

Minutes - The Blue Mountains Council Meeting



MEETING DATE: April 26, 2010

LOCATION: L.E. Shore Memorial Library

PREPARED BY: Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order with all members in attendance.
- Also in attendance was CAO Paul Graham, Director of Engineering & Public Works Reg Russwurm, Manager of Water and Wastewater Services John Caswell, Director of Planning and Building David Finbow, Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt, Library CEO Carol Cooley, Deputy Treasurer Liz Thompson, Fire Chief Ron Doherty and Fire Prevention Officer A.J. Lake.

- 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 April 26, 2010 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

- No member declared a pecuniary interest with any matter as listed on the Agenda, save Councillor McKean with regard to Agenda Item D.2, Hester Street Tender Award and his place of employment.

- Adoption of Consent Agenda

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

THAT the Consent Agenda of April 26, 2010 be adopted as circulated, less the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee Report of April 13, 2010 and the Finance and Administration Committee Report of April 20, 2010, requested for separate review and discussion, Carried.

- Previous Minutes

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

THAT the Council minutes of April 12, 2010 be adopted as circulated, including any revisions to be made, Carried.

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

B. Deputations/Presentations

B.1 Linda Simpson, Executive Director, Georgian Triangle Tourist Association

Linda then thanked Council for hearing her presentation and for their support for regional tourism efforts over the years. Linda then thanked Mayor Anderson for accompanying her on municipal deputations, CAO Paul Graham and his role in

understanding the larger regional tourism picture on behalf of the Association and Councillor Martin for his role as an Association Board member.

Linda then reviewed the Association mission and mandate, noting Wasaga Beach is now a participating municipality as of three weeks ago.

Linda then noted the The Blue Mountains contribution of \$35,000 in 2009 was used for Visitor Centre Operations.

Linda then reviewed the Associations 2009 successes involving increased tourism and support for the local economy. Linda then noted 2009 marketing goals included increased advertising, Association supported events and marketing and production of a Pocket Visitor Guide.

Linda then reviewed the economic impact of visitor spending in Grey and Simcoe Counties, noting tourism is a quality industry for the area, adding The Blue Mountains has unique appeal with endless four season experiences available. Linda further noted the Association is embarking on a strategic planning process with a volunteer strategic planner.

Linda then reviewed the benefits of regional collaboration to strengthen the economic impact of marketing investment.

Linda then reviewed research objectives including brand awareness, destination hot spots, experiences of visitors past and present and the South Georgian Bay concept. Linda then reviewed aided and unaided brand survey results, noting visitors are interested in specific amenities but did not appear to know what The Blue Mountains generally had to offer. Linda then reviewed travel motivators defining what we have to offer in the region, adding we need to increase visitor volumes from Ontario, Quebec and bordering States.

Councillor Gamble then noted he believes the Association is working well with other organizations to improve visitorship to the area and this will progress well in the future.

Bob then questioned how the Association assisted area tourism offices, Linda noting Creemore and Clearview Township was a building opportunity to gauge approaches to tourism and establish relationships.

Councillor Martin then noted the Association is more sophisticated than in the past with a higher membership and is heading in the right direction with all partners.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted Linda provided a good review of what was going on in the region, Linda noting marketing initiatives in Grey, Bruce and Simcoe Counties is unrealistic, Duncan referencing the Grey-Bruce-Simcoe Regional Tourism Organization, Linda noting the RTO would work for destination marketing.

Linda then noted an upcoming meeting in Barrie with Grey, Bruce and Simcoe Counties attending together with the Association and Don Braden of the Blue Mountain Village Association.

Mayor Anderson then questioned if there were any plans to include agriculture in tourism promotion, Linda noting the Visitors Guide includes fall tour and scenic drive routes, adding a four day walk from Thornbury to Wasaga Beach is planned for 2010 and routes could vary and it is hoped this will grow, adding cycling and hiking routes in the area are also described.

Ellen then thanked Linda for her presentation and Councillor Martin for his efforts on the Board.

B.2 Fire Chief Ron Doherty, The Blue Mountains Fire Department, Re: Staffing

Mayor Anderson welcomed Ron to the meeting.

Fire Chief Ron then spoke noting at the last Finance and Administration Committee Meeting, the Fire Department provided a year-end report to the Committee and at that time the Committee asked Fire Chief Doherty to come to Council as a deputation to speak regarding his concerns at the Fire Department.

