

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd, 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

Delegations

Joyce Wilson, Denise Carnochan – Huron County Planners

Others

John Hohenadel; Bill & Pauline Atton

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Demaray called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Reeve noted that if any member wished to declare a pecuniary interest regarding any matter on the agenda, it could be done at this time, when the matter arises, or both.
None declared at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A copy of draft Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held February 17th was circulated in the Council package.

MOTION #062/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 17th, 2009, as circulated.		CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

Joyce Wilson, Huron County Planner - Official Plan & Zoning By-Law Review

Ms. Wilson introduced Denise Carnochan, who will replace her as Howick's Planner as Ms. Wilson has been seconded to the Town of Goderich for the next 12 months. Ms. Carnochan will assume the duties of the review process for Howick's Official Plan and Zoning By-Law.

Ms. Wilson provided a summary of previously identified Official Plan and Zoning By-Law issues that remain to be resolved, as follows:

Mapping (Official Plan & Zoning By-law):

1. ***Natural Environment Zones*** – In conversations with MVCA and SVCA staff, it was suggested that for information and clarification purposes, certain natural environment features be distinguished through the Zoning By-law. No development can be considered on provincially significant wetlands and ANSIs (Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest), while other natural environment features, such as woodlands and adjacent lands (where required) may permit limited development subject to a supportive Environmental Impact Study and a rezoning.

It is recommended that the Natural Environment zones in the Zoning By-law be separated into 2 separate zones:

- *The NE1 zone would include Provincially significant wetlands and ANSIs, which would not permit consideration for any potential development, and*

- *The NE2 zone would include all other natural environment lands and features, including woodlands and adjacent lands, where appropriate.*

Action / Decision: Council agreed with and accepted the recommendations.

2. **Rural floodplain mapping** – SVCA has identified concerns that rural floodplains are not depicted within the Zoning By-law mapping.

Ms. Wilson noted that SVCA has rural floodplain mapping, but MVCA does not. For the most part, floodplain areas are shown as ‘natural environment’ areas on the key maps.

It is recommended that, where available, rural floodplains are shown on the Zoning Key Maps as Conservation Authority Notification Areas.

Action / Decision: Council agreed with and accepted the recommendation.

3. **Belmore** – at a previous meeting with Council, there was discussion regarding removing the Settlement designation of the undeveloped lands within Belmore (westerly portion of the hamlet), as the majority of this area contains Natural Environment features that could not be developed on.

It is recommended that the Settlement designation of the undeveloped area of Belmore containing significant natural features be removed and re-designated to Natural Environment and Agriculture, and that the landowner be notified of the proposed change.

Discussion centered on the possibility of “swapping” the acres designated ‘Settlement’ and relocating them to an area more suitable for development. Ms. Wilson cautioned that it is difficult to meet the provincial criteria that might permit this action.

Action / Decision: Only that area within the undeveloped ‘Settlement’ lands showing ‘Natural Environment’ features will be removed from the ‘Settlement’ designation.

4. **Atton Property** (S Pt Lot 26, E Pt Lot 27 and N Pt Lot 28, Concession B) – The owners have requested that the development designation and zoning be extended on their property to include an additional 2.4 to 4.8 ha (6 – 12 acres) within the Settlement boundary of Wroxeter.

It is recommended that in the absence of a comprehensive review justifying the need for additional designated lands for residential purposes [Provincial Policy requirement], that the settlement boundary of Wroxeter remain as what is proposed on the December 18/08 draft Official Plan ‘Schedule H’ and ‘Wroxeter Main’ Zoning By-law key map, and that the landowner be notified.

Action / Decision: Mr. & Mrs. Atton, whose Planning Consultant has been away, requested a future meeting with Council to further discuss the matter with the Consultant. Therefore, a decision on this issue will be deferred until after that meeting.

5. **Richard Pepler & Barbara MacGregor Property** (Part Lot 1, North Part Lot 2, Concession 8) – The owners have requested that the zoning of this property be changed to an AG4 zone. The property is currently zoned AG4-8, which permits a recreational residence and guest cabin.

