

Minutes - The Blue Mountains Special Council Meeting



MEETING DATE: October 29, 2007 – 7:00 pm

LOCATION: L. E. Shore Memorial Library

PREPARED BY: Serena Wilgress, Deputy Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order with all members in attendance.
- Also in attendance were the following Staff members – CAO Paul Graham, CEDC Lisa Kidd, Director of Planning Peter Tollefsen, Director of Building & By-law/CBO David Finbow, Director of Engineering & Public Works Reg Russwurm and Manager of Water & Wastewater Division John Caswell.
- Council then paused for a moment of personal prayer or reflection.
- Approval of Agenda
Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: John McKean
THAT the Agenda of October 29, 2007 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.

B. Deputations/Presentations

7:00 pm – Lisa Kidd, Communications and Economic Development Officer – 2008 Budget Priorities Review

Next, as CEDC Lisa Kidd was in attendance, it was Council's pleasure to hear her regarding the Council's 2008 Budget Priority Review.

Lisa reviewed the process of the workshop held with Senior Management Team on October 17th.

Lisa noted that Councillor McGee had suggested some wording changes to the document after discussion with CBO David Finbow. Lisa noted the changes would include "Address Building Department succession planning", "Complete a comprehensive review of By-law Enforcement service levels which will lead to solutions" and "Enhance the Town's internal property based database (CityView) to better support Building and By-law Department functions".

Lisa then noted that when Council was satisfied with the document, it would be made available to the public on the Town's website and in the Clerk's Office.

Councillor McGee noted his recommended changes would ensure a clear, accurate document for the public.

John then suggested that Affordable Housing be added as a priority.

Councillor Gamble noted that the Medical Clinic had received higher priority over Affordable Housing during the workshop, adding he felt that there would be more community support for a medical clinic in the coming year.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted Affordable Housing could be included for presentation to the Public for feedback and then Council could reconsider.

Mayor Anderson then requested clarification of Councillor McGee's comment regarding Affordable Housing, John noting the initiative could be as simple as waiving the Development Charges for a new build.

John then noted Federal Funding could take years to secure, adding the Committee has worked very hard to do all of the legwork.

Ellen then noted tonight's process included considering additions and deletions from the document to be presented to the public.

Ellen then noted that including the Affordable Housing priority would allow consideration for both Council and Staff and not necessarily add a dollar value.

Duncan clarified that the priority would be "Participate in an Affordable Housing Project".

Councillor McKean noted the process showed Council's top priorities, adding that other priorities outranked Affordable Housing.

Council then concurred to review the document with Lisa presenting the priorities for discussion.

Lisa then noted Councillor McGee suggested the document link back to the Strategic Plan with priorities matched with Actions.

Councillor McGee requested clarification regarding Engineering & Public Works priority under Action #1, Director of Engineering and Public Works Reg Russwurm noting the department needed to build on Staff capabilities to respond to growth.

Lisa then noted the priorities were listed alphabetically.

Councillor Gamble questioned terminology used in the Alarm By-law, Director of Building & By-law David Finbow noting the by-law used "False Dispatches" versus false alarms.

David suggested Lisa check with the Fire Chief regarding the wording to be used.

CAO Paul Graham noted it was more a management issue, how the Fire Department responds.

David noted the priority could be changed to read "deal with Alarm Response Management".

Mayor Anderson questioned a tree removal property in Action #3, David noting it should be a separate bullet and could be added to Building and By-law.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay clarified tree retention is considered as part of the Subdivision Plan process, David noting tree removal often occurs before a development application is made to the Town.

David then noted the Municipal Act allows municipalities to implement By-laws to encompass tree removal throughout the Town.

Duncan then questioned if it was part of the Site Plan Agreement, David noting only when the application is made before cutting occurs.

Ellen questioned if the By-law would be Town wide, David noting yes.

Duncan noted it would require a lot of discussion and may be more beneficial to clear trees first and have the Site Plan Agreement include landscaping.

