

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 22nd, 2008 AT 1:00 P.M.
AT THE HOWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

Attendance:

Howick Council

Max Demaray, Reeve
Linda Henhoeffler, Councillor

Andrea Yungblut, Deputy Reeve
Art Versteeg, Councillor

Howick Staff

Ronna Lee Johnson, Clerk

Morris-Turnberry Council

Dorothy Kelly, Mayor
Lynn Hoy, Councillor

Jim Nelemans, Deputy Mayor
Edna McLellan, Councillor

Paul Gowing, Councillor
Bill Thompson, Councillor

Morris-Turnberry Staff

Nancy Michie, Administrator - Clerk-Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Demaray called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Reeve Demaray advised that if anyone present wished to declare a pecuniary interest they may do so at this time or when the matter arises.

None declared at this time.

WINGHAM & AREA FIRE AGREEMENT

Reeve Demaray welcomed Mayor Kelly, Council members and Staff from the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry and thanked them for attending this meeting to discuss the future of fire services for Howick and Morris-Turnberry.

Mayor Kelly opened discussion, advising that Morris-Turnberry Council has not made any decisions as to the direction they may take regarding the provision of fire services, but felt that Howick's decisions would affect their course of action.

Reeve Demaray advised that Howick Council had passed the following resolution at the regular Council meeting held on December 16th:

WHEREAS the Township of North Huron has declared intention to withdraw from the Wingham Area Fire Agreement,

AND WHEREAS the said Agreement is silent on the matter of the complete dissolution of the Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE Council of the Township of Howick hereby resolves to enter into negotiations with the participants of the Agreement to mutually dissolve the Wingham Area Fire Agreement effective December 31, 2009, and equitably divide the assets of the Fire Board in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

Ensuing discussion examined the pro's and con's of options open to the two municipalities, culminating in agreement that it is not feasible for Howick and Morris-Turnberry to continue as a Fire Board and operate the fire department in Wingham. Morris-Turnberry declared that they will pass a resolution similar to Howick's, agreeing to dissolve the Wingham Area Fire Agreement. Since there are no terms specified for terminating the Agreement, the participants will need to negotiate the disposition of assets. It was agreed that, since North Huron instigated this process, they should be held to the provision of the Agreement that states that the municipality wanting to withdraw from the Agreement is responsible for the cost of the appraisals. Another matter for negotiation will be the penalty of 1 year's depreciation on the assets. In view of the decision to dissolve the Fire Board, it was noted that it will be necessary for the Board to meet before the end of the year to deal with these matters, including giving notice to the Fire Chief.

Both municipalities will need to examine, during the next year, how they will provide fire services after 2009.