It is recommended that the zoning of the subject property on Key Map SW be changed from AG4-8 to AG4, and that the landowner be notified.

Action / Decision: Council agreed with and accepted the recommendation.

6. **Heather Inglis Property** (Lot 1, Plan 163 AND Lot 2, Pt Lots 1 & 2 S/S Culross St., Plan 163) – The owner has requested that the zoning of these parcels be changed from Institutional (I1) and Village Commercial (VC1) to Village Residential (VR1). The proposed new VC1 zone permits a “converted commercial dwelling units”; therefore, the existing building could be converted for up to three dwelling units.

It is recommended that:

- *the zoning of the I1 parcel be changed to VC1, and the VC1 property not be changed to VR1 since the proposed new Zoning By-law will permit the building to be converted for residential purposes,*
- *the zone change should be subject to confirmation that the existing I1 parcel is merged on title with the VC1 parcel, and*
- *the landowner be notified.*

Action / Decision: Council agreed with the recommendations, conditional that it be clarified with the owner that retaining the VC1 designation allows up to 3 dwelling units in the existing building, but restricts further expansion, and that the owner confirms that this is acceptable.

Official Plan Text Changes:

7. **Wind Energy policies** – Recent Provincial announcements have been made regarding the Green Energy Act. It appears that through this new legislation, large scale wind energy facilities will be regulated entirely through Provincial permitting processes, and Municipal Official Plan policies and Zoning provisions will not apply. Also, some concern was raised at the Special Meeting regarding permitting small-scale turbines within Settlement Areas.

It is recommended that the Official Plan policies and Zone provisions related to large-scale wind energy facilities be deferred or removed, and that further discussions take place with Council regarding the small scale provisions and policies.

Action / Decision: Remove provisions relating to commercial, large-scale wind energy facilities, and retain the policies and provisions allowing development of small-scale units.

8. **Affordable Housing policies** – The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) requires that upper tier municipalities (County or Region) develop affordability targets for local municipalities. The County is currently undergoing a 5-year review to update its Official Plan, which includes background population projection work and the development of targets.

It is recommended that the Howick Official Plan policies relating to affordability targets be deferred until the County OP is finalized.

Action / Decision: Council agreed with and accepted the recommendation.

9. **Surplus Dwelling Severance policies** – The PPS and County OP allow local municipalities to choose whether or not to permit surplus dwelling severances. Significant discussion has occurred with members of the public and Council regarding this issue, including both support and concern for a policy shift in this area. Also, as part of the County Official Plan process, staff is developing County-wide surplus dwelling severance policies for County Council's consideration.

Based on the agricultural make-up of Howick Township, it is recommended that surplus dwelling severance policies not be included within the Official Plan. However, should Council choose to include these policies, it is recommended that they be deferred until the County OP is finalized (in order to ensure consistency with the County Official Plan).

Action / Decision: Council disagreed with the recommendation, and directed that policies for permitting surplus dwelling severances be included in the Township's Official Plan.

10. **Natural Environment Policies** – see item #1.

Following a meeting with Nathan Garland, Ecologist/Planner with MVCA, it is recommended that natural environment definitions be updated to be consistent with the PPS and other legislation, and that Section 3.D. of the OP be modified to clarify which natural environment areas (i.e. features) can be considered for rezoning to permit limited development.

Action / Decision: Council agreed with and accepted the recommendation.

Zoning By-law Changes:

11. **Swimming Pools** – Council previously discussed removing all references to swimming pools within the Zoning By-law. Staff has indicated concern with having no provisions in place to regulate this use and its location on a property.

It is recommended that Council pass a separate swimming pool by-law to address screening / fencing, and, that swimming pool references remain in the Zoning By-law, particularly with reference to its location on the property.

Action / Decision: Council agreed with and accepted the recommendation.

12. **Natural Environment zones & provisions** – see item #1 & 10.

It is recommended that:

- natural environment definitions be added or updated where required,
- two natural environment zones be established,
- floodplain provisions be added, and

- section 3.34 (setbacks of buildings & structures) be updated.

