve at this time:

Contractor	Start / Finish Date	Unit Price	Total Estimated Tender
Hanna & Hamilton	May 7 / May 30, 2007	\$4.70 per tonne	\$167,742.00
Donegan’s Haulage	May 14 / May 30	\$4.66 per tonne	\$154,428.00
Joe Kerr Ltd.	May 14 / May 30	\$4.69 per tonne	\$164,214.00

PWC Wilson will review the tender documents and check calculations to ensure correctness, and bring them back later in the meeting for a decision. (see end of PWC report)

DEAD TREE ON QUEEN STREET, WROXETER

At the last Council meeting a concern was expressed about a dead tree at a property in Wroxeter. Hydro One was called last fall about this tree, and has been called again about removing it.

TRAINING

Truck Roadeo - The annual Truck Safety Roadeo is scheduled for April 25th in Goderich. Permission was requested for all Public Works staff to be registered in this event. The cost for the one-day training is \$100.00 per person. The event starts at 8:00 am, and usually has about 100 drivers participating.

MOTION #066/07	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the participation of the 4 Public Works employees in the annual Truck Safety Roadeo being held on April 25 th in Goderich, and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$100.00 for each and any other costs associated with their attendance at this event. CARRIED		

OGRA Road School – Request to register Dean and Doug at Road School in Guelph the week of May 6-9. Dean would take the second year of the T.J. Mahony course, and Doug would take the Bridge and Culvert Management course. The cost is \$970 per person including accommodations and meals. Mr. Wilson added that the training is held at the University of Guelph, and because school is closed at that time of year the heat is shut off. Therefore, he is checking into other accommodations nearby, but the cost would be the same.

MOTION #-67/07	Moved by Versteeg	Seconded by Scott
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the enrolment of Public Works employees Dean Nicholson and Doug Chapman in OGRA Road School courses, and agrees to pay the enrolment fees of \$970.00 (includes accommodations and meals) for each and any other costs associated with their attendance at the courses. CARRIED		

BUILDING

BUILDER INFORMATION SESSIONS

Listowel – At the information session on the 2006 Building Code in Listowel, about 60-70 people were present. This was lower number than had registered but it was a little stormy on March the 5th. I believe it went over fairly well and would give builders and sub-contractors some notice about the new code.

Mildmay – The annual Builders Forum is scheduled for Thursday, March 22nd. A copy of the Agenda is enclosed. This event usually attracts between 150 and 200 contractors and other building practitioners (ie. designers; engineers; sub-trades)

LEGAL ISSUE

There is an issue that should be discussed at an in-camera session. Information has been enclosed separately.

ADDENDUM

OBOA Training

Mr. Wilson requested permission to attend the “Transition Training for Objective-Based 2006 Building Course being held in Hanover on April 17th – 18th.”

MOTION #068/07

Moved by Yungblut

Seconded by Scott

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Public Works Co-ordinator to attend the Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA) ‘*Transition Training for Objective-based 2006 Building Course*’ being held April 17 - 18, 2007 in Hanover, and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$200.00 and any other costs associated with his attendance at this training session.

CARRIED

DRAINAGE

NEW MUNICIPAL DRAIN REPORT

Dietrich Engineering plan to have the draft design and assessment information available within the next couple of weeks. A meeting will be scheduled with those involved and if there are no major concerns, the Report will be completed and filed at this office probably by mid April.

COMMUNITY CENTRE DRAINAGE ISSUE

At this time, Councillor Henhoeffler, who had declared a conflict of pecuniary interest regarding this issue, left the Council table and took a seat in the gallery.

The enclosed e-mail was received from Laurie Myer regarding a drainage issue on the soccer field at the Community Centre. I did reply to her and suggested that it would be discussed at this Council meeting. There is an outlet into the # 26 Municipal Drain. A Plan of the drain is enclosed. Mr. Wilson went on to explain that the cause may be due to disturbance or damage to tile drains in the area, and noted that there is also a problem with drainage along the east side of the facility. Mr. Wilson was instructed to have a drainage contractor assess the area, and provide an estimate of cost to repair.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MORRIS TURNBERRY - PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENMENT

This proposed amendment is to include the revised Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) criteria as developed by the Province last year and to delete sections of their by-law that would be redundant because of the changes.

