

TOWNSHIP OF HOWICK
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, February 20, 2007 AT 6:45 P.M.
AT THE HOWICK TOWNSHIP COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

Attendance:

Max Demaray, Reeve	Andrea Yungblut, Deputy Reeve
Linda Henhoeffer, Councillor	Randy Scott, Councillor
Art Versteeg, Councillor	Michael Givens, Administrator-Treasurer
Ronna Lee Johnson, Clerk	Wray Wilson, Public Works Co-ordinator
Reporter – Duane Rollins	
Delegation – Verna Steffler, Wingham & Area Health Professionals Recruiting Committee	

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Draft minutes of the February 6th Regular Council Meeting and the February 13th Special Council meeting were circulated in the Council package.

MOTION #045/07

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 6th, 2007 and the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 13th, 2007, as presented.

CARRIED

DELEGATION

Verna Steffler, Wingham & Area Health Professionals Recruiting Committee

Ms. Steffler began by noting that the Committee has a new name that better reflects the group's mandate, which is to seek and attract many types of medical personnel to the Wingham area, not just Physicians. The purpose of her visit, on behalf of the Recruiting Committee, was to seek the participation and support of Howick Council in these endeavours.

Ms. Steffler provided copies for all of the Minutes of the February 14th meeting of the Committee, the 2006 Financial Statement, and the proposed 2007 Expense Budget (\$44,914.00), and briefly reviewed the financial information, explaining how the percentage allocations for the municipalities are determined (based on patient hospital visits for admission, emergency or primary care). The Committee is planning two fundraising events for 2007 – a repeat of the "Golf Ball Drop" lottery, and a Golf Tournament.

Ms. Steffler explained that the catchment area, comprised of the municipalities of North Huron, Morris-Turnberry, Ashfield-Colbourne-Wawanosh, Howick, South Bruce and Huron-Kinloss, has been classed as an "under-serviced" area, which qualifies for special Ministry funding. The problem is that the entire Province, and the country as a whole, are under-serviced – physicians and other medical personnel are in short supply everywhere. Thus, recruitment activities are necessary, and a variety of incentives must be offered to attract candidates to the area. Committee representatives are in Quebec at the moment attending the "Out-of-Quebec" recruitment event. The Committee is finding that most prospective candidates prefer to come to the area on a short-term locum and then move on.

Ms. Steffler answered questions and responded to concerns expressed by Council members:

- Health Care costs are a provincial responsibility and should not be funded by property taxes. The province has already downloaded many other responsibilities and costs.

Response: The province will not fund recruitment activities. They are only responsible for ensuring that enough people are educated and trained to fill the needs.

- Wingham Hospital does not serve the majority of Howick residents. Listowel Hospital is currently soliciting support from Howick residents for their expansion. How can Council justify giving taxpayer dollars to support one hospital? Council would be obliged to honour similar requests from other surrounding hospitals. Residents should be free to support the hospital of their choice, not unwillingly taxed to subsidize another.

Response: Other hospitals are not entitled to request funding from Howick because Howick is located in the Wingham catchment area.

- The Huron Business Development Corporation also has a medical recruitment organization as part of the County Economic Development initiative, which is funded by our tax dollars. How many times should taxpayers be asked to pay for the same service?

Response: The HBDC recruitment activities cover a broad County-wide basis - all hospitals also have Recruitment Committees focusing on their own respective areas.

- Are the Wingham Doctors forming a 'Family Health Team', and will it include a Nurse Practitioner?

Response: Yes, the Plan has been submitted and accepted, but they have not yet begun to implement the plan.

- Some are not comfortable with how the Recruitment Committee operates and how the money is used. For example, a motion in the minutes gives specific committee members "authority to use discretionary funds up to \$10,000.00 for what they deem necessary to negotiate and attract a physician to Wingham". That is very open-ended.

Response: Sometimes candidates want incentives other than money, such as payment of education/training fees.

