



**County
of Huron**

Committee of the Whole



Minutes - October 17, 2006

GODERICH, ONTARIO

The COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE met in the Court House at 9:00 a.m. with all members present except Councillor B. Dowson.

1. Minutes

Moved by D. Kelly

Seconded by D. Layton

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 19, 2006 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Councillor's Issues

Councillor B. Dykstra requested that Daryl Ball be added as delegation to speak on behalf of the Friend's of Balls Bridge. The CAO informed the committee that the point of order requires a two-thirds vote of Council to allow the delegation.

Moved by B. Dykstra

Seconded by J. Bezaire

That a delegation on Ball's Bridge be allowed to address the committee.

CARRIED

2. Councillor Conference Expenses

At the September 7, 2006 session of County Council the Treasurer was requested to present a report on conference expenses for County councillors. David Carey, Treasurer, presented the attached report (Appendix A) dated September 28, 2006.

A discussion ensued. Topics discussed were: the benefits of attending conferences, out of pocket expenses incurred, and balancing lower tier contributions with County allowance. Councillor R. Rognvaldson questioned if Councillors were charged the G.S.T. The Treasurer informed the committee that the G.S.T. is not charged to Councillors expense.

Moved by D. Layton

Seconded by E. Connelly

That the conference expenses per Councillor be increased to \$3,000 per annum effective for the 2007 Budget year.

CARRIED

Moved by B. MacLellan

Seconded by J. Seili

That staff be authorized to utilize any unspent conference expenses to accommodate over-limit conference expenses from within the approved 2006 Budget and allocate on a pro rata basis to those over their limits.

CARRIED

3. Royal Canadian Legion Branches

a) Request for Tax Rebates

Attached is correspondence received October 2, 2006 from Shirley Chalmers, Zone C-1 Commander, Royal Canadian Legion, requesting an extension on the exemption of property and education taxes for nine (9) Royal Canadian Legion Branches.

There was a general consensus to support the legions. It was noted that the contributions and support given to the communities by the Legion Branches is significant and valuable.

Moved by D. Shewfelt

Seconded by P. Klopp

That tax relief be granted for four (4) years to all Legions in Huron County and the necessary by-law be passed.

CARRIED

b) 2006 Poppy Campaign

Notice has once again been received from Branch 109 of the Royal Canadian Legion regarding their Poppy Trust Fund and the purchase of a wreath. On November 13, 2001 Committee of the Whole meeting a motion was passed, "Moved by C. Mitchell, Seconded by B. MacLellan, That the Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony continue to be supported in Goderich and that the Warden of the day support a wreath laying ceremony, of their choice, in their local municipality. Carried"

It is recommended that a wreath be purchased as in past years and the Warden, or his designate, attend the services to place the wreath.

Moved by E. Connelly

Seconded by R. Rognvaldson

That the recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

Moved by B. MacLellan

Seconded by J. Seili

That the County of Huron's tradition of supporting the Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremonies be policy.

CARRIED

4. Auditor for 2006

Nancy Rennick, Deputy Treasurer, submitted the attached report (Appendix B) dated September 20, 2006. D. Carey, Treasurer, presented the report and answered questions of the committee.

It is recommended that Vodden, Bender and Seebach be appointed as Auditors for the 2006 year and that the tender process be started for year 2007.

Moved by D. Kelly
Seconded by M. Scott
That the recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

5. AMO OMERS Special Fund

Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Doug Reycraft, President, was received September 20, 2006. This special fund is to be established annually based on the number of OMERS employees in each municipality. The funds will be administered as a separate and distinct business activity exclusively for OMERS related activities and AMO will fully and frequently report on this Fund to municipal employer participants. The invoice for 2006 and 2007 is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 2006 amount: \$1.73/employee | 672.97 |
| 2007 amount: \$5.06/employee | <u>1,968.34</u> |
| | \$2,641.31 |

The CAO reviewed the request.

Moved by B. Van Diepenbeek
Seconded by J. Fergusson
That the invoice from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in the amount of \$2,641.31 for an OMERS Special Fund be authorized and further that these funds be utilized from corporate miscellaneous expense in the appropriate periods.

CARRIED

6. Economic Development

The Warden's Economic Development Task Force met on August 24, 2006 and September 29, 2006. The attached reports (Appendix C) and (Appendix D) are submitted for the information of committee and Council. The Director of Planning, Scott Tousaw, presented the reports.

There was some discussion on Physician Recruitment. There was a question on who was allowed to attend and when the next meeting would be held. The Director of Planning suggested that unless information was received regarding the Rural Economic Development Fund there would not be a need to have a meeting until the 2007 Warden was in place. It was also noted that the Terms of Reference established that the Task Force consists of the heads of local councils, municipal and county CAO's and relevant staff; although anyone from the lower tiers are welcome. The next meeting will be at the call of the Warden.

Moved by J. Bezaire
Seconded by B. Dykstra
That the reports be received.

