

**MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HURON**

Goderich, Ontario
September 2, 2020

The Council of the County of Huron met virtually due on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. All members of Council were present.

1. Warden Jim Ginn called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

2. Warden's Remarks:

Warden Ginn stated that he attended the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) virtual conference. The Western Ontario Wardens Caucus had a multi minister delegation at the conference. The Homelessness Task Force has met and information will be presented to County Council. There will be communication regarding back to school released in September.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: Councillor Fisher and Seconded by: Councillor Harding

THAT:

The Council Day 1 agenda for September 2, 2020 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

There were no declarations stated.

5. Minutes of the Previous Session:

Moved by: Councillor Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor McNeil

THAT:

The minutes of the Council Day 2 meeting on August 12, 2020 meeting, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Delegations/Petitions/Presentations:

6.1. Federal Carbon Tax on Farm Use Propane and Natural Gas

Anita Frayne and Maggie Durnin requested that Council pass a resolution directed to the Federal Government (to be widely circulated to gain more support) requesting the Federal Government to immediately support the broad based call to exempt farmers from paying the carbon tax on farm use propane and natural gas; and further, that a discussion begin on the need to address the carbon tax on natural gas and propane used to provide essential services and products to farmers.

Moved by: Councillor Jewitt and Seconded by: Councillor Fisher

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron support the motion from the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh as follows:

“WHEREAS “Agriculture is one of the largest and most important sectors within Huron County. New employment and economic opportunities can be found within and related to

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the development of agriculture and Agri-related industries. Huron County takes pride in being called the breadbasket of Ontario. With over 290,000 hectares (about 650,000 acres) of prime farmland, Huron County produces more annual gross farm receipts than many Canadian provinces.” (Huron County website)

AND WHEREAS “Grain Farmers of Ontario is the province’s largest commodity organization, representing Ontario’s 28,000 barley, corn, oat, soybean and wheat farmers. The crops grown cover 6 million acres of farm land across the province, generate over \$4.1 billion in farm gate receipts, result in over \$18 billion in economic output and are responsible for over 75,000 jobs in the province.” (Grain Farmers of Ontario)

AND WHEREAS “Canada is one of the largest agricultural producers and exporters in the world.” (Wikipedia)

AND WHEREAS the “carbon tax” originates from the federal Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act which was passed in 2018. The fuel charge stemming from this act kicked in on April 1, 2019 in Ontario due to the provincial government’s scrapping of their “cap and trade” program in the autumn of 2017. There has been a broad-based push-back from the farming community and beyond with respect to why this tax was implemented in the farm community in the first place. There has been a persistent call for the elimination of the carbon tax on all farm use fuels. To date there has been no relief with respect to the carbon tax on farm use propane and natural gas for grain drying, heating barns and crop irrigation.

AND WHEREAS Senate Public Bill S-215 was brought forward early this spring by Senator Diane Griffin with calls for all Senators to support the Bill which would exempt propane and natural gas from the carbon tax. Bill C-206 was tabled by MPP Philip Lawrence and is similar in nature to Bill S-215. Jeff Nielsen, Chair, Grain Growers of Canada, stated that, “Given the clear desire for this legislative change in both Chambers and across Party lines, our hope is that the federal government would include broader exemptions for all fuels used in farming operations in the Budget Implementation Act – once tabled. This is not about politics. This is about the sustainability of the family farm in Canada.” (Grain Growers of Canada)

AND WHEREAS what is at the heart of this exemption request is the recognition and understanding that farmers are primary producers and, for the most part, price takers and end users. They have no way to recoup this cost. Everyone in the chain above can recover the cost of the carbon tax paid by them by passing it on (i.e. billing the farmer for it) but farmers have no way to recoup this cost because they cannot set prices in a global market (but must try to remain competitive in that market). It is the reason why gasoline and diesel fuel for farm use have been exempted from carbon tax pricing. The same logic should apply to farm use propane and natural gas. Grain must be dried. Barns must be heated. Crops must be irrigated. These are not optional activities and, at the present time, there are no viable replacements for fossil fuels to dry the crops, heat the barns and irrigate the crops.

AND WHEREAS to further complicate matters, greenhouses have been extended an exemption on the carbon tax on propane and natural gas for the exclusive purposes of heating greenhouses and/or generating carbon dioxide (CO₂). These greenhouse purposes are 80% exempt. Partial relief of the fuel charge (i.e. 80%) applies to propane that is exclusively for use in the operation of a commercial greenhouse for growing any plants, including vegetables, fruits, bedding plants, cut flowers, ornamental plants, tree seedlings and medicinal plants. In order for relief to be available, all or substantially all of the greenhouse building must be used for the growing of plants.