Howick’s by-law should be amended similar to Morris-Turnberry’s. A Public Meeting regarding this amendment will coincide with a regular council meeting.

OFFICIAL PLAN/ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW

Mr. Wilson’s report noted that Joyce Wilson will be at the meeting to discuss the process and touch on some of the issues that we believe need to be addressed. Her Report is enclosed. She will also be providing information on the Zoning By-law Amendment dealing with MDS.

LANDFILL

E-WASTE

Notice was received on March 13th that effective immediately there will be a charge of \$10.50 to recycle monitors. A sign was placed at the landfill indicating that we no longer accept monitors in the E-waste recycling bin.

ANNUAL REPORT

R.J. Burnside should have a draft report to us shortly and will file the annual Report by the end of March.

OTHER

GENERATOR

The generator is still at Sommers in Tavistock. Apparently, a new engine has been ordered. We still have their portable unit. The contact person at Sommers was away last week. Mr. Wilson added that he spoke with Sommers today. A new motor will be installed, and the repairs are covered under the warranty. It should be completed and returned soon.

2007 GRAVEL TENDER

Mr. Wilson confirmed that all of the tender documents were correct.

MOTION #069/07

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Versteeg

THAT Howick Township Council hereby accepts the tender of Donegan's Haulage to supply, load, haul and place on Township roads approximately 30,000 tonnes of crushed type 'A' gravel at the tendered unit price of \$4.66 per tonne, for a total estimated tender price of \$154,428.00, and hereby authorizes the Reeve and the Administrator-Treasurer to sign the contract documents on behalf of the Township.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR'S ISSUES

Reeve Demaray reported that when he arrived at the Municipal Office on Friday evening to pick up his Council package, he discovered the outside front door unlocked. It was determined that the inner door was locked. Councillor Versteeg advised that he had picked his package up that evening as well, and that perhaps he had not properly secured the door afterward.

ADMINISTRATOR-TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Recreation - Early Ice Operating Costs

Letters were sent to the Howick Athletic Association, Howick Figure Skating Club, Saugeen Maitland Girls Hockey, Howick Old Timers and Howick Agricultural Society requesting that each of the groups send representatives to the Council meeting to discuss the "possibility" of installing the ice early.

Included for Council's information were comparatives of Operating Revenues and Expenditures at the Community Centre for the last 3 years.

Farm Credit Canada

The application for AgriSpirit funding to support the pool renovation was unsuccessful. A copy of the letter received from FCC was enclosed. Council asked Mr. Givens to attempt to get an answer as to why our application was denied.

Tangible Capital Assets

Mr. Givens and PWC Wilson met with Andy Ross and Peter Harrison from B.M. Ross last week and discussed the possibility of meeting inspection requirements on Township bridges while also getting a comprehensive inventory that could be utilized for Capital Asset reporting and Asset Management.

Mr. Givens believes the funding offered by the COMRIF Asset Management Program can be utilized to offset this cost. B.M. Ross was asked to move ahead with this, and Mr. Givens will be proceeding with the COMRIF 'Expression of Interest' application. Peter Harrison of B.M. Ross will assist him with the technical aspects of the application.

Huron County Child Abuse Prevention Committee

Dorothy Beuermann (Program Services Manager) and Marie Tyler (Executive Director) visited this office last week and provided information to be passed on to each of the councillors (included). They have requested the opportunity to attend a Council meeting as a delegation to discuss the services their organization provides. Clerk Johnson noted that a delegation is already scheduled for the April 3rd meeting. Council instructed Mr. Givens to arrange for the above presentation to be given at the April 17th meeting.

AMO Annual Conference

The annual conference will take place August 19th to 22nd in Ottawa. A list of some of the session topics are included in the package. Councillor Scott was unable to confirm at this time that he will be attending, but will let us know as soon as possible.

