

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen was held on June 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Council Chambers, Reeve Ron Gerow in the Chair.

All members of Council were in attendance. Student Appointee Shannon Grattan was in attendance.

Staff present: CAO Linda Reed and Clerk Glenn Girven. Treasurer Val Nesbitt attended later in the meeting for business items under Other Business.

Reeve Gerow called the meeting to order and reminded Council of the requirement to disclose any pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof if the occasion arises.

Minutes:

R-475-11 Moved by Councillor Ellis
Seconded by Councillor Pomeroy

That the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of June 7, 2011; the Committee of the Whole of Council meeting of June 14, 2011; and the Special Council meeting of June 15, 2011; be adopted as circulated.

Carried

Delegation:

Bob English, Chief of Emergency Medical Services for the County of Peterborough – update on EMS in the County of Peterborough.

Reeve Gerow invited anyone present wishing to make a delegation to Council to do so at this time with no response.

Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting moved into a Public Meeting to receive input and comments on the Ward System for municipal elections in the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen. There was also a discussion on changing the names of the Head of Council from Reeve to Mayor, and Deputy Reeve to Deputy Mayor.

The Clerk reviewed the report on the existing electoral wards within the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen; as well as the report regarding the change of titles of Head of Council.

Reeve Gerow opened the meeting to questions from the floor.

Ward System

Sue Cushing – she understands that larger municipalities are changing from the “ward system” to the “at large system”. She believes that the “at large system” would enable more women candidates, better quality candidates; and would equalize the remuneration of Councils. She said that the Havelock Ward with 1000 electors was too small, with the balance being in the Township Ward.

Ruth Pezzack – said that she was representing the HBMLA. She said that the Township Ward was very large compared to the Village Ward. The Lake Association recognizes the different needs of the wards, but don't think that it is good representation for the residents. She said that the Lake Association had passed a unanimous resolution recommending that HBM create three electoral wards: a Village Ward, a Belmont Ward, and a Methuen Ward. She said that no matter what system is in place, good quality representation is very important and is a great equalizer.

David Gerow said that there were eight municipalities in Peterborough County. Seven Townships had a ward system, with only one without. The Village ward has a different tax base and a higher tax rate than the balance of the municipality. He said that the Township used a Ward System to select a member of the Minor Variance Severance Review Committee. If a resident didn't own waterfront property, they weren't eligible to sit on the committee. He felt that was discriminatory. He said that if the ward system were abolished, the tax rate should be uniform.

Terry Rees said that HBM was a small township and should look at the best five representatives no matter where they live. He said that he thinks that the current council represents all the residents now even with the ward system.

Mark Hoult said that as a ratepayer, the ward system belongs in the past. An “at large” system gets the best people that the residents want to represent them. He thought that the tax issue is a separate issue from the electoral issue. If you receive the services, you should pay for them.

Sue Cushing said that she wants to work for the municipality as a whole, not just a ward. The ward system pits areas against each other, and should go. An at large system would attract better people working for the better of the whole.

Ruth Pezzack asked if there were a Political Science study to show what typically works best in a small municipality.

CAO Reed said that there has been some work done. Large Ontario municipalities tend to use the ward system. Most municipalities with an urban rural mix still tend to use the ward system to enable candidates to get to all their electors.

Reeve Gerow said that he has heard support for both systems. Some residents in the village Ward have concerns for their autonomy. Some feel the other way. Some own property in both wards, and want to vote for both candidates. They can only vote for the candidate in the ward where their principal residents is. He said that although the dynamics of the municipality has changed dramatically over the past ten years, the municipality has been well served by the ward system, with the entire municipality represented at the Council table. There are some unique issues, but all needs are addressed. One big question is how to get the number of voters up. Reeve Gerow said that regardless of the decision, he asked that Councillors think through all the parameters of representation and know what Council wants when we make a decision. The majority of residents would support an at large system if that is Council's decision. The ward system has worked well in the past and would continue to work.

Deputy Reeve Sharpe said that he was disappointed in the turn out for this public meeting. He said that he continues to hear that electors feel restricted as to where they can vote in the Ward System. He said that different opinions have been expressed by the residents.

Councillor Ellis said that he wanted to talk to the people that he represents, as well as the Village Ward. He said that he represents all township residents. He said that the majority of residents lean toward keeping the Ward System. He has not made his decision yet, and hoped to hear from more people.

Bill Hart said that it should be the people, not Council making this decision.

Councillor Martin said that he had talked to a lot of people but there was not much interest in the matter. One concern with getting rid of the Ward System is the area rate tax system. He said that he had not made a decision and was looking for more public input.

Terry Rees asked if the area rate was disconnected from the electoral system. **Reeve Gerow** said that it was.

Councillor Pomeroy said that he wanted to address several earlier comments. He said that all Councillors are paid the same, and did not depend on the size of the ward. He questioned that the comparison with large USA cities with more women running for political office in an at large system is relevant. He said that he lives in the village ward but represents the entire township. He said that this Council works well together for the best for the entire Township. Most people that he talks to want to keep the ward system.

Sue Cushing said that the current council was doing a great job of representing the entire township. She had done some research on the matter, and would like to see more gender equality. She personally recognizes the different needs of the Village, farm and lake front people. The ward system has worked well, but we are in a spirit of change.

