

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, March 19, 2010				Report Date	Wednesday, March 17, 2010			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Ownership of CP Rail Line Report 19/03/10/204									

Subject: Council's official opinion on the ownership of the CP Rail Line.

RECOMMENDATION: As per request - That Council adopt the following resolution confirming its position as it relates to municipal ownership of the CP Rail Line that runs from Smith Falls to Sudbury.

WHEREAS the Rail Line from Smith Falls to Sudbury is being offered for sale by the current owners, CP Rail;

AND WHEREAS there has been some talk of having a group of municipalities and/or counties take over the operation of the line or purchase the soon to be defunct line for recreational purposes or other such activities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby wish to make the municipal position known that this Council does not wish to have any further involvement with the purchase of the abandoned rail line by the area municipalities or the County.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: As expressed previously municipalities are not in the transportation business nor should their tax dollars be used to support a commercial rail line. Lobbying efforts may help to prevent or postpone the inevitable but a lack of commercial viability is what will eventually cause the decision to be made.

Perhaps in the future, using imagination, innovation and not yet realized uses the land that is the rail line may be used within the various municipalities. Sections may be utilized for recreation purposes, other sections may be sold to adjacent landowners while still others may simply be made impassable to preserve neighbourhoods.

At this time however, it would seem that the intelligent move would be to support the lobby for involvement from upper tiers of government but to not encourage local operation and ownership from County municipalities.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith