

Minutes - The Blue Mountains Council Meeting



MEETING DATE: February 9, 2009

LOCATION: L.E. Shore Memorial Library

PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order with all members in attendance
- Also in attendance was Chief Administrative Officer Paul Graham, Director of Engineering and Public Works Reg Russwurm, Director of Planning Peter Tollefsen, Director of Finance Rob Cummings, Manager of Water & Wastewater Services John Caswell, Communications & Economic Development Coordinator Lisa Kidd, Manager of Revenue Ruth Prince and Chief Librarian Carol Cooley
- Council then paused for a moment of Personal Prayer or Reflection.
- Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT the Agenda of February 9, 2009 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, unanimously Carried.

- No member declared a pecuniary interest with any matter as listed on the Agenda, save Mayor Anderson with regard to Agenda Item G.2 Accounts and a cheque payable to her father and Agenda Items F.1 and G.4 with regard to matters involving her extended family, Councillor McKean with regard to Agenda Item G.2 Accounts and cheques payable to his place of employment and Councillor Kennedy with respect to Agenda item G.2 and a cheque made payable to his daughter.
- Adoption of Consent Agenda

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: R.J. Gamble

THAT the Consent Agenda of February 9, 2009 be adopted as circulated, less any items requested for separate review and discussion, unanimously Carried.

NOTE: Mayor Anderson declared a pecuniary interest with regard to Agenda Item G.4, Recommendation 1 and matters involving her extended family and did not take part in related discussion or voting.

- Previous Minutes

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT the Council minutes of January 26 and Special Council minutes of February 3, 2009 be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made, unanimously Carried.

There was no business arising from the minutes at that time.

B. Deputations/Presentations

7:05 pm – Jim Farmilo, George Matamoros, The Blue Mountains and District Chamber of Commerce – Activity Update

Next, as Jim Farmilo and George Matamoros of the Town of the Blue Mountains and District Chamber of Commerce were in attendance it was Council's pleasure to hear them regarding a Chamber Activity Update.

Chamber President George Matamoros then noted there are 250 Chamber members, the majority of them business operators with an ongoing increase in membership.

George then noted the Chamber aims were to foster economic activity and growth, support the community through events and partner with other organizations in the region with similar objectives.

George noted in 2008 the Chamber sponsored Jazz by the Bay, Apple Harvest Festival, Georgian Sound Festival, Trivia Night twice yearly, and Geo-caching throughout The Blue Mountains.

George further noted the Town Information Centre is operated by the Chamber with over 1000 visitors annually, adding the Volunteer portal web page is operated by the Chamber and as well as the Annual Business Awards to celebrate business achievements in the Town of The Blue Mountains is promoted by the Chamber.

George noted the Chamber website provides Town information on events, activities and businesses.

George then reviewed the Events Calendar, noting the Chamber also provides support to Chamber members through recognition, Chamber E-newsletter, and discounted rates on costs and insurance.

George noted in 2008 the Chamber partnered with the Town through the Community Improvement Plan, the GTTA, the Thornbury BIA and the Blue Mountain Village Association.

George then noted in 2008 Council supplied a grant which supported Jazz in the Park, the Information Centre, Geocaching, the Volunteer web portal, publication of the events calendar and promotion of the Apple Harvest Festival.

George then noted for 2009 the Chamber has requested \$17,000 to continue efforts in these fields.

George noted the Chamber will lose the OPP rental once the new station is completed, but have partnered with Georgian Triangle Tourist Association in exchange for their staffing and expertise at the Information Centre, further noting the Chamber is looking forward to a challenging year in 2009 and are very pleased to be a continuing partner in Town planning and events and to attract more businesses to the Town, concluding the Chamber hoped to count on the continued support of Council.

Councillor Martin then thanked George and noted it was beneficial for Council to hear about Chamber interests and activities and hoped the partnership will continue.

George noted the Board was voluntary and all members are glad to work in the common interest.