Reeve Gerow advised that this was Student Appointee Shannon Grattan's last meeting for this term. Members of Council thanked Shannon for her contribution to the Council meetings and her updates on the happenings at the High School.

Deputy Reeve Sharpe said that the Community Policing Committee had been active with the mobile radar board provided by the OPP.

Councillor Ellis said that at the last Police Services Board meeting a discussion had taken place regarding the collection of the data from the municipality's radar boards. He said that a resolution would be required to determine who would collect the information from the boards, and a policy would be required to determine how the information would be used. He also reported that T.R.I.P would be partnering with the Legion for the Canada Day Celebration. He said the Source Water Forum had been a valuable opportunity to learn. The comment period on the draft plans is ongoing to provide the opportunity to have input on the policies being developed. He also reported that Andrea had passed her training exam with high marks.

Councillor Martin said that the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority had completed a safety assessment of their equipment which had identified some safety concerns. The Board would move ahead to correct these problems. The last School Council meeting was last week. The Fun Fair had been a great success.

Councillor Pomeroy said that the Chamber of Commerce were hoping that the municipality would provide assistance for a summer student this year.

Student Appointee Shannon Grattan said that exams were the main focus at the high school.

Reeve Gerow reported that the Police Services Board had met last Monday with representatives from the Police Contracting division from the Orillia Head Office – Rod Case and Lorne Thompson. There would be a joint Police Services Board meeting on July 7th in Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield, sponsored by the OPP, regarding the inner workings of business plans and the inner workings of police services boards. He also reported that the Library Board had met at Board Member Carol Wilks' home on Kosh Lake last week for the final meeting until fall.

Deputy Reeve Sharpe asked if there was going to be reduced staffing by the OPP for water patrol. Reeve Gerow said that there would be some staffing changes but key personnel would stay the same.

Members of Council asked that a meeting be arranged with Chris Bradley from the County of Peterborough to review outstanding matters. Members of Council were to provide items for an agenda.

Other Business:**1. Report from the Treasurer – Tap on Highway 7**

R-478-11 Moved by Deputy Reeve Sharpe
Seconded by Councillor Ellis

That the Report from the Treasurer providing background information on the Tap on Highway 7 be received for information.

Carried

2. Report from the Treasurer – Building Code Act (Bill 124) Annual Report 2010.

R-479-11 Moved by Deputy Reeve Sharpe
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the Report from the Treasurer, Building Code Act (Bill 124) Annual Report 2010, be received for information; and that a report be prepared by staff on a strategy to bring the revenues closer to the actual costs of the building department for discussion purposes during budget deliberations in the fall.

Carried

3. Report from the Treasurer – vehicle for the Building Department.

R-480-11 Moved by Councillor
Seconded by

That the Report from the Treasurer regarding a vehicle for the Building Department be tabled to the next Council meeting for further discussion.

Carried

4. Report from the Economic Development Officer – HBM Chamber of Commerce Summer Student.

R-481-11 Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Deputy Reeve Sharpe

That the report from the Economic Development Officer – HBM Chamber of Commerce Summer Student – as requested by members of Council, be received for information; and that the municipality financially support the hiring of a summer student for the Chamber of Commerce Kiosk for the summer if no other funding source is available..

Carried

5. Request from the Lake Kasshabog Regatta Committee to hold their annual regatta on July 30, 2011 at the Kasshabog Lake Park, and for permission to dispose of garbage from the regatta at no cost.

R-482-11 Moved by Councillor Ellis
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the request from the Lake Kasshabog Regatta Committee to hold their annual regatta on July 30, 2011 at the Kasshabog Lake Park is approved; and further that permission is granted to the Regatta Committee to dispose of the garbage from the regatta at no cost at the Oak Lake Transfer Station or West Kosh site.

Carried

6. **EOTA Report from David Gerow** – the Tourism Development Fund has provided \$100,000.00 in funding to the EOTA.

R-483-11 Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Councillor Ellis

That the EOTA Report provided by David Gerow be received for information.

Carried

7. **Bag Tags** availability in the Township

R-484-11 Moved by Councillor Martin
Seconded by Deputy Reeve Sharpe

That staff are asked to provide a report regarding the sale of bag tags at businesses in the Township to improve availability.

Carried

By-Laws:

There were no by-laws for consideration at this meeting.

Closed Session:

R-485-11 Moved by Councillor Pomeroy
Seconded by Deputy Reeve Sharpe

That the Meeting move into closed session at 9:55 p.m. under Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act for matters affecting the security of the property of the municipality, and personal matters about identifiable individuals, including municipal employees.

Carried

R-486-11 Moved by Councillor Pomeroy
Seconded by Councillor Martin

That the meeting rise from closed session at 10:30 p.m. and the regular meeting resume.

Carried

Confirmation By-Law:

R-487-11 Moved by Councillor Ellis
 Seconded by Councillor Pomeroy

That the by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen held on June 21, 2011 be read a first, second and third time and be finally passed in open council this 21st day of June, 2011, and be numbered By-Law No. 2011-71.

Carried

Adjournment:

R-488-11 Moved by Deputy Reeve Sharpe
 Seconded by Councillor Martin

That this meeting adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

Carried

Reeve

Clerk