

MINUTES: INFRASTRUCTURE & RECREATION COMMITTEE



MEETING DATE: TUESDAY, January 17th 2012
MEETING TIME: 7:00 pm
LOCATION: Town Hall, Council Chambers
PREPARED BY: Jenny Ferraro, Administrative Assistant

A. Call to Order

Present: Ellen Anderson, Gail Ardiel, John McKean, Bob Gamble, Joe Halos, Reg Russwurm, John Caswell, Jim McCannell, Jeff Fletcher , Tom Gray, Jenny Ferraro

Regrets: Duncan McKinlay, Shawn Everitt

Guests: Kevin Sansom, John Leckie

As Committee Chair Deputy Mayor McKinlay was absent for this meeting, Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm asking Councilor Gamble to begin with the first item on the Agenda.

A.1 Committee Chair Appointment

Councilor Gamble called for a nomination of Chair for the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee. Mayor Anderson nominated Councilor McKean, Councilor Ardiel seconding the nomination.

Councilor Gamble asked for a second nomination of Committee Chair. There were no other nominees. Councilor Gamble asked for a third nomination of Committee Chair. There were none.

Councilor John McKean accepted the nomination.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee appoint Councilor John McKean as Chair of the Infrastructure and Recreation Committee for 2012, **unanimously CARRIED.**

A.2 Approval of Agenda

Reg Russwurm suggested that due to the inclement weather, Committee address Agenda Item B.2 as the first item of business.

Moved by: Ellen Anderson

Seconded by: Bob Gamble

THAT the Agenda of the January 17th 2012, Infrastructure & Recreation Committee Meeting be adopted as amended, **unanimously CARRIED.**

A.3 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Councilor McKean declared pecuniary interest to Agenda Item D.3, noting that Councilor Halos will assume the role of Chair during the discussion of the Agenda item. Councilor Halos accepted the role.

B. Deputations/Presentations

B.2 John Leckie

Re: Sewage Rates for Landscaping

Councilor McKean welcomed Mr. Leckie to the meeting. Mr. Leckie began his deputation explaining to Committee that he has lives in Lora Bay. Mr. Leckie noted that since Lora Bay has been clear cut, once the construction of his house was completed he had the Landmark Group plant 33 trees on his property which he was responsible to water.

Mr. Leckie indicated that as July and August were very hot and dry, he watered his trees often, purchasing permits through the Town to do so. Mr Leckie then explained to Committee that in the Fall upon receiving his water bill he was very surprised that there was an additional charge for sewage on this bill.

Mr. Leckie commended the Staff at the Town for their help noting that although everyone is sympathetic to his case, he is being told that nothing can be done. Mr. Leckie noted that he is coming to Committee to plead for the \$300 sewer charge on his water bill.

Councilor Halos asked Staff to clarify how the billing system works, noting that residents can use water to fill pools, wash cars and water trees.

Manager of Water and Wastewater John Caswell explained that when the Town went through the proper Public process in order to implement water meters making the change from flat rates to metered billing.

John indicated that there is a water consumption by-law, which can exempt charges, but this only applies to faulty meters or water problems and does not pertain to water used for landscaping or commercial businesses. John furthered that since Mr. Leckie is presenting a residential plumbing issue, it does not fall under that category.

John noted to Committee that Mr. Leckie did everything correctly in purchasing the lawn watering permit, but noted that that water cannot be metered separately for pool filling or landscaping unless there is a backflow prevention device installed.

Reg clarified that the water meter is used as a surrogate for measuring wastewater. Reg noted that Town Staff are sympathetic to the issue, but there is no way to determine the way in which water is used.

Councilor Gamble indicated that although he is sympathetic to Mr. Leckie, he feels that it would become a tremendous administrative task if the Town was to exempt the sewer side of water use.

Mayor Anderson noted Mr. Leckie's concerns, and suggested that Staff prepare a Report as a follow up to his concerns.

Mayor Anderson indicated that if Mr. Leckie lived in a rural community he would have had to pay to get the water to his property. Mr. Leckie reminded Committee that he is not disputing the water charges, he is disputing the sewer charges.

Reg indicated that a Report will be prepared for Committee outlining the concerns and issues and possible methods which Committee can consider.

Councilor Ardiel asked Staff how many permits are purchased for landscaping and John Caswell noted that there has not been a lot of them this year, and that the season and development play a factor in the number of permits sold.

Councilor McKean thanked Mr. Leckie for being proactive in purchasing permits for the use of the water.