Michael then questioned if George believed the Town provided any impediments to business, George noting nothing came to mind, adding a Chamber visioning process lead to increased attention on legislation and By-Laws affecting business and being able to provide feedback from the business community, noting the Chamber worked in the spirit of cooperation, in particular with tourism efforts.

Mayor Anderson then thanked George for his presentation and the efforts of the Chamber on behalf of businesses and residents.

7:15 pm – Lisa Kidd, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator – Town Web Portal

Next, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator Lisa Kidd then reviewed the proposed town web portal, noting the difference between a website and a web portal in assisting residents accessing information.

Lisa noted a portal provided a better framework to link with other organizations and users and provides increased interaction and information access.

Lisa noted the new portal would be a gateway to the community, reviewing the five components of a successful website.

Lisa further noted the new web portal would assist in meeting proposed accessibility requirements and would permit access by both high-speed and dial-up connections.

Lisa then noted the new web portal would allow people to sign in as a member and direct what kind of notices and information they wish forwarded from the Town, as well as on-line reservation of facilities and event lay-out and an on-line tax calculator.

Lisa noted an internal and external needs requirement was completed in 2008 with a contract awarded in the third quarter of 2008 with the first instalment paid in the fourth quarter of 2008 and a launch in the spring of 2009.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted Provincial accessibility requirements as to information availability and questioned if the Province would in fact comply, Lisa noting the proposed Provincial regulations have been released for comment, adding accessibility compliance was part of the web portal RFP.

Councillor Martin then questioned who would own the operating software, Lisa noting the Town would purchase the software from Running Tide, Michael questioning if it could be used if suppliers were switched, Lisa to review.

Council then thanked Lisa for her presentation.

7:25 pm – Council Discussion – Proposed 2009 Budget

Mayor Anderson then turned the Chair over to Finance and Administration Committee Chair Councillor Gamble for the 2009 Budget discussion.

Chair Gamble then noted Staff would present information and proposals on the proposed 2009 Budget to date.

Director of Financial Services Rob Cummings then reviewed a handout on Budget revisions, noting computer problems prevented the information being distributed earlier.

Rob noted input from the public and Council resulted in further reductions to the proposed 2009 Budget as well as 2010 and 2011 projections.

Rob noted the proposed revisions would yield an increase in levy required of 2.3% in 2009, 3.3% in 2010 and 3.6% in 2011, adding Council was now requested to consider the most recent revisions and provide direction to Staff.

Mayor Anderson then questioned what effect the elimination of Council per diems at conferences and clothing allowance would have, Chair Gamble noting approximately \$10,000 and 0.1 % reduction.

Chair Gamble then requested Council to comment on the Budget proposal.

Councillor McGee then noted Staff have done a good job with Budget considerations, adding a macroview of the Budget process is required in addressing costs of providing services and distribution of costs over time.

John then noted Recreation, Engineering and Public Works and Administration have increased costs significantly with salaries up 24% over time.

John then noted a recession is an opportunity to review activity and expenditures in terms of what did we do before and do we need to perform new tasks.

John then noted he will request a top-down Budget process in 2010 that would increase Council and resident participation.

John then noted a cost of living allowance increase with a salary freeze could allow staffing to be reviewed, adding Council needs to address the built-in cost of increasing Staff year over year and consider the structural costs of operations.

Councillor Martin then requested a figure of how much funding has been removed from the initial Budget proposal to date, Rob noting approximately \$300,000.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted further consideration of Councillor McGee's comments is warranted, further questioning the impact of the proposed Georgian Trail Board funding reduction.

Rob then noted the Georgian Trail funding is based on an annual operating and capital funding contribution, CAO Paul Graham noting the Board currently has a \$200,000. Reserve and it is proposed that capital funding be reduced in 2009 with reserve funds to be used.

Duncan then noted the Georgian Trail is an important component of the Town trail network system and questioned Board members how the quality of the Trail could be maintained.

Chair Gamble then noted the Board attempted to tender the resurfacing of the Trail in 2008, noting the current reserve would complete approximately four kilometres of Trail, the full length being 23 km. Bob further noted a \$20,000 washout repair will be required in Meaford.