Reeve Demaray thanked Ms. Steffler for her presentation, noting that the information will be considered during Council's upcoming budget deliberations, and an answer will be forthcoming at that time.

COUNCILLOR'S ISSUES - none presented at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

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

ROADS

VOLVO MOTOR GRADERS

A representative from Volvo requested the use of the new grader for a promotional video. We plan to plow a section of a no-winter-maintenance road. The road will be closed off to traffic again following the filming. The video was to have been taken last Friday but was cancelled and has not yet been rescheduled. Volvo sent a copy of their insurance certificate.

BUILDING

NO REPORT

DRAINAGE

DRAINAGE GRANT

The 2007/2008 application for grant for the cost of employing a Drainage Superintendent and an application for the Drain Maintenance Grant was sent to the OMAFRA office in Guelph yesterday.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

Mr. Wilson met today with County Planner Joyce Wilson to discuss the process for this review (the meeting has been rescheduled three times due to weather). The review process was discussed, as well as a few issues stemming from the new Planning Act that will necessitate changes to our Plan to ensure conformity. It is recommended that reviewing both the Official Plan and the Zoning By-Law together would be beneficial in maintaining uniformity, and would expedite the process by reducing the number of meetings required. The following tentative schedule was outlined:

- March 20 – Ms. Wilson will meet with Council to review process and discuss issues;
- June, 2007 – hold an Open House to get public input;
- Sept. 2007 – hold a Public Meeting to review proposed changes;
- Nov. 2007 – Ms. Wilson to present amended documents to Council;
- Dec. 2007 – Public Meeting to adopt amended Official Plan and Zoning By-Law;
- Jan. 2008 – Documents go to County Council for approval.

Council members were asked relay to Mr. Wilson as soon as possible any matters they are aware of or any issues brought to their attention relating to the Official Plan and/or Zoning By-Law. Mr. Wilson noted that an amendment to the Zoning By-Law to reflect recent changes to Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) regulations should be done immediately.

LANDFILL

ANNUAL REPORT

Burnside Engineering has started the preparation of the annual report that is due by March 31st each year. We need to provide them with information on the volume of recycling material, any operational changes, complaints and copies of correspondence or inspection reports from the Ministry of Environment. This information will be sent to Burnside next week.

ADDENDUM:

Ontario Good Roads Association ‘Heads Up Alert’

OGRA advises that the cable and satellite industry wants to remove The Weather Network (TWN) from basic cable service and require people to pay extra to get it. OGRA has written to the CRTC to recommend that The Weather Network remain on basic service in support of public safety, and for service to municipalities for winter road maintenance. OGRA asks municipalities to send similar letters of support. Council instructed PWC Wilson to send a letter.

ADMINISTRATOR-TREASURER’S REPORT

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

Township Website

Three separate proposals for a website upgrade were received and reviewed. The decision was made to proceed with Advanced Technology from Wingham. The new website will feature many photos, an “events” calendar and many other new interactive features. Portions of the site will be easily updated by staff, making it easier to keep current. The update should be completed in the next month. A printout of the draft “Homepage” was included for Council’s review.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority 2007 Draft Budget

MVCA sent information regarding the 2007 budget and work plan (included in the Council package). The Authority is proposing a levy of \$29,049 for Howick Township - an increase of \$2,223.00 (8%) from 2006. Any comments regarding the proposed budget or work plan are to be returned to the Authority by March 14th. The Board of Directors meets on March 21st. Council had no objections to the proposed budget.

Belmore Maple Syrup Festival

The Wingham Advance-Times is creating a Souvenir Booklet to be distributed throughout the Township (per attached information) to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Festival, and is soliciting Council’s sponsorship.