CARRIED

7. Human Resources - Policies and Procedures

Richard Hulley, Director of Human Resources, presented the attached report (Appendix E).

It is recommended that Policy No. 4.11 "Attendance Management" be approved.

Moved by J. Bezaire

Seconded by K. Oke

That Policy No. 4.11 "Attendance Management" be approved.

CARRIED

8. Committee Meetings

Correspondence is attached from Michael Blumhagen, Manager of Provincial Offenses and Financial Analyst, regarding courtroom scheduling. The Provincial Offenses office are requesting changing committee/Council meeting locations and/or dates to allow for Council chamber availability in order to accommodate court scheduling and meet the County's Memorandum of Understanding.

The CAO requested discussion and direction on this matter. The Treasurer and Deputy CAO presented the request. The CAO informed the committee that after review with staff there would be limited disruptions to preparations if the sessions were moved to the Wednesday.

There was a general consensus to move the location of the committee meeting on the second Thursday to the Museum, Homes or Library. Problems of rushing meetings to meet quorum during the past year was also discussed. Councillor B. MacLellan warned that not having a consistent location could be problematic and requested that the chosen location be permanent. The Warden noted that committee structures are slated for discussion at the Strategic Planning Day. The Director of Cultural Services and the Homes Director will cooperate on the location decision.

Moved by J. Bezaire

Seconded by B. MacLellan

That the 2007 Sessions of County Council be held on the first Wednesday of the month.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Klopp

Seconded by B. MacLellan

That effective January 1, 2007 there be no Council meetings or Committee meetings scheduled in the Chambers on Thursdays in order to free the space for POA Court scheduling.

CARRIED

****9. Ball's Bridge**

A report recommending that Ball's Bridge remain closed to traffic until temporary repairs are completed in 2007 or Council decides to permanently close the structure was introduced at a session of Council on July 6, 2006 and deferred to the August Planning, Agriculture and Public Works meeting. At that meeting the County Engineer was directed to do further research and report back to committee. A delegation, Friends of Ball's Bridge, was received at the September

committee meeting along with the engineer's report dated August 28, 2006. At the October 5, 2006 Session of County Council it was motioned to bring this item to the October Committee of the Whole.

At the October 5, 2006 Session of County Council discussion took place regarding Clause 14 a) Ball's Bridge delegation of the September 13, 2006 Planning, Agriculture and Public Works Committee meeting. It was: Moved by D. Shewfelt, Seconded by P. Klopp, That the issue be brought to the Committee of the Whole meeting in October.

At the October 11, 2006 Planning, Agriculture and Public Works meeting Warden R. Morley requested that this item be added to the agenda for the committee to prepare a recommendation. It was: Moved by Warden R. Morley, Seconded by E. Connelly, That the motion regarding Ball's Bridge be forwarded to the October Committee of the Whole meeting for further discussion. The motion forwarded is as follows:

"Moved by J. Fergusson

Seconded by D. Urlin

That Ball's Bridge remain closed to vehicle traffic and that no monies be proposed in the 2007 Bridge and Culvert budget; and further that Huron County continue to participate in discussions with all interested stake holders on the future of Ball's Bridge.

Carried"

Attached for the committee's information is notice of public forum organized by Friend's of Balls Bridge; and correspondence addressed to Chair, Bert Dykstra dated October 3, 2006.

Also forwarded from the October Planning, Agriculture and Public Works meeting is correspondence from the North Huron Trail Groomin Incorporated, Kenneth G. Wilson, regarding a donation offer of \$2,500.

Mr. Daryl Ball addressed the committee on behalf of the Friend's of Ball's Bridge, presentation attached, reviewing the groups view on the unique culture, historical value, and asset of the bridge. Currently they do not have a mechanism in place to generate or receive funds offered by various groups. The group is not in the position to take on the administration or maintenance of a bridge, although they are willing to be part of a steering committee. Councillors where invited to attend the public forum on October 23. Mr. Ball also informed the committee that M.P.P., Paul Steckle, is investigating funding options on their behalf.

Councillor B. Dykstra introduced a unanimous resolution from Central Huron. The CAO referred the point of order requires a two-thirds vote to introduce the motion.

Moved by B. Dykstra

Seconded by J. Bezaire

That the motion from Central Huron introduced by Reeve B. Dykstra be submitted.

CARRIED

The CAO read the following motion: "The Council of the Municipality of Central Huron encourages the County of Huron to undertake further study as to the structural integrity and the ongoing maintenance of the Ball's Bridge and further that the Council of the Municipality of Central Huron would be pleased to assist in the research to explore the options for a continued use of the historic landmark".

A lengthy discussion ensued. The County Engineer addressed the department's actions to date, discussing the liability and safety issues resulting in the closure of the bridge. The CAO informed the committee that he had requested legal counsel regarding ownership. The response from Donnelly and Murphy, Barristers and Solicitors is attached.

