

Minutes - The Blue Mountains Council Meeting



MEETING DATE: July 10, 2006 – 7:00 pm

LOCATION: The Blue Mountains Council Chamber

PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order with all members in attendance save Councillor Martin, absent due to a previous commitment.
- Council then paused for a moment of personal prayer or reflection.
- Approval of Agenda
Moved by: Wayman Fairweather Seconded by: R. J. Gamble
THAT the Agenda of July 10, 2006 be adopted 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 declaring with regard to Item G2, separated Account invoices from EC King, Sadler's and Miller Waste and with regard to his employment.
- Adoption of Consent Agenda
Moved by: R. J. Gamble Seconded by: Wayman Fairweather
THAT the Consent Agenda of July 10, 2006 be adopted as circulated, save and except for Items G1 – Accounts, G3 – Engineering & Public Works Committee Report of July 4, 2006 and G4 – Police Services Board minutes of June 14, 2006, Carried.

Note: Councillor McKean earlier declared a pecuniary interest with regard to Item G2 and his employment and did not take part in related discussion or voting.
- Previous Minutes
Moved by: R. J. Gamble Seconded by: John McKean
THAT the Minutes of June 26, 2006 and Special Meeting of July 4, 2006 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

7:20 – Grey County Warden Bob Pringle, CAO Gary Woods – County Issues Discussion

Councillor Martin then attended the meeting.

Next as Grey County Warden Bob Pringle and CAO Gary Woods were in attendance, it was Council's pleasure to hear them regarding various County issues.

Bob then noted he and Gary were meeting all area municipalities to make introductions and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Gary then reviewed the AMO initiative seeking Provincial funding for previously downloaded services.

Gary then noted the recently announced two year Provincial property re-assessment freeze may provide time to find solutions to the rapidly escalating difference in assessments between particular areas and regions.

Gary then noted appreciation for Council's support of proposed County Development Charges.

Gary then recounted work to date on a County energy audit program, with program information available to any interested member municipalities.

Gary then reviewed a proposed Warden's Forum where all municipal councillors in Grey County could meet and discuss matters of common interest.

Gary noted the County has also been requested by some member municipalities to become involved in waste management and further discussion may yield a common position.

Councillor Fairweather then spoke, noting at the Provincial Chamber of Commerce Conference, all Deputy Ministers were in attendance with senior bureaucrat's chairing, a good model for the proposed Warden's Forum.

Councillor Ardiel then spoke, noting there was a great deal of interest in discussing a waste management initiative.

Regarding road rationalization, Bob noted there were 5 projects scheduled for The Blue Mountains in 2006.

Gary noted Grey County had previously offered assistance in organizing Craigeith Train Depot operations, Deputy Mayor McKinlay noting management and operation of the Depot were still under consideration. Councillor Gamble the retaining of a curator to review and assess artefacts was under consideration, Duncan noting the operation of a tourist information centre by the Georgian Triangle Tourist Association is considered an interim measure.

Duncan then noted it was anticipated the road rationalization process would be transparent and technically based, adding regional transportation issues were of concern given the increase in Town traffic volume on a year round basis.

Gary then noted the County could review Town-created traffic counts, Mayor Anderson adding area Mayor's had considered a study forum to consider regional transportation concerns including both Grey and Simcoe County and Provincial participation.

Town CAO Paul Graham then recounted discussion of regional transportation issues with MTO as to bypasses in the Stayner, Collingwood and The Blue Mountains areas, adding Blue Mountain Resort was facilitating establishment of a study group.

Bob noted Grey County would participate in any meetings that might be scheduled.

Councillor McKean then noted the Province should realize there is only one, two lane Provincial highway in The Blue Mountains and it will not be adequate given the existing and proposed development.

Councillor Fairweather then questioned the status of the new business plan for Grey Roots, Bob noting copies would be provided, noting some of the proposed changes had already been put in place and attendance was steadily increasing.

Wayman noted the resort area in the Town was operating at capacity and projects in The Blue Mountains may better warrant County expenditure.

Bob noted Grey Roots cost each County taxpayer \$43.00 at present, Wayman noting a location in The Blue Mountains would have yielded much better attendance and revenues.

Councillor Ardiel clarified the previous County Council had determined the Grey Roots location, adding museums are not considered in terms of profits but additional programs were being offered and attendance was increasing.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted Gary and Wayman could meet and review the business plan, adding it was proposed Grey Roots would function to serve the community's history and heritage needs now and in the future. Duncan then proposed Town Staff forward the recent Depot Staff Report addressing Depot use to Grey County Tourism Coordinator Bryan Plumstead for consideration of assistance, Council concurring.