MOTION #046/07	Moved by Versteeg	Seconded by Yungblut
<p>THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes the purchase of sponsorship advertising in the Souvenir Booklet celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Belmore Maple Syrup Festival, said ad to be in the following specified format and cost: ¼ page Ad in One Spot Colour – Total Cost \$125.00 plus taxes.</p>		
		CARRIED

Requests For Funding

Huron-Perth Children’s Aid Society: A copy of a letter of request, an activities summary, and the ‘Kids Booster Club’ pamphlet were included for information.

‘Focus’ Newsmagazine: Similar to the Wingham Advance-Times, the Focus is looking for Ad support for particular promotions. Copies of the letter and promotions were included for Council’s consideration.

The Treasurer was instructed to bring these expenditure requests back to Council during budget deliberations.

CLERKS REPORT

Council received the following report as at February 16th, and copies of related information:

Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA)

a) Huron County 'Joint Accessibility Plan'

The Huron County ODA 'Working Group' will be meeting on February 21st for the annual updating of the Huron County 'Joint Accessibility Plan' as required by the ODA. Each participating Municipality is required to identify a minimum of one **by-law**, one **operational area**, and one **municipal building** issue to be reviewed for the purpose of addressing accessibility issues. (information included about municipal responsibilities under the ODA; Note: the Huron County Joint Accessibility Plan is available). Because Council is currently in the process of revising the '*Employment Policy*', Clerk Johnson suggested that Council review the Township's Hiring Policies and incorporate changes to ensure that applicants with disabilities are included, and likewise amend the Employment Policy to reflect those changes.

Council concurred with the Clerk's suggestions, and noted that planned renovations at the swimming pool building will address accessibility issues.

b) Citizen Concern Form

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee (HCAAC) has created a "Citizen Concern" Form (letter and form attached). A supply of these forms is available at the municipal office, and information will be posted on the web site, for anyone who wishes to report an accessibility issue.

c) Accessibility Perspectives

"Personal Challenges" (ie. vision; mental illness; mobility; hearing) received from '*Accessibility News*' (copies included), provide some insight into living and coping with disabilities, and why it is important to remove barriers to facilitate daily life for disabled persons.

Employment Policy Revisions

A summary was enclosed of all proposed amendments to the Employment Policy as were previously discussed, plus the addition of Amendment #5 regarding inclusion of disabled applicants in Hiring policies. No other revisions, corrections, or changes were proposed.

MOTION #048/07

Moved by Henhoeffter

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council hereby ratifies amendments to the Township of Howick "*Employment Policies*" as listed on the attached Schedule 'A', AND THAT the Clerk is instructed to effect the changes to the Employment Policy accordingly.

CARRIED

The changes will be incorporated into a *revised Employment Policy*, to be adopted by by-law at the next meeting.

Staff Training – Municipal Act Bill 130

AMCTO has added two new training sessions for Bill 130 "specifically tailored to address the needs of municipal staff", one to be held in Guelph on February 22nd (information attached). Clerk Johnson requested Council's authorization to attend the session in Guelph, noting that the training would be of benefit since the new Act will necessitate the creation of new policies, and the revising and updating of some existing policies.

MOTION #049/07

Moved by Versteeg

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes Clerk Johnson to attend the AMCTO "Municipal Act - Bill 130" training workshop being held in Guelph on February 22nd, 2007, and agrees to pay the registration fee of \$104.94 and any other costs associated with her attendance at this training course.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE Requiring Council Action

1. **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)** - requesting Council's comments and a resolution of support regarding the *AMO/AMRC Discussion Paper on Strengthening Extended Producer Responsibilities for Ontario's Blue Box* (excerpts from the Discussion Paper attached: Executive Summary & Summary of Recommendations) (Full Report available).

