



# Committee of the Whole

## Minutes - March 18, 2008

*GODERICH, ONTARIO*



Goderich, Ontario  
March 18, 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 N. Vincent.

## 1. Minutes

**Moved by B. Siemon**

**Seconded by B. MacLellan**

**That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 19, 2008 be adopted as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

## Councillor's Issues

Councillor J. Seili invited members to the Local Liberals Caucus to work with farmers on a national food security policy. The round-table is scheduled to commence at 1 p.m. at the Agri-Plex (130 Duke Street) in Seaforth on Thursday, March 20, 2008.

Councillor J. Grace announced that he would be leaving for a half hour meeting around 10 a.m. and would return.

## 2. Delegation

Mr. Rob Morley attended to present each County Councillor with a copy of The Honourable James M. Donnelly's book "Volume 3, Donnelly on Law, Retrospective", on behalf of Lavis Contracting Limited. The Senior Management Team, each Lower Tier and members of the press also received a book. With Mr. Donnelly's permission, Lavis Contracting Ltd. is donating the book to various locations, groups and organizations around the County. Each volume is personally signed by the author.

**Moved by D. Johnston**

**Seconded by D. Shewfelt**

**That a letter of appreciation be sent to Lavis Contracting Limited.**

**CARRIED**

## 3. Salary Disclosure Act, 1996

David Carey, Treasurer, submitted a report to the committee regarding the 2007 requirements for the Public Salary Disclosures Act, 1996. The report is required to be submitted to the Ministry by mid-March. There will be three employees making the disclosure list as follows:

		<u>Salary Paid</u>	<u>Taxable Benefits</u>
Larry C. Adams	CAO	\$134,383.90	\$1,619.30
David Carey	Treasurer and Deputy CAO	\$123,584.23	\$1,403.37
Dr. Beth Henning	Medical Officer of Health	\$144,287.00	\$1,498.56

**FOR INFORMATION**

#### **4. Huron County Cultural Plan**

The Director of Cultural Services, Beth Ross, presented the Huron County Cultural Plan at the Committee of the Whole February 19, 2008 where it was received and forwarded to the Cultural Services and Seniors Committee for their review and recommendations. At the March 13, 2008 meeting the recommendations were presented as follows:

It is recommended that the Cultural Plan be supported and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for consideration of approval, and that the decision for a future County staff position be deferred pending the outcome of the pilot implementation phase of the Cultural Plan, the proposed corporate-wide service delivery review, and/or future priorities of Council.

It is further recommended that the Heritage and Cultural Partnership's application for funding to begin pilot implementation of its commitments in the Cultural Plan (\$18,000 for one year) under the Huron Economic Development Matters (RED) program be supported, and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for consideration of approval.

After a thorough review at the March Cultural Services and Seniors Committee it was "Moved by Warden J. Bezaire, Seconded by J. Seili, That the recommendations be approved; and further that an annual review of the program be completed and provided to County Council; and further that any future RED funding requests in 2009 or 2010, regardless of the amount, be sought through this committee as a request for increased funding. Carried."

The Warden announced that the CAO requested a revision of the motion forwarded from the Thursday meeting that was distributed on the addendum. The Warden then read the suggested revised motion.

**Moved by J. Fergusson**

**Seconded by J. Grace**

**That the recommendations be approved; and it is further recommended that an annual review of the program be completed and provided to County Council prior to any additional RED funding, in any amount, in 2009 and 2010.**

**CARRIED**

#### **5. 2008 Capping Analysis and Tax Tools Options**

Nancy Rennick, Manager of Financial Services and Deputy Treasurer, submitted the attached report (Appendix A) for the information of committee and Council. The Treasurer spoke to the report.

It is recommended that the following be adopted to establish a maximum increase threshold as the greater of:

- i. 10% of the previous year's annualized capped classes; and
- ii. 5% of the previous year's annualized CVA tax eligible property; and
- iii. imposing a threshold adjustment for capped properties where the required billing adjustment (credit only) is within \$250 of the properties' CVA tax; in this instance, no capping credit would be applied, and the affected property would be billed at its full CVA tax level;

and that the necessary by-law be passed stating that the above paragraph applies to the calculation of the amount of taxes for municipal and school purposes payable in respect of the property in the commercial, industrial and multi-residential classes for 2008.

It is further recommended that the necessary by-law be passed stating the County will impose a 100% threshold on the tax level for eligible new construction for 2008.

**Moved by B. Van Diepenbeek**

**Seconded by M. Scott**

**That the recommendations be approved and the necessary by-laws be passed.**

**CARRIED**

## **6. Warden's Economic Development Task Force.**

This item was discussed at the March 5, 2008 Session of County Council and was requested to be brought forward to Committee of the Whole for further discussion. Attached for your information is the Terms of Reference for the Warden's Economic Development Task Force.

