

**CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD,
CLARA & MARIA**

July 6, 2007

Minutes of a special meeting of Council held on Friday, July 6, 2007 at 9:26 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

The following were present:	Reeve	Tammy Lea Sonnenburg
	Councillor	Ed Aiston
	Councillor	Dave Foote
	Councillor	Jim Gibson

Absent	Councillor	Robert Reid
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PECUNIARY INTEREST None

NEW BUSINESS

This special meeting was called the evening of July 5, 2007 to discuss the preparations for the Memorial Plaque Unveiling. A resolution was presented requesting that the original commitment by council towards the veteran's plaque of \$4,000.00 be rescinded and a promise to cover any and all costs of this project in excess of donations be made.

Council spoke to the issue. The consensus was that the cause was worthy and legitimate and Council should support it.

Ruth Morin was recognized by the Reeve to speak as a ratepayer. A point of order was called by Councillor Gibson. There was an objection to Mrs. Morin speaking, as she had not followed proper procedure for delegations to Council as outlined in our procedure by-law. The Clerk advised that although I did not have concrete evidence to support this position, and that I would obtain it if necessary, that since the meeting was called with no notice to the public and since all meetings of Council were public meetings that I believed that ratepayers should have the right to speak. There was no possible way that under the circumstances proper procedure for informing of a delegation to council could have been followed. The point of order was withdrawn.

Ruth spoke to the importance of following the democratic process and agreed to speak to the allotted 5 minute time slot. She acknowledged the importance of the project but disagreed with the new resolution. She mentioned that there were options other than the arrangement for the rental (at ~\$2,000) of tents; that other tents were available and could be put up at a lower cost.

The Clerk advised that we had located an alternate source of tents with a promise of labour to assist in erecting them.

Councillor Gibson commented that the volunteers were overworked and had too much to do without worrying about erecting tents, that renting them was the only solution.

Clerk advised Council that allocating an additional \$2,000 to this project in this manner was not procedurally correct. In order to make a change to our budget, public notice was required. The item did not necessarily meet the definition of contingency, as this was not in fact a "council" project, but a project of a sub committee of the Library Board. That if the hot water tank or other equipment needed emergency repair – those types of items would be covered through our contingency fund. This was in fact an increase in the amount of donations that were budgeted for and approved through the formal budget process which

includes public meetings. That our auditor's might have a challenge with this process but as long as Council made its decision with this knowledge, the Clerk was fulfilling the obligations of her position.

The Clerk also spoke to the fact that through no fault of the committee but through a breakdown in procedure, reporting requirements were lax throughout the project, that we did not know what the donations or expenses were to date, or what the total anticipated costs would be. That requests for minutes of meetings of the sub-committee had been requested but were not forthcoming. That it was not our Treasurer's responsibility to keep separate books for this project. That we were providing a service by processing donations through the Library Board and through Council in order to issue tax receipts and that payment for expenses were being processed through the library but that no financial statements or budgets had been presented to either Library or Council.

That this project was not in fact a project of Council but of a sub-committee of the Library Board and by supporting it in the way that we were, we would be setting a precedent that might be used in the future.

It was ultimately decided that the resolution be modified to support the rental of tents up to a specific amount acknowledging that the original commitment of up to \$4000.00 be maintained. That a "blank cheque" not be provided.

Resolution # 1

CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

6 July 2007

Moved by Councillor Gibson and Seconded by Councillor Aiston

Whereas Council was asked for support for a veteran's memorial project several years ago by a local veteran

And whereas the Council of the day deemed the library board to be the oversight body for this project

And whereas a volunteer committee was formed with a Council and library board representative forming part of the committee

And whereas the committee's initial projection of veterans from the Townships was about one hundred based on information at the time

And whereas the number of veterans now stands at one hundred and fifty six

And whereas the number of people who have indicated by RSVP they will attend the memorial dedication ceremony is now two hundred and eighty five

And whereas no one could have reasonably foreseen the magnitude of this response

And whereas Council's previous commitment of up to \$4000 to cover costs not paid for by donations was based on the initial estimate of the number of veterans

And whereas the committee's fundraising has exceeded expectations

And whereas the committee is still actively seeking donations

And whereas community volunteers have worked thousands of hours on this project

And whereas all public opinion about the memorial and associated landscaping has been very favourable

And whereas a promise of donated tents fell through at the 11th hour

And whereas this dedication has grown to be the largest public event in this Municipality in recent memory

And whereas many former residents are returning to the area specifically for this event

And whereas the Municipal hall has a limited legal capacity far below the anticipated number of attendees

And whereas tents are the only viable way to protect the attendees from the elements during and after the dedication ceremony

And whereas the payment for tents will have a significantly negative effect on the project's financial status

Be it hereby resolved that the Municipality will cover the cost of tents to a maximum of \$2,000.00 in addition to the \$4,000.00 previously committed.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #2

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Foote **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this meeting adjourn at 10:12 a.m. July 6, 2007.

Carried

Reeve – Tammy Sonnenburg

Clerk – Melinda Reith