Mr. Leckie noted to Committee that he has spent \$30,000 on trees, which he feels will help the community, noting further that the development recession will turn around and there will be more houses in Lora Bay and having trees will help the Community.

Councilor McKean thanked Mr. Leckie for his time.

B.1 C.C. Tatham

Re: Peak's Road and Wensley Drive Sanitary Servicing and Road Reconstruction PIC Presentation

Engineering Design Technologist, Tom Gray introduced Kevin Sansom from C.C. Tatham & Associates to Committee.

Kevin then presented Committee with a slideshow presentation on the Peaks Road and Wensley Drive Sanitary Service and Road Reconstruction Project Public Information Centre (PIC) #1. Kevin noted that the upcoming PIC will be taking place on Saturday, January 21st 2012.

Committee Chair McKean thanked Kevin for his presentation opening the floor for questions from Committee.

Councilor Gamble noted the sewage pumps in Scenario 2 and asked if the Town will be providing the sewage pumps or if they are incorporated into the cost of the project. Kevin clarified that the cost for the sewage pumps will be included but the installation is up to the homeowner.

Councilor Gamble noted concern with the cost of the road reconstruction. Reg clarified that 25% of road cost is assigned to the sewer project and the rest will be from taxation.

Councilor Gamble noted the installation of street lights and sidewalks and asked if the area already has streetlights. Reg noted that the streets currently do not have street lights. Councilor Gamble then questioned why street lights are not being installed on the other side and also what the cost of the street lighting and sidewalks will be, questioning if the residents do not want street lights if the additional costs be allocated elsewhere.

Kevin explained that there is \$75,000 set for street lighting and that the street lighting will be installed from the intersection of Peaks Road and Wensley Drive east to the cul-de-sac.

Reg noted that there is a lot of pedestrian traffic in the area and there are no sidewalks for them to use. Reg noted that Staff felt this was a chance to increase the safety of the pedestrians by increasing the level of service.

Councilor Halos asked if there was a possibility for future users on the east side to link into the force main. Kevin noted that he does not believe that is possible.

Councilor Halos asked for clarification regarding the fall between the force main and the gravity sewer system. Kevin noted that the full gravity sewer (Option 1) would be 6 meters deep at the intersection, noting that that it would be hard to service. The east end would be only 2 meters deep due to topography of the area and that the force main would be 1.7 meters deep which is the minimum required for frost protection.

Councilor Ardiel asked if the residents did not want to have streetlights can they exchange them for sidewalks. Reg noted that through the PIC residents can provide comments regarding the street lighting which Staff will take into consideration.

Reg briefed committee on the notion of the 'dark sky' indicated that street lighting technology has enhanced so that street lights do not project any light into the sky. The road is still lite accordingly.

Councilor Gamble questioned the rock removal and the cost of Option 1. Kevin clarified that the price does reflect changes regarding the Sanitary Sewer which affects the rock removal. Reg clarified that the sanitary sewer takes on the cost of the rock removal, noting further that there is a lot of mathematics behind the numbers presented and if Committee wishes to view the calculations the figures are available.

Councilor Gamble asked if the streetlight installation proposed for this project will be the same as those on Bruce Street.

Reg indicated that a street light design has not been selected, noting that the Town will strive to adhere to the minimum standard of lightning required and all options will be considered.

Councilor McKean noted that during the PIC all residents should be made aware that if there is a power outage and they are using the lift system, their system will not work.

Councilor McKean thanked Kevin for his presentation and noted that he is looking forward to the Public Meeting on Saturday.

A.4 Previous Minutes – Tuesday, December 13th 2011

Moved by: Bob Gamble Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT the minutes of the December 13th 2011 Infrastructure & Recreation Committee be adopted as circulated or amended, **unanimously CARRIED**.

C. Staff Reports as circulated

C.1 EPW.12.004 Road Corridor Standard Cross Sections – 20m Urban, 30m Rural Reg Russwurm

Reg referred Committee to Attachment #3 - 20 m Urban Cross Section.

Reg noted the location of the utilities in the 20m Urban Cross Section, indicating that in particular the gas line is moved to the outside which will allow for less disturbances to the boulevard. Reg noted that the fire hydrants will be moved 1.2 meters from the curbs and that Manager of Roads and Drainage Jim McCannell and Manager of Water and Wastewater John Caswell had no concerns regarding the location of the hydrants.

Reg briefed Committee on the difference between roll-over and barrier curbs. Reg explained that with roll-over curbs, everywhere becomes a driveway leading to boulevard damage and with barrier curbs all driveways need to be cut.

