

can remain in place in the event there is any further help required from the County or Province. Steve then noted second residences are not eligible for assistance and only essential items are covered by assistance, i.e. refrigerators, stoves.

Ellen then noted crop insurance may not cover all losses for the local farmers.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then spoke, questioning if the Town has been declared a disaster area will insurance companies still be required to pay claims, Steve replying yes.

Councillor McKean then questioned if barns are covered under the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program ("ODRAP"), Steve replying a Committee will be struck to raise funds and the Province will then contribute \$2 for every \$1 raised locally.

Duncan then questioned if there are any federal programs in place for assistance, Steve replying no.

Councillor McGee then clarified that if no money is raised locally to assist those affected, that the Province will not provide funding, Steve replying correct.

Councillor Martin then spoke questioning who would keep of the money raised, Steve replying the Disaster Relief Committee, Michael then noting the process seems flawed and further noted that representatives from the Province should explain the process to those affected.

Ellen advised that the meeting scheduled for August 25 is an opportunity for those affected to hear the Provincial and Federal representatives, further noting the Town needs to be loud and band together with Durham and Markdale.

Ellen then noted there are new farmers in the area who will not be eligible for crop insurance as they do not have a crop record.

Ellen referenced conversations with Minister Donna Cansfield, Minister of Natural Resources, offering Ministry staff to assist in clean up efforts.

Councillor Kennedy then spoke, noting he believes clean-up is the number one priority, and questioned what the Town proposes to do with downed trees, Ellen replying the trees in the Camperdown area are being chipped at no cost to the residents, Duncan noting apple farmers will burn the downed trees as they cannot wait for chippers and they may be picking apples in the next week.

Ellen then reported that the Home Hardware is loaning chainsaws to assist with the cleanup.

Duncan then spoke replying to Cameron's comment regarding the first priority being clean-up of the damage and noted the loss of income is the number one priority for the apple farmers, Ellen concurring, noting orchards in the area affected by the tornado will likely have to be removed as well as the root system will likely be affected and the roots have been disturbed.

CAO Paul Graham then spoke, noting it will take six years before new orchard matures enough to produce apples to support the farmers, Duncan concurring and further noting the cost to maintain the trees in that six year period is significant.

Councillor McKean then spoke, noting some orchard areas could be planted in another crop until new orchard stock is available.

Councillor Gamble then spoke, noting farmers are covered under the CASE Program (“Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization Program”) which will provide some support.

Duncan then provided input on crop insurance, Bob noting OMAFRA in Guelph would be a great reference.

John McGee then spoke, questioning if the Land Force Central Base in Meaford would provide assistance with the clean-up of the orchards, Ellen replying if the Province provides confirmation that the troops are available and we have the disaster designation in place, we would have access to the troops at no cost but if we retain troops from the Base now, the Town would have to pay for the help.

Ellen then referenced the damage at Peaks Bay.

John McGee then spoke, questioning if the farmers cannot purchase apple trees, could the Ministry contact the suppliers to encourage them to supply to the affected farmers, Ellen replying this is a good idea.

John then questioned if the Town could hire a retired apple farmer, someone familiar with the apple industry, to assist in getting information to the farmers, Steve Conn replying the Disaster Relief Committee that will be struck will work in conjunction with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and that once the Committee is formed a staff person would be required to attend the meetings.

Ellen then spoke, noting local producer Brian Gilroy has a number of resources and Gertie Blake of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture is compiling information. Ellen also indicated that the Ministry staff are researching the issues as well and do not immediately know all the answers to our questions.

Bob then questioned if there are apple tree nurseries in the area, Duncan replying no.

Duncan then spoke, noting that the farmers need a clearer picture on the steps to take, Ellen concurring and further noting the operating expenses are the greatest concern for farmers right now.

Ellen then asked Duncan to compile some questions to ask of the Province, Duncan replying yes.

CAO Paul Graham then spoke, noting a list of contact people for all Ministries would be helpful, Duncan replying that the meeting scheduled for August 25, 2009 will be for the insurance adjusters to meet with their clients, Ellen noting it may be more in depth than that as Helena Guergis representative, Jim Wilson’s representative, and the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture will be in attendance.

Steve then spoke, confirming The Blue Mountains has been declared a disaster area with the appropriate documentation being faxed to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (“MMAH”) today. Steve then reviewed the sample resolution asking the MMAH to declare The Blue Mountains a disaster area which will allow The Blue Mountains to access relief funds. Ellen then advised the Town is being proactive, waiting to declare the Town a disaster area until it was confirmed that a tornado had hit the area.

Steve then reviewed again the role of the Disaster Relief Committee that will be struck to pursue the funding of \$2 from the Province for every \$1 raised by the community.

Michael then noted the Town should determine what its role is in the fundraising.

Councillor McKean then spoke, noting after meeting with insurance adjusters, it will be determined how bad the situation really is, Bob concurring and questioning if the meeting with the insurance adjusters is a general information meeting, Ellen replying the insurance adjusters will explain the crop damage insurance and tree replacement insurance.

Paul then referenced previous discussions with the agriculture community at the Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings, noting the farmers are of the opinion that they do not receive support from the municipality, that the Province provides support for the agriculture community.

Duncan then questioned who would appoint the Committee members and if this would be a role of the Town, Steve replying the Town would appoint the Committee, noting a Town staff person, preferably someone from the finance department, should be a Committee member.

Ellen then thanked Steve Conn for his work on this disaster, noting he has been very helpful in the process.

Moved by: Cameron Kennedy Seconded by: John McKean

Whereas the municipality of The Town of The Blue Mountains recently experienced a F2 Tornado on August 20, 2009, the Council of The Town of The Blue Mountains hereby requests the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to declare The Town of The Blue Mountains a "disaster area" for the purposes of the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program ("ODRAP");

And further, should the Minister declare a disaster, Council will immediately, as required by ODRAP, appoint members to a disaster relief committee to administer the claims made under the ODRAP.

In speaking to the Motion, Bob questioned if the disaster should be defined further to include F2 damage on August 20, Ellen replying no, this is a standard resolution.

Paul then asking Steve to confirm with Environment Canada that the Town experienced a Tornado on August 20, 2009.

Council then voted on the Resolution, unanimously Carried.

Duncan then spoke regarding the landfill, questioning if the landfill is open to receive debris, and if the Town is deferring the cost, noting other municipalities are waiving the costs.

Duncan confirmed that the landfill operator knows those affected by the tornado, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator Rob Potter replying the deferral of tipping fees is so that insurance benefits will be received by those affected and at that time residents can pay their tipping fees. Duncan then stated insurance companies will not pay for these costs, further noting the farmers will burn the debris to clean up their properties but residents at Georgian Peaks will require a place for their debris. Duncan then said if the Town is chipping trees at the Peaks for free, that something should be done at the landfill to assist the agriculture community, Ellen concurring, noting it would be a good idea to follow Durham's lead to waive tipping fees for those affected.

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 8:55 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, unanimously Carried.

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Ellen Anderson, Mayor

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Corrina Giles, Deputy Clerk