Councillor B. MacLellan spoke to this issue at length questioning the costs and benefits of continuing the task force. Members shared various opinions on the advantages of attending this meeting with staff, councils and stakeholders. Councillor D. Kelly reminded the committee that two years ago at a Strategic Planning Day meeting the County's number one priority was Economic Development.

The Director of Planning and Development, Scott Tousaw, offered to add an agenda item for the next scheduled meeting to ascertain how the objectives of the task force are working. Councillor B. MacLellan requested that Mike Pullen, Economic Development Officer, also be directed to attend the April Committee of the Whole meeting to apprise Council of the economic initiatives and activities in the County.

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **7. Huron Economic Development Matters**

Councillor B. MacLellan asked at the February 6, 2008 Session of Council for information on the funding program under Huron Economic Development Matters (RED funding). This information was provided to the February 19<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole and Councillor MacLellan was absent. The following is what was reported at that meeting.

"Attached as Appendix B are: a report on Structure and Governance approved by County Council on June 6, 2007; a Status of Approvals report summarizing funded projects (including location); and a chart showing funding categories in accordance with the RED agreement.

Councillor J. Seili spoke on behalf of Councillor B. MacLellan's request and attempted to explain his position. He feels that the process needs to be revamped and that it isn't a fair playing ground as some lower tiers do not have the resources to write proposals, resulting in some parts of the County not receiving funds.

The Director of Planning and Development, Scott Tousaw, stated that the process is working very well. The Management Committee operates by consensus with a ratifying motion at the end of the meeting. It was noted that there is \$210,000 currently allocated for projects but not all is spent.”

Councillor B. MacLellan addressed his concern regarding the potential for the funding going to one area or municipality and the complexity of the applications. S. Tousaw highlighted the structure and governance of the management committee and noted that it states: “*funding criteria for applications will include consistency with program goals and priorities (as per RED application) and consideration for representation across sectors, organizations and communities*”. He noted that this clearly takes the County as a whole into consideration and feels that representation has not been an issue. On the “Status of Approvals” report it was pointed out that the municipality is noted for interest only and it is not the municipality that has applied for the money.

Councillor B. MacLellan would like to see application forms more user friendly, as well as, a safeguard in place to ensure monies are not allocated to once specific area i.e. setting a dollar figure limit for applications.

**Moved by B. MacLellan**

**Seconded by D. Kelly**

**That no more than 20% of the total Economic Development Matters budget be allocated for a single project application to the Huron Economic Development Matters RED funding.**

**Moved by B. MacLellan**

**Seconded by D. Kelly**

**That the motion be tabled pending Council receiving more information.**

**CARRIED**

Councillor J. Grace left the chambers at 9:50 a.m. to attend his meeting.

## **8. County Vehicles**

At the February 13, 2008 Planning, Agricultural and Public Works Committee meeting the County Engineer presented a verbal report on the purchase of vehicles. It was: “Moved by D. Shewfelt, Seconded by B. Siemon, That Fleet be authorized to proceed with the purchase of five (5) cars for the Senior Management Team and two (2) Crossovers for the CAO and Warden as approved. Carried.” At the March 5, 2008 Session of County Council the motion was amended as follows: “Moved by Councillor B. MacLellan, Seconded by Councillor B. Siemon, That the resolution be amended to withdraw the vehicle for the Warden and that staff prepare a report on the Warden’s vehicle. Carried.”

David Carey, Treasurer and Deputy CAO, presented the attached report and answered questions for the information of committee and Council.

A lengthy discussion ensued. It was noted the tenders were not included with the report but were available for perusal. Warden J. Beziare requested that the County Engineer provide the tenders immediately for those Councillors who wished to review them. The committee discussed various aspects of the report.

**Moved by B. Siemon**  
**Seconded by G. Robertson**  
**That the Warden not be provided with a vehicle.**

Councillor B. Dykstra requested a Recorded Vote.

**RECORDED VOTE**

YEAS: Van Diepenbeek, Bezaire, MacLellan, Collyer,  
Scott, Oke, Robertson, Seili, Dowson, Siemon,  
Rintoul, Kelly = 12

NAYS: Fergusson, Dykstra, Dietrich,  
Johnston, Shewfelt = 5

ABSENT: Demaray, Grace, Vincent = 3

**CARRIED**

The CAO advised Council that proper procedure had been used in this case by staff. A staff report recommended the inclusion of a vehicle for the Warden to the Planning, Agriculture and Public Works Committee. This comment was verified by Councillor B. Dowson.

Councillor J. Grace returned at 10:30 a.m.

**9. Town of Newmarket Resolution**

The Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee met on March 7, 2008 and reviewed the resolution from the Town of Newmarket. It was "Moved by G. McLachlan, Seconded by L. Falconer, That the resolution be supported by the Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee and forwarded to Committee of the Whole for endorsement".