AND WHEREAS our federal government continues to agree that the carbon tax plan for farmers will not change. Federal Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, has stated that she does not have a business case to justify an exemption and that

the carbon tax is not a significant factor (<https://www.realagriculture.com/2020/06/carbon-tax-on-grain-drying-fuel-not-significant-enough-toqualify-for-an-exemption-bibeau-says/>).

AND WHEREAS it is important to note that all farm use natural gas and propane is subject to the carbon tax – the carbon tax on grain drying at commercial dryer/elevator systems can and is being passed on to farmers and sits on their bottom line.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh asks that the federal government of Canada (the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, the Federal House of Commons Agriculture Committee, our Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau) support the broad based call to exempt farmers from paying the carbon tax on farm use propane and natural gas.”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be sent to Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce, and Ben Lobb MP for Huron-Bruce,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this motion be sent to all lower tier municipalities in the County of Huron and the Western Ontario Wardens’ Caucus for their consideration.

CARRIED

7. Councillor’s Issues:

Councillor MacLellan reviewed key points from the AMO 2020 virtual conference.

Councillor MacLellan stated that he considered, but would not be, putting his name forward for the position of Warden 2020-2022.

There was discussion of the AMO conference. Warden Ginn stated that the availability of recorded AMO sessions was a great feature and hopes it is continued.

The executive committee of the Huron County Municipal Officers’ Association will be polled to consider rescheduling the cancelled meeting from April to this fall.

8. Consent Agenda – Items 8.1 through 8.9:

Moved by: Councillor Murdock and Seconded by: Councillor Dietrich

THAT:

Items 8.1 through 8.9 be approved with the actions as noted.

CARRIED

9. Planning and Development:

9.1. Consent File C38-2020, Harry Froussios of Zelinka Priamo (applicant) for JK Development GP2 (Exeter) Limited, Part Lots 926 & 930, Lots 927-929, 931, Plan 376, Exeter Ward, Municipality of South Huron (presented by Craig Metzger)

The purpose of this application is to divide an existing commercial lot into two parcels with an easement for shared driveway access and parking. The application conforms to the South Huron and Huron County Official Plans and is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020. A neighbour has submitted correspondence objecting to the proposed severance due to a number of concerns including traffic impact of the proposed apartment development, garbage from the existing commercial use, noise, and dust from construction. The Municipality of South has recommended that the application be approved and the

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Planning and Development Department recommends the application be approved with conditions. Applicant Harry Froussios spoke in favour of the application.

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Dietrich

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves the recommendation by Craig Metzger, Senior Planner, that Consent application C38-2020, by Harry Froussios of Zelinka Priamo for JK Development GP2 (Exeter) Limited, requesting the severance of a parcel of land for shared driveway access and parking for future development, described as Part Lots 926 & 930, Lots 927-929, 931, Plan 376, Exeter Ward, Municipality of South Huron be approved with conditions.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor Finch

THAT:

Consent application C38-2020, by Harry Froussios of Zelinka Priamo on behalf of JK Development GP2 (Exeter) Limited, requesting a severance of the lands described as Part Lots 926 & 930, Lots 927-929, 931, Plan 376, Exeter Ward, Municipality of South Huron. Public comments were received on the issues of traffic due to the proposed apartment building, garbage, and dust during construction. Comments were thoroughly considered but the effect did not influence the decision of Council to approve the application. Agency comments were received in support of the application, the effect of which resulted in a decision to approve the application.

CARRIED

9.2. C37-2020 – Estate of Patricia Hendrick, Elgin Hendrick (Owners), Kim and Ken Pinder (Applicant), Part Lots 24 and 25, West of Lake Road Concession (71741 Bluewater Highway), Hay West Ward, Municipality of Bluewater (presented by Hanna Holman)

The purpose of the application is for the creation of a new lot under the surplus farm residence policies. The proposed land to be severed is approximately 3.1 ha (7.7 acres). The retained lands are approximately 32.7 ha (81 acres). The surplus farm dwelling severance policies require that the dwelling to be severed be surplus to the farming operation due to farm consolidation. The property owner does not own another farm with a dwelling, therefore, the proposed severance as applied for is not consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement and does not conform to the Huron County Official Plan or the Bluewater Official Plan. If the applicant were to identify a purchaser of the retained farmland who has another farm with a residence then the proposed application would follow the surplus farm dwelling policies.

The application otherwise meets the criteria for the surplus farm residence policies, with the exception of the criteria that the application is kept to a minimal size needed for residential purposes. The proposed severed lot contains an area of land to the north of the dwelling with a size of approximately 1.7 hectares (4.1 acres) with the proposed property line along the Datars Miller Drain. It has not been demonstrated that the inclusion of this area is necessary to support the residential use of the proposed severed lot, and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) expressed concerns with the proposed lot line as it seeks to further fragment the hazard area surrounding the Datars Millers Drain. Potential conditions are provided including a condition (Condition No. 12) to reduce the size of the proposed severed lot to exclude the lands contained within the ABCA regulatory lands.