Reg noted that barrier curbs will allow fewer vehicles to get on the boulevards as cars sometimes pass on the right hand side. Barrier curbs will enhance safety to pedestrians as cars will remain on the road. Reg also noted however that barrier curbs will help to contain the snowplows and prevent boulevard damage, which the Town will have to fix later.

Reg also noted that there is a change in the location of the sidewalk in that there is a greater distance from the sidewalk to the curb.

Reg noted that the biggest change is the installation of street trees, which the Town will be responsible for.

Reg presented Committee with two options. Option 1 has the trees further back and Option 2 the trees are closer to the traveled portion of the road.

Reg referenced a paper written by Brian Kane, Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts, regarding the benefits of trees being closer to the road, noting the deterrent being the ongoing costs of maintaining the trees.

Reg noted that he has researched among his peers and has found that the cost of a tree over its lifespan is \$100 to \$500 annually, and that the average life of a tree is 13 years.

Reg briefed Committee on the advantages and disadvantages of having trees within the road allowance, noting that if the Town assumes the trees then there needs to be defined standards regarding them.

Reg noted that an alternative to having the trees in the Town's road allowance is to have the trees installed on the private side of the road and the costs of the trees would be incurred by the residents.

Councilor Gamble noted that regard needs to be made to situations where trees block stop signs as they mature and cars then creep out on the road since the tree is blocking their view.

Councilor Gamble also noted if the Town decides to plant trees on the residents property and the front yards are four and a half meters then the trees will be right in front of the veranda of the home.

Councilor McKean noted that if the trees are placed in the right of way and are the responsibility of the Town it could get costly as Windfall, for example is looking at having 600 homes and if every second home has a tree it will become a \$90,000 a year responsibility of the Town to take on. Councilor McKean reminded Staff to be cautious of future expenses.

Reg indicated that he agrees with Councilor McKean and noted that the recommendation in the Report being discussed is asking Committee to pick Option A or B, including the provisions of street trees within the road allowance.

Reg then briefed Committee on Attachment #5 of his Report - Rural Collector Cross Section.

Reg indicated that the ditches are the main factor in the widening of the road from 26m to 30m, noting that the corridor needs to take into consideration a 100 year storm.

Councilor Gamble asked if the Rural Collector Cross Section would apply to any collector road and Reg clarified that it would apply to any Rural Collector Road, clarifying further that there would not be any houses fronting this road.

Reg indicated that once technical specifications are finalized they will be worked into the designs of the Windfall Development and also incorporate into the Engineering Standards.

Councilor Aridel asked what the price difference is between the 30m cross section and the 26m cross section and Reg noted that there is not a large price difference and the difference would be in the cost of building the ditches.

Councilor Halos asked if the 100 year storm will ever take the road out and Reg said it will spill onto the road. Given the severity of the storm, it is possible road damage will result.

Councilor Gamble noted concern with the trees being close to the ditch and questioned if the roots will grow into the ditches and if there is a way to stop that from happening.

Manager of Roads and Drainage Jim McCannell noted that a smoothing bucket is used with a backhoe to clean up roots in ditches and that Town Staff rarely hit many roots, further noting that roots that are touched during sidewalk repairs have never affected the growth of the tree.

Committee Chair welcomed David Wood, Landscape Architect to speak to Committee regarding concerns with root migration. David indicated that roots will naturally migrate toward water and because of this, minor repairs might be needed in the ditches, but he does not foresee this being an issue.

Councilor Halos asked why the Windfall Development is proposing the 26 m cross section and the reason for that.

Committee Chair McKean welcomed Larry Hogarth, Project Manager from C.C. Tatahm to address Councilor Halos' concern. Larry explained that 26m was the standard suggestion leaving 6 or 7 meters to the side of the road and having trails on private property.

Larry further noted that as far as a storm is concerned, all of the houses will be raised so the water will always run away from the houses.

Larry indicated that the entrance is a major feature of the Windfall development and storm management at that point is designed for a 100 year storm.

Councilor McKean asked how Committee wished to deal with the recommendation presented to them and Mayor Anderson suggested having an open discussion regarding Option A and Option B.

Councilor Halos compared Option A to Bruce Street and noted he is in favour of this option.

Councilor Ardiel noted concern about the gas mains in Option B, and asked Staff if the tree roots could impact the gas lines. Reg noted that the gas lines are very tight and the roots are not a concern.