Organizational Review

Invitations for Proposals have been sent to the 3 firms discussed at last Council meeting. The deadline for response is March 30th.

Council members were reminded that this item was provided at last meeting and asked to bring any comments they wish to submit regarding the discussion paper.

ADDENDUM

2. **Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs** - letter and accompanying publication of 2007 edition of Ontario's Rural Plan Update – "*Strong Rural Communities: Working Together for Success ... and Getting Results*". Information in this 2007 Update addresses to some extent issues outlined in AMO's "*Rural-Northern Discussion Paper*" noted above.

MOTION #073/07

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Yungblut

WHEREAS Howick Township Council received and discussed the information contained in 'Alert' No. 07/008 from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) concerning the *Rural-Northern Plan Discussion Paper*, which addresses policy issues that directly impact rural and northern communities, AND WHEREAS Council is in agreement that the issues identified are very real concerns for small rural communities such as Howick Township, NOW THEREFORE Howick Township Council hereby endorses and supports the recommendations and solutions outlined and proposed in the *Rural-Northern Plan Discussion Paper*. CARRIED

3. **Ontario Forestry Coalition** – raising concerns about proposed "*Species at Risk*" legislation, and requesting Council to adopt and forward to numerous organizations, associations and politicians a resolution (sample supplied) outlining the perceived negative impacts of the legislation as proposed, and requesting that public hearings be held prior to second reading of the Bill. (listing of "Species at Risk in Ontario" available)

It was noted that the Bill received second reading today. Despite that fact, Council felt it would be appropriate to send a resolution supporting the position of the Ontario Forestry Coalition in hope that the Provincial government would get the message that the legislation is unworkable.

MOTION #074/07

Moved by Versteeg

Seconded by Yungblut

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario posted its framework for the development of species at risk legislation on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) web site on December 22, 2006 – the day most municipal offices closed until the new year, AND WHEREAS the currently proposed language to address species at risk could impose moratoriums affecting the livelihoods of more than 1.2 million people, and more than \$100 billion in economic activity, AND WHEREAS there are 12 Provincial and 5 Federal pieces of legislation including the Federal *Species At Risk Act* (SARA) and the Provincial '*Endangered Species Act, 1971*' that currently provide protection for some species, AND WHEREAS the new proposed *Ontario Species of Risk* legislation as written will:

- Add a new and costly layer of bureaucracy and regulatory burden
- Create an Act that will not achieve recovery of endangered species
- Impose an Act that will not be supported by the landowners, land stewards, employers, unions and developers
- Create a further disincentive to invest in Ontario
- Result in loss of jobs
- Result in loss of economic opportunity,

AND WHEREAS the currently proposed framework for a species at risk act is wrong for Ontario and will negatively impact the farming community, the forestry and mining sectors, the urban planners and homebuilders, fur managers, anglers and hunters, sand, stone and gravel industry, hydro electric developers, and many, many others, AND WHEREAS public hearings by a Legislative Committee prior to second reading adoption by the Ontario Legislature will allow for a full and proper debate on the principle of the Bill, not just how well the clauses meet the intent of the Act, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Howick write to the Premier of Ontario requesting that full public hearings be held for the proposed *Species at Risk Act*, and that the hearings be held prior to second reading by the Ontario Legislature, AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this resolution and letter to the Premier be forwarded to the following organizations and individuals noted on the listing attached hereto. CARRIED

A copy of the list of organizations and individuals to receive the resolution was included.

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS - none

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The listing of Accounts Payable was provided at the meeting.

MOTION #075/07**Moved by Scott****Seconded by Versteeg**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of **\$543,745.59** under date March 20, 2007 as cheques #5608 to #5653 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council Meeting held on March 20, 2007.

CARRIED**BY-LAWS****By-Law No. 09 – 2007 – Property Standards By-Law****MOTION #076/07****Moved by Versteeg****Seconded by Yungblut**

THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 09-2007, being the Property Standards By-law for the Township of Howick.

