

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, March 18, 2011				Report Date	Wednesday, February-23-11			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Roads Trailer Report 18/03/10/1102									

Subject: Request for removal of funds from Reserves to purchase a utility trailer to be used for roads purposes.

RECOMMENDATION: That this resolution be defeated.

**WHEREAS** the Road Super indicated in 2011 budget submissions that \$8,000 was required to purchase a utility trailer with an automatic dump mechanism for ease in loading and unloading the brush hog;

**AND WHEREAS** this was not an item that was planned for but appeared in the 2011 budget estimate resulting in questioning of the need and requiring a decision of Council;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby agree that the trailer is a necessity for the operation of the Roads Department and that up to \$8,000 be removed from reserves, Roads Capital to purchase this equipment;

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Background information as per the Road Super has been provided at the meeting of February 18, 2011; obviously he has decided that there is a need for this trailer based on the following:

- ◆ "Safety for loading brush hog;
- ◆ More room for other tools, gas, hand tools and men working signs;
- ◆ Less change of tools being damaged when being all loaded in back of truck;
- ◆ Easier to load picnic table and moving them back and forth when bringing them to shop for repair;
- ◆ Loading of brush and gravel when needed;
- ◆ Loading of material and tools for fencing, guide rails, culverts;
- ◆ Picking up extra long material, etc: steel posts, cedar posts, lumber for dock repairs;
- ◆ In case of emergency, could leave all tools on trailer and go."

It is the position of the Clerk that this equipment is not required. As much as it would **be nice to have**, it is not a necessity. The number of times that the brush hog needs to be loaded each year does not warrant additional equipment. With the extensive work that was completed in 2009 with the special roads project, there should not be an excessive need for this equipment on an annual basis. It was understood that the brush hog would be needed for certain sections each year and that once done the smaller equipment could be used to maintain recently mowed sections.

When that machine was purchased, a heavy duty set of ramps was purchased to facilitate loading and unloading. There was one incident in 2010 with the temporary workers where the brush hog "got away from them" while they were unloading it. My position is that this is a result of inadequate training or carelessness and that a trailer would not eliminate the perceived problem. The trailer

would not lower to the ground and ramps would still need to be used. Alternately, the “dump” could lift the equipment? But how would that be safe and/or good for the equipment.

If the use is for reasons other than the brush hog as listed above, I don’t understand how materials can’t continue to be loaded onto the truck as has occurred over the past 15 years without incident.

The reasons listed above are circumstances that occur infrequently, in my opinion too infrequently to require additional equipment.

A trailer with a “dump” mechanism has the potential for problems including damage to equipment. The hydraulics will require maintenance. I am not sure that this is a justified expense for the number of times per year that it would be used.

I have heard comments that a trailer would be an investment? Not one that would appreciate, it would do nothing but depreciate from the moment purchased and would require additional time each day for loading/unloading, hooking/detaching from the truck. Additional care would be required while driving and it would require additional maintenance. Does the vehicle have appropriate braking mechanisms/package or will this be an additional cost?

During informal discussion Council has questioned the possibility of changing our recycling program and possibly collecting this material internally. If this becomes a viable option, perhaps a trailer would be useful at that time. Without knowing the requirements and the limitations of such a vehicle, it would be my recommendation that the decision to purchase any trailer be postponed until we have looked at the recycling options in more detail. Perhaps at that time, a vehicle/trailer which would serve both departments could be purchased justifying the expense. I don’t recommend this purchase for use as proposed at this time.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

*Melinda Reith*