

CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

March 7, 2008

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council held on Friday, March 7, 2008 at 14:03 h. in Council Chambers.

The following were present: Reeve Tammy Lea Sonnenburg, Councillors: Ed Aiston, Dave Foote, Jim Gibson & Robert Reid

Also In Attendance:

PECUNIARY INTEREST -None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Add snowmobile club/missing link to new business by General Consent.

MINUTES of PREVIOUS MEETINGS – (Resolution Prepared)

Resolution # 1

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Aiston **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the regular meeting of Friday, February 15, 2008 be accepted as presented.

Carried

Resolution # 2

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Reid **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the public meeting to discuss Fire Suppression Service Options of Saturday, February 16, 2008 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DEPUTATIONS - none

CLERK'S REPORT

- Oil tanks replaced
- Photocopier ordered
- Planning Act – work to do – zoning by-law review, Committee of Adjustments
- Kevin Mooder – draft agreement for expansion of Stonecliffe site, will visit this month to provide Council with an overview

FINANCIAL REPORTS – (Resolution Prepared)

Resolution # 3

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Aiston **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Journal Entries J28 to and including J116 printed on March 3, 2008 be accepted as presented.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE (Report and resolutions Prepared)

1. Tom Garrison – re: comments on public meeting

Action: reply acknowledge receipt of letter

2. Robert Elder – re: RailAmerica and request for share of annual crossing fee

Action: acknowledge receipt – contact Wayne Kirby and ask how they are supporting their ratepayers; advise Mr. and Mrs. Elder; bring to Joint Council; investigate further; is being taken to County for support by Mayor Gutzman

3. WOWC – re: Farm Tax Rebate

Resolution # 4

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Reid

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario moved from the Farm Tax Rebate Program to a 75% reduction in the agricultural property tax rate reduction program in 1998, at a cost in excess of 100 million dollars annually to the municipalities of the Province;

AND WHEREAS the Province agreed to maintain municipal agriculture property tax revenue when they moved from the rebate program to the reduced tax rebate program;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have not received equivalent agricultural property tax revenue compensation from the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS this failure of the Province of Ontario to provide equivalent compensation has negatively impacted the financial position of all municipalities in Ontario with an agricultural tax base, at the above-noted cost in excess of 100 million dollars;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of Ontario be petitioned to provide compensating revenue to the municipalities on Ontario that have been negatively impacted by the transition from the Farm Tax Rebate Program to the agricultural property tax rebate reduction program.

Carried

4. Township of Greater Madawaska – re: County distracting from request for support

Action: request to County for background information on this issue and keep us informed

5. Town of Newmarket – re: parking spaces for person's with disabilities
Action: support by letter

6. City of Woodstock – re: property taxation and capping regime
Resolution # 5

Moved by Councillor Reid and seconded by Councillor Foote

WHEREAS the premise of property tax collection is that each property owner pays their fair share of taxation based on current value assessment;

AND WHEREAS the current tax capping regime creates inequities between properties with identical assessments and that the introduction of assessment phase-ins for the residential class further exacerbates this problem;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria supports the enclosed resolution of the City of Woodstock and requests that the Province of Ontario eliminate tax capping and replace it with an equitable system based on current value assessment;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Ministry of Finance and our local MPP for support.

Carried

7. Cheryl Gallant, MP – re: lobby province to sign agreement under the Building Canada program
Resolution # 6

Moved by Councillor Reid and seconded by Councillor Aiston

WHEREAS infrastructure is critically important to Renfrew County;

AND WHEREAS there is a considerable infrastructure deficit throughout Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Canada's federal government has committed, in Budget 2007, a seven-year, \$33 billion infrastructure program – the biggest federal commitment since World War II – the Building Canada Plan;

AND WHEREAS in order to access the Building Canada program a province must sign a Framework Agreement with the federal government, and Ontario has not done this yet;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Reeve and Council of the Municipality of the Corporation of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria call upon Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty to direct his officials to work with the Government of Canada to develop an appropriate Framework Agreement under the Building Canada plan;

AND FURTHER that as the elected representatives responsible for the continued prosperity and safety of Renfrew County, we urge our counterparts at the provincial level to make negotiation of the Framework Agreement and access to this funding one of their highest priorities.