It was noted that this bridge is not part of the County Road System and would not be an economic priority if applied to the project evaluation process. By not placing this bridge with others, the County identifies that Ball's Bridge is unique. In order to receive grants it would need to be stand alone. The committee discussed the options of transferring ownership.

Mr. Ball was questioned what the goal of the Friend's of Ball's Bridge is. Is it for full restoration, a walking bridge, or for vehicle traffic? Councillor D. Shewfelt noted that the Menesetung Bridge Association is a model that the group could follow and suggested that they contact Mr. Rod Lafontaine and Dr. Dawson. Councillor R. Rognvaldson advised that the group become incorporated and apply for charitable status.

Councillor B. Van Diepenbeek noted that there are two students from Conestoga College who have requested to analyse the bridge as their third year project. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario have also approached the group to do an analysis for \$250 plus out of pocket expenses.

It was noted that Municipal council and all candidates meetings are in conflict of the scheduled public forum. The Warden and Councillor D. Shewfelt announced that they will be missing their municipal meetings to attend.

Moved by D. Layton

Seconded by K. Oke

That the resolution that Ball's Bridge remain closed to vehicle traffic and that no monies be proposed in the 2007 Bridge and Culvert budget; and further that Huron County continue to participate in discussions with all interested stake holders on the future of Ball's Bridge be supported.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued on the process of incorporating. It was noted that it is a simple process that can be renewed yearly. It requires naming a president, vice president, a secretary and treasurer. Councillor D. Shewfelt suggested that phase one would be to incorporate and phase two would be making decisions on type of restoration, securing financial support. The CAO noted that the County is not in the position to accept monies for the bridge. The County Engineer informed the committee that the department checks the bridge once or twice a week. Barriers have been removed and replaced. Public safety is a concern. It was suggested that piles of gravel make a sufficient barrier that would be difficult to remove.

Moved by D. Shewfelt

Seconded by D. Urlin

That staff be directed to send a letter to North Huron Trail Groomin Inc. advising them to contact the Friend's of Balls Bridge.

CARRIED

The Warden requested that Mr. D. Ball send a letter to the County stating that he is the representative/spokesperson for the Friend's of Balls Bridge.

10. Correspondence Attached – For Information

- a) AMO – Member Communication – Alert
 - Province Takes Action on AMO's Proposal on LCBO Deposit Return
 - AMO's Submission to Standing Committee on Finance
- b) Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Minutes of August 24, 2006. (*Package available in Clerks office on request.*)
- c) ROMA Board updates from meetings held August 2006, AMO Annual Conference and June 2006.
- d) News Release, September 6, 2006, "Southwest Economic Initiative Gains Momentum".
- e) AMO News Release, No. 06-018, AMO Welcomes \$75 Million Investment in Rural Infrastructure.
- f) Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Gerretsen, Minister, regarding Provincial-Territorial Meeting on Infrastructure.
- g) Resolutions
 - Township of Loyalist re: Lafarge Canada Inc. Bath Plant proposal on burning waste derived or alternative fuel in cement kilns request to address environmental impacts.
 - Township of Admaston/Bromley re: Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program.
 - Town of Caledon re: request to increase Town portion of the aggregate levy from four cents per tonne to eight cents per tonne for 2007.

FOR INFORMATION

11. Accounts and Financial Statements

Accounts for September 2006 were reviewed.

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Members of Council | \$13,222.52 |
| Corporate | \$2,495,085.99 |

Financial statements for the period ending August 31, 2006 were reviewed.

| | REVENUE | | EXPENDITURES | | COUNTY CONTRIBUTION | |
|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|
| | Actual | Prorated | Actual | Prorated | Actual | Prorated |
| Council | 1,965 | | 210,910 | 238,966 | 208,945 | 238,966 |
| General Gov't | 25,898,390 | 25,599,182 | 6,490,920 | 6,551,724 | (19,407,470) | (19,047,458) |

Moved by J. Fergusson

Seconded by B. MacLellan

That the accounts and financial statements be received.

CARRIED

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.

13. Adjournment

Moved by J. Bezaire

Seconded by K. Oke

That the meeting adjourn at 11:30 a.m. and be declared a full day meeting for those in attendance for more than two and half hours.

CARRIED

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Chair

**Huron County Council
November 2, 2006**

****Clause #9 – Ball's Bridge**

Moved by Councillor D. Shewfelt

Seconded by Councillor B. Van Diepenbeek

That the Warden or his designate and representatives from the adjoining lower tier municipalities meet with the Friends of Ball's Bridge to discuss the future of Ball's Bridge.

Carried

Councillor J. Fergusson has requested a report come forward that engineering costs be looked into regarding a walking level, and car and truck level. The County Engineer responded that the Group needs to meet first and see what the options are.

Moved by Councillor J. Fergusson

Seconded by Councillor B. Dowson

That the Roads Department bring forth a report to the Planning, Agriculture and Public Works Committee on bringing an Engineer's Report back on Balls Bridge to bring it up to a walking trail or for light vehicular traffic only.

Motion Defeated