Ron then spoke regarding fire suppression, noting the Fire Department has 40 volunteers with 22 volunteers with three years or less experience, confirming over 50% of volunteers have less than 3 years experience.

Ron noted the 10 in 10 response time can be achieved in Thornbury, 44% of the time.

Ron then noted the 10 in 10 response time can be achieved in Craigleith 12% of the time.

Ron noted 43% of the time in Thornbury and 55% of the time in Craigleith, the 10 in 10 response time can be reached in the period of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Ron then spoke regarding fire prevention.

Ron spoke regarding the building stock in The Blue Mountains, noting it includes everything from Erringrung Nursing Home to the Village core, confirming this was addressed in the Fire Master Plan.

Ron then noted there are more and more instances where Fire Prevention Office AJ Lake must attend Court, so this takes AJ away from his work at the Fire Hall.

Ron then reviewed the priorities of the Fire Department.

Ron spoke noting the Fire Department would like more flexible training in place to accommodate those who cannot attend training nights. Ron further noted training standards are not being met and referenced the upcoming Work Well Audit in June 2010 and referenced concerns with Section 21 compliance.

Ron then noted the Fire Department does not have effective tracking of fire fighter training, noting currently the tracking is on paper and noted a computer system will aid in the tracking.

Mayor Anderson then spoke questioning if being able to track fire department volunteer training is more strict than it was 10 years ago, Ron replying things have changed significantly even within the last three years.

Ron then spoke regarding the recruitment of volunteers and the lack of experienced firefighters further noting the Fire Department is not maintaining the Fire Department as no recruitment classes were scheduled in the last year. Ron noted Station 2 attains the 10 in 10 response time 12% of the time, and further noted this is not adequate.

Mayor Anderson then thanked Fire Chief Doherty for his update.

Councillor Martin then referenced Fire Chief Doherty's Report included in the March 22, 2010 Finance and Administration Committee Package. Michael then noted the

recommendation included in that Report was amended at that time and Council asked Fire Chief Doherty to come to Council so that Council may address the concerns of the Fire Department.

Councillor McGee then spoke noting the Town is in the process of looking for a Deputy Fire Chief, Ron replying the 2010 Budget approved hiring 3 full-time staff for the Fire Department, in addition to the Deputy Fire Chief position. Ron then noted the 3 full-time positions are 2 Inspector/Fire Prevention Officers and one Training Officer, further noting the Fire Department is putting its focus on fire prevention, suppression and recruitment. Ron confirmed the new positions are to be based from Fire Hall 2.

Councillor McGee then acknowledged there are four vacant positions at the Fire Department to be filled, CAO Paul Graham then spoke noting the Town has twice advertised for a Deputy Fire Chief, but failed both times to attract a candidate. Paul noted the requirement that the Deputy Fire Chief reside in the Craighleith area to work at Fire Hall 2, and the high cost of living in the area are considerable factors to potential candidates.

Paul then noted the Town is working on another approach to attract a Deputy Fire Chief and further noted the three full-time positions will likely be filled from the existing volunteers and will help with the daytime response times, but it will not improve the experience levels of the volunteers. Paul further noted the Town is getting closer to solving this concern at the Fire Department.

Councillor McGee then questioned if there is a plan in place for filling the positions and asked for a staff report back to the Finance and Administration Committee on when the positions will be filled.

Mayor Anderson then questioned if filling the three full-time positions has been held off pending filling the Deputy Fire Chief position, Ron replying yes.

Ron then spoke noting the volunteer recruitment list has candidates that can be brought on as volunteers, but further noted only 3 or 4 volunteers can be recruited each year.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke noting he was in support of hiring the Deputy Fire Chief first and then hiring the three other positions later, but now believes because of delays in hiring the Deputy Fire Chief that a report should be brought to Finance and Administration Committee on a solution.

Paul then spoke noting a Deputy Fire Chief announcement will likely be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Duncan then spoke noting once the Deputy is in place, that the three positions could be filled and at that time the Town could recruit more volunteers.

Ellen then spoke noting she is not satisfied that she has heard enough regarding the concerns of the Fire Department, Paul replying that the Town's Human Resources Department manages job descriptions and works with the Fire Department, further noting it is important to hire the right people for positions and that is why it is important to have the Deputy in place before the three positions are filled.

