



Committee of the Whole

Minutes - January 22, 2008

GODERICH, ONTARIO



Goderich, Ontario
January 22, 2008

The COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE met in the Court House at 9:00 a.m. with all members present except Councillor M. Demaray and Councillor J. Seili.

1. Minutes

Moved by B. Dykstra

Seconded by B. Siemon

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of December 18, 2007 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Councillor's Issues

Business Card order forms were distributed for Councillors. The cards are being offered as part of promoting the County's new brand and funded from monies allocated for the branding launch. Councillors have the option of ordering 100, 250 or 500. There was a brief discussion on costs and it was noted that Councillors could opt to pay for their own cards if they so wish.

Councillor D. Kelly expressed her appreciation for Councils cards, flowers and well wishes on the passing of her husband.

The County Council Restructuring Working Group is scheduled to meet January 23, 2008 in Goderich, at the Court House in the committee room beside the Warden's Office at 10 a.m. to discuss council composition. The working group is made up of the Warden's Task Force and nine Councillors' (one head of each lower tier municipality). Agendas were distributed to all of Council and the CAO announced that any Councillor may attend.

Also distributed was the agenda for the Warden's Task Force 2008 and Beyond scheduled for 1 p.m. on January 23, 2008 in Goderich, at the Court House in the committee room beside the Warden's Office to discuss budget, space needs, fire hydrant system at the Clinton complex, lease agreement with Epilepsy Huron-Perth-Bruce, staff restructuring, and other business as arises.

2. Blue Water Rest Home – Redevelopment

David Carey, Treasurer presented the attached report (Appendix A) for the information of committee and Council.

It is recommended that the September 14, 2004 County Council resolution stating "That the County of Huron be the guarantor of a mortgage for the Blue Water Rest Home and that the mortgage is not to exceed \$4.802 million and that all of the following conditions be met" be repealed.

Moved by B. MacLellan

Seconded by B. Dowson

That the recommendation be approved.

CARRIED

3. Ontario Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative

At the January 7, Committee of the Whole meeting during budget deliberations staff was instructed to begin the application process for Ministry Infrastructure Funding for either the Ethel Bridge;

Gorrie Bridge or both projects and report back as soon as possible. Staff would bring forward a report as soon as details of this initiative were available from the Ministry.

An AMO – Member Communication – Alert was received January 10, 2008 re: Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII), Update. Municipalities are able to submit applications for funding under this \$300 million program until February 15, 2008 and are able to submit one application only. Projects must be construction ready. Study costs are not eligible. Applications for funding for municipal infrastructure must be endorsed by council. The Ministry plans to make their funding announcements by March 31, 2008.

The Treasurer informed the committee that he and the County Engineer are currently reviewing the projects. They have discussed various projects and may be recommending the Gorrie bridge which has a cost of \$1.9 million and is construction-ready. The Treasurer stated he discussed the infrastructure grant with one of the M.P.P.'s local staff and was informed that an application for 100% of the cost may not be wise as there is a limited amount of grant funding for the Huron-Bruce riding and there are 19 municipalities in the riding. Councillor B. MacLellan suggested that the County communicate with Bruce County to see what projects they might be considering applying for. Warden J. Bezaire and the CAO will investigate what Bruce County might be considering.

FOR INFORMATION

4. Council Photo

One quotation was received from Westcoast Photography and Framing of Goderich, who took the Council photo last year. To photograph council group in July 2008 on date requested is \$85.44 (taxes included). The quotation to supply up to 30 photographs is: 8 x 10 Plaquet Photograph, \$27.48 each (taxes included). The quoted prices are the same as submitted in 2007.

Moved by J. Fergusson

Seconded by M. Scott

That the quotation for up to 30, 8 x 10 plaquet photographs with names as supplied previously at \$27.48 each plus \$85.44, taxes included, from Westcoast Photography and Framing of Goderich be accepted.

CARRIED

5. Drinking Water Source Protection

Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Region, correspondence received January 10, 2008 regarding Notice under O. Reg 287/07 Terms of Reference for Drinking Water Source Protection in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region.

