

C. Staff Reports

C.1 Golf Course Assessment Appeals, FIS11.04

Ruth then reviewed the Report, noting the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation has been working with the National Golf Course Owners Association to resolve outstanding assessment appeals across the Province.

Ruth then noted we are now dealing with one golf course in The Blue Mountains and Minutes of Settlement have been received for the tax years 2007 and 2008 and we are awaiting Minutes for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Chair Gamble then questioned if the subject golf course had been reimbursed, Ruth replying yes for 2007 and 2008.

Dennis then noted an agreement had been reached based on an income to expenses ratio.

Councillor Ardiel and Acting Chief Administrative Officer Reg Russwurm then attended the meeting.

Dennis then noted this type of appeal and settlement is happening across Ontario and some appeals go back to the 2001 tax year, adding The Blue Mountains does not have the same tax impact as other municipalities.

Councillor Halos then questioned if the 2011 settlement would be paid out or not collected, Rob replying it would not be collected and some funds have been previously placed in reserves in the 2010 Budget.

Joe then noted the cumulative reduction represents 0.8% Budget impact at present and questioned how much less revenue per year the settlement would represent, Dennis estimating a reduction for the golf course taxes for 2009 and 2010 in the order of 30 to 35%, Councillor McKean adding the Town has very little say in the matter.

Dennis then noted the Town has 90 days to appeal the Minutes of Settlement, although after speaking with other municipalities it would appear difficult to succeed.

Chair Gamble then questioned if there were any other golf course appeals in the Town for the 2011 tax year, Dennis replying no but owners have until March 31 of 2011 to file an appeal.

The Committee then dealt with the following Recommendation:

Moved by: John McKean

Seconded by: Joe Halos

THAT Council does hereby receive Staff Report FIS.11.04 "Golf Course Assessment Appeals" for information purposes, unanimously Carried.

C.2 The Blue Mountains Fire Department Year End Report, 2010

Ron then reviewed the Report beginning with 2010 Highlights, noting the County Emergency Services ambulance base agreement for Craighleith was essentially complete, other than stormwater management which is being reviewed by Engineering Design Technologist Tom Gray.

Ron then reviewed training and response attendance, noting 75% attendance for training and 50% for response is the target. Ron further noted the attendance is a little low at each Hall with response not as much of a concern as training, adding there were six retirements in 2010 which tends to lower training attendance figures.

Ron then reviewed Fire Prevention efforts in 2010, noting the inspections were lower than usual at 291 as A.J. Lake was performing both Fire Prevention Officer and Deputy Chief roles during 2010, adding inspections are generally in the range of 400 to 500 per year.

Capital Accountant Darcy Chapman then attended the meeting.

Ron then noted False Alarm responses are starting to reduce, following the 2010 initiative to not charge for the first false alarm response, which allows an opportunity to educate the property owner.

Councillor Halos then questioned the definition of a pre-fire response, Steve clarifying it might be a chimney fire that was contained with no spread or cooking smoke that did not result in fire damage.

Ron then reviewed response statistics, noting the highest level of responses was 4:00 pm and midnight, Monday to Friday, with the highest level of fires being during the same time period but on weekends and holidays.

Ron then reviewed training statistics, noting a total of 2,554 hours was spent on in-house training in 2010. Steve then noted the Ontario Fire College had downloaded Level 1 Officer Training with Level 2 forthcoming.

Chair Gamble then questioned if the training was approved by the Ontario Fire Marshal, Steve replying yes, adding it was the OFM curriculum that was being taught.

Ron then reviewed challenges for 2011, including completion of an updated Simplified Risk Assessment and a Risk and Safety Management Plan. Ron further noted training and retention of firefighters continues to be an ongoing issue.

Steve then reviewed Emergency Management efforts in 2010, noting the Province requires 15 elements to be completed each year and The Blue Mountains is in compliance in 2010.

Steve then reported on the 2010 annual tabletop simulation exercise which was partnered as a first with Blue Mountain Resort and Union Gas in simulating an emergency in the Blue Mountain Village.

Councillor Halos then noted the retirements and questioned if any new volunteers had applied, Ron noting there have been some applications received and it is preferred to bring in small groups at a time versus individually, as training works better in a group situation.

Steve then noted training begins with 20 weeks of orientation and safety prior to working on the floor, adding the last group a few years ago was 9.

The Committee then dealt with the following Recommendation:

Moved by:

Seconded by:

THAT Council receive The Blue Mountains Fire Department Year End Report, 2010 for information purposes, unanimously Carried.

C.3 Replacement Telephone System - Budget Preapproval, CEDC.11.05

Lisa then reviewed the Report, noting Staff is recommending pre-approval based on the current Budget approval timeline and the timeframe for ordering and installation in the new Town Hall.

Lisa then noted the current telephone system will not be offered repair and upgrades after October 4, 2013.

Councillor Halos then questioned how much of the existing technology and servicing contract could be utilized in the new building, Lisa noting the existing system was established in 1986 and additional telephone ports and handsets are now required which would be over and above the current servicing contract.

Rob then noted any general operation would require servicing.

Joe then noted if the current problem is a need for additional lines it should not be an issue in the new Town Hall, Rob noting the current system has insufficient handset ports and could not be utilized.

Joe then questioned if existing handsets could be utilized, Lisa replying perhaps some of the newer models could be utilized.

THAT Council receive Staff Report “FIS.11.05 Purchase of Dell KACE K1000 Management Appliance”; and,

THAT Council authorize the payment of the invoice in the amount of \$11,265 inclusive of applicable taxes, it being noted that \$5,000 is coming from the unspent 2010 Information Technology (IT) tools capital budget and the remainder is coming from the 2011 Proposed IT Tools and Continuous Improvement capital budgets, unanimously Carried.

C.7 Corporate Office Supply Contract, FIS.11.06

Rob then reviewed the Report, noting the Broader Public Sector purchasing contract arranged through the Province provides a discounted rate for purchasing and the rates would be continued for two years.

The Committee then dealt with the following Recommendation:

Moved by: Gail Ardiel Seconded by: John McKean

THAT Council receive Staff Report FIS.11.06 “Corporate Office Supply Contract” for information purposes, unanimously Carried.

D. Correspondence

D.1 Deputy Clerk Krista Royal - 2011 Conferences to be attended by Council

D.1.a Deputy Clerk Krista Royal - 2011 Conferences to be attended by Council Addendum

Chair Gamble then reviewed By-law 2006-06, Council Compensation, noting two Conferences per year were allowed for each member, with additional or out of Province Conferences requiring Council approval.

Mayor Anderson then noted her attendance at the June Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference in Halifax is tentative and subject to Council approval. Ellen further noted some members did not plan to attend any Conferences and she encouraged attendance at such functions.

Bob then questioned if the June FCM Conference could be attended rather than the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Conference, Ellen replying no, Great Lakes being a priority.

Gail then clarified the current practice is for each member to attend two and the Mayor was now proposing four, Ellen noting the Greening Government Conference in Toronto was actually an invitation to speak and if full Conference costs were to apply she would simply attend the speaking session.