CARRIED**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Avon Maitland District School Board** – no report**Belmore Community Centre Board**

Councillor Scott reported from the March 19th meeting:

- The facility is booked solid for the next several months for Stag & Doe events (12-13 booked)
- The ice will be taken out on March 25th
- Awaiting receipt of prices for flooring
- The condenser is priced at about \$40,000.00 (received grant from Bell of \$25,000.00)
- Obtaining price quotes from Mr. Watt for purchase of a new scrubber
- Health Unit was in for inspection – the report was okay
- Hydro bill was \$5,800.00
- Gearing up now for the upcoming Maple Syrup Festival.

Councillor Scott asked Chief Building Official Wilson if wood 2 x 4 studs can be used for any construction in the facility. Mr. Wilson advised that the answer is no - materials must be inflammable.

County of Huron

Reeve Demaray reported:

- The County Budget meeting was held today in Wingham. Another will be held Thursday, March 22nd in Exeter.
- At present the budget increase sits at 7.68%, but they are working to get it down to 4.5%.
- It is hoped the Budget will be set by April 1st.
- One of the projects pulled from the budget was the Fordwich Road paving, but money has been put in reserve to do it in the future.
- Money set aside to go to the purchase of the CT scanner for Goderich Hospital will probably come out of the budget as well.
- Many budget dollars are going to bridge maintenance.
- Some discussion that “infrastructure” reserves and “equipment” reserves were duplications.

It was noted that the Township’s plans for paving in Fordwich will proceed this year even if the County project does not.

Huron County Farm & Safety

Councillor Versteeg provided the following report which was included in the Council package:

1. The Committee met on March 15, 2007 in Clinton, and approved the financial statements of 2006 and the budget for 2007. Letters requesting donations from municipalities will be sent out.
2. The big change is agriculture is now covered under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and consequently employers must provide training for their employees. They must also maintain records to show they have done so.
3. A seminar is being held on April 5, 2007 at the OMAFRA office in Clinton to help farmers understand the new requirements.
4. The committee will operate a booth at the Agriculture and Water Festival in Seaforth on April 11 & 12, 2007. Approximately 500 grade three and four students are expected.
5. The committee is once again running the Farm Safety Poster contest for elementary school students.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Councillor Versteeg provided the following report which was included in the Council package:

1. The MVCA hearing into the Solaris Project was held on March 14, 2007 in Wroxeter.
2. The Solaris Project is a twenty-four thousand square foot house proposed to be built at Amber Sands along Lake Huron in ACW.

3. The hear was to consider approving the building of a 180 meter revetment wall at the toe of the slope to prevent erosion and allow the house to sit closer to the top of the bluff.
4. The Board heard presentations from Ron Schwark of Conestoga – Rovers and Associates and Mark Kolber, the engineer who designed the proposed wall. They supported the project on behalf of the owners.
5. Dr. Robin Davidson-Arnott, who was retained by MVCA to provide an independent assessment, reported his findings and concerns about the project.
6. The Board moved into closed session to discuss the application.
7. After moving out-of-camera, the Chair of the Board informed the applicants that the Board was deferring its decision until it could obtain legal counsel, particularly regarding the perpetual maintenance agreement.

Road Watch Huron

The following were provided as addenda at the meeting:

- Message from Sherri Bezaire – asking for items for April 11th Agenda
- Minutes of February 7th meeting
- Meeting schedules and locations for 2007
- Membership List

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority – no report

Source Water Protection – next meeting March 28th

Wheels Away

Councillor Scott advised that the meeting scheduled for March 14th was cancelled and re-scheduled for March 28th.

Wingham Area Fire Board

The following were circulated in the Council package:

- Minutes of the February 14th Board meeting
- Chief’s Report and listing of fire calls for February
- Motion from Municipality of Morris-Turnberry opposing the proposed budget.

ADDENDUM:

The following was provided at the Council meeting:

- Revised 2007 Proposed Budget, and letter from the Board Secretary-Treasurer outlining the changes reflected in the revised budget and requesting Council’s response.