Defeated

CORRESPONDENCE - (Information Only - Please advise if you feel any item warrants further consideration)

1. Buy Local – re: participation in their challenge
2. Town of Milton – re: Aggregate Resources Act and request for funding for rehabilitation
3. Niagara Region – re: Bill C-22 equitable representation in the House of Commons
4. Town of Amherstburg – re: lead testing in water
5. Bonnechere Valley – re: province to assume ownership of all municipal drinking water system.
6. Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands – re: province to assume ownership of all municipal drinking water system.
7. Laurentian Valley – re: Ministry of Health to offer incentives to family physicians in Ontario
8. AMO Alert – re: Federal Budget and Gas Tax
9. AMO Alert – re: 450 MIII applications
10. AMO Alert – re: Federal Liberal Party Pledges Infrastructure Money
11. Ministry of Government and Consumer Services – re: Broadband mapping

NEW BUSINESS

- Library Board Request for change in funding (Report and Resolution prepared)

Resolution # 7

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Reid

WHEREAS the Library Board has requested that Council reconsider its financial support of the Library by eliminating the current levy and replacing it with funding for the wages and all employment costs of one person to work one seven hour day each week at the same rate as the municipal office assistant;

AND WHEREAS the Library Board has further requested that the person hired for this position will assume the responsibilities currently being performed by our Treasurer who acts as CEO and secretary for the Library Board and currently performs these duties at her existing rate of pay;

AND WHEREAS this arrangement would allow for our Treasurer to reduce the amount of time spent on Library business and will free up time to focus on Municipal business;

AND WHEREAS our Treasurer will continue to act as Treasurer for the Library Board;

AND WHEREAS the current levy is \$2,100 and has been that amount since 2002;

AND WHEREAS the new contribution to the Library Board will amount to approximately \$5,800 per annum;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria supports the Library Board's request for funding for a new secretary/CEO position in lieu of the current levy and agrees to pay all wage and employment costs for a seven hour per week position for a term of one year at the same rate as the municipal office assistant;

AND FURTHER that on condition of this funding, where the Library Board does not have existing policy, that they adopt corresponding municipal policy as their own.

Resolution # 8

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Reid

BE IT RESOLVED THAT resolution number 7 be amended to insert the words "where appropriate" in the last paragraph after the word "that" and before the word "they."

Carried

Vote on motion #7 as amended

Carried

- Library Board Request for free hall use (Report and Resolution prepared)

Resolution # 9

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Reid

WHEREAS the Library Board has requested free use of the Municipal Hall to organize and host a casual public drop-in for all residents of the Municipality to commence March 17, 2008 and to continue on the third Monday of each month thereafter;

AND WHEREAS the Library Board has taken the lead in and has been successful in encouraging community involvement in other activities;

AND WHEREAS encouraging social activity for our ratepayers is an important function of Council;

AND WHEREAS Council can contribute to this service with limited resources spent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria supports the Library Board in its endeavour to increase social activity within the Municipality and hereby authorizes the free use of the Municipal Hall for their casual drop-in to commence March 17, 2008 and to occur on the third Monday of each month thereafter.

Carried

- Accessibility Standards for Customer Service (Report prepared)
- Emergency Management BEM Training (Report and Resolution prepared)

Resolution # 10

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Reid

WHEREAS we have a legal responsibility to meet the requirements of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* including the formation of an Emergency Management Committee and a Community Control Group;

AND WHEREAS currently all members of Council sit on the Emergency Management Committee;

AND WHEREAS not all members of Council have received the Basic Emergency Management (BEM) Training;

AND WHEREAS the County is offering the BEM training in Pembroke from April 8-10 of 2008 at no charge;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria authorize the compensation for mileage for those members of Council who wish to attend this training as per the current mileage policy.

Carried

- Emergency Management Annual Exercise (Report and Resolution prepared)

Resolution # 11

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Aiston

WHEREAS the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* requires that every municipality must conduct or participate in an annual training session for the Community Control Group and supporting staff and exercise their municipal Emergency Response Plan in order to maintain compliance with legislated standards.

