

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, February 6, 2007 AT 6:45 P.M.

AT THE HOWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

Attendance:

Max Demaray, Reeve	Andrea Yungblut, Deputy Reeve
Linda Henhoeffler, Councillor	Randy Scott, Councillor
Art Versteeg, Councillor	
Michael Givens, Administrator-Treasurer	Michele Bennett-Admin Asst.

CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Demaray called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Reeve noted that if any member wished to declare a pecuniary interest as regards to 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

Draft minutes of the January 23, 2007 Regular Council Meeting were circulated in the Council package.

MOTION #034/07	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffler
THAT Howick Township Council approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 23 rd , 2007, as presented.		
		CARRIED

DELEGATION

Ben Cornell from Ward & Uptigrove-6:45

Mr. Cornell provided a short presentation on behalf of Ward & Uptigrove, discussing ways his company can benefit the Township of Howick employees and help with the process of HR services and Pay Equity. He presented council with a marketing brochure of information with general ideas for a more productive and pleasant work environment, team building, wellness, health care, HR policies and pay equity. Much discussion took place between Mr. Cornell and Council about costs of such a service and the different avenues taken to reach an end result suitable for council and staff. Comments from Council suggested pay equity was not a positive experience the last time it was approached in the early 90's. Also how can the comparative between workloads and job descriptions be handled in a workplace with limited staff?

Mr. Cornell stated it is now law to maintain pay equity and gave suggestions on how to handle each process providing proper communication with staff and council. He spoke about the point system/proportional method used to calculate when dealing with smaller workplaces, as well as the approximate dollar value and time frame. To cover the HR services and Pay Equity the approximate price would be around \$10,000.00. He spoke of and gave a list of other municipalities that he has worked with and advised Council that all of the above can be structured however they wish. Reeve Demaray thanked Mr. Cornell for his presentation and stated Council will give this further consideration.

At this time Mr. Cornell left the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Steve Espensen & Kirk Hussey – 7:10

Mr. Espensen and Mr. Hussey addressed council on behalf of themselves with the suggestion that the ice be installed in the Howick arena earlier, perhaps in the middle of September so that it may be utilized by local hockey teams and residents of the township. Letters from Chairman, Rob Wagner of Saugeen Maitland Girls Hockey and Kevin Armstrong, Coach for the PeeWee Girls Hockey, were handed out by Mr. Espensen and Mr. Hussey stating that there was a need to utilize our arena instead of it sitting empty.

It was also stated, at this time teams are renting ice time outside our community and they wish to support our arena rather than go elsewhere. Discussion took place between Council, Mr. Espensen and Mr. Hussey with regards to the Fall Fair and the agreement that the Township has with the Fall Fair Board. The timing of putting the ice in sooner would interfere with the annual Fall Fair. Much discussion pertained to the extra cost of putting ice in sooner. Brad Watt, arena supervisor attended the council meeting as well and spoke of dollar amounts pertaining to the hydro bill and extra cost brought forth when applying the ice sooner. Council discussed perhaps placing a floor over the ice as North Perth does when dealing with Paddyfest. It was left at this time that the fair board should be contacted to set up a meeting to see if a compromise can be resolved with dates. It was also asked by Council to have a more in-depth look at the financial costs related and the costs of supplying a floor to be used before this could even be considered.

Mr. Espensen and Mr. Hussey thanked council and asked that they be notified if and when a decision is made.

At this time Mr. Hussey, Mr. Espensen and Brad Watt left the meeting at 7:25.

COUNCILLOR'S ISSUES

1. Councillor Henhoeffter raised the following matter:

Landscaping at Howick Community Centre - Councillor Henhoeffter and former Reeve Rosemary Rognvaldson have submitted the Evergreen Grant Application and has been informed that a decision will be made March 31st. They are looking forward to a positive response. Councillor Henhoeffter thanked Administrator/Treasurer Mike Givens for his help with this matter.