Bob then noted concern about the future and viability of the Trail with perhaps the Town's portion of the Trail being returned to the Town for Staff to maintain year-round, adding the existing Trail Board agreement requires that a Trail Budget be prepared annually which shall be subject to approval by each of the three member municipalities.

Duncan then questioned if infrastructure funding would be available for Trail projects, Bob noting the Trail agreement is a tripartite document with Meaford and Collingwood and all three would have to agree, Duncan noting partnered funding may be available.

Councillor McKean then noted concern with increasing service levels and cost of new hires in today's economy. John further noted the Town may have to reduce service levels whether we like it or not and we need to consider a "must-have" Budget.

Councillor Kennedy then noted concern with the future of the Georgian Trail and agreed with Councillor McGee on his points, adding it would behoove Council to have a macro Budget overview meeting, noting good progress has been made on a 2.3% Budget.

Chair Gamble then thanked Staff for further input and suggestions, adding there are several service levels that are being added to or increased and these should be reduced to save tax dollars.

Bob then noted concern with funding for future years as well as the recession extending beyond 2009.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted Council would benefit from a review of service levels and costs over time.

Duncan further noted public input had a significant influence on current Budget thinking, adding investment in infrastructure was important as was ensuring those presently operating businesses could continue to afford to.

Chair Gamble then asked Council for direction in proceeding with the 2009 Budget and turned the Chair back to Mayor Anderson.

Ellen then asked Council if they wished to eliminate Council conference per diems and the clothing allowance, Council concurring to do so.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT Staff bring forward a proposed Budget based on changes reviewed this evening for 2009.

In speaking to the Motion, Duncan noted there is a Georgian Trail reserve to complete this year's proposed works and the Town contribution could be increased in 2010 if the reserve is depleted.

Councillor Gamble then noted mobilization costs are significant for Trail projects and it would take 3 to 4 years to build up reserves to resurface another section.

Councillor Kennedy then noted the \$200,000 reserve is for expenditures within The Blue Mountains and reducing contributions may cause other municipalities to reconsider involvement.

Councillor McGee then noted it was proposed to have new hires in the amount of \$170,000 in 2010 with a travel and training budget of over \$200,000 and this is not the time to be hiring or increasing travel and training.

John then noted he would prefer to reduce travel and training by \$100,000 and reduce new salaries by \$100,000 resulting in \$200,000 for possible reinvestment in capital rather than annual staffing costs.

Council then voted on the main Motion, Lost.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Staff prepare a proposed 2009 Budget which freezes current employee levels with no new hires for 2009 and reduces the Training and Travel budget by \$50,000.00 and aims for a 2 to 2.3% increase while returning funding to certain critical elements as previously discussed.

In speaking to the Motion, Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted Council had earlier provided direction to Staff on new hiring and Council is now changing direction regarding proposed programs over the coming year.

Duncan then noted Council may have to review priorities that affect new Staff.

Council then dealt with the following Motion to amend the main Motion:

Moved by: Cameron Kennedy Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT specifically \$15,000.00 for the Georgian Trail is returned to the proposed 2009 Budget, Carried.

Council then dealt with the following Motion to Table the main Motion as amended:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by:

THAT the main Motion, as amended, be Tabled pending a Staff Report on implications.

In speaking to the Motion to Table, Councillor Kennedy questioned if this would push out adoption of the 2009 Budget, Rob replying yes, likely another week.

Duncan then questioned if the matter is Tabled would Council still be considering it, Michael noting Staff would be reporting back to Council.

There was no seconder for the Motion to Table and the Motion was not further considered by Council.

Duncan then clarified that the proposed Budget adoption dates would be pushed out, CAO Paul Graham noting we may be able to meet the proposed February 18 meeting date but could discuss other dates with Council.

Duncan then noted Council direction to Staff has changed since the 2009 Budget process was initiated.