It is recommended that the resolution from the Town of Newmarket be supported.

**Moved by D. Kelly**  
**Seconded by B. Dowson**  
**That the recommendation be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**10. Service Delivery Review**

David Carey, Treasurer and Deputy CAO, conducted the attached PowerPoint presentation. A Guide to Service Delivery Review for Municipal Councillors and Senior Staff was also provided. The overview included: challenges, obstacles to approaches, guides available, questions a review should answer, benefits, six key stages, and next steps.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Councillor B. MacLellan suggested that the process start with the Health Unit as they have to go through a review for the Ministry. It was questioned how long the whole process would take. The Treasurer and Deputy CAO informed the committee that all

departments and subsequent divisions could be conducted in three to four years. The Director of the Health Unit, Penny Nelligan, advised the committee that in the fall of 2008 the Health Unit will need to conduct a new service review in order to assess the impact of the new Mandatory Program Standards.

Cost was discussed i.e. there would not only be consulting fees but internal costs associated as well. It was suggested that perhaps the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) could provide information readily available. D. Carey noted that the MMAH will only offer advice. Councillor D. Shewfelt stated that each department would be unique and inquired if the County would use external consultants or internal staff. Reserves were also questioned, Councillor J. Grace inquired if \$50,000 should be set in a specific reserve. D. Carey noted that there was approximately \$19,000 left uncommitted in the OMPF one time funding reserve that could be utilized.

There was a general consensus that a report was needed on: how the review would be conducted, prioritized by departments; how each individual department would be done; and if it has support of Senior Management Team.

**Moved by D. Johnston**

**Seconded by J. Grace**

**That staff provide a detailed report on how to advance the issue of a Service Delivery Review outlining action, sources of funding, and timelines.**

Councillor D. Johnston requested a Recorded Vote.

**RECORDED VOTE**

YEAS: Fergusson, Dietrich, Seili, Van Diepenbeek, Scott, Grace, Bezaire, Shewfelt, Johnston, Siemon, Oke, Dowson, Rintoul, Collyer, Dykstra, Robertson, Kelly, MacLellan = 18

NAYS: = 0

ABSENT: Demaray, Vincent = 2

**CARRIED**

**\*\* 11. 2008 draft Budget**

Capital budget requests were presented in October and forwarded to the evaluation and budget process. Each committee was presented their respective draft 2008 operating budgets for preliminary discussion in November and then again for review in December. The draft operating budgets were reviewed and received at the November 20, 2008 Committee of the Whole. A Special Committee of the Whole was held to review the Consolidated Budget on January 7, 2008 and the regular scheduled meeting of January 22, 2008.

A public budget presentation was conducted on Saturday, February 16, 2008 in Holmesville at the Community Centre. Advertisements were placed in the County papers inviting written comments and questions. Submissions were received up to February 13, 2008 at the office of the County Clerk. The Public Budget Meeting presentation dated February 16, 2008 was distributed to all members.

A lengthy question and answer period ensued. It was clarified that should there be a surplus left from tendering it would automatically go back into reserve. There was confusion whether or not the Gorrie Bridge project was in the budget. The CAO confirmed with the committee that the Gorrie Bridge project was removed from the draft budget in February. Councillor B. MacLellan wanted to know if the budget allows staff to proceed with projects and if Council could still review various budget items. The CAO informed Council that a public notice is required to adopt or amend a budget and that the County's procurement policy allows Council to review the budget throughout the year for major expenditures.

**Moved by B. Siemon**

**Seconded by D. Shewfelt**

**That the 2008 levy increase be set at 5 % and the necessary by-law be passed.**

Councillor B. Dykstra requested a Recorded Vote.

#### RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: Oke, Dykstra, Scott, Van Diepenbeek,  
Robertson, Bezaire, Rintoul, Shewfelt,  
Siemon, Grace, Collyer = 11

NAYS: Johnston, MacLellan, Dowson, Dietrich,  
Kelly, Seili, Fergusson = 7

ABSENT: Demaray, Vincent = 2

**CARRIED**

#### **12. Correspondence Attached – For Information**

a) AMO – Member Communication – Alert

- Federal Liberal Party Pledges Infrastructure Money
- Province Reviewing More than 450 Applications for MIII Funding
- Premier Announces Additional Infrastructure Funding for Municipalities
- Federal Budget Makes Gas Tax Permanent
- Approval of the Municipal Hazardous or MHSW Program Plan – Phase 1
- Canada and Ontario Announce Call for Proposals on Local Immigration Partnerships

b) Blue Water Rest Home, Ron Heimrich, Chair, Board of Directors, re: the Infrastructure Ontario (O.I.P.C) has approved the required financing for Blue Water Rest Home to redevelop 65 beds to an "A" level from the current "C" and "D" level.

c) Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC)

- January 17, 2008, Jim Burns, County Warden re: requesting support of a resolution that addresses the issue of provincial compensation for the negative municipal financial impact associated with the transition from the farm tax rebate program in 1998.