Action / Decision: Council agreed with and accepted the recommendation.

13. **Wind energy provisions** – see item #7.

14. **Other items** (whether proposed mapping or text changes) may arise in discussions with Council, in advance of, or at, the Public Open House and Public meeting.

- *Truck or Coach Bodies (Section 3.25)* – clarified that Section 3.25.2 has been amended to include ‘shipping containers’

OTHERS CONSULTED

The preparation of the draft OP and ZBL documents, and associated recommendations, are a result of:

- Achieving conformity with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)
- Public comment and discussion at the initial Public Meeting in June 2007 and December 2008,
- Individual letters and/or property requests (Bill & Pauline Atton, Max Hardinger, Richard Peppler, Heather Inglis)
- Discussions with Municipal Staff and Council, and
- Conversations with MVCA and SVCA Staff.

NEXT STEPS

1. Planning & Development Department Staff, with the input of Municipal and MVCA staff, will make revisions to the text and mapping for both the Official Plan and Zoning By-law
2. Members of the public who have submitted written requests to the Township, as well as any property owner whose land will be significantly impacted as a result of the proposed new mapping, will be individually notified (by the Planning Dept.) of the decision of Council, or of any proposed changes.
3. Hold Public Open House (suggestion of a late afternoon meeting) – date to be determined.
4. Make revisions to documents and mapping, as required.
5. Hold Statutory Public Meeting.
6. Township Council to adopt Official Plan 5-year review amendment and approve Zoning By-law amendment.
7. Official Plan amendment forwarded to County for approval.
8. Ontario Municipal Board hearing, if appeals received.

Reeve Demaray asked Mr. Hohenadel if he wished to comment. Mr. Hohnadel expressed the opinion that with each Official Plan review, municipalities “lose ground” as more regulations and restrictions are imposed. He cited a specific example of a bridge construction project that waded through a 5-year approval process, and when construction was finally underway, protests from an environmental group brought it to a halt. Regarding small-scale wind energy, he believes that the set-backs imposed will not allow such units to be erected in any village.

Reeve Demaray thanked the County Planners, and they and the Attons left the meeting at this time (7:18 pm).

COUNCILLORS’ ISSUES

Council/Staff Summer Social

Councillor Versteeg advised that July 9th has been set tentatively for the event.

Howick-Carrick Boundary Road

Councillor Scott questioned PWC Wilson regarding winter maintenance of the boundary road between McIntosh and Clifford, advising that he had received a call regarding a motor vehicle accident that occurred on that road last weekend due to icy conditions. He also noted that prior to that time, he was on the same road and encountered poor conditions and snow drifts. Mr. Wilson confirmed that Howick Township is responsible for winter maintenance on that boundary, and reported when patrols had occurred on the days in question. He noted that the OPP had called him to the scene of the accident later that day, and he observed that all other paved roads in the vicinity were in clean and bare condition and that the ice on that part of the boundary road was unusual, which may be attributed to the weather at the time when mild temperatures turned very suddenly to freezing conditions.

ADDENDUM

OGRA / ROMA Conference

Councillor Versteeg provided a written report outlining highlights of his attendance at the conference, listing the speakers heard and workshops attended.

TREASURER’S REPORT

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

Fire Services

Correspondence is attached from Reeve Vincent [of North Huron] responding to our request for a quote for fire services for Howick.

Treasurer Farinha noted that the letter failed to provide the financial information requested, and he subsequently spoke with the North Huron Treasurer, who advised that the Chief Administrative Officer was dealing with the matter.

The letter did answer Howick’s question about operation of the satellite fire station in Gorrie. The following is quoted verbatim from Reeve Vincent’s response:

“... I am able to provide the following information that has been finalized from our perspective. Firstly, the Township of North Huron has determined that it is not feasible for North Huron to provide service from the Gorrie Station due to the unique situation of the station being located in another municipality. In addition to certain financial and logistical challenges that would almost certainly appear should the Gorrie Station fall under North Huron’s control, the Township of North Huron feels it is unlikely that the Township of Howick wants another Council making decisions regarding public infrastructure within its borders.”

