



THE CORPORATION of the UNITED TOWNSHIPS of HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

PUBLIC MEETING OF

Saturday, November 30, 2013 – 13:00 h.
HCM Municipal Hall

Agenda

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1. Introduction and Explanation of Process – Reeve Stewart

1. This is not a Council meeting where motions are introduced and as such no decisions of Council will be made. It is for information and discussion only.
2. This meeting is an opportunity for members of the public to express their opinions and ask questions of members of Council; for members of Council and staff to provide explanations and information.
3. To facilitate this session, all comments will be made through the chair. You must be recognized prior to speaking.
4. When you are recognized by the chair, you should stand, state your name and your comment or question.
5. All comments will be recorded and will become part of the public record; posted on-line.

6. Although expressions of opinion are welcome; comments based on specific decisions of Council should be restricted to statements of fact or on-point questions.
 7. Comments, suggestions or recommendations should be supported by concrete evidence. Please provide specific confirmation of statements.
 8. As per our Procedure By-law no one person will be allowed to speak for more than 5 minutes at a time.
 9. Although we wish to have an informal meeting, parliamentary rules of decorum are to be obeyed.
 - a. All comments shall be germane to the issue at hand and to issues of Council responsibility.
 - b. All comments must be courteous and respectful and no one may impugn the motives of another.
 - c. Delegates are to be respectful of everyone in attendance including Council, the Public and Staff and are not to use offensive words or gestures, un-parliamentary language, disobey the rules of civil procedure or any decision or direction of Council.
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2. Strategic Plan and Wish List

- a. At its meeting of Friday, November 22, 2013 Council passed a resolution adopting the following statements.

Mission Statement

“HCM – At your service: working effectively to bring together people, partnerships and potential for a strong, connected community.”

Vision Statement

“HCM – Providing a healthy, connected, and sustainable community teeming with possibilities for our citizens now and into the future.”

- b. Every year, the provincial and federal levels of government announce, with little or no notice and very little time before application deadlines various funding opportunities. Sometimes the criteria are quite specific, sometimes more flexible. Sometimes a little creativity allows a project that we have in mind to fit where it didn't seem to at first blush. That is why over the past months, notice of various funding opportunities have been forwarded to our community contact email list for input. A different perspective may be all that is required to adapt a call for funding to a project important to HCM.
- c. This session today is to canvas attendees to get a sense of what they feel is an important goal for the municipality. Ultimately, any decision is that of council however; they are here to represent you.
- d. Keeping the above mission and vision statements in mind, the task now is to come up with a list of goals or projects to consider when these grant opportunities arise.
- e. Prior to opening the floor to comments, we have the following comments received by people who were not certain that they could attend today.
 - i. Councillor Antler has requested that 4 fire suppression/fighting units similar to the trailer that the municipality once owned equipped with a pump and hose be procured for each community. It is his thoughts that the unit would be maintained by the community. “All four communities are blessed with natural water supplies and 75% of residences are near these water supplies.”
 - ii. Richard McCallum spoke with me about beginning a petition to lobby Bell Mobility to hasten their approach with high speed data transmission in our area. He has

information about a community in/near Haliburton which used this approach with some success.

- f. Floor opened for comments/questions?

3. Solar FIT project

- a. In October Council and staff were contacted by Azgard Corporation **requesting Council support for an** installation of a ground mounted solar project in Mackey. As a result of conversation between Council and Mr. Johannesson, Azgard is offering a joint Public/Private Partnership to Council.
- b. Ultimately it will be up to Council to make any decision on this issue considering the different financing and ownership options however the company is proposing the installation of two (2) 250 kW projects on HCM property and two (2) 250 kW projects on private property **and is inviting the municipality to participate.**
- c. What's in it for them? The success of these applications increases with municipal council support. With municipal participation additional "priority points" are added which increase the probability of approval. It is worth it for the company to share in prospective gains in order to receive the preferential consideration during the approval process.
- d. There are a number of different options being presented to Council including development:
 - i. On Municipal land:
 - 1. Capital investment from reserves (or other).
 - 2. Capital investment financed by Azgard.
 - 3. Lease only agreement.
 - ii. On private land:
 - 1. Capital investment from reserves (or other).
 - 2. Capital investment financed by Azgard.