2. Councillor Art Versteeg raised the following matter:

Severance Issue – Councillor Versteeg had received a call from John Wagler who had been trying to sever a piece of land without success. The lots were too small. Mr. Wagler wished to be refunded for the price of a soil analysis of \$300.00. Public Works Co-ordinator Wilson advised Councillor Versteeg that a previous discussion had taken place between himself, Joyce Wilson, County Planner and Mr. Wagler that he did not meet qualifications for a severance and the acceptance of a severance did not look promising but if he wished to proceed with a soil analysis that would be his decision. It was decided by Council, a refund would not be issued.

Response to previous delegation with Mr. Hussey and Mr. Espensen – Councillor Versteeg made mention that the municipality should provide ice time to the Howick Public School free of charge as is the practice at other municipalities. The school provides free access to their soccer fields and the free ice time would be a way of reciprocating. It was mentioned that the School does currently get a reduced rental rate.

RECREATION/FACILITIES SUPERVISOR'S REPORT (No report was given)

PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The following report, as at January 23rd, was circulated in the Council package:

ROADS

ROMA/OGRA CONFERENCE

The Huron County Road Supervisors Association will be providing bus transportation to and from the Conference. Both Reeve Demaray and Councillor Versteeg are booked to travel by bus. If Reeve Demaray or Councillor Versteeg wish to make a Municipal Delegation request to meet with a minister the enclosed form must be completed and faxed by Wednesday February 7, 2007. Both Reeve Demaray and Councillor Versteeg did not wish to meet with a Minister at this time.

BUILDING - Brenda prepared a report that indicates building activity to date.

2006 Building Fees Collected	\$29,367.64
2006 Building Permit Value	\$5,119,500.00
2006 Sewage Permit Fees Collected	\$4,575.00
2006 Sewage Permit Value	\$111,000.00

DRAINAGE

DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO (DSAO)

A copy of the Drainage Superintendents Association's submission regarding the Discussion Paper on Source Water Protection Committees was enclosed for council review. Time didn't allow a joint response with Land Improvement Contractors Association as previously discussed all of which Council understood and was pleased with the submission.

Drainage Grant

An application for a grant for the cost of employing a Drainage Superintendent and an application for the Drain Maintenance Grant were completed and delivered to the OMAFRA office in Guelph. Copies are on file. Public Works Co-ordinator Wilson, wished to thank Deputy Treasurer, Brenda Weishar and Administrator/Treasurer Mike for their work on this application.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT

County Planner Joyce Wilson and Public Works Co-ordinator Wilson were unable to meet on Monday February 5th to discuss the process for the review of Howick Township's Official Plan, due to the snow storm and closed roads. Council and Mr. Wilson discussed in depth the best approach to the Township's Official Plan review. Should Howick Township wait until the County completes their Official Plan or should we proceed? Deputy-Reeve Yungblut requested Mr. Wilson to look into the Bruce County Plan Amendment on three issue's; Mennonite Policies, Intensive Livestock and Commercial Wind Generation to see if possibly those should be incorporated into the Township of Howick's Official Plan. More will be decided once Mr. Wilson has a chance to meet with the County Planner.

LANDFILL

Burnside Engineering Training – Burnside Engineering has organized a training course for operators, managers and politicians responsible for landfills serving populations of less than 75,000. Information for this was provided and it was decided the cost for this training course was too high and Howick Township would not attend at this time. Our landfill site was discussed amongst council.

Cohen Highley Session – Members of Council and staff attended a session which was a quick overview of changes to the Municipal Act. A lot of topics were covered in a short period of time. Each delegate received an information package covering the topics. Copies are available should anyone wish to review.

ADMINISTRATOR-TREASURER'S REPORT

Council received the following report and copies of supporting information in the Council package.