Discussion followed about the contents of the letter and the options for Howick from this point. Council members were generally in agreement that Howick cannot afford to lose the Gorrie Fire Station and firefighters.

Federal Funding for Summer Employment

We are submitting a claim to the Federal Government for summer employment grant for 5 pool staff. Last year we claimed for 4 people and received just over \$2K

Morris Turnberry Council Remuneration & Expenses

Morris Turnberry has 7 Councillors with expenditures totaling \$99,134 last year. Howick has 5 Councillors and spent \$52,040 last year. The average expense per Councillor is \$14,162 for Morris-Turnberry versus \$10,408 for Howick. Our Council members spend 27% less in this category.

Letter from Fared Amin Deputy Minister of MMAH

Attached is correspondence from the Deputy Minister asking Municipalities to demonstrate a prudent and balanced approach in management of public funds.

Assessment Adjustments Between Tax Classes

Schedule of changes between tax classes is attached. There is no change in the assessment. It was explained that the changes listed are to correct assessments that for a variety of reasons have reverted from ‘Farmland’ (25% tax) to ‘Residential’ (100% tax) class, and have now been amended through Minutes of Settlement to return the assessment to ‘Farmland’.

MOTION #063/09	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Scott	
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Treasurer to apply revisions to the assessment of, and process property tax adjustments for the affected properties as listed on Schedule ‘A’ attached hereto, said Schedule reflecting Minutes of Settlement to correct Farmland assessments reverted to Residential:			
	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Net Adjutment</u>
For the Year 2008	\$902,600.00	\$902,600.00	--0-- CARRIED

Meeting with Treasurer of Belmore Community Centre

On Feb 27th/ 09 Brenda and I met with Treasurer Evelyn Dickson and discussed BCC financial and accounting procedures and their implications on the Township and the Community Centre. The meeting went well and Evelyn noted the procedural adjustments that would be helpful. Evelyn, with BCC Board input, will be pursuing outstanding receivables with a follow up letter which has already been drafted. The meeting went well and we advised Evelyn we were here to help and she should not hesitate to call for assistance or to discuss ideas and issues. We will have a follow up meeting with Evelyn in another month or so.

ADDENDA

2008 Audit

The auditors are here this week and all is going well. They will be away a couple of days, and will return to complete the task on Friday.

Draft 2009 Budget

Treasurer Farinha distributed a draft 2009 Budget information package for Council members and staff to review in preparation for the next Council meeting

PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The following report as at February 27th was circulated in the Council package:

ROADS

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF OPERATIONS

- Snow and ice removal
- Replacing and straightening signs
- Tree cutting/trimming as weather permits

FORDWICH STREET RE-CONSTRUCTION

Tenders closed on February 22nd and 5 tenders were received. A letter and summary from John Kerr, P.Eng., is enclosed. The construction estimate for our portion of the work was \$649,000 plus GST. As you can see, John Kerr is recommending acceptance of the bid from Hanna and Hamilton Construction Co. Ltd. I am also recommending acceptance of their bid.

MOTION #064/09 **Moved by Scott** **Seconded by Yungblut**
 THAT Howick Township Council accepts the tendered bid price of \$574,618.66 plus GST (PST included in price) and hereby awards the contract to Hanna and Hamilton Construction Co. Ltd. of Listowel to reconstruct Old Mill Street and Louisa Street East and West in the Village of Fordwich, and hereby authorizes the Reeve and the Clerk to sign the contract documents on behalf of the Corporation. CARRIED

OGRA/ROMA CONFERENCE

The sessions I attended were:

- Premier Dalton McGuinty's speech
- Waste Diversion, Blue Box Program and Review of the Act
- Municipal Drains – A Plug for the Environment
- The Trade Show
- Association of Road Supervisors Annual Meeting
- Ministers' Forum
- Ontario Government Reception
- Michael Smither Memorial Question Box Panel
- Deputy Premier, George Smitherman's speech

Mr. Wilson added that he had provided the following comments on the Conference Evaluation:

- Lacked technical content for Road Managers
- Sometimes difficult to access desired workshops, which are presented concurrently

ADDENDUM

2009 Maintenance Gravel

In the absence of 2009 budget approval, PWC Wilson requested authorization to call tenders for this year's maintenance gravel.