- e. An agreement would be signed to form a partnership with Azgard and create a new company.
- f. The ultimate contract for energy would be signed with the Ontario government under the current FIT program.
- g. The County of Renfrew recently signed a similar agreement.
 - i. “Renfrew, (ON): Good news for Bonnechere Manor and the County of Renfrew! The long-term care home was successful through the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program, a government-sponsored renewable energy program intended to generate new sources of solar power. With only a few medium fit applications approved in Eastern Ontario, Bonnechere Manor is excited to have County Council’s support to move forward with the opportunity of a 190 kW solar panel project on its rooftop.”
- h. Currently the rates are at .29/kW and have decreased from a high of nearly .80/kW.
- i. At current estimates, any capital costs would be repaid within 10 years and the remaining 10 years would be 100% profit for the municipality.
- j. Deadline for an application is December 13, 2013 Council would need to make a decision by December 6, 2013 at the latest. It would be recommended that a special meeting of Council be called and a decision made December 3, 2013.
- k. Prior to the floor being opened to comments we have an email from a property owner, Mr. Pat McGurran who writes. “...I am unable to attend the meeting on Saturday but did want to convey my support for a FIT partnership. I believe that this is forward thinking and enhances our concerns for affordable hydro for all and a good revenue resource for our community!”
- l. Floor opened for comments/questions?

4. Budget 2014

- a. Council has recommended for discussion at this public meeting “option 1” as recommended by staff which includes a 0% tax increase, leaving revenues to increase simply due to property tax changes as a result of updated assessments and new builds.
- b. Since 2006 or so the province has contributed annual funding from the Ministry of Finance through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) to offset the higher than normal costs for communities surrounding the areas of Assessment Equalization, Northern Communities, Rural Communities, Fiscal Circumstance and Transitional Funding.
- c. Since 2010 the province has been decreasing payments. HCM’s allocation has decreased from \$219,000 in 2010 to \$119,600 in 2014. It is expected that this decrease will continue however; the specifics have not yet been decided. As we know, with any new provincial government plans may change. We do not know what the future will bring but we must plan for it.

The 2014 suggested budget maintains 2013 tax rates calculated with increased 2014 Current Value Assessments for properties and Payments in lieu of taxes.

- a) This option meets needs and is based on revenues required from taxation of \$468,061.
- b) Prudently planning for the future, this budget contributes \$40,000 to reserves from 2014 revenues.
 - i) \$5,000 to Roads Capital;
 - ii) \$4,000 to Roads Truck;
 - iii) \$2,000 to Gravel Crushing;
 - iv) \$5,000 to Office Technology - Office Equipment Replacement - photocopier/accounting taxation software;
 - v) \$10,000 to Garage Replacement and Repair;
 - vi) \$14,000 to Parks and Boat Launches;

- c) It allocates \$30,000 of 2013 unaudited surplus to general revenues.
- d) It maintains the current levels of services and programs that ratepayers have come to expect.
- e) **NEW** - This budget further allows for improvements and increases as described below upon Council approval, again at 0% increase to tax rates:
 - i) The 2% salary grid increase approved in 2012 and all recommended wage grid increases.
 - ii) Bi-annually required first aid training for staff and interested members of council/community;
 - iii) **NEW** - \$2,000 towards a grant application to purchase a slide for Old Mackey Park;
 - iv) Funding for a **NEW** recreation program of \$7,500; details to be decided by Council in the New Year.
 - v) **NEW** - Bulletin boards at both disposal sites;
 - vi) Elections of \$4,000; (if not required, can be reallocated at year end);
 - vii) Repairs to the office roof of \$3,500;
 - viii) **NEW** - A 7% employer contribution pension plan at approximately \$10,920 per year; a full report to Council was presented in 2012 and based on the rates contributed by employers to the Ontario Municipal Employees Pension plan (OMERS).
 - ix) \$2,000 increased education and training for staff; (\$500 transferred from mileage to education and training due to increased availability of webinars decreasing the need for travel).

x) It also includes an **unallocated surplus of \$25,616** which may be allocated as per Council suggestion/direction. Although it may appear that there is room for an additional reduction in tax rate; with the threatened discontinuation of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund grant, it would be prudent to simply keep this “surplus” in the budget to cushion against unexpected expenses and the eventual reduction in annual revenues.

d. Floor opened for comments/questions?

5. Open session for other topics for Council future consideration.

6. Thank you and adjournment – Reeve Stewart.