



**County
of Huron**

Huron County Council



Minutes - January 5, 2006

Second Session

GODERICH, ONTARIO

Huron County Council met in the Council Chambers on the above date at 9:00 a.m.

The Chief Administrative Officer called the roll and all members were present except Councillor E. Connelly, Councillor B. MacLellan, and Councillor K. Oke.

Warden R. Morley welcomed the members to the Session and the Page, Mitch Shiels. Councillor N. Rintoul introduced Mitch, a Grade 7 student at the Brookside Public School.

Minutes of the previous Sessions being November 30, 2005, December 6, 2005 and December 20, 2005 were adopted as circulated on motion of Councillor D. Layton and Councillor J. Fergusson.

Councillor B. Dykstra declared a pecuniary interest in connection with Clause #4(c) of the Planning, Agriculture and Public Works Committee Report dated December 14, 2005, being Report #2.

COUNCILLOR'S ISSUES

Councillor J. Seili addressed Council re Huron East has deferred the farm portion of the property taxes and urged every municipality to do the same if they can before the tax bills are issued. Also, he asked to step down as Chair of the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee. The CAO informed Council that Councillor Layton was appointed to the HCAAC Committee from the Striking Committee Report of December 6, 2005.

Councillor D. Urlin also spoke regarding the property taxes. South Huron have discussed this issue and are not supportive of the deferral.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The report of the Planning, Agriculture and Public Works Committee dated December 14, 2005 was presented by Larry C. Adams, Chief Administrative Officer, Scott Tousaw, Director, Planning and Development, and Don Pletch, County Engineer. Councillor B. Dykstra, Chair, spoke to the report. The report was dealt with clause by clause.

Moved by Councillor B. Dykstra
Seconded by Councillor D. Kelly

That the report of the Planning, Agriculture and Public Works Committee dated December 14, 2005 be adopted as presented and appear in the printed Minutes as Report #2.

Carried

The report of the Health, Ambulance and Social Services Committee dated December 13, 2005 was presented by Larry C. Adams, Chief Administrative Officer, Penny Nelligan, Director of the Health Unit, David Lew, Manager, Ambulance Operations and John MacKinnon, Social Services Administrator. Councillor N. Rintoul, Chair, spoke to the report. The report was dealt with clause by clause.

Moved by Councillor N. Rintoul
Seconded by Councillor M. Scott

That the report of the Health, Ambulance and Social Services Committee dated December 13, 2005 be adopted as presented and appear in the printed Minutes as Report #3.

Carried

The report of the Cultural Services and Seniors Committee dated December 15, 2005 was presented by Larry C. Adams, Chief Administrative Officer, Beth Ross, Director of Cultural Services, and Barb Springall, Homes Administrator. Councillor R.

Rognvaldson, Chair, spoke to the report. The report was dealt with clause by clause.

Moved by Councillor R. Rognvaldson

Seconded by Councillor D. Kelly

That the report of the Cultural Services and Seniors Committee dated December 15, 2005 be adopted as presented and appear in the printed Minutes as Report #4.

Carried

The report of the Committee of the Whole Council dated December 20, 2005 was presented by Larry C. Adams, Chief Administrative Officer, and David Carey, Treasurer. The report was dealt with clause by clause.

The Warden requested that the Treasurer address questions on reserve balances that he had received earlier in the week. The questions revolved around the reserve balances. The Treasurer spoke to the levels of reserves and explained that there were 17 different reserves of which 16 were restricted or specific reserve funds and only one was an unrestricted reserve. The Treasurer provided a brief verbal explanation of each reserve and outlined how the current balances were achieved.

The Treasurer noted the balance in the unrestricted reserve is forecast to be \$3.9 million by December 31, 2006 and the December 31, 2005 balance is anticipated to be \$3.9 million and not the \$17.9 million referred to in the questions.

The Treasurer also reminded Council of the County Council approved Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy. The Treasurer stated that staff can only implement the approved policies and resolutions of Council.

Councillor Dowson spoke to this issue and that, in his opinion, Council is baffled.

Councillor Dowson further stated that when he was Warden he never supported the 2004 approved budget and that if Council would have known that there would be \$17.9 million in reserves today that Council would not have approved that (2004) budget.

The Treasurer responded that \$17.9 million was not available in the General Reserve for Contingencies at that time but more in the neighbourhood of \$900,000. The remainder of the reserve amounts are in Council approved restricted reserve funds referred to earlier.

Councillor Bezaire stated staff have always brought everything forward for Council's review and that the problem does not lie with staff but with Council itself as Council does not want to review each program and service provided by the County to determine if service cuts can be made.

Councillor Bezaire asked the Treasurer what the increase in gross expenditures were year over year?

The Treasurer responded that he was in the midst of calculating those figures and would have them available for committees next week.

Councillor Urlin stated that he supported staff and indicated that all the information was contained in each budget package for the last few years including information on the balances in each of the reserves. These reserves could be adjusted and were updated as additional information became available.

Councillor Klopp spoke to the reserve levels and the policy stating that he supported the policy regarding reserves but perhaps the policy needed further review.

Councillor Seili stated that he would not support any budget that did not have an ambulance base included for the Brussels area. He has personally driven from Wingham to Brussels and refutes that it can be done in less than 15 minutes.

The Warden asked the Treasurer to provide a written report as to the uncommitted reserves for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Moved by Councillor D. Urlin

Seconded by Councillor J. Fergusson

That the report of the Committee of the Whole Council dated December 20, 2005 be adopted as presented and appear in the printed Minutes as Report #5.

Carried

INQUIRIES

Water Resolution

Moved by Councillor B. Dykstra

Seconded by Councillor D. Shewfelt

That Council support the Water Resolution as presented to Huron County Council by the Students for Social Justice from St. Anne's Catholic Secondary School who made a presentation to the Committee of the Whole on December 20, 2005.

Carried

MOTION

11-06 Moved by Councillor N. Rintoul, seconded by Councillor R. Rognvaldson, that a vote of appreciation be extended to Mitch Shiels for acting as Page at the Session of Council today.

Carried

BY-LAWS

MOTIONS

12-06 Moved by Councillor B. Van Diepenbeek, seconded by Councillor D. Urlin, that leave be given to introduce the following by-law:

2-06 To authorize the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the Council of the County of Huron (The "Municipality").

Carried

13-06 Moved by Councillor D. Shewfelt, seconded by Councillor J. Seili, that By-law No. 2, 2006, be given a first and second reading.

Carried

14-06 Moved by Councillor M. Scott, seconded by Councillor D. Layton, that By-law No. 2, 2006, as read a first and second time, be passed.

Carried

15-06 Moved by Councillor P. Klopp, seconded by Councillor D. Kelly, that By-law No. 2, 2006, be given a third reading in accordance with Part 7 of the Procedural By-law for the County of Huron, Section 23, Subsection 2.

Carried

16-06 Moved by Councillor J. Fergusson, seconded by Councillor B. Dowson, that By-law No. 2, 2006, inclusive, as read a third time, be passed, signed by the Warden and the Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto.

Carried

MOTION

17-06 Moved by Councillor D. Shewfelt, seconded by Councillor J. Bezaire,

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that County Council do now adjourn at 11:45 a.m. to meet on Thursday,
February 2, 2006 or at the call of the Warden and Clerk.
Carried

The Session closed with the singing of O Canada.

BARBARA A. LEAMEN, County Clerk

ROBERT MORLEY, Warden

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WARDEN

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COUNTY CLERK