MOTION #065/09 **Moved by Scott** **Seconded by Henhoeffter**
 THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes and instructs the Public Works Co-ordinator to call tenders for approximately 28,500 tonnes of maintenance gravel for Township roads. CARRIED

BUILDING

CONSULTATION PROCESS for WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES

Information from the law firm of Thomson Rogers was sent out in the last Council package. They have been retained by Bell Mobility, Rogers Wireless and TELUS Mobility to act on their behalf to enter into an agreement for the acceptance of a protocol for siting towers. I was instructed to discuss this with other municipalities and report back to Council.

From my discussions with other building departments in the Bruce, Grey, Huron, Perth and Wellington areas, it sounds like most municipalities are adopting the generic protocol. I believe the Township should implement a fee for receiving and reviewing the documentation provided by the proponent. I would suggest that we adopt the generic protocol and charge a \$500.00 fee.

Council concurred with the recommendations, and an authorizing by-law will be prepared for next meeting.

DRAINAGE - NO REPORT

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PLANNER CHANGE (Unofficial)

Joyce Wilson has advised me that she has taken a 1-year secondment with the Town of Goderich. She will remain employed by the County but Goderich will pay a portion of her salary. The new Planner assigned to Howick is Denise Carnochan who is a Master's student with the department.

OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT & ZONING BY-LAW REVIEW

Joyce Wilson is now scheduled to attend the March 3rd meeting to present the final draft amendments. I believe the new Green Energy Act will remove any regulations that we may have considered regarding wind tower siting from our Plan and By-law. The details are not out on this as yet but Scott Tousaw suggested at the OGRA/ROMA Conference that municipalities may wish to remove those items from plans that are currently under development or review.

OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT – County of Perth

Information is enclosed regarding the proposed Official Plan Amendment for Perth County. Mr. Wilson explained that the purpose of the amendment is to change the policies relating to Secondary Farm Occupation uses. Mr. Wilson will advise that Howick Council has no objections or concerns with the amendment.

LANDFILL - NO REPORT

OTHER

WROXETER DAM

Steve Jackson from MVCA declined our request for Engineering Services. He is going to contact other Conservation Authorities to see if he can get some contact names.

ARENA INSPECTIONS

A Request For Proposal was sent out to RJ Burnside, Dawley Engineering, Gamsby and Mannerow, and BM Ross. Their proposals are to be returned by March 12th.

GRASS CUTTING & TRIMMING – Villages

Hank Haasnoot is willing to cut grass again this year for the same price as last year and with the same fuel surcharge in effect. Is this acceptable to Council?

MOTION #066/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council hereby accepts the Agreement with Aeration Plus of Fordwich for the provision of Grass Cutting services to the Township of Howick for the 2009 season. Said Agreement provides for maintaining the same properties at the same price per property as was paid in the 2008 season, and includes the same fuel surcharge provision whereby the Township agrees to pay Aeration Plus an additional flat fee of \$10.00 for each \$0.10 increase in fuel price when the cost of fuel exceeds the benchmark price of \$1.00 per litre.		
		CARRIED

CLERKS REPORT

The following report as at February 27th and copies of supporting information were circulated in the Council package:

Councillor Training Sessions

1. AMO Municipal Councillor Training:

- o *Saturday Series*, April 25th in Owen Sound, \$367.50
- o *Combined Program*, May 7th in Owen Sound, \$472.50
- o *Module 5 Programme*, May 8th in Owen Sound, \$472.50

Reeve Demaray will advise at the next meeting if he wishes to attend the 'Module 5' session.