AND WHEREAS participation in the County-wide exercise will meet our obligations;

AND WHEREAS participation in this exercise will be time and cost effective as there is no registration fee for participants;

AND WHEREAS participation in a larger group will provide opportunity for inter-municipal collaboration and planning;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria supports the participation of our municipality in a county-wide Pandemic Emergency exercise to be conducted in June 2008 and to be facilitated, planned and implemented by the County of Renfrew with assistance from participating municipalities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Clerk advise the County before the March 14th deadline.

Carried

- Emergency Management and support for Emergency Preparedness Week participation (Report and Resolution prepared)

Resolution # 12

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Reid

WHEREAS the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* requires that every municipality must complete a Public Education and Awareness Program in order to maintain compliance with legislated standards;

AND WHEREAS May 3rd to the 11th, 2008 is Emergency Preparedness Week and May 3rd is also the Library Board's May Madness Day in the community.

AND WHEREAS a large number of ratepayers attend May Madness where they would be exposed to the material that we are presenting;

AND WHEREAS participation in this event will help us to meet the annual requirements for compliance;

AND WHEREAS the cost involved will be minimal as we have a volunteer who has agreed to monitor our display;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria supports the purchase of a table at the May Madness Day to be held on May 3, 2008 and further authorizes that no more than \$200 may be spent on materials for an emergency survival kit to be raffled during Emergency Preparedness Week;

Carried

- Budget Items for Consideration (Report prepared)

Action: Include – HHW for 2008, floor polisher

- Missing Link (added at beginning of meeting by general consent)

Rental fee for auction – large number of volunteers, municipal based, support trails, and brings tourism into the area; - defer to committee next week for report from Staff to include an accurate report of past decisions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Provision of Municipal Fire Suppression Services (Report and Resolution prepared)

Resolution # 13

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Aiston

WHEREAS it has been determined that the options that the Municipality has for the provision of fire protection services is limited;

AND WHEREAS it is becoming increasingly difficult to attract, train and retain volunteers;

AND WHEREAS even if it was the will of Council to maintain a volunteer service, it is too late in the year to have the required policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (and others) for the 2008 season to adequately protect the volunteers from harm and the municipality from liability;

AND WHEREAS an agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) for a Full Protection Agreement for fire suppression services for all brush, grass and forest fires at the current costs of \$1.01 per hectare appears to be the most prudent and cost effective option;

AND WHEREAS any agreement with the MNR may be modified by 30 day written notice between the months of October and March;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria directs the Clerk to arrange for a 5-year Comprehensive Protection Agreement with the MNR prior to the 2008 fire season.

AND FURTHER that the Clerk be directed to draft a by-law for the next meeting of Council that will rescind the existing by-laws authorizing the Municipal Volunteer Fire Service.

Carried

BY-LAWS (Reports and Resolutions Prepared)

1. 2008-06

Resolution # 14

Moved by Councillor Reid and seconded by Councillor Aiston

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law Number 2008-06 being a by-law adopting a Municipal Road Construction Minimum Standards policy be read a 1st and 2nd time.

Carried

Resolution # 15

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Reid

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law Number 2008-06 being a by-law adopting a Municipal Road Construction Minimum Standards policy be read a 3rd time short and passed.

Carried

2. 2008-07

Resolution # 16

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Reid

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law Number 2008-07 being a by-law governing the procurement of goods and services for the municipality be read a 1st and 2nd time.

Carried

Resolution # 17

Moved by Councillor Reid and seconded by Councillor Foote

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law Number 2008-07 being a by-law governing the procurement of goods and services for the municipality be read a 3rd time short and passed.

Defeated – deferred to next meeting to allow time for further review by Council as we have been experiencing difficulties with email delivery and not all Council members received the draft.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. AMO conference – defer issue to after budget meeting in April. Reeve Sonnenburg willing to attend.
2. Reviewed schedule for next meetings.

ADJOURNMENT – (Resolution Prepared)

Resolution # 18

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Aiston **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this meeting adjourn at 15:38h. to meet again Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 14:00 h. And further that the Clerk advertise this change of meeting date and time as per municipal policy.

Carried

Reeve- Tammy-Lea Sonnenburg

Clerk – Melinda Reith