MOTION #050/07

Moved by Yungblut

Seconded by Scott

THAT Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting the information contained in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) "Alert" No. 07/003, and the "*AMO/AMRC Discussion Paper on Strengthening Extended Producer Responsibilities for Ontario's Blue Box*" addressing concerns regarding ever-increasing disposable packaging and non-recyclable products, and listing a

series of recommendations for improving the Blue Box program by strengthening recycling markets, encouraging Extended Producer Responsibility Systems (EPRS), developing incentives for litter reduction, and creating a new funding formula that reflects industry stewards assuming a greater share of waste management costs, and Howick Council hereby endorses and supports the recommendations outlined in the Discussion Paper. CARRIED

2. **Pitch-In Canada**

- a) Letter of information about 'Pitch-In' programs
- b) Benefits and cost of becoming a patron of 'Pitch-In'
- c) Order form for 'Pitch-In Week' flag
- d) Information about Pitch-In Canada's Cell Phone Collection program
- e) Pitch-In Canada 'Volunteer News', Spring 2007 publication
- f) Registration Form for 2007 Pitch-In Canada Week Noted and discussed. Action: File

ADDENDUM

3. **Huron County Federation of Agriculture** – invitation to attend the annual "Member of Parliament" luncheon/meeting in Clinton on Saturday, March 3rd. RSVP requested by February 16th. Reeve Demaray noted his intention to attend.

MUNICIPAL RESOLUTIONS

1. **Township of Scugog** – seeking support of a resolution requesting the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) and the Federal Government to revise the funding formula and the application process for Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) to increase grants available for emergency preparedness purposes and reduce funding limitations.

MOTION #051/07

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Henhoeffler

THAT Howick Township Council received and discussed at this meeting the resolution from the Township of Scugog requesting the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) and the Federal Government to revise the funding formula and the application process for Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) to increase grants available for emergency preparedness purposes and reduce funding limitations, and Howick Council hereby resolves to SUPPORT the resolution from the Township of Scugog. CARRIED

2. **City of Stratford** – requesting endorsement of a resolution supporting recommendations made by the *Perth County Coalition Against Poverty*, requesting that Provincial and Federal governments address a variety of actions to alleviate financial hardship for low-income members of society. Noted and discussed. Action: File

PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

The listing of Accounts Payable was provided at the Council Meeting.

MOTION #052/07

Moved by Scott

Seconded by Yungblut

THAT Howick Township Council hereby authorizes payment of accounts in the amount of **\$114,564.39** under date February 20, 2007 as cheques #5531 to #5575 inclusive, as presented and discussed at the Regular Council Meeting held on February 20, 2007. CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Avon Maitland District School Board

Minutes of the February 13th Board meeting were provided in the Council package.

Belmore Community Centre Board

Councillor Scott reported:

- The facility is booked almost every weekend from March to July for "Stag 'n Doe" parties.
- The Board is planning a Pub/Wing night.
- The application for grant from Bell Canada was successful: of 450 applications, 15 were awarded \$5,000.00 and only 5 received \$25,000.00 of which Belmore was one. The money will assist in replacing the condenser estimated to cost over \$40,000.00.
- The Board established a policy that tables and chairs will not be rented out.
- Quotes for new flooring (in arena lobby, dressing rooms, halls, etc) are being received – the cost will be approximately \$30,000 – \$35,000.
- Hydro bills for the facility are running at \$6,000. - \$7,000. per month.
- Ice will be shut down on March 25th.

County of Huron

Reeve Demaray reported:

- Draft budget currently at 8.4% increase – continuing to work at it.
- County budget meetings will be held on March 20th in Wingham and March 22nd in Exeter.
- County 4-H organization has requested a donation.
- Goderich Hospital has requested a donation of \$1 million for purchase of CT scanner.
- County Council will revisit the issue of branding and a new logo.
- Septic inspections may be made mandatory in the future.
- Representatives from the Board of Education gave a presentation about “Being Good Neighbours”.

ADDENDUM:

Locating Credit Union Branch in Howick

Reeve Demaray read a letter from Jim Lynn, Manager of a local Credit Union Branch, responding to the Reeve’s inquiry about opening a branch in Gorrie. The letter outlined the requirements necessary to ensuring the viability of a branch, and noted that a firm commitment of support from the Community must be provided. He suggested that a survey be sent out to residents, and offered assistance in that regard.