The CAO addressed the correspondence and requested that Council give direction regarding upcoming preparations of the terms. The questions considered are as follows.

- i. Who will be the contact person within your municipality for future correspondence?
- ii. Does your Council wish to pass a resolution that would “elevate” other drinking water systems into the scope of source protection planning?
- iii. Is your Council Anticipating any new municipal drinking water system or major changes to existing systems?
- iv. Does your municipality have a long-term water supply strategy and may we receive a copy?

A brief discussion ensued. There was a general consensus that the process lends itself more to the lower tier municipalities and that the CAO could keep Council apprised of the ABMV Source Protection Regions activities.

Moved by D. Johnston

Seconded by D. Kelly

That the CAO be the contact person for the Drinking Water Source Protection in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region and that the County continue to receive information on this project.

CARRIED

6. Statutory Holiday (Family Day)

Darcy Michaud, Director of Human Resources, distributed the attached report entitled, "Family Day – Non-Union Employees, dated January 22, 2008" for the information of committee and Council.

It is the recommendation of the Senior Management Team that the County of Huron recognize Family Day as a statutory paid holiday for non-union staff, in addition to their current allotment of paid holidays. The County will abide by the terms of the respective collective agreements for all unionized staff in the County of Huron.

A lengthy discussion ensued with the Human Resources Director answering questions of the committee. The committee was informed that only two Counties have not awarded the holiday. Awarding the holiday to non-union staff will make them comparable to some of the unions; others have a greater benefit in their contract. Unions are required to negotiate changes within their collective agreements. The cost to the County for non-union staff would be approximately \$45,000. It was stressed it is the County, not the provincial government, that is awarding staff this additional benefit and it will be considered favourable in future discussions with the non-union committee.

Moved by J. Fergusson

Seconded by B. Dykstra

That the County of Huron recognize Family Day as a statutory paid holiday for non-union staff, in addition to their current allotment of paid holidays; and further that the County abide by the terms of the respective collective agreements for all unionized staff.

Councillor D. Shewfelt requested a Recorded Vote.

RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: Shewfelt, Vincent, Grace, Fergusson, Bezaire,
Dykstra, Kelly, Scott, Collyer, Johnston = 10

NAYS: MacLellan, Siemon, Dowson, Rintoul,
Van Diepenbeek, Robertson, Dietrich, Oke = 8

ABSENT: Demaray, Seili = 2

CARRIED

7. OGRA/ROMA 2008 Conference

Warden J. Beziare announced that the 2008 OGRA/ROMA Combined Conference is February 24 – 27, 2008 in Toronto. The committee was asked if they had any wishes to request a delegation with the Ontario Ministers. Delegation submissions are due Wednesday, February 6, 2008.

After discussion there was a general consensus to request a delegation to discuss Highway No. 4 and Highway No. 21 reconstruction issues. The CAO was directed to submit a delegation request. The Warden asked members of Council to contact Larry with suggestions if they wished any other specific issues discussed.

FOR INFORMATION

8. 2008 Draft Budget

The committee reviewed the consolidated draft budget at the Special Committee of the Whole January 7, 2008 with the Treasurer, making a PowerPoint presentation on the current status of the budget. Senior staff was to present options to achieve the 'not more than 5% increase to the levy' as directed by Council. The facilities portion of the consolidated budget was not reviewed at that meeting even though the figures were included in the budget.

Sandy MacLean, Facilities Manager, was in attendance to present the draft Facilities Budget thoroughly.

Moved by D. Shewfelt

Seconded by B. MacLellan

That the draft 2008 Facilities Budget be received for inclusion and further deliberation within the consolidated budget.

CARRIED

A discussion ensued on County's reserves. It was noted that requests to allocate funds to specific department reserves, or carried forward to the next year for capital projects, are included as revenue from reserves in the subsequent year or the year when the project is to be undertaken. The budget proposes to carry forward \$500,000 to a Facilities Capital Reserve to fund extraordinary building or infrastructure repairs. Councillor B. MacLellan inquired if this is going to be spent or held in reserves. The Facilities Manager answered that there are too many variables due to the Request for Proposals (RFP) process, various project readiness, and contractor's availability. It was questioned if wording could be changed to "Reserves for Planned Projects" for clarification.