Councillor McGee noted a priority could be added – “Maintain and enhance Urban Forest”.

David noted the issue was not in the 2008 work plan for his department, adding that policies are currently in place regarding Abandoned Orchards and the main area of concern is the Highway 26 corridor.

Councillor McKean noted care would have to be taken now that approval has been given to Castle Glen.

Ellen noted the intent is to maintain as much green as possible in The Blue Mountains.

Councillor Kennedy concurred with Deputy Mayor McKinlay, noting that it is often easier to clear and replant.

Duncan noted Council would require some clear information on the subject before a decision could be made.

CAO Paul Graham noted it should be a Corporate Priority.

Council concurred to include “Maintain and Enhance Urban Forest” as a Corporate Priority to Action #3.

Lisa then clarified if Affordable Housing would be included as a priority, Council concurring to include “Participate in an Affordable Housing Initiative” under Planning for Action #4.

Councillor Gamble requested that “delivering a medical clinic property” should be changed to “deliver land for a medical clinic”, Council concurring.

Regarding the priority for the Library “Create an accurate budget”, Councillor Gamble noted concern with the wording, CAO Paul Graham noting the budget for the Library over the past few years had not represented actual costs.

Councillor McGee noted the wording could be changed to “zero based budget”.

Councillor Martin questioned if the rest of the departments used “zero based budgets”, Paul noting all budgets are compared to the previous year.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted the initiative came from the Library.

Councillor Kennedy noted that an accurate budget was a priority for all departments. Cam then added that it did not require the expenditure of funds to meet this priority and should not be included.

Mayor Anderson noted the priority was an issue with the Library Board.

Duncan questioned if budget money was needed, Councillor McGee noting the priority was a 2007 expenditure to create an accurate 2008 budget.

Councillor McKean noted the priority was brought forward by Library Staff.

CAO Paul Graham noted the Library should be looked at with a critical eye this year adding that it was the only area with a short fall on funding.

Council concurred to set the matter aside until later in the meeting.

Regarding Recreation's Priority under Action #4, Deputy Mayor McKinlay clarified that the Tomahawk priority would only be this year's part of the overall Plan.

Mayor Anderson questioned if it was a priority to develop programs for teens and children, Duncan noting it was included as part of the Tomahawk Strategy.

Regarding "Review Development Charges", Councillor Gamble questioned the timing of the priority, CAO Paul Graham noting it was advisable to review the Study before the Five Year Review, adding that current development charges were inadequate to meet current costs.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted the municipality could review the study any time before the five year maximum.

Director of Building & By-law David Finbow noted the Study indicated growth of 800 – 1000 units over each of the next three years but that growth is not being achieved.

CAO Paul Graham noted construction costs have escalated higher than expected from the 2005 report, adding it was better to bring the study back to Council sooner rather than later.

Councillor Gamble then questioned expansion of the Water & Wastewater treatment plants if development capacity was not needed.

Councillor Martin noted it was important to be as accurate as possible with development charge numbers.

Mayor Anderson then noted that Deputy Mayor McKinlay has been diligent in bringing about the reopening of the County Development Charge By-law, adding that more municipalities are considering support for revisiting the Study.

Regarding Action #6, Councillor McGee noted that all the Departments priorities included "communication" and suggested they be combined into one Corporate Priority.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted each department had identified communication as a priority during the process and each is different.

Director of Building & By-law David Finbow requested that the final bullet in his list be changed to "continue training of staff to ensure currentness", Council concurring.

Councillor Gamble noted he could not support the priority of Building a new Administration Centre.

Mayor Anderson questioned if there was a similar priority that could be supported, Bob noting an addition to the current facility would be acceptable.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted his support for leaving the priority as is for review by the public, Councillor Kennedy concurring.

Director of Building & By-law David Finbow noted all documentation to date had used "new or expanded" facility wording, adding that a Staff Report would be coming to Council on November 5th with the outcome of the sessions held in September.