It was decided that this matter will be discussed further during Council’s Strategic Planning.

Huron County Farm & Safety – meeting cancelled, not yet re-scheduled.

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority – Annual meeting February 21st

Road Watch Huron - February 7th meeting cancelled, re-scheduled for February 21st
Included in Council package: 2006 Financial Statements; 2007 Meeting Schedule

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Minutes of the January 19th, 2007 Annual Meeting were included in Council Package.

ADDENDUM: Report from Joint Representative Carl Zettel regarding budget deliberations, indicating Howick’s expected levy for 2007 will be approximately \$2,718.00.

Source Water Protection - no meeting

Wheels Away

Councillor Scott reported:

- Tenders have been called for purchase of a new cube van – estimated cost \$80,000. - \$85,000.
- The Board is considering the purchase of a second new van.
- The Board now has a web site up (ADDENDUM: note from Dianne Grummett re. web site)
- Funding is available from Huron United Way to pay for an attendant to accompany a rider.
- Board is trying to achieve cost-recovery to avert dependence on Gas Tax funding, which may not be available in future.

Wingham Area Fire Board

Chief’s Report for January, 2007 was included in the Council package.

Reeve Demaray and Deputy Reeve Yungblut reported:

- Howick Council’s concerns regarding purchase of a new pickup truck were taken to the Board, but were not heeded.
- Board will call for tenders for the purchase of a new 1-ton pickup truck.
- \$32,000.00 has been included in the 2007 capital budget for this purchase.
- The draft operating and capital budgets were accepted as previously presented.
- Included in the capital budget were purchase of a pickup truck and 14 sets of gear.
- Tenders will be called this year for a Pumper, which will be purchased in 2008.

Although the Fire Chief suggested other options for purchasing the pumper, Howick members reiterated that the Board must adhere to the Procurement Policy. The Fire Chief was instructed to prepare specifications in order to call tenders for the vehicle.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY (copies attached)

a. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- i. ‘FYI’ 07/001 – The Ontario Rural Council (TORC) hosting Youth Forum “Rural Youth: Leading Today, Tomorrow and Beyond” in Belleville on March 6th.
- ii. AMO ‘Making the Most of Energy’ Conference – June 4 & 5 in Toronto.
- iii. AMO Annual Conference – August 19-22 in Ottawa.

b. Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat - inviting nominations for the Order of Ontario.

- c. **Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (OFRA)** - June proclaimed as 'Recreation and Parks' month in Ontario, to promote participation in recreation and park activities. A 'Community Tool Kit' of ideas and resources is included (copies available)
- d. **International Conference on Physical Activity & Obesity in Children** - June 24-27 at the Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto
- e. **Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks & Treasurers of Ontario**
 - i. **AMCTO Express**: February 6, 2007 – Legislative Update
 - ii. **AMCTO Express**: February 12, 2007 – Legislative Update
- f. **Huron Business Development Corporation** - Sarah Cieslar offering 'English as a Second Language' (ESL) classes in Goderich and throughout Huron County.
- g. **Fordwich Community & Parks Association** - thank you for support of Christmas Dinner and Dance. Will host event again this year on Dec. 8th, 2007.

ADDENDA

- h. **Town of Minto** - invitation to participate in "Communities in Bloom" fundraising Curling Bonspiel on March 17th.
- i. **AMCTO Express** - Legislative Update February 19, 2007
- j. **Huron Tourism Association** - Agenda for March 8th meeting
- Huron Tourism News March 2007

The above correspondence was noted. Action: File.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #053/07 **Moved by Yungblut** **Seconded by Scott**
 THAT Howick Township Council now adjourns the February 20th, 2007 Regular Meeting of Howick Township Council at 9:18 p.m. with Council to meet again at the Regular Meeting scheduled for March 6th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair. **CARRIED**

 REEVE

 CLERK