Recreation-Financial Comparisons (2004-2006)

Deputy Treasurer Weishar prepared a comparison of operating financials at the pool and the community centre for the years 2004 through 2006. In addition a report comparing ice usage and staff time from the last season to this season was included for Councils review.

2007 Budget

Mr. Givens reported Budget information has been received from the following boards: Lakelet Cemetery, Gorrie Cemetery, Wroxeter Cemetery, Gorrie Hall, Gorrie Village Management and Wroxeter Village Management. Reminders will be sent to all boards with outstanding budgets this week.

Gorrie Fire Hall

Mr. Givens spoke with Bill Doig of the Gorrie Fire Department regarding renovations at the Fire Station this year. Council authorized \$3500.00 towards the renovation last year. Mr. Doig stated they are accepting tenders at this time. One has been received to date and more are expected.

Huron County Plowmen's Association

A request for funding/sponsorship was received from the Huron County Plowmen's Association.

Council committed \$125.00 in last years Budget. Council decided that same amount would be given again this year.

MOTION #035/07 **Moved by Scott** **Seconded by Yungblut**
THAT Howick Township Council agrees to provide sponsorship to the 2007 Huron County Plowing Match by the way of a donation in the amount of \$125.00 for this event.
CARRIED

Pool Renovation Project

Mr. Givens consulted Council with regards to the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant.

Application deadlines are March 1st, July 1st and November 1st.

After discussion, Council directed Mr. Givens to proceed with the application. A March 1st submission would allow the project to proceed possibly after pool season.

Interim Taxes

Interim tax bills will be mailed out in February. The by-law required to impose interim taxes is included in the by-law section. Installment due dates are March 23rd and May 18th.

Wind Energy Projects

As directed at last Council meeting, Mr. Givens contacted representatives from both of the proposed projects in Howick. Both projects are at a stand still (Captus Power Wind Farm and Worner's Wind Farm) The Ontario Power Authority has placed a moratorium on all projects at this time. Both groups hope to proceed when the issues with the OPA have been rectified, hopefully in the spring. Included in the package were changes that ACW are proposing to their zoning by-law dealing with wind energy. Council agreed that guidelines should be incorporated into our zoning by-law and we will wait to see what the future brings.

Strategic Planning

Just a reminder of the February 13th meeting at 7:00 pm. Senior staff and Council will meet with Joyce Wilson and Scott Tousaw at this time.

General Information Update

Burnside Client Appreciation Night will be held March 28th. Please RSVP to Mr. Givens.

Also Frank Cowan Company is hosting a reception at the the OGRA/ROMA Conference Sunday February 25th 6:00 to 8:00 pm. RSVP required.

CLERKS REPORT

Council received the following report and copies of related information at the meeting:

Office of the Regional Senior Justice Ontario Court of Justice

We have received a copy of an Order and a copy of a schedule of set fines for By-law 35-2006 being that of our Burn By-law. A copy was included. The original Order and schedule of set fines has been forwarded onto the Ontario Court of Justice in Goderich along with a certified copy of the By-law. The order took effect January 16, 2007.

CORRESPONDENCE Requiring Council Action

Belmore Curling Club

Will be hosting the annual Gay Lea Bonspiel March 16-18th & 23-25th. A resolution of Council is required to designate this event as a "Community Festival".

MOTION #036/07 **Moved by Yungblut** **Seconded by Scott**
THAT Howick Township Council has been advised that the Belmore Curling Club will hold the annual Gay Lea Bonspiel at the Belmore Community Centre on March 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25th, and Council hereby declares this event to be a "Community Festival".
CARRIED

Saugeen Maitland Girls Hockey

Letter of expression from Saugeen Maitland Girls Hockey supporting the consideration of putting ice in earlier than usual at the Howick arena. They would like to see the ice put in by the beginning of September to utilize the Howick Arena for practice and exhibition games. This was in support of delegation Steve Espensen & Kirk Hussey earlier this evening.

