

Minutes - The Blue Mountains Council Meeting



MEETING DATE: November 14, 2005 – 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.
- Moment of Personal Prayer or Reflection
- Adoption of Consent Agenda

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

THAT the Consent Agenda of November 14, 2005 be adopted as circulated, less Items 2, 3 and 8 for separate review and discussion, Carried.

- Approval of Agenda

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Wayman Fairweather

THAT the Agenda of November 14, 2005 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

- Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No member declared a pecuniary interest with any matter as listed on the agenda save Mayor Anderson with regard to the Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery Board minutes due to immediate family employment and John McKean with regard to Accounts containing Miller Group invoices and his employment.

Councillor Martin then attended the meeting.

- Previous Minutes –

Moved by: G. Ardiel Seconded by: John McKean

THAT the Council Minutes of October 24, and Planning Council Minutes of November 2 and 7, 2005 be adopted as circulated including any revisions to be made, Carried.

B. Deputations/Presentations

7:30 pm – Public Meeting – Composition of Council By-law

7:40 pm – Doug Hill, GSCA – Clarksburg Ice Management and Flooding Study

C. Correspondence as previously circulated

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

THAT this Council does hereby receive the Correspondence of November 14, 2005 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.

Regarding correspondence from a Ms. Kaltenbach noting concern with the present status of the Craigleith Station, Councillor Gamble noted a lack of return address prevented the Town from advising of the recent sod-turning and initiation of renovations to the Station.

Regarding correspondence from Sault Ste. Marie noting opposition to Bill 124 and changes to the Building regulations, Councillor Ardiel noted the City's position was not supported at the County level.

Regarding a request from Inky Mark, M.P. for support for his Right to Hunt and Fish Private Member's Bill, Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted hunting is the management tool used to maintain healthy wildlife populations, Councillor McKean noting such a Bill may raise public awareness of hunting as a legal activity.

Councillor Gamble questioned if the proposed right would be subject to other law, the Clerk confirming such wording in the draft legislation.

Councillor Fairweather then noted he would not support the opening of the fisheries as a universal right rather than as an activity within a framework for a managed resource.

Council then concurred the Clerk research the matter for later report including any position taken by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

With regard to correspondence from CUPW requesting Council support in opposition to rural Postal Station closings, Mayor Anderson noted Council could consider such a Motion, Councillor Gamble cautioning against supporting operation of underserviced Station rather than a better selection process of selection of Station locations. Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted rural Postal Stations offer more services than just mail, Council concurring to consider such a Motion at a subsequent meeting.

Regarding correspondence from the Township of Chisholm requesting support for reintroduction of a spring bear hunt, Council concurred to leave the matter to jurisdictions where bear hunts occurred.

Mayor Anderson then noted a Memorandum from Town CAO David Creech reporting on Governance and Administration improvements over the past 9 months.

David then reviewed improvements, including reduction in the number of Committees and meetings, realigned and reorganized Council procedure and practice to create efficiencies.

David noted any reorganization involves constant and ongoing change.

David then reviewed other items and matters addressed to better decision making and information sharing throughout the organization.

Ellen questioned Staff response to recent revisions and changes, David noting Staff is reacting well and a proposed Strategic Plan Action meeting will yield further team making initiatives.

Councillor Fairweather then commended David on his work to date as CAO.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then questioned where Building and By-law Enforcement fit into the revised Committee management structure, David noting most activity would relate to Finance and Administration, with By-law Enforcement requiring further consideration.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted he had struggled to keep abreast of information sharing and requested clarification that Staff Reports would be available to the public following Agenda preparation, the Clerk noting such Reports are available following completion of the Council Agenda package unless otherwise deemed not to be public information.

David noted it was common for Agenda Reports and packages to be made available to the Public prior to Council's consideration.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted Grey County has a computer calendar of meetings and room locations and perhaps a similar information sharing program could be organized.

Councillor Ardiel then commended David on his efforts to date especially in reorganizing the Committee Structure, suggesting supplying Councillors with laptops and improved communications.

Councillor Gamble noted the Finance and Administration Committee has noted the Town must reduce some expenses to protect tax rates, adding perhaps the office calendar could be printed off weekly, adding he believed Councillors have to meet any time requirements necessary to complete business.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted perhaps the cost of digital agendas and laptops could be researched and examined for any cost saving benefits, Staff to provide more information.

Councillor Gamble noted the Finance and Administration Committee is on an aggressive program to improve reporting to Council and perhaps the next Council could review digital Agendas.

Council then adjourned for the scheduled Public Meeting.

Next, as Doug Hill of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority and Town Treasurer Chris Fawcett were in attendance, it was Council's pleasure to hear them regarding further study of the Beaver River with regard to ice and flooding management in the Clarksburg area, as previously considered.