The Municipality of Bluewater Council recommended that the application be approved subject to the potential conditions including in the report, without including Potential Condition No. 12 that included reduction of the size of the proposed severed lot.

The Planning Department recommended deferral of the application to provide the applicant with an opportunity to seek an eligible purchaser of the retained lands so that the residence

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may be considered surplus and therefore meet the policy requirements for a surplus farm dwelling severance. Applicants Kim and Ken Pinder spoke in favour of the application.

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Heffer

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves Consent Application C37-2020 by Kim Pinder and Ken Pinder (Estate of Patricia Hendrick, Elgin Hendrick), requesting the severance of a parcel of land under the surplus farm residence policies, described as Part Lots 24 and 25, West of Lake Road Concession, Hay West Ward, Municipality of Bluewater, with all presented conditions except condition 12.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Fergusson and Seconded by: Councillor MacLellan

THAT:

Consent application C37-2020 by Kim Pinder and Ken Pinder (Estate of Patricia Hendrick, Elgin Hendrick), requesting the severance of a parcel of land under the surplus farm residence policies, described as Part Lots 24 and 25, West of Lake Road Concession, Hay West Ward, Municipality of Bluewater. Public comments were received on the issue of the removal of the dwelling from the agricultural land. Comments were thoroughly considered but the effect did not influence the decision of Council to approve the application. Comments were received from agencies identifying the issue of fragmenting the regulatory hazard lands, and conformity with Official Plan policies. Comments were thoroughly considered but the effect did not influence the decision of Council to approve the application.

CARRIED

9.3. Consent File C43-2020, Carl & Lorraine Reinhardt, Concession 14, Lot 15, West Wawanosh, Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh (presented by Celina Whaling-Rae)

This application proposes to sever a surplus farm residence under the surplus policies. The proposed severed lot is 1.17 ha (2.9 acres), while the proposed retained lot is 36 ha (89 acres). The application does not conform with the Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh and Huron County Official Plans, or the Provincial Policy Statement, as there has been a prior severance of the subject lands after the adoption of the Huron County Official Plan in 1973. The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh has recommended that the subject application be approved. The Planning Department is recommending that the subject application be denied. John Schenk representing applicants Carl & Lorraine Reinhardt spoke in favour of the application.

Moved by: Councillor Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor Bailey

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approves Consent Application C43-2020 by Carl & Lorraine Reinhardt requesting the severance of a parcel of land under the surplus farm residence policies, described as Concession 14, Lot 15, West Wawanosh, Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, with conditions as presented.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Fisher and Seconded by: Councillor Harding

THAT:

Consent Application C43-2020, by Carl & Lorraine Reinhardt, requesting a severance of a parcel of land under the surplus farm residence policies the lands described as Concession 14, Lot 15, West Wawanosh, Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh. No public comments were received on this application so there was no effect on the decision. Agency comments were received on the issue of conformity with Official Plan policies. Comments were thoroughly considered, but did not influence the direction of Council to approve the application.

CARRIED

9.4. Public Meeting for Plan of Subdivision Application 40T20001, Huron Green Inc. c/o Ruth Victor & Associates, Part Lot 25, Concession 2, Part Lot 6, Stephen Ward, Municipality of South Huron (presented by Sandra Weber)

A member of Council is required to attend a joint public meeting of the County of Huron and the Municipality of South Huron for a Plan of Subdivision application. The application proposes to apply a Plan of Subdivision to the existing residential development in Huron Park; the application involves the creation of 374 lots and 11 blocks. The lots will contain the 202 existing single detached dwellings, 158 existing semi-detached dwellings (such that each unit will be on a separate lot) and create 14 vacant infill lots. The public meeting for this application is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the South Huron Recreation Centre, located in Exeter. The meeting is proposed to be a hybrid meeting (virtual and physical) but may be subject to change as per public health protocols.

Moved by: Councillor McNeil and Seconded by: Councillor Dietrich

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron appoints Councillor Klopp to represent Huron County Council at the public meeting for Plan of Subdivision File 40T20001, Municipality of South Huron.

CARRIED

10. Cultural Services:

10.1. Huron County Museum Collection Deaccession Report - September 2020 (presented by Elizabeth French-Gibson)

Moved by: Councillor Fergusson and Seconded by: Councillor Murdock

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Elizabeth French-Gibson, Interim Director of Cultural Services, dated September 2, 2020, titled Huron County Museum Collection Deaccession Report – September 2020, as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron accepts the report and recommendation of the Huron County Museum's Collections Committee that M972.0046 be deaccessioned from the Huron County Museum's collection.