Councillor Martin then reasserted Council's support for Grey County Development Charges for growth-related capital project funding, adding delegation of Land Use Planning Approvals was another issue of interest to the Town, Gary noting consultation had already begun at the Staff level.

Michael further noted proposed changes to the Planning Act will involve change in the approval process at both the local and upper tier levels.

Michael then stated there had to be a better understanding between the rural and urban areas with regard to matters such as Development Charges and local museum operations, and a mechanism to address these situations is required.

Gary then noted the proposed Warden's Forum would be a good venue to discuss such matters.

Councillor Gamble then questioned the status of affordable housing projects in Grey County given the Town's portion of the County budget, adding concerns with senior citizen's housing should be addressed.

Bob continued that increased costs on the Grey Bruce line construction is a concern and that perhaps area rating should be a consideration, adding the Town appears to be on the periphery of the regional County road system and there may be merit in a new single-tier municipal structure.

Councillor McKean then questioned County input on alternative energy projects, Warden Pringle noting The Blue Mountains and Grey Highlands had

been identified within Grey County as windshed areas and the process for final approval is as yet unknown.

Mayor Anderson then spoke, questioning if the County could prioritize emergency housing assistance for needy residents within, such needs currently depending on volunteers from Beaver Valley Outreach.

Warden Pringle then acknowledged there was concern with the cost increases of the Grey Bruce Line construction at the County level, Councillor Ardiel stating perhaps the project could be shortened or reduced in scale.

Mayor Anderson then thanked Warden Pringle and CAO Gary Woods for their attendance and information, Bob and Gary thanking Council and retiring from the meeting.

C. Correspondence as previously circulated

Moved by: Wayman Fairweather Seconded by: John McKean

THAT this Council does hereby receive the Correspondence of July 10, 2006 and further does hereby support and adopt the Staff Recommendations made with regard to the Correspondence items including any additional direction give to Staff and Committees through discussion, Carried.

D. Motions and Staff Reports

1. Volunteer Firefighter Recruits, FD.06.09

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

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

THAT the following persons are appointed as volunteer firefighter recruits to be assigned as indicated:

STATION 1: Devon McDonald, Leah Hewgill

STATION 2: Jason Blinkhorn, Marijan Lucic, Colin MacReady, Sean McKenzie, James Schwalm.

Carried.

2. Modification to Draft Plan of Subdivision & Zoning By-law Amendment and Proposed Bell Canada Easement – Trailwoods Subdivision Pt. Lots 35 & 36, Conc. 10, PL.06.87

Manager of Development Planning Rob Armstrong then reviewed the Report.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

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

That Council supports the proposed redline revisions to Draft Plan of Subdivision with the understanding that the remaining portion of Lot 72 after the road widening to the Town dedication will be identified in the conditions as

an open space Block to be dedicated to the Town and further that the Zoning By-law will be amended accordingly; and,

That Council supports the granting of an easement to Bell Canada on Block 139 subject to receipt of a detailed site plan to the satisfaction of staff that buffers the proposed uses once the Block is dedicated to the Town under the Registered Plan.

Carried.

3. Planning Staff Update – Niagara Escarpment Commission (verbal), Appeal of OPA #4 and Official Plan

Councillor Fairweather then recounted a recent meeting with NEC representatives to attempt a negotiated settlement of outstanding matters regarding the NEC appeal of the Town Official Plan, with a further meeting proposed.

Mayor Anderson then reported a teleconference was scheduled with the Town solicitor to discuss settlement wording.

Town CAO Paul Graham then spoke, noting the NEC had requested a “bump up” of the Combined EA regarding Castle Glen servicing, and negotiations are proceeding.

4. Scenic Caves Trail, DOR.06.37

Council then dealt with Report DOR.06.37 and the following Resolution as an addition to the Agenda.

Moved by: Wayman Fairweather Seconded by: R. J. Gamble

THAT this Recreation Committee approves as previously recommended in DOR.06.24:

1. that Council authorize Blue Mountain Resort to construct the Scenic Caves Trail, according to previous approved design at the cost of \$111, 708.00;
2. that council authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign an easement agreement with Blue Mountain Resort for lands that the trail will be constructed on.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Gamble noted the Report was extensively reviewed at the Recreation Committee meeting of July 6, 2006 and it was considered the Trail switchbacks were not overly challenging and 3 other area trails would be made available for trail users through this trail.