Noted & discussed Action:Review

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS

1. **Town of Minto** – seeking support of a resolution requesting that the Federal Minister responsible for infrastructure and COMRIF and the Federal Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, reimburse those municipalities that were unsuccessful in all three COMRIF Intakes the engineering fees that were paid in order to submit the COMRIF application.
Noted & discussed Action:File
2. **Town of Minto**- seeking support of a resolution requesting the government of Ontario take immediate action to exempt Royal Canadian Legions in Ontario from the Education portion of property taxes.

MOTION #037/07	Moved by Yungblut	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting the resolution from the Town of Minto requesting the Government of Ontario take immediate action to exempt Royal Canadian Legions in Ontario from the Education portion of property taxes and Howick Council hereby resolves to SUPPORT the resolution from Minto		
CARRIED		

3. **Municipality of Arran-Elderslie**-seeking support of a resolution requesting the government of Ontario reconsider the removal of “energy” undertakings from the *Planning Act*, in order to allow local governments to make local decisions respecting “energy” undertakings.

MOTION #038/07	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting the resolution from the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie requesting the Province of Ontario:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To conduct an environmental assessment on all issues involved with wind turbines;• To conduct a study of the impact of wind turbines on local assessment and land values;• To develop guidelines and/or regulations for the standardization of wind farm developments in consultation with Bruce and Grey Counties, in particular, and the Province of Ontario, in general;• The removing energy systems from the Planning Act is being done in good faith;• To compensate those municipalities which have invested considerable time and money in processing wind turbine zoning applications;• Compensate municipalities and tourist operators for loss of revenue, over time;• To ensure the restoration of lands whereon wind energy systems have been erected;• To consult with and keep municipalities apprised of the Province’s intentions;• To acknowledge and respect the jurisdiction and competence of local municipalities to make local decisions reflecting local values by leaving energy systems under the authority of the <i>Planning Act</i>; And Howick Council hereby resolves to SUPPORT the resolution from Arran-Elderslie.		
CARRIED		

4. **The Township of Lanark Highlands**-seeking support of a resolution asking the Province of Ontario for consistent regulations throughout the province with regards to ATV use on public highways.

MOTION #039/07	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting the resolution from the Township of Lanark Highlands requesting the Province of Ontario review with municipalities and their associations the issue of ATV use on public highways with a view to ensuring consistency and sound decision making throughout all areas of the province, and Howick Council hereby resolves to SUPPORT the resolution from Lanark Highlands.		
CARRIED		

5. **Town of Newmarket**-seeking support of a resolution requesting the Province of Ontario to:
 - a. Review and amend the Highway Traffic Act regarding school area and crossing zone signage
 - b. Provide approval for the use of Fluorescent Yellow Green school signage
 - c. Provide a formal decision on these matters prior to the start of the 2007/2008 school year

MOTION #040/07	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffter
THAT Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting the resolution from the Town of Newmarket requesting the Province of Ontario to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review and amend the <i>Highway Traffic Act</i> and associated regulations and standards as required regarding school area and school crossing zone signage;• Provide approval for the use of Fluorescent Yellow Green school signage;• Provide a formal decision on this matter prior to the start of the 2007-2008 school year; and Howick Council hereby resolves to SUPPORT the resolution from Newmarket.’		
CARRIED		

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The listing of Accounts Payable was circulated in the Council package.

MOTION #041/07	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Henhoeffler
THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of \$120,608.63 under date February 6, 2007 as cheques #5486 to #5530 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council Meeting held on February 6, 2007.		
CARRIED		

BY-LAWS

By-Law No. 06-2007-Remuneration of Council and Employees

MOTION #042/07	Moved by Scott	Seconded by Versteeg
THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 06-2007, being a by-law to fix the remuneration of members of Council, and to authorize payment or reimbursement for expenses to members of Council and Employees.		
CARRIED		