Ellen then questioned if the three positions could be advertised now, Paul replying he has no objection to an internal posting going out now, further noting the actual interview process would take some time, Duncan noting this approach may please the Fire Chief.

Michael then spoke noting he is not happy with the situation Fire Chief Doherty is in.

THAT Council acknowledges the event is a two day event that will require The Blue Mountains staff to assist in the set-up and take-down for the event and;

THAT it is anticipated that The Blue Mountains Staff will be required for four days to assist with, and participate in, making this a successful event and;

FURTHER THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains does hereby support The Grey County Public Works Association and will assist in recruiting volunteers for the sub-committees.

In speaking to the Motion, Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted there will be a commitment for Town Staff to work at the Trade Show but it will represent a good opportunity to network with other municipalities in the area.

Council then voted on the Resolution, unanimously Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

As New and Unfinished Business, Mayor Anderson then requested an update on solar panel energy use, Paul replying the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Landfill sites are being reviewed as potential locations

Paul then note developers of solar panels have been speaking with Staff regarding potential projects, adding there could be favourable payback at \$0.44 per kwh. Councillor Kennedy then noted the Town could partner with an organization that would have expertise in the area.

Councillor Gamble then referred to reports in the media suggesting government incentives may not last and the Town should be careful in entering into such a project with risk mitigated. Cam then noted he believed the government guaranteed rates for such projects for twenty years.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then questioned if the Town is equipped to deal with applications from the agricultural community for solar panels, David noting the Green Energy Act removes zoning regulations from application but Niagara Escarpment Development Control regulations do apply, adding we would have to be cognizant of land use designations.

David further referenced the Building Code and noted many existing sheds may not be constructed to withstand additional loads from solar panels beyond code requirements for snow loading.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then requested an update on the Town Hall, David replying pile foundations are being installed following removal of the contaminated soil, as the fill soil would not be able to support the structure. David further noted concrete pile caps will be installed starting next Monday and we should start to see development in the building in June or July. David further noted he was confident in complying with the stimulus funding deadline for construction.

Paul then requested that David provide a Report to the next Finance and Administration Committee meeting funding contributions received to date. David then reviewed tender dates, noting tenders received are comfortably under budget.

E.1 Grey County Council Update

None

E.2 Notice of Motion

None

E.3 Additions to Agenda

None

E.4 Committee of the Whole

None

F. By-laws

F.1 Closing of a Portion of Craigmere Crescent

Moved by: Cameron Kennedy Seconded by: John McKean

THAT By-law No. 2010 - 32, being a By-law to permanently close that portion of an open highway connecting Craigmere Crescent to Grey County Road 19, be hereby passed this twenty-sixth day of April, 2010.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Gamble noted when this matter was raised previously he had concerns as to access for the general area and he would like to see the road marked for egress only.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried

F.2 By-law to amend By-law No. 2008-92 being a By-law to appoint Municipal Law Enforcement Officers

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT By-law No. 2010 - 33, being a By-law to amend By-law No. 2008-92, being a By-law to appoint various persons as Municipal Law Enforcement Officers for the purposes of enforcing specific Town By-laws related to specific privately owned-lands, be hereby passed this twenty-sixth day of April, 2010, Carried.

F.3 By-Law under the *Building Code Act* respecting permits and related matters

Moved by: Cameron Kennedy Seconded by: John McGee

THAT By-Law No. 2010- 34, being a by-law pursuant to Section 7 of the *Building Code Act*, related to permits and inspections including classes of permits, required information, fees, notice requirements related to construction, forms and such other matters as may be permitted by said Section, be hereby passed this twenty-sixth day of April, 2010, Carried.

F.4 By-Law under the *Planning Act* and *Municipal Act*

Moved by: D.R. McKinlay Seconded by: John McKean

THAT By-Law No. 2010-35, being a by-law pursuant to the *Planning Act* and *Municipal Act* with respect to fees and charges related to the processing of planning applications

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: D.R. McKinlay

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 10:22 p.m. to meet again May 10, 2010, 7:00 pm, L.E. Shore Library, or at the call of the Chair, Carried.

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Ellen Anderson, Mayor

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Corrina Giles, Town Clerk