Council then voted on the main Motion as amended:

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Staff prepare a proposed 2009 Budget which freezes current employee levels with no new hires for 2009 and reduces the Training and Travel budget by \$50,000.00 and aims for a 2 to 2.3% increase while returning funding to certain critical elements as previously discussed, including specifically \$15,000.00 for the Georgian Trail is returned to the proposed 2009 Budget, Carried.

Councillor Martin abstained from the vote.

Mayor Anderson then noted Staff had provided Reports to date based on exactly what Council had requested of them.

C. Correspondence as previously circulated

In speaking to Item C.5, Township of Chatsworth and County Planning involvement in local Planning issues, Deputy Mayor McKinlay questioned how the Province would react if there was no longer a County role, Director of Planning Peter Tollefsen replying it is the role of the County to comment on applications and conformity with the County Official Plan.

Duncan then questioned the result if County Staff were directed not to comment and non-complying applications were approved without notice, Peter noting any decision that was challenged and did not have County comments could be overturned by the Ontario Municipal Board based on a lack of due process.

Councillor Martin then noted he did not believe the Council could pass a Motion to discontinue review and comment on applications.

In speaking to Item C.6, Mayor Anderson noted Mayor Patterson of Wasaga Beach would speak to any member of Council who wished additional information regarding the Collingwood Regional Airport.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: R.J. Gamble Seconded by: John mcGee

THAT this Council does hereby receive the Correspondence of February 9, 2009 and further does support the Staff Recommendation made with regard to the Correspondence items, including any additional direction given to Staff

through discussion, with an appropriate Staff action or response awaited for report back to Committee or Council where indicated, Carried.

D. Motions and Staff Reports

D.1 Water and Wastewater Rates, FS.09.06

Director of Financial Services Rob Cummings then reviewed the Report, noting the matter was initially reviewed at the January 15, 2009 Finance and Administration Committee of the Whole meeting.

Rob noted the rationale for the rate structure change was that while a high allocation to volume promotes water efficiency, there are costs that exist regardless of volume consumed and therefore these costs should be paid for across the entire customer base.

Rob then reviewed the challenges in the provision of water and wastewater services in The Blue Mountains.

Councillor Gamble then noted previous concerns in shifting between usage and fixed charges, acknowledging a significant portion of system users had a seasonal demand for water but the Maximum Day Demand availability within the system required contribution from those users who only used based on demand rather than daily use.

Bob then noted support for the proposed rate structure, adding the proposed rates compared favourably with area municipalities.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT Council receive Staff Report FS.09.06, "Establishment of Water and Wastewater Rates Effective January 1, 2009" for information purposes and confirm direction to Staff to proceed to a Public Information Session based on the Budget recommendations contained in this Report.

In speaking to the Motion, CAO Paul Graham noted the previous Budget direction to Staff would affect the direction contained in the proposed Water and Wastewater Budget, Councillor Martin agreeing but noting it would not pre-empt Council from moving ahead with a public meeting.

The mover and seconder then agreed to withdraw the Motion and Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: John McGee

THAT Council receive Staff Report FS.09.06, "Establishment of Water and Wastewater Rates Effective January 1, 2009" for information purposes.

In speaking to the Motion, Rob noted a previously authorized Public Information Session would presented only a theoretical Budget and there was no sense in proceeding the February 21 PIS and March 2 Public Meeting.

Council then dealt with the following amending Motion:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT the main Motion be amended with the addition of “with required changes to the Public Information Session and Public Meeting dates for Water and Wastewater” unanimous Carried.

In speaking to the amended main Motion, Councillor Kennedy questioned when the rate increase would be passed, Rob noting the January/February billing period would be billed at the end of March with any changes to be in place for the last ten months of 2009.

Council then voted on the amended main Motion:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: John McGee

THAT Council receive Staff Report FS.09.06, “Establishment of Water and Wastewater Rates Effective January 1, 2009” for information purposes with required changes to the Public Information Session and Public Meeting dates for Water and Wastewater” unanimous Carried.