Doug then noted he understood Council had questions regarding the proposed extra work on the channel upstream from the Thornbury Mill Pond as well as additional hydraulic modelling of the Thornbury Dam.

Doug noted a previous MNR study concluded the Thornbury Dam did not affect frazil ice generation in Clarksburg, a subsequent GSCA study effectively concurring, with some members of the Ice Management Committee having practical experience questioning this conclusion.

Doug stated there are also concerns that changes in the Mill Pond following dam construction may warrant further modelling of the Mill Pond to conclusively determine any impacts.

Doug noted the hydraulic modelling previously rejected by Council was addressed in the existing budget, adding study of the gravel bar areas upstream in terms of ice buildup is now recommended, an additional charge of \$20,000 with \$10,000 MNR funding previously approved.

Councillor Gamble noted evidence from the previous study indicated there were no issues with the Mill Pond but rather in the upstream channel with tree growth and sedimentation which cause the river to grow shallower in the area of the gravel bars.

Bob further noted any downstream study and works may cause an ice problem in the Beaver River shallows below the dam.

Councillor Fairweather noted he would wish to be assured that if the hydraulic modelling proposal is approved and changes identified would the previous recommendation regarding the Mill pond actually be revised.

Bob then noted if the Clendennan Dam is approximately 15 metres higher than the Thornbury Dam flows should be substantial between the two, unless blocked for example by the gravel bar area upstream from the Thornbury Dam.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted Clendennan Dam was designed to block sheet ice from jamming around the Clarksburg bridge, which previously caused Clarksburg flooding more severe than that from frazil ice. Doug noted significant modification would be required at Clendennan to collect frazil ice.

Doug further noted the difference of opinion is whether frazil ice forms in the Thornbury Mill Pond first and then backs up, or if it forms first at the gravel bar channel and backs up.

Councillor McKean then asked if the channelization study could result in a larger dredging project, Doug noting perhaps two years from now.

Ellen questioned if there was any sort of urgency with regard to the funding, Doug replying no other than time for field survey work, Wayman proposing Director of Engineering Paul Graham review the proposals for subsequent review and recommendation, Council concurring.

Doug then thanked Council and retired from the meeting.

D. Motions and Staff Reports

1. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan, Staff Report CAO.05.39

Moved by: Wayman Fairweather Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT Council does hereby receive Staff Report CAO.05.30, "Town of The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan", dated November 14, 2005 and further does adopt the Strategic Plan attached thereto; and

THAT Council does hereby direct the Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Management Team to develop detailed actions to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan and report back every three months; and

THAT the CAO implement a communication plan including media advertisements, brochure and web-pages to ensure as many people in the Town as possible are aware of the Vision, Mission and Strategic Direction contained in the Strategic Plan.

In speaking to the Motion, Mayor Anderson read a letter from the Mayor reviewing the Strategic Plan process and completion of the final Draft Plan.

Councillor Ardiel then commended the Plan and the process leading to the final Plan.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then noted he looked forward to implementing the Vision, Mission, Goals and Strategic Actions, Councillor Gamble noting Council had to be very cognizant of selecting and prioritizing projects selected to meet goals.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

2. Lease of Vote Tabulation System

Moved by: G. Ardiel Seconded by: Wayman Fairweather

1. THAT Council does enact a By-law under Section 42 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* to authorize the use of vote counting equipment in the 2006 Municipal Election process; and

2. THAT Council does hereby authorize the Clerk to enter into a Lease of an Optical Scan Tabulation System for Vote-by-Mail Election with Dominion Voting Systems of Toronto, Ontario, at a total cost of \$10,600.00 plus applicable taxes.

In speaking to the Motion, Deputy Mayor McKinlay questioned if any extra training costs would be incurred, the Clerk noting the complete lease program including training was including in the cost.

Councillor Gamble questioned if application of the machines would reduce election labour costs, the Clerk replying the lease cost would be offset by approximately \$8,500.00 in election labour costs no longer required.

Duncan than questioned if there would still be voting places in use, the Clerk replying it is proposed the BVCC would be a voting place on voting day with ballots able to be deposited in a ballot box on preceding days at the Town Office in addition to the ballot being mailed.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

E. New and Unfinished Business

1. Grey County Council Update

Deputy Mayor McKinlay noted he was still considering organization of a roundtable discussion with County representatives, ratepayers and staff as

follow-up the October 29th information meeting, Council concurring to discuss it at a subsequent Joint meeting.

Duncan noted it may be preferable to approach the Province to consider reduction in taxes versus noting concern with County expenditures, adding some people paying low income tax rates are paying extremely high property tax rates and property taxes should not be applied to matters more appropriately paid by income taxes.

Councillor Ardiel then reviewed Bill 206 and potential financial impacts on Grey County in supplementary pension costs.