CARRIED

11. Administration, Policies and Other Issues:

11.1 OMERS Plan Changes (presented by Michael Blumhagen)

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Watt

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Veronica Stevenson, Deputy Treasurer, Manager of Financial Services, dated September 2, 2020, titled OMERS Plan Changes, as presented for information.

CARRIED

11.2. COVID-19 Financial Impact – September Update (presented by Michael Blumhagen)

Moved by: Councillor Dietrich and Seconded by: Councillor Finch

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Michael Blumhagen, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services, dated September 2, 2020, titled COVID-19 Financial Impact – September Update, as presented for information.

CARRIED

11.3 June 2020 Year-to-Date Financial Reporting (presented by Michael Blumhagen)

Moved by: Councillor McNeil and Seconded by: Councillor Watt

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Michael Blumhagen, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services, dated September 2, 2020, titled September 2020 Year-to-Date Financial Reporting, 2020 as presented for information.

CARRIED

11.4. Appointment of Auditors for the County of Huron (2020-2024) (presented by Michael Blumhagen)

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Murdock

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by Michael Blumhagen, Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services, dated September 2, 2020, titled Appointment of Auditors for the County of Huron (2020-2024), as presented for information;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron directs staff to draft a by-law that appoints KPMG as the auditors for the County of Huron for a five year term commencing with the year ending December 31, 2020.

CARRIED

11.5. Strategic Priorities Chart – August 2020 (presented by Meighan Wark)

Moved by: Councillor Grace and Seconded by: Councillor Watt

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron receives the report by CAO, Meighan Wark, dated September 2, 2020, titled Strategic Priorities - August 2020, as presented for information.

CARRIED

12. Correspondence:

Councillor Finch requested that Item 12.7 Municipality of South Huron resolution re: Safety concerns at the intersections of Highway 83 and Airport Line, be discussed. Steven Lund, County Engineer and Director of Operations stated that a report addressing the issue will be presented to Council Day 2 in September.

Moved by: Councillor Watt and Seconded by: Councillor Fergusson

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron accepts correspondence not specifically dealt with, for information.

CARRIED

13. New/Unfinished Business:

In the interest of being accountable and transparent, where a member of Council or staff would like to present an item of business in this section, it is recommended that they contact the Chief Administrative Officer in advance so that the item can be placed on the published agenda.

14. Notice of Motion: None.

15. By-laws:

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Moved by: Councillor Klopp and Seconded by: Councillor Bailey
THAT:

Leave be given to introduce the following By-Laws:

By-law No. 2020-056, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to authorize the execution of an amendment to the agreement with Medical Pharmacies Group Limited for the Pharmacy Service Agreement;

By-law No. 2020-057, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to enter into a contract with R.J. Burnside and Associates for HC 20-502 - Detailed Design, Contract Administration and Site Inspection for the Replacement of Two (2) Culverts on Huron County Road 4.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Finch and Seconded by: Councillor Grace
THAT:

By-law No. 2020-056 and 2020-057, be given a first and second reading;

AND FURTHER THAT:

By-law No. 2020-056 and 2020-057, as read a first and second time, be passed.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Fisher and Seconded by: Councillor Harding
THAT:

By-law No. 2020-056 and 2020-057, be given a third reading in accordance with Part 14 of the Procedural By-law for the County of Huron, Section 1, Subsection 2;

AND FURTHER THAT:

By-law No. 2020-056 and 2020-057, as read a third time; be passed, signed by the Warden and the Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto.

CARRIED

16. Closed to the Public Session: None.

17. Arrangement of Committee/Board Meetings:

As per the County's COVID-19 response protocols, all Council and Committee meetings are being held virtually.

Huron County Library Board - Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 9:00 AM - Virtual Meeting.

Huron County Economic Development Board - Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 5:00 PM - Virtual Meeting.

Huron County Accessibility Advisory Committee - Monday, September 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM - Virtual Meeting.

Council Day 2 - Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 9:00 AM - Virtual Meeting.

18. Confirmatory By-law:

Moved by: Councillor Fisher and Seconded by: Councillor Finch
THAT:

By-Law No. 2020-058, being a By-law of the Corporation of the County of Huron to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron, be introduced, be given a first, second and third reading in accordance with Part 14 of the Procedural By-law for the County of Huron, Section 1, Subsection 2;

AND FURTHER THAT:

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By-law No. 2020-058; as read a third time; be passed, signed by the Warden and the Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto.

CARRIED

19. Adjournment:

Moved by: Councillor Bailey and Seconded by: Councillor Dietrich

THAT:

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron do hereby adjourn at 10:55 AM to meet again on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 9:00 AM or at the call of the Warden and the Clerk.

CARRIED

Warden Jim Ginn

Clerk Susan Cronin