D.2 County of Grey - Official Plan Five Year Review Update, PL.09.12

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT Council does receive Planning Staff Report #PL.09.12, “County of Grey –Official Plan Five Year Review Update” for information and review purposes, Carried.

Director of Planning Peter Tollefsen then highlighted recent revisions to the Five Year Review comments, Councillor Martin noting Planning Staff have done a commendable job to date tracking comments and changes.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted there is a push to add a great deal more development land in other Grey County municipalities for growth and development.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Grey County Council Update

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted the County Committee budget process is proceeding.

E.2 Notice of Motion

None

E.3 Additions to Agenda

None

F. By-laws

F.1 Zoning By-law Amendment, Part Lot 30, Concession 8, Heather Nicholson, Elspeth Kelley & Bonnie Haggis

Mayor Anderson then declared a pecuniary interest with regard to the proposed matter and her extended family and retired from the meeting for the duration, Deputy Mayor McKinlay assuming the Chair.

Council then dealt with the following Resolutions:

Moved by: Cameron Kennedy Seconded by: R.J. Gamble

THAT By-law No. 2009 - 11, being a By-law to establish the retained parcel and the newly enlarged parcel as existing lots of record which have access to an improved public street by means of an existing registered private right-of-way for vehicular access purposes, for those lands being comprised of Part Lot 30, Concession 8, be hereby passed this ninth day of February, 2009, Carried.

F.2 Zoning By-law Amendment, Lot 1 and Part of Lot 3, Plan 1032; 1382491 Ontario Limited, being The Village of Keeper's Cove Holdings Inc

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: John McKean

THAT By-law No. 2009 - 12, being a By-law to rezone a portion of the subject lands from the Residential (R6-6-h) Zone to the Residential (R1-6-h) Zone, for those lands being comprised of Lot 1 and Part of Lot 3, Plan 1032, #1382491 Ontario Limited, being The Village of Keeper's Cove Holdings Inc., be hereby passed this ninth day of February, 2009, Carried.

F.3 Part Lot Control By-law – Flintview Holdings Inc.

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: John McKean

THAT By-law No. 2009 - 13, being a By-law to facilitate registration of the Common Elements Condominium for those lands being comprised of Block 82, Plan 1068, 104 Farm Gate Road, Flintview Holdings Inc., be hereby passed this ninth day of February, 2009, Carried.

There was then discussion of future meeting dates for a revised Budget consideration schedule, Council concurring the February 23 meeting be cancelled as three members will be absent.

G. Consent Agenda

Accounts

1. Accounts
2. Invoices separated for pecuniary interest (Al Gibson, E.C. King, Sadler's, Miller, Maggie Kennedy)

Reports List (Adopt)

3. Engineering and Public Works Report, January 27, 2009
4. Planning Committee, February 2, 2009

Minutes List (Receive)

5. GSCA Source Protection Committee minutes, November 28, 2008

H. Next Meeting Date(s)

Council March 9, 23, April 15 (Wed), 27, May 11, 25, June 8, 22, 2009

All Council meetings to be at the Library unless otherwise noted

Planning Committee, March 2, 2009

Engineering and Public Works Committee, February 10, 2009

Finance and Administration Committee, February 17, 2009

I. Confirmation By-law and Adjournment

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: R.J. Gamble

THAT By-law No. 2009 - 14, being a By-law to confirm proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains on February 9, 2009, be hereby enacted as passed this ninth day of February, 2009, Carried.

NOTE: Councillors Kennedy and McKean had earlier declared a pecuniary interest with matters as listed on the Agenda and did not take part in related discussion or voting with regard to the Confirmation By-law, Mayor Anderson also having earlier declared a pecuniary interest with regard to matters as listed on the Agenda and having earlier retired from the meeting.

Moved by: Cameron Kennedy Seconded by: John McGee

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 9:17 p.m. to meet again February 23, 2009, 7:00 pm, L.E. Shore Library, or at the call of the Chair.

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Ellen Anderson, Mayor

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Stephen Keast, Clerk