

CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

October 26, 2007

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council held on Friday, October 26, 2007 at 14:13 h. in the Council Chambers.

The following were present:

Reeve	Tammy Lea Sonnenburg
Councillor	Ed Aiston
Councillor	Dave Foote
Councillor	Jim Gibson
Councillor	Robert Reid

PECUNIARY INTEREST -None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved by general consent.

MINUTES

Resolution # 1

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Reid **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the minutes of the regular meeting October 12, 2007 be accepted as presented.

Carried

DEPUTATIONS - none

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS - Clerk

- Spoke with Officer Paradis of the OPP – Depending on the situation, the extent of the damage and whether or not the individual wants to go to court - charges could be placed against the operator of a 4-wheel vehicle following a report and positive identification of the vehicle and driver by a private citizen. If we can provide evidence that the vehicle and driver caused the damage, charges under the Trespass to Property Act or under the Criminal Code could be laid. Proof of willful damage (doughnuts, ruts etc.) could result in a trespassing or mischief charge. As happened in the past, it would likely be suggested that the individual repair the damage or face charges.
- I will attend a Clean Water Act training course on November 1 in Ottawa – make sure we understand what our responsibilities are under this and the Source Protection regulations.
- Spoke with Fred Dean this morning, reviewed Procedure By-law – will make amendments, suggested procedures to streamline meeting process. Willing to review our LOS document and consult on other roads issues.
- CWL – request for free use of hall for annual seniors Christmas dinner – approved
- Claims 101 – review and possibility of OMEX as our carrier

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Resolution # 2

Moved by Councillor Reid and seconded by Councillor Aiston **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the budget report dated October 16, 2007 be accepted as presented.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

1. NRLTC – re: Christmas Tree provision and lighting – **Action:** Councillor Reid to obtain tree; Reeve Sonnenburg to confirm attendance at lighting ceremony
2. Dale Bingley and Judy Cavan – re: closing Adelard Road – **Action:** Clerk to confer with Solicitor – bring back to Council with additional information
3. Neighbours, Friends and Family – re: invitation to attend information sessions - info

4. AMO Alert – re: \$64 million COMRIF top-up and possible uses - info
5. OGRA – re: Speech from the Throne update - info
6. FCM – re: Carbon Offset Market and Canadian Municipalities - info
7. L1 – Ombudsman’s Office – re: closed meeting investigative services offered free of charge - info

NEW BUSINESS

- Simplified Risk Assessment – for review and approval by Council

Resolution #3

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Gibson **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Simplified Risk Assessment dated October 2007 be accepted as presented.
Carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- Committee of the Whole

Resolution #4

Moved by Councillor Foote and seconded by Councillor Gibson **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the recommendations and all decisions of the Committee of the Whole be accepted as presented in the minutes dated October 19, 2007.
Carried

- Library Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Resolution in Support – Nation Municipality and Lead sampling – defer to future meeting after Clerk attends training session

BY-LAWS - none

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Councillor Aiston - Internet providers – any news about deputation; Email sent – awaiting response.
- Councillor Gibson - License plates for trucks – lifetime plates for trucks – no renewal on it; **Action** – Clerk to look to licensing on current fire vehicles see if we can't have them changed as they are “emergency” vehicles.

North Bay has yet to reply, email sent offering \$7,500 for a minimum bid if they choose to auction the vehicle off.

- Reeve Sonnenburg – Status of new fire vehicle – license and safety have been completed. Question about retiring one of the original vehicles as we now have three? It was her recollection that one would be retired once we acquired a 3rd. Discussion about keeping all three vehicles ensued.

Response – We were to keep all three going until they became too expensive to maintain. If we are successful in obtaining the vehicle from North Bay – will retire one of the original three then. Discussion ensued as to the number of vehicles that were needed for this size of service.

- Ruth Morin requested to speak as a ratepayer, and was acknowledged by the Chair. Ruth stated that she was strongly against funding for the fire vehicles with her tax dollars – that we did not need 3 trucks and that the “pumper” vehicle was unsafe. She expressed concern about that vehicle and our volunteers having to depend on what we know to be problem areas - brakes and starter - in potentially isolated fire situations. She further went on to explain that our service was not to “save” anyone’s house, that she knew personally what it was like to lose everything in a house fire and that our wardens or the MNR could do nothing about that. She explained that she has been hearing negative comments from the public about the acquisition of yet another fire vehicle.

Her comments were met with argument from members of Council one member asking - What do you know about losing everything in a fire?. Other statements concerned the use of our service to "save" homes, and the fact that comments from the public should be ignored because they did not know what they were talking about.

There was an expression from one Councillor that they felt safer knowing that the service was there to protect their home from potential damage due to spread from careless campers.

The Clerk again explained that we were not to engage house fires. That most fires began inside the home and that our service could do nothing for those homes except stop the spread of fire to adjacent brush and that our current service and equipment was meeting that need. What did we need further equipment and vehicles for?

Clerk – made a request for a public meeting to discuss these issues before additional funding was spent on vehicles and equipment. That the public needs to be aware of what is happening and at what cost to them. That although it was Council's ultimate decision, they are supposed to be representing the needs of the public. There is no current direction approved by council for this fire service yet it continues to grow.

Reeve Sonnenburg concurred and expressed that a public meeting had not taken place in quite some time on this issue, that it might be time to discuss this publicly again. That we were not debating the necessity for the service but of the level and cost of the service that the public demands. There was a comment about the lack of volunteers and rumours about the current ones quitting.

One Councillor spoke to the need to assess the entire fire service within the municipality including such topics as: the need for a Fire Chief, MNR agreements and abilities, costs and safety concerns.

The Clerk further added that there were a number of issues to be determined, some rightfully done by Council and administration and others best decided based on informed public input. The public deserves to make its wishes for a level of service known based on concrete information. Council and administration need to set a Council direction and develop and address the services' current make up, plans for future, training requirements, HR policies, safety (OHSA) policies and operation plan based on public opinion. That the Clerk was currently obtaining information to present to Council to aid that process.

From a Council member - we further need to determine what the MNR can and cannot do for us – and what it would cost if we had to depend on the MNR for all our needs. That based on information received from Pembroke MNR, they were not entering into agreements with municipalities to perform any but the basic services.

There was discussion about the number of people in the municipality and the few that are willing to volunteer their time as fire wardens. Decided that we need to focus on recruiting additional volunteers at the public meeting.

Determined that the decision to purchase the North Bay vehicle has been made previously and will take place if our offer is accepted and that no further purchasing be made pending outcome of a public meeting to take place mid January/February.

Action – Clerk to prepare background information to present to Council mid-December. Clerk to confer with contacts at the MNR, OFM and organize a public meeting to be held hopefully late January, early February to discuss publicly the future of the fire service.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #5

Moved by Councillor Aiston and seconded by Councillor Reid **BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this meeting adjourn at 15:43 h. to meet again November 9, 2007 at 14:00 h.

Carried

Reeve - Tammy-Lea Sonnenburg

Clerk – Melinda Reith