2. AMO Media Relations Training:

- o *General Media Relations*, Mar. 24th in Goderich, \$367.50
- o *Intensive Media Relations*, Mar. 18th In London, \$367.50
- o *Media Interview Coaching*, Mar. 19th in London, \$420.00

It was noted that 'Media' training was included in previous Councillor training sessions.

3. Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

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

This item is to be brought back to the next meeting. Howick representatives on the Fire Board will request at the next Board meeting that Station Chief Bill Doig be permitted to attend the Fire Chiefs Conference.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

1. **AMO Alert No. 09/026** – Government releases draft *Employment Standard* under the AODA specifying requirements to prevent and remove barriers in employment and the workplace for people with disabilities (see Summary Information attached). Public review and comment period is Feb. 18th to April 15th. AMO will be review and respond with municipal concerns and issues. The Clerk noted that recent information from the Ministry advises that the comment period has been extended to May 22nd.

2. **Huron AODA Working Group**

The Working Group met on Feb. 24th, and the following matters were discussed:

- o Proposal to revise the Huron Joint Accessibility Plan to reflect that the objective of the participating municipalities for 2009 will be to meet the requirements of the Provincial “*Customer Service Standard*”. This proposal will be presented to the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) meeting on March 9th.
- o The Terms of Reference for the Working Group will be reviewed and discussed at the HCAAC March meeting.
- o The ‘Customer Service’ information meeting for Councillors and Staff, planned for Feb. 26th and subsequently cancelled, is to be rescheduled for Wed., April 22nd or Fri., April 24th at 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm at the Clinton Town Hall. Please indicate your preference.

ADDENDUM

The HCAAC is requesting copies of all site/building plans that they have reviewed. This includes the Howick Community Pool project. PWC Wilson advised that he is able to e-mail a copy of the plan.

It was noted that the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)* and the onerous and costly requirements being imposed, was the subject of much discussion at the OGRA/ROMA conference.

Request for Donation

The Howick Curling Club requests the donation of 1 set of Howick History Books for their annual bonspiel.

MOTION #067/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffer
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the donation of one set of history books “ <i>The Lines of Howick</i> ” to the Howick Curling Club for the annual bonspiel.		
		CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE Requiring Council Action (copies attached)

1. **Huron County Municipal Officers Association** – invitation to attend the Annual Meeting on April 17th at the Belmore Community Centre. Registration \$25.00.

MOTION #068/09	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffer
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes attendance of the following at the Annual Meeting of the Huron County Municipal Officers Association, and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$25.00 for each and any other costs associated with attendance at this event: Reeve Demary; Councillors Henhoeffer and Versteeg; Treasurer Farinha; PWC Wilson; Deputy Reeve Yungblut.		
		CARRIED

2. **Township of North Huron** – invitation to send two representatives to an Economic Development meeting to be held on March 5th at 7:00 pm in Blyth.

MOTION #069/09	Moved by Versteeg	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council hereby appoints the following representatives to attend the North Huron Marketing and Economic Development planning meeting to be held March 5 th at 7:00 pm in Blyth, and agrees to pay the costs associated with attendance at this meeting:		
		CARRIED

3. **Beverly Stevenson, Ministry of Natural Resources** – seeking volunteers to participate on a Committee to resolve concerns with ATV trails in Huron County.

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS

1. **Cambridge, City of** – petitioning the Ontario Government to require all public schools and libraries to install internet filtering software on computers to avoid viewing of sites with inappropriate, explicit sexual content.

MOTION #070/09**Moved by Scott****Seconded by Yungblut**

THAT Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting the resolution from the City of Cambridge petitioning the Ontario Government to require that all public schools and libraries install internet filtering software on computers to avoid viewing of sites with inappropriate, explicit sexual content, and Howick Council hereby resolves to support the resolution from the City of Cambridge.

CARRIED

ADDENDA

Huron County Clerks & Treasurers Association

A copy of the agenda for the upcoming meeting was provided for information, and Clerk Johnson requested authorization to attend this meeting.