Upon reviewing the revised budget, Board Representative Yungblut noted the cost listed for ‘Dispatch Service’ was \$7,700.00, but information received at the last Board meeting indicated that the cost of this service was increasing to \$10,440.00. It was Council position that the proposed budget could not be approved until this discrepancy was rectified.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION #077/07	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott
<p>THAT Howick Township Council now closes this portion of the March 20th, 2007 Regular Council Meeting in accordance with the <i>Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239(2)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)</i> to deal with employee matters, employee negotiations, litigation matters, and/or land acquisition or land disposition.</p>		
CARRIED		

Matters discussed:

Litigation

At this time Deputy Reeve Yungblut declared a conflict of pecuniary interest in the matter at hand, as the subject property is in proximity to her property.

Council acknowledged receipt of and discussed a letter from legal Counsel concerning charges against a property owner under the Building Code Act.

Employee Matter

Council was advised that a member of senior management was considering another job offer.

MOTION #078/07	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
<p>THAT Howick Township Council now re-opens the March 20th, 2007 regular council meeting to the public.</p>		
CARRIED		

OTHER

Early Installation of Ice Surface

Further discussion occurred concerning input received from delegations and others at the meeting earlier. It was the consensus that the Agricultural Society does not want the date of the Fall Fair to be changed from the first weekend in October. Therefore, further research will be done into the feasibility of covering the ice surface during that weekend. Administrator-Treasurer Givens and Reeve Demaray will attempt to get more information about ways and means of doing this, and bring details to the next Council meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY (copies attached)

- a. **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - i. 'Alert' No. 07/010 – CRTC allows enhanced access to 911 information for public authorities responsible for providing emergency services to allow for telephone-based emergency alerts. Permission is subject to limitations, safeguards and constraints.
 - ii. 'Alert' No. 07/011 – COMRIF deadline for Asset Management Planning is March 31st.
 - iii. 'Alert' No. 07/012 – Update on HealthForce Ontario Recruitment Centre (also enclosed is information from HealthForce website outlining "Initiatives, Programs & Funding")
 - iv. 'Alert' No. 07/013 – MTO asks to be notified of any Accessible Parking Permits seized due to illegal use.
 - v. 'FYI' No. 07/002 – Invitation to attend a Forum of the *Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination* on March 29th in Windsor.
 - vi. 'FYI' No. 07/003 – Invitation to the Technology Transfer Forum for Drinking Water and Sewage Works being held in Toronto on March 26th.
- b. **Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition** – PC Party Leader John Tory's speech to the Belleville Chamber of Commerce – Farmers, Business people and other taxpayers deserve "Respect".
- c. **Accessibility News**
 - i. March 10, 2007 Update
 - ii. Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario: Human Rights complaint filed against City of Kawartha Lakes by vision impaired resident who can't access the city's website.
 - iii. Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario: Considering possibility of adding a "Meeting Place" feature to the website.
- d. **Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks & Treasurers (AMCTO)**
 - i. Legislative Update March 15, 2007
- e. **Ontario Provincial Police – Huron Detachment** – implementing a 'Traffic Safety Initiative' in Huron County. Three Officers will provide full-time enforcement using radar and roadside screening devices on every patrol.
- f. **County of Huron** – to launch "Ambassador Program" this spring to be "the hub for such groups as medical recruitment, tourism, and new business opportunities, to name a few".
- g. **Huron Tourism Association**
 - i. **Better Business Seminars:** March 22 – Quickbooks
March 28 – The Taxman Cometh
 - ii. **Women's Lifestyle Show** – March 17 & 18 at Western Fair Canada Building
- h. **Local Authority Services (LAS) "newsflash"**
 - i. Electricity Program members – Evolution of municipal program; Streetlight options; Understanding Regulated Price Plan (RPP) Variance Settlement Amount.
 - ii. Natural Gas Program members – LAS Hedging Practices.
- i. **Huron County Museum** – invitation to attend 'Volunteer Appreciation Afternoon' at the Museum on April 17th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm. RSVP by April 10th.

The above correspondence was noted. Action: File.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #079/07

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council now adjourns the March 20th, 2007 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council at 11:00 p.m. with Council to meet again at the Regular Meeting scheduled for April 3rd, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED

REEVE

CLERK