**Moved by B. Van Diepenbeek**  
**Seconded by J. Seili**  
**That the resolution be supported.**

**CARRIED**

- February 21, 2008, John K. Oosterhof, Chair, re: Farm Tax Rebate
- d) Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, Minutes of January 17, 2008. (*Package available in Clerks office on request.*)
- e) Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Members Advisory, dated February 26, 2008 re: Budget 2008 Delivers Good News for Cities and Communities.
- f) Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), "A Primer on Local Government". (*Book available in Clerks office on request.*)
- g) CT Scanner for Huron County, Heather Glenister, Executive Director, correspondence received February 14, 2008 re: thank you for support of the CT Scanner Diagnostic Imaging Campaign in the amount of \$500,000.
- h) House of Commons, Paul Steckle, M.P., Huron Bruce re: response to Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawnosh resolution regarding infrastructure funding.
- i) Resolutions
  - Town of Amherstburg re: Lead Testing Mandated by Province for Municipal Drinking Water.

**Moved by B Siemon**  
**Seconded by K. Oke**  
**That the resolution be supported.**

**CARRIED**

- Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands re: request that the Province of Ontario assume ownership and responsibility for the operation of all municipal drinking water systems within the Province subject to its regulations.
- City of Woodstock re: request that the Province of Ontario eliminate tax capping and replace it with an equitable system based on current values assessment.
- Niagara Region re: requests the Federal Government to amend Bill C-22 to provide Ontarians with their fair share of seats in the House of Commons while maintaining the constitutionally protected seat guarantees of smaller provinces.
- Town of Milton re: requests the Minister of Natural Resources to review a) the role of security deposits for pit/quarry rehabilitation; b) re-instatement of those security deposits; c) review of the role of OSSGA and TOARC determining if this role has been in the public good and has been effective for promoting rehabilitation.

**FOR INFORMATION**

### 13. Accounts

Accounts for February 2008 were reviewed.

Members of Council	\$7,910.13
Corporate	\$1,234,886.14

**Moved by N. Rintoul**  
**Seconded by B. Dykstra**  
**That the accounts be received.**

**CARRIED**

### 14. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

"IN CAMERA"

**Moved by B. Dowson**  
**Seconded by D. Kelly**  
**That the committee proceed "In Camera" at 12:50 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and that Larry C. Adams, D. Carey, D. Michaud, and the solicitor, Greg Stewart remain in attendance.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by J. Seili**  
**Seconded by B. Siemon**  
**That the committee rise from "In Camera" at 2:40 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by J. Seili**  
**Seconded by J. Grace**  
**That staff be instructed to proceed as directed "In-Camera" on issue one.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by B. MacLellan**  
**Seconded by J. Grace**  
**That staff be instructed to proceed as directed "In-Camera" on issue two.**

Councillor D. Shewfelt requested a Recorded Vote.

RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: MacLellan, Van Diepenbeek, Oke, Dietrich,  
Fergusson, Johnston, Bezaire, Robertson,  
Dowson, Kelly, Scott, Siemon, Collyer, Seili,  
Rintoul, Dykstra = 16

NAYS: Shewfelt, Grace = 2

ABSENT: Demaray, Vincent = 2

**CARRIED**

**15. Adjournment**

**Moved by B. MacLellan  
Seconded by J. Dietrich  
That the meeting adjourn at 2:45 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

.....  
Chair

**Huron County Council  
April 2, 2008**

**\*\* Clause #11 – 2008 Draft Budget**

Discussion took place regarding the original motion:

“Moved by B. Siemon  
Seconded by D. Shewfelt  
That the 2008 levy increase be set at 5% and the necessary by-law be passed.

Councillor B. Dykstra requested a Recorded Vote.

RECORDED VOTE

YEAS: Oke, Dykstra, Scott, Van Diepenbeek,  
Robertson, Bezaire, Rintoul, Shewfelt,  
Siemon, Grace, Collyer = 11

NAYS: Johnston, MacLellan, Dowson, Dietrich,  
Kelly, Seili, Fergusson = 7

ABSENT: Demaray, Vincent = 2            CARRIED”

Councillor D. Johnston requested a Recorded Vote.

RECORDED VOTE:

YEAS - Rintoul, Oke, Dykstra, Collyer = 4

NAYS - Van Diepenbeek, MacLellan, Siemon, Dowson, Vincent,  
Demaray, Grace, Bezaire, Scott, Seili, Fergusson,  
Johnston, Dietrich, Shewfelt, Kelly, Robertson = 16

**MOTION DEFEATED**

This issue will be brought to the Committee of the Whole on April 15, 2008 for discussion.