MOTION #071/09**Moved by Versteeg****Seconded by Henhoeffler**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the Clerk to attend the Huron County Clerks and Treasurers Association meeting in South Huron on Friday, March 6th, and agrees to pay the cost associated with attendance at this event.

CARRIED

Gorrie Village Management

Clerk Johnson reported that Mr. Shaw had contacted her on Friday to advise that he has been unable to find anyone interested in joining the Village Management Committee. An article was then forwarded to Marion Feldskov requesting that the information be included in her March issue of "What's Happening in Howick". It was felt this method of communication would reach more residents. Council suggested that a poster also be placed in the Gorrie Post Office, and it was agreed that if the position remains vacant, further action will be required.

Closed Session Items

- Minutes of the closed session held February 3rd, 2008
- By-Law Enforcement Officer's Report
- Legal Matter

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The listing of Accounts Payable for March 3rd, 2009 was circulated in the Council package.

MOTION #072/09**Moved by Versteeg****Seconded by Scott**

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of **\$84,145.95** under date March 3, 2009 as cheques #7890 to #7931 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council meeting held March 3rd, 2009.

CARRIED

BY-LAWS - none**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Belmore Community Centre Board - next meeting March 16th

Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention (CHIP)

Councillor Henhoeffler reported from the February 18th:

- Mike Alcock, Huron County Highways, attended the meeting
- Discussed National Road Safety Challenge occurring May 15th – June 14th
- There has been an increase in OPP patrols in Howick recently
- CHIP and Maitland ATV members will attend the ATV 'Train the Trainer' day on April 4th
- The Committee is working on creating a map indicating where ATV's are permitted on roads throughout the County. Regulations vary from one municipality to another.

ADDENDUM

Girl Guide Commemorative Flower Bed

Councillor Henhoeffler spoke with Mary Weiler, contact for the local Girl Guides. Ms. Weiler will obtain more information about the project and then contact Councillor Henhoeffler.

County of Huron

Reeve Demaray reported:

- Next County Council meeting is March 4th
- The secondment of Planner Joyce Wilson to the Town of Goderich will be presented for approval.

- Attended the OFA-sponsored MP and MPP meeting, where there was much discussion about Federal Oceans and Fisheries regulations.

ADDENDUM

Huron County Health Unit

Treasurer Farinha reported that the recently appointed Director of the Health Unit has departed the position. No one had information as to the reason

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

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA)

Councillor Versteeg reported from the Annual Meeting held February 18th:

- Allison Lobb has been appointed Chair, and Wilf Gamble is Vice-Chair

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA)

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

MVCA Source Water Protection (SWP) - next meeting March 6th

SVCA Source Water Protection (SWP)

ADDENDUM

Notice was circulated about upcoming consultation sessions being held to receive input concerning review of the *Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program*. Information about the Stewardship Program was also provided.

Deputy Reeve Yungblut advised that she will ask at the next meeting of the MVCA Source Protection meeting if similar sessions are being planned for the Maitland watershed.

Wheels Away - next meeting March 9th

Wingham Area Fire Board - next meeting March 11th

Discussion resumed regarding provision of fire services for Howick Township in light of the letter of response from the Township of North Huron (see Treasurer's Report). Reeve Demaray asked for Council members' reactions to the letter, and the general consensus was a belief that Howick taxpayers would not wish to lose the Gorrie Fire Station and thus, Council has no choice but to establish our own fire department in order to retain that valuable asset.

Councillor Henhoeffler felt that before making a decision Council should first consult with the Office of the Fire Marshall (OFM) to discuss options, draw up a budget of projected costs, and then hold a public meeting to present the information to the residents. The majority felt that, based on previous discussions with Mr. Zimmerman of the OFM, it is up to Council to make a decision on what direction to take, and then seek assistance from the OFM to ensure compliance with the regulations and requirements of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*.

MOTION #073/09 Moved by Demaray Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council notify North Huron that as of Jan. 1st, 2010 Howick Twp will operate their own fire department and are ready to negotiate our share of the present fire board in equipment and cash.