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

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

THAT the Firefighters Hours for On Call, Suppression, Training, Additional Hours and Captain Remuneration be approved for payment:

Hall #1 \$80,064.07

Hall #2 \$61,699.41

Carried.

F. By-laws

1. Composition of Council

Moved by: John McKean Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT By-law No. 2005 -91, being a By-law to change the composition of Town Council so as to have the Mayor and Deputy-Mayor sit as members of County Council and to establish five other positions to be known respectively as Councillor, be hereby enacted this fourteenth day of November, 2005, Carried.

2. Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Agreement Authorization

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

THAT By-law No. 2005 -92, being a By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Municipal Funding Agreement for the transfer of Federal gasoline tax revenues under the New Deal for Cities and Communities, be hereby enacted this fourteenth day of November, 2005.

In speaking to the Motion, Councillor Gamble questioned if particular projects that qualified for the funding had to be identified at this time, Town CAO David Creech replying no.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay questioned if transfer payments were based on what was considered permanent population or the actual population based on number of households, Treasurer Chris Fawcett reporting the revenue transfer was based on the permanent population figure of approximately 6,000.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

G. Consent Agenda

Accounts

1. October Final, November Preliminary, 2005 BG

Reports List – ADOPT

2. Recreation Committee – October 20, 2005
3. Finance and Administration Committee – October 20, November 8, 2005
4. Thornbury-Clarksburg Union Cemetery Board - October 24, 2005

Minutes List – RECEIVE

5. Affordable Housing Committee – October 7, 2005
6. GSCA – October 12, 2005
7. Thornbury BIA – October 12, 2005
8. The Blue Mountains Police Services Board – November 2, 2005

Those portions of the Consent Agenda not previously approved were then considered.

Mayor Anderson then retired from the meeting during consideration of these matters and Deputy Mayor McKinlay assumed the Chair.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: G. Ardiel

That the Recreation Committee minutes of October 20, 2005 be adopted as circulated.

In speaking to the Motion, Deputy Mayor McKinlay questioned status of the Heathcote Hall, Town CAO David Creech noting it was recommended that no funding be committed to the Hall at this time pending finalization of the Leisure Activities Plan process.

David noted Staff was aware of the importance of the Halls in their community and all are Town owned property that can be managed and operated in a similar manner. Councillor Gamble noted there may be the possibility of combined financial support with Grey Highlands for Heathcote Hall.

David then noted there were standards for operation of public facilities and these are not being met at the Halls in various instances at this time.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay then reported on previous concerns made to him with regard to the new Harbour Trail linkage and loss of parking space near fishing areas, Duncan clarifying that Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt advised him the trail area was within an existing Fire Route and sufficient parking was available nearby.

Council then voted on the Resolution, Carried.

Regarding the October 20, 2005 Finance & Administration Committee minutes, Councillor Gamble reviewed the 2004 Auditor's Statement and Management Letter.

Bob then noted tax receivables were increasing, Town Treasurer Chris Fawcett noting these receivables were being monitored.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

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

THAT the Finance & Administration Committee minutes of October 20, 2005 be adopted and the Recommendations contained therein, Carried.

Regarding the November 8, 2005 Finance & Administration Committee minutes, Councillor Gamble then reviewed the consideration of a new Financial Information System for the Town.

David Creech noted a contract would be negotiated and when finalized, it would be presented for Council for consideration.

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: R. J. Gamble Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT the Finance & Administration Committee minutes of November 8, 2005 be adopted as circulated, Carried.

Regarding The Blue Mountains Police Services Board minutes of November 2, 2005, Councillor Gamble then requested clarification of a reference to consideration of cost sharing for paid duty policing at Blue Mountain Village, Town CAO David Creech noting an increasing police presence in the Village will be an area for discussion with the Police Services Board, given the Town is not being charged the full amount of hours contracted.

Deputy Mayor McKinlay questioned if there has been any review to determine if the level of service is adequate, David Creech noting a review of contracted hours may be required.

Council then received the Police Services Board minutes of November 2, 2005.

Mayor Anderson then re-attended the meeting and assumed the Chair.

H. Next Meeting Date(s)

Council November 28, December 12, 2005, January 9, 23, February 13, 27, 2006
Planning Council November 21, December 5, 19, 2005, January 16, February 6, 20, 2006

I. Confirmation By-law and Adjournment

Moved by: Wayman Fairweather Seconded by: John McKean

THAT By-law No. 2005-93, being a By-law to confirm proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains on November

14, 2005, be hereby enacted as passed this fourteenth day of November, 2005, Carried.

Moved by: Wayman Fairweather Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT this Council does now adjourn at 9:50 p.m. to meet again November 28, 2005, at 7:00 pm or at the call of the Chair, Carried.

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Ellen Anderson, Mayor

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Stephen Keast, Clerk