Councillor T. Collyer inquired if the County will be eligible for the Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative (MIII) funding. The CAO informed Council that the County could be eligible should they decide to declare that a project is of the highest priority.

There was a lengthy discussion on the need for studies. There is \$50,000 allocated for a Facility Needs Study and \$50,000 set aside for a Museum Study. The Director of Cultural Services clarified the purpose of the Museum Study. It was initiated to look at the collections and space needs in a broader prospect. It will provide direction for the future answering various questions as: does the County simply need more warehouse space; the future of heritage preservation; various models of museum service to be viewed and chosen i.e. what should the museum be collecting taking into consideration other museums. This study establishes a strategic direction similar to the

Library Strategic Plan performed in 2002. It will provide options for Council to consider for the future.

Councillor B. MacLellan noted that the Highways Traffic Study is also in the budget.

The Treasurer stressed that unless designated by Council, an operating surplus automatically flows into the General Reserve at the end of each year and, as per the Municipal Act, be recognized as revenue in the next year. Councillor D. Shewfelt asked if the budget is at the 5%. Currently the budget is at 6.93%. The Warden advised the committee that motions would be required to remove allocations from the budget.

Possible dates for public budget presentations were discussed with Councillors sharing various views. The CAO suggested that a presentation could be made with a five minute overview from each department head followed by a break out session for group discussions. Some felt that a break out session was not necessary. A presentation followed by a question and answer period similar to last year would suffice. The Treasurer and the CAO were directed to put together a format for presentations. The CAO will confirm the dates and times pending availability of appropriate facilities with the preferred day being a Saturday.

FOR INFORMATION

9. Correspondence Attached – For Information

- a) AMO – Member Communication – Alert
 - Fairness for Military Families Act Passes.
 - House of Commons Motion calls for Permanent Federal Gas Tax Funding for Municipalities.
 - Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Stable Funding Guarantee for 2008.
 - Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative.
- b) Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - Jim Watson, MPP, Minister received December 5, 2007.
 - News Release: McGuinty Government Actions Benefit Ontario Municipalities
 - Long-Standing Service Program (Package available in Clerks office on request.)
- c) Hydro One Inc., Laura Formosa, Directions 2007 Status Report. (Available in Clerk's office upon request.)
- d) Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Minutes of November 22, 2007 and December 20, 2007. (*Packages available in Clerks office on request.*)
- e) Ministry of Finance, Dwight Duncan, Minister, received December 28, 2007 regarding the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) allocations for 2008.
- f) Resolutions
 - City of Owen Sound re: The City of Owen Sound supports the One Cent NOW! Campaign.
 - City of Waterloo re: Infrastructure Funding
 - City of Waterloo re: Provincial Sales Tax Exemption for Municipalities
 - Municipality of Durham re: Employment Insurance Eligibility and Links to Increased Poverty.

- Township of Brock re: concerns for the proposed changes to the regulatory framework for Non-Agriculture Source Material (NASM).
- City of Ottawa re: petition for the authority to create a hotel room tax such that some of the municipal costs created by the tourism and hotel industries can be recouped.

FOR INFORMATION

10. Accounts and Financial Statements

Accounts for December 2007 were reviewed.

Members of Council	\$17,913.18
Corporate	\$1,421,301.23

Financial statements for the period ending November 30, 2007 were reviewed.

	REVENUE		EXPENDITURES		COUNTY CONTRIBUTION	
	Actual	Prorated	Actual	Prorated	Actual	Prorated
Council	1,488		388,920	450,077	387,432	450,077
General Gov't	37,544,788	36,258,195	7,598,026	6,972,658	(29,946,762)	(29,285,537)

Moved by B. Dowson
Seconded by G. Robertson
That the accounts and financial statements be received.

CARRIED

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment

Moved by
Seconded by
That the meeting adjourn at 11:27 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair