

Minutes - Finance and Administration



MEETING DATE: June 19, 2007, 2:00 pm
LOCATION: The Blue Mountains Committee Room
PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Chair Gamble called the meeting to order with all persons in attendance save Councillor McGee, absent due to a previous commitment.
- Also in attendance was Acting Director of Finance Rob Cummings.
- The Committee then dealt with the following Resolution:
Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Michael Martin
THAT the Agenda of June 19, 2007 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.
- No member present declared a potential Pecuniary Interest with any matter as listed on the Agenda
- The Committee then dealt with the following Resolution:
Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: John McKean
THAT the minutes of May 15, 2007 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

B. Deputations / Presentations

Fire Chief Ron Doherty and Deputy Chief Rob Collins were then in attendance and reviewed the status of the Master Fire Plan.

Ron noted the peer review has been completed by Corfield Consulting and there appears to be some conflict between the original Marshall Macklin Monahagn Master Plan and the peer review.

Ron noted the peer review will have to be considered prior to a final Master Plan being presented to Council and the public.

Ron then noted the peer review was prepared for the Town CAO and information was not forthcoming to Fire Staff from the consultant.

Moved by: John McKean

Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT Council receives the Monthly Budget Variance Report – May, 2007 for information purposes, Carried.

D. Correspondence

D.1 Brian McAteer, Beaver River water level concerns

Councillor McKean noted there are many properties along the river in a similar situation and any consideration of property tax rebate would set a precedent.

Chair Gamble then proposed the matter be referred to the Town CAO and legal representatives, adding he did not believe the Town should take any steps in response, Councillor Martin questioning if the Town in fact could consider tax forgiveness.

John then noted channel work above the Durham dam seems to have lowered water levels and reduced frazil ice occurrences, adding the lowering of the Thornbury dam during the winter season may move water quicker through Clarksburg and reduce frazil ice formation.

Chair Gamble then stated dredging in Clarkbsburg would increase flows, John agreeing and noting permits would be very difficult to obtain.

Bob then noted it was not the Town's position to reduce property taxes and the noted concerns should be considered by the Town CAO and MPAC, the Committee concurring.

D.2 The Blue Mountains Chili Cookoff, request for sponsorship

Rob noted the 2007 budget was approved with a sponsorship amount in the same amount as 2006.

Rob noted previously sponsored events are contained in the budget and the overall budget line is within guidelines.

Michael then noted perhaps review of the grant sponsorship applications should be formalized, perhaps Lisa Kidd, the new Communications and Economic Development Coordinator having a role.

The Committee then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Michael Martin

Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council authorize sponsorship of The Blue Mountains 2007 Chili Cookoff in the amount of \$2,500.00, it being noted this is the same amount approved in 2006 and the amount is contained in the approved 2007 Town budget, Carried.

D.3 The Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce, Town hosted volunteer dinner

Chair Gamble noted this has always been a Chamber event with some Town sponsorship, noting perhaps the Town should first review the event and nomination history.

Councillor Martin then questioned if the Chamber was requesting financial assistance or to assume organization of the event, Bob noting he believed both.

Michael then noted perhaps the Chamber President could attend the next meeting, Bob proposing to refer the matter to Lisa Kidd, Michael noting clarification of Lisa's position would be valuable for the next meeting.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Resolution from Town Affordable Housing Committee, May 4, 2007

Moved by: Bob Gamble Seconded by: Glenn Stewart

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Finance and Administration Committee research ways and means of assisting with affordable housing initiatives pertaining to any municipal related charges including payments and related charges, Carried.

Chair Gamble then stated the Affordable Housing Committee believed someone should consider absorbing some or all of the related building costs for a housing project, adding the Town might consider a donation but not waiving costs.

Councillor McKean then noted he had no concern with Town Staff facilitating a discussion but would be concerned about waiving any capital plant charges.

Rob then noted Staff could prepare an inventory of costs associated with dwelling construction for consideration by the Committee, the Committee concurring.

Chair Gamble then provided a grant funding application received by him on June 4, 2007 from the Chamber of Commerce to Rob for consideration.

Bob then questioned status of the Martel Rock and Roll Show event, the Clerk noting Council had earlier granted significant community festival status, Rob noting he did not believe the Town sponsored the event in 2006.

Bob then noted there has been a request to use the Town logo in event advertising, Michael cautioning the Town should be careful in sponsoring any event unless a breakdown of how funding was collected, spent and distributed.

Bob then noted Staff could provide background information on the event.

Rob then noted as to Chamber sponsorship, the 2006 figure has been inserted in the 2007 budget but a formal request has not been received until now.

F. Next Meeting Date

July 17, 2007, 2:00 pm or at the call of the Chair.

G. Adjournment

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Michael Martin

That this meeting do now adjourn to meet again July 17, 2007, 2:00 pm or at the call of the Chair, Carried.