Mayor Anderson agreed with Councilor Halos regarding Option A. Committee Chair McKean noted consensus with Option A.

Moved by: Joe Halos Seconded by: Ellen Anderson

THAT Council endorse the 20m Urban Cross Section Option A and 30m Rural Cross Sections in principle as presented in Report EPW.12.004, entitled “Road Corridor Standard Cross Sections – 20m Urban, 30m Rural” including the provision of street trees within the road allowance; and,

THAT Council provide the Director of Engineering and Public Works the discretion to modify the standard road cross section drawings as warranted for a project provided the same infrastructure needs are satisfied, **Unanimously CARRIED.**

D. Information Reports/Correspondence

D.1 DOR.12.01 Review of the 5th Annual Grey Bruce Youth Summit 2011

Peter McGee

Mayor Anderson addressed the Report noting that she attended the event and indicated that it was a positive well attended event.

Councilor Ardiel asked how many youth attended the event and Mayor Anderson indicated that approximately 40 Youth were in attendance. Councilor Ardiel questioned why only 40 youth of the 500 enrolled at Georgian Bay Secondary School were at the event and questioned what Staff could be doing differently.

Mayor Anderson noted that through discussion with the Youth, the issue is the question of how to engage all the Youth as many youth choose not to get involved. Mayor Anderson noted that a lot of discussion came from asking this question and that many of the Youth who attended the conference realized that they have to try to encourage other Youth to participate.

Councilor Ardiel reflected on the small number of participants and questioned if it is more a Ministry of Education issue, and less of a Municipal issue to guide children. Councilor Ardiel noted that Youth need to be encouraged to go into trades, and although individuals work hard to put events like this on, it is upsetting to see the small number of Youth who participated.

Mayor Anderson noted that the High School is involved in this event and that Youth and Event Coordinator, Peter McGee works with the High School to have companies come to talk about future jobs and possible trades.

Councilor Ardiel indicated that kids breeze in and out of job fairs and questions how much the Municipality should be involved in providing this service to Youth.

Councilor Gamble noted that he had the opportunity to welcome the Youth to the event and although he did not get to speak with the children personally, he felt that the Youth involved were majority of the leaders in the classrooms and he would like to see the followers involved as well.

Councilor McKean noted that because the event was successful and success is what people follow, the Youth who participated can go back to their class rooms and tell the students who did not participate about the event and perhaps get new followers.

Moved by: Joe Halos Seconded by: Bob Gamble

THAT Council receive Staff Report DOR.12.1 entitled "Review of the 5th Annual Grey Bruce Youth Summit 2011" for information purposes, **unanimously CARRIED.**

D.2 EPW.12.002 Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plans

Adam McMullin

Councilor Gamble noted that one of the biggest users of energy in the community is motorized vehicles and the emphasis appears to be placed on controlling the uses of resources inside buildings.

Jeffery Fletcher explained that the Corporate Green House Gas Initiative is holistic and will include Vehicle Fleet as well.

Councilor Halos reminded Committee that in preliminary budget discussion there has been a cap placed on vehicle expenses, suggesting that that could be a start.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel Seconded by: Bob Gamble

THAT Council receive Report EPW.12.002 entitled “Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plans” for their information, **unanimously CARRIED**.

D.3 EPW.12.003 Capital and Development Status Report

Tom Gray

As Committee Chair McKean declared pecuniary interest to this Agenda Item, Councilor Halos assumed the role of Chair for the discussion of this Report.

Reg noted that Staff did not have an updated map, but would provide one next month.

Councilor Gamble noted that the updates have remained static and asked Staff how the outlook for the building season is in the future.

Reg noted that there is a difference between building houses and building subdivisions. Reg noted that many developments will be in maintenance for some time.

Moved by: Ellen Anderson Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

THAT Council receive Staff Report EPW.12.003 entitled “Capital and Development Status Report” for their information, **unanimously CARRIED**.

Councilor Halos welcomed Councilor McKean back into the meeting room.

E. New and Unfinished Business

E.1 Letter from Carolyn Letourneau, Executive Director, Beaver Valley Outreach

Councilor Gamble noted that the Thanksgiving Community Dinner is a fabulous activity and hopes that those who enjoy the meal continue to support the Beaver Valley Outreach.

F. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, February 14th 2012, Town Hall Council Chambers, 7:00pm

G. Adjournment

Moved by: Gail Ardiel Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT the Infrastructure & Recreation Committee Meeting of Tuesday, January 17th 2012 is adjourned at 9:06 p.m, **unanimously CARRIED**.