Councillor Fairweather then noted it was considered that bikers and hikers could access the Trail simultaneously.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay questioned if the proposed trail would be used for resort shuttle use, Councillor Gamble replying it would not.

Councillor Martin then noted concern that the Town did not have an actual copy of the easement agreement for review of terms at this time when considering approval of same.

The following amending Resolution was then presented:

Moved by: D. R. McKinlay Seconded by: G. Ardiel

THAT the Report be received and Recommendation No. 1 be adopted and Council request the Recreation Committee provide a finalized easement agreement with supporting documentation for Council's consideration for the use of a trail by the public on Blue Mountain Resort lands.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Gamble noted either one of the matters could not proceed without the other, Councillor Martin noting there is usually a reference to a signed contract document when awarding construction projects.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then questioned if the matter could be deferred for one week pending preparation of a suitable easement agreement, Town CAO Paul Graham noting Staff could try to prepare an agreement for the next meeting.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

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

THAT the Amending Motion be Tabled pending one week for easement agreement preparation, Carried.

The matter is Tabled, Councillor Fairweather and Ardiel withdrawing the original Motion.

E. New and Unfinished Business

1. Grey County Council Update

Councillor Ardiel then reported on a Development Charges Public Open House scheduled for July 18 in Markdale.

Gail then spoke to the two year property assessment freeze announced by the Province, noting there may be a substantial increases following the two year period and after the Provincial election.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then reported on a recent Grey County Council meeting in Keady and tour the agricultural sector of Grey County, some urban County Councillors unfortunately not in attendance.

2. Notice of Motion to be brought to a subsequent meeting – None

F. By-laws

1. Establish a Highway (Sunset Boulevard)

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

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

THAT By-law No. 2006-84, being a By-law to establish a Highway (Sunset Boulevard), be hereby enacted as passed this tenth day of July, 2006, Carried.

G. Consent Agenda

Accounts

1. Accounts

Councillor Gamble then noted the Accounts included substantial payments to local School Boards and the County of Grey.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: R. J. Gamble Seconded by: G. Ardiel

THAT the Accounts be accepted as circulated, Carried.

2. Invoices separated for declaration of pecuniary interest (EC King, Sadler's & Miller Waste), previously considered.

Reports List – ADOPT

3. Engineering & Public Works – July 4, 2006

Town CAO Paul Graham then reviewed the status of the proposed pedestrian crossing across Highway 26 at the proposed Beaver River lookout.

Councillor Martin then questioned Recommendation No. 5, as to how surrounding landowners would be made aware of the situation, Town CAO Paul Graham noting area residents would be advised.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: D. R. McKinlay Seconded by: R. J. Gamble

THAT the Engineering & Public Works Committee Report of July 4, 2006 and recommendations contained therein be adopted by Council, Carried.

Minutes List – RECEIVE

4. Police Services Board – June 14, 2006

Councillor Gamble questioned reference to the unlocked Chamber of Commerce Office adjacent to the OPP office, Councillor Martin noting there was not a formal policy for the checking of door locks at night but this is done on a random basis.

Mayor Anderson then noted reference to a proposed traffic light location at Highway 26 and Grey Road 21, Councillor Ardiel noting Grey County could install traffic counters on Grey Road 21.

Town CAO Paul Graham then noted MTO would likely support traffic counts on Highway 26.

Paul further noted a regional transportation study throughout the Town had been discussed with MTO.

Councillor Martin then noted Thornbury area Police calls represented 17% of officer activity.

Councillor Ardiel then stated an increased police presence in the BVCS area would be appreciated and concern with hours credited versus contract expectations was noted.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

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

THAT the Police Services Board minutes of June 14, 2006 be received as circulated, Carried.

As an addition to the Agenda, Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: G. Ardiel Seconded by: Wayman Fairweather

THAT this Council direct Staff to review mileage rates as the Town rates are not reflective of current rates established by the County of Grey or the Provincial Treasury Board.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Gamble noted a previous review indicated the Town rate was within the average of rates reviewed.

Councillor Ardiel then noted Grey County recently increased rates following increases in member municipalities.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

H. Next Meeting Date(s)

July 24, 2006

I. Confirmation By-law and Adjournment

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: Wayman Fairweather

THAT By-law No. 2006-85, being a By-law to confirm proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains on July 10, 2006, be hereby enacted as passed this tenth day of July, 2006, Carried.

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

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 9:00 p.m. to meet again July 24, 2006, at 7:00 pm or at the call of the Chair, Carried.

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Ellen Anderson, Mayor

Stephen Keast, Clerk