By-Law No. 07-2007-Interim Tax Levies

MOTION #043/07	Moved by Henhoeffler	Seconded by Yungblut
THAT Howick Township Council gives first, second, and third and final reading to By-Law No. 07-2007, being a by-law to provide Interim Tax Levies for the year 2007 for the Township of Howick		
CARRIED		

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Belmore Community Centre Board-next meeting Monday February 12, 2007

County of Huron-next meeting Wednesday February 7, 2007

Huron County Farm & Safety-no report given

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

Copies of the following were circulated in the Council package:

- December 2006 Board Minutes
- Ms. Rognavaldson provided a written report on the Board meeting January 31, 2007

Road Watch Huron-next meeting February 7, 2007

Source Water Protection-no report given

Wheels Away- no report given

Wingham Area Fire Board

The following were included in the Council package:

- December 2006 Board Minutes
- Chiefs Report December 2006
- Accounts payable December 2006
- Financial Statements for November 2006
- Proposed 2007 Budget
- Proposed 2007 Capital Purchases

Council addressed issues related to capital purchases listed in the proposed 2007 Fire Board Budget, specifically, a new pumper and a new pick-up truck. It was Council's view that the Board must adhere to provisions of the Procurement Policy, which requires that a call for tenders go out for the purchase of a pumper. As regards to the purchase of a new pick-up truck, it was the opinion of Council that acquiring a larger, more powerful, expensive, high-maintenance vehicle for the purpose of transporting the "smoke house" from place to place, is neither sensible nor viable. Some suggested alternatives would seem more feasible given the few times that the structure needs to be moved, such as temporarily swapping trucks with the Works Department, or hiring a truck for that purpose when needed. It was also noted that a request for more tenders should be acquired. Reeve Demaray noted that Brant County requested bids from 21 companies. 11 of which were submitted for their fire truck. Deputy-Reeve Yungblut would like a better understanding of the specifications Chief Gaunt is looking for. Council was also of the opinion insurance rates should be further investigated. Council is awaiting more information and also wishes to converse with Morris-Turnberry to clarify questions.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY (copies attached)

- a. **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - i. 'Alert' 07/004 - Announcement of new child care fee subsidy model
 - ii. 'Alert' 07/005 - Pre-Budget submission calls for new fiscal arrangements
(AMO 2007 Pre-Budget Submission and Doug Reycrafts remarks attached)
- b. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**
 - i. Durham Regional Council defeated recommendation from Planning Committee. Greenbelt will be protected and Council approved motion to take no further action.
 - ii. New Residential Tenancies Act now in force.
- c. **Ontario Good Roads Association**
 - i. OGRA Nominating Committee recommended slate of candidates to the Board of Directors. Nomination Form included.
- d. **Ontario's Ombudsman**
 - i. Andre Martin urged the Standing Committee on Justice Policy to delete section of proposed Bill 103 which shields new Police Review Director from the Ombudsman's office.
- e. **Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario**
 - i. AMCTO Express: January 23, 2007
 - ii. AMCTO Express: January 31, 2007
 - iii. AMCTO Express: February 1, 2007
- f. **Huron County Health Unit**
 - i. Respiratory Illness Bulletin reporting on influenza activity
 - ii. The Pandemic Planner-January Monthly Newsletter
 - iii. Videoconference offered regarding Hand Hygiene to Occupational Health & Safety Professionals.
- g. **Huron Business Development Corporation**
 - i. Year end report for 2006
- h. **AMO Advocacy-Municipal Fiscal Condition**
 - i. Tune into Focus Ontario-segment on Saturday February 3rd, at 6:30 on Municipal Affairs.

15. ADJOURNMENT

<p>MOTION #044/07 Moved by Henhoeffler Seconded by Versteeg THAT Howick Township Council now adjourns the February 6th, 2007 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council at 9:30 p.m. with Council to meet again at the Regular Meeting scheduled for February 20th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
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REEVE

ADMINISTRATOR/TREASURER