During discussion of the motion it was noted that the matter of appraisal of Fire Board assets has not yet been finalized, and that it would be more appropriate for Howick to proceed with further research at this time, before making a formal declaration of intentions. Thus, the motion was DEFEATED.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Mr. Zimmerman, Office of the Fire Marshall, to arrange for him to meet with Howick Council next week, and also invite Station Chief Bill Doig and Deputy Chief Dale Edgar to attend.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION #074/09 Moved by Scott Seconded by Versteeg

THAT Howick Township Council at this time (10:19 pm) closes this portion of the March 3rd, 2009 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council in accordance with the *Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239(2)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)*, to deal with personal and legal matters. CARRIED

Matters Discussed in Closed Session

- Minutes of Closed Session held February 3rd, 2009 (approved by Resolution #075/09)
- By-Law Enforcement Officer's Report
- Legal Matter – Disposition of Land: Offer of Purchase

MOTION #076/09

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 (10:30 pm).

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY (Copies included)

- a) **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - Alert No. 09/011 – announcing recipients of Municipal Infrastructure funding (list attached)
 - Alert No. 09/014 – Minister Smitherman’s comments to OGRA/ROMA delegates regarding Infrastructure funding and the *Green Energy Act*.
- b) **Ben Lobb, MP** – proposed changes to the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* to allow infrastructure projects to proceed more expeditiously (copy of Report of Standing Committee attached).
- c) **Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness** – seeking nominations for Canadian Emergency Management and Business Continuity Awards

CORRESPONDENCE forwarded via E-Mail (Feb.16 - 27, 2009) (No copies attached)

- a) **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - Alert No. 09/013 – AMO and Ontario Municipal Social Services Assoc. (OMSSA) release joint paper on poverty reduction – “*Government Makes a Difference: Working Together Towards Poverty Reduction*.”
 - AMO / LAS – ONE Public Sector Group of Funds 2008 Annual Report
- b) **Ministry of Health/Long Term Care** –
 - Public Health Units adding new Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) into programs and services, including Emergency Preparedness Standard and Protocol requirements.
 - Thehealthline.ca e-bulletin – February 18th edition
- c) **Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing** – Government expenditure restraints
- d) **Ministry of Natural Resources** – new methods to communicate watershed conditions to public on internet at twitter.com, user name MNRcentral
- e) **Ontario Good Roads Association** – list of 2009-2010 Board of Directors
- f) **Curt Skene** – offering “business generating” ideas, and “RecessionBuster” program
- g) **Wind Concerns Ontario Coalition** – proposal for “*Green Energy Act*” (attached) strips the rights of local municipalities and citizens to participate in the planning process by removing the right to object to adverse consequences [of wind turbines].
- h) **M.L. Anderson** – concern with the “*Green Energy Act*” which in effect removes the public’s right and ability to challenge wind energy development by requiring the protestor to provide proof of harm, rather than expecting the developer to demonstrate that it will cause no negative impact.
- i) **Huron Business Development Corp.**
 - Schedule of 2009 Spring Sessions ‘Better Business Seminars’
 - *Small Business Success Newsletter*, January, 2009
- j) **Huron Tourism**
 - CTV Kitchener has an on-line opportunity for promoting events:
www.southwesternontario.ctv.ca/whatsonwhere.php or e-mail wow@swo.ctv.ca
 - Regional Food Summit ‘Savour Stratford Perth’, March 23rd at Arden Park Hotel
 - ‘The Bystander Effect’ playing at the Livery Theatre, Goderich, Feb. 27-28 & Mar. 6 & 7
- k) **Township of Woolwich** – requesting help of municipality and community to help Woolwich win the 2009 Kraft Hockeyville title.
- l) **Municipality of St. Charles** – advertising a garbage truck for sale.
- m) **Scott Miller, CTV Wingham** – advising that he will continue to cover local news, which will air on London “A” Station, after the Wingham station signal is turned off later this year.

The above correspondence was noted. Action: File

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #077/09

Moved by Versteeg

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council now adjourns the March 3rd, 2009 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council at 10:32 pm, with Council to meet again at the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED

REEVE

CLERK