Councillor McKean noted the afternoon visioning session had resulted in the public not supporting a renovation over a new facility.

Councillor McGee noted the priority wording could be changed to include “or expanded”, adding the final budget document may help Council make the final decision.

Councillor Martin noted the expansion was necessary and could be the decision of this Council or wait until the next Council to decide.

Bob noted his concern was that the public would see “new” only.

Council concurred to leave the priority as presented.

Regarding the Library priority previously discussed, Mayor Anderson reviewed previous comments made by Council.

Councillor Kennedy noted he felt the priority was redundant as it was the goal of each department to bring forward an accurate budget.

Councillor McGee suggested the priority could be moved under Long Term Sustainability, Mayor Anderson noting the Library was it’s own entity, Council approving the budget as set by the Board.

Council concurred to leave the priority as it was.

C. Motions and Staff Reports

1. 2008 Budget Priorities Review, CEDC.07.09

Communications and Economic Development Coordinator Lisa Kidd then reviewed the final Priorities Document noting the following changes:

1. Remove numbering from Strategic Plan Actions
2. Change Department of Finance to Department of Financial Services
3. Change Tangible Asset Program to Tangible Capital Asset Program
4. First Action – Create a subtitle called “Department of Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk and include the two bullets below that title; Engineering & Public Works bullet one changed to “Build Staff capabilities to respond to growth
5. Second Action – Fire Services bullet three changed to “Create a strategy to effectively deal with alarm response management”
6. Third Action – add a new bullet for Corporate and include “Maintain and enhance our urban forest”
7. Fourth Action – Corporate bullet one changed to “Deliver land for a medical clinic property in the community”
8. Fourth Action – add a new bullet for Department of Planning and Information Technology and include “Participate in affordable housing initiatives”
9. Sixth Action – Building & By-law bullet one changed to “Address Building Department succession planning”; bullet two changed to “Complete a comprehensive review of By-law Enforcement service levels which will lead to solutions”; bullet four changed to “Enhance the Town’s internal property based data base (CityView) to better support Building and By-law department functions”; and bullet five changed to “Continue training of staff to ensure currentness”

Council then dealt with the following Recommendation:

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

THAT Council adopt the priorities attached to Report CEDC.07.09, entitled "Budget Priorities" as may be revised by Council for release to the public.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor McGee noted the Library bullet could be changed from "create" to "prepare", Council concurring.

Councillor Martin then noted the Recommendation could be amended to read "THAT Council adopt the priorities attached to Report CEDC.07.09, entitled "Budget Priorities" as may be revised by Council for release to the public for consultation", Council concurring.

Councillor Martin then noted he had concerns as to how the public will accept the document without having been involved in the process.

Council then voted on the amended Recommendation:

THAT Council adopt the priorities attached to Report CEDC.07.09, entitled "Budget Priorities" as may be revised by Council for release to the public for consultation.

Carried.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted a contact person needed to be identified for the public to contact with questions and concerns.

Councillor McGee noted a press release should be prepared, CEDC Lisa Kidd to confer with CAO Paul Graham regarding the release.

Councillor Gamble then requested a recorded vote on the Recommendation as presented to Council:

Anderson, Ellen	-	yea
Gamble, Robert	-	nay
Kennedy, Cameron	-	yea
Martin, Michael	-	yea
McGee, John	-	yea
McKean, John	-	yea
McKinlay, Duncan	-	yea

The Deputy Clerk then declared the Recommendation to be Carried.

D. New and Unfinished Business

None

E. Confirmation By-law and Adjournment

Moved by: John McGee Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT By-law No. 2007-97, being a By-law to confirm proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains on October 29, 2007, be hereby enacted as passed this twenty ninth day of October, 2007, Carried.

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 9:28 p.m. to meet again November 14, 2007, at 7:00 pm or at the call of the Chair, Carried.

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Ellen Anderson, Mayor

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Serena Wilgress, Deputy Clerk