

COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council of the Municipality of North Middlesex met in the Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. on November 12, 2001 for their regular committee meeting.

Council agreed that the business from the last meeting should be completed.

Those present were: MAYOR CHUCK HALL
DEPUTY MAYOR IAN BREBNER
COUNCILLOR WARD 2 KEN JOHNSTON
COUNCILLOR WARD 3 MICHAEL CONLIN
COUNCILLOR WARD 4 LAWRENCE McLACHLAN
COUNCILLOR WARD 5 LUCY HENDRIKX
ADMINISTRATOR SHIRLEY SCOTT
PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINT – JOE ADAMS

Absent – COUNCILLOR WARD 1 MARYSIA COUTTS

No pecuniary interest was declared.

PROCEDURES FOR DELEGATIONS

Procedures for delegations regarding conduct at the meeting were reviewed, and Council agreed that this should be distributed to any delegation attending the meeting.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

1. DRAIN IN THE AREA OF THE ARENA: An on site meeting was held, with Arena Manager Scott Nickles, Landowners – Al Geoffrey, Clare Porter, Mayor Hall, Administrator Scott and Drainage Superintendent Joe Adams present. All those present were advised that this was an opportunity at this time to remedy the problem. Should they opt out of the solution, and wait aid later, the arena would not be contributing. Since the meeting, Mr. Porter has consulted with Jim Feltz. Mr. Geoffrey has also advised Mr. Porter that he is not willing to contribute to the drain. Total approval has not been given. Upon agreement, the work will be done, as soon as possible.
2. PARKHILL FIR: The Parkhill audit has been received. The FIR has not been filed to date, nor has the performance measures. In reviewing the audit and comparing to 1999 reports, there were several discrepancies. Therefore, it was suggested that the auditor is to be invited to a meeting to explain the transactions. No figures have been forwarded regarding the Community Centre Board.
3. NEWSLETTER: Circulation of the quarterly newsletter was reviewed. To issue now would be rushed and create a short quarter. Therefore, it was recommended that the last quarter be skipped, and plan to distribute February 2002 with taxes, May 2002 through the mail, August 2002 with taxes, and November 2002 through the mail.
4. PROMOTIONAL: Promotional items purchased earlier, are to be sold at \$2.00 for the pens and \$3.00 for the pins.
5. ABCA: request direction as to whether or not the floodplain mapping project is to be included when requesting grant for 2002, or dropped. The Committee considered and recommended that this project be completely dropped.

6. PABA – have requested to have a small sign hang from the service club sign advertising the Corn Fest, all year round and Council agreed. The sign in Ailsa Craig is used to advertise the Ailsa Craig Gala Days in the same manner.
7. FAX MACHINE: The existing fax machine at the Parkhill site has malfunctioned. A machine from the same company is on trial. The machine can be leased for \$38 per month, or purchased for \$1,400. The committee recommended that it be leased for six months and reconsidered at that time.
8. COMPUTERS: The computer system seems to be operating at this time. There was a small glitch with the wireless. There may be a problem with the hardware at Ailsa Craig, but is working for now. This is being monitored closely. The committee recommended that there be a request for the warranty to be extended, at no cost.

COUNCILLORS ITEMS

Mayor Hall reported that the hospital funding matter was discussed at County Council. A presentation was made from the hospitals. It was determined that there was a need for funding, but not through taxes. The CAO was given support to continue discussions, but to look at other funding options. Deputy Mayor Brebner added that a real effort is being made to raise funds. Mayor Hall also advised that he attended the Remembrance Day Service and laid a wreath in Ailsa Craig. Approximately two hundred people attended.

Deputy Mayor Brebner reported that ABCA were granted permission to increase the board to fourteen representatives. After a thorough discussion, they decided to leave the board at nine for the time being. The matter will be discussed further in one year.

Deputy Mayor Brebner suggested that the committee system for the municipality be changed. He suggested that Mayor Hall serve on Economic Development, he serve on Planning and Councillor McLachlan serve on a Road Committee. He suggested that the roads are not getting enough attention. Public Works Superintendent Joe Adams suggested that the road system would be better kept in Committee of a Whole due to the scope of duties and the large portion of the budget that is involved with road matters. It was suggested that the other committees, (Property and Protection) make an effort to move towards unification. It was noted that this is difficult. Administrator Scott suggested that the change take place at the beginning of the year. A draft proposal is to be prepared for discussion at the December meetings, so that the process can begin in January.

Councillor McLachlan requested a better sign be made for the joint MTO/Community Policing Office. It was also suggested that a better light be erected.

Councillor Johnston asked for clarification on the Parkhill Santa Claus Parade. Deputy Mayor Brebner suggested that each Councillor would have a separate car. He then asked where the banners were stored for Ailsa Craig. He advised that he was getting them recoloured.

Councillor Conlin reported that the Maguire Road had been patched, and suggested that it be dug out and repaired next year. He advised those present that he attended the Remembrance Day service and laid a wreath at the Lieury Cenotaph.

Councillor Hendrikx suggested that the stained glass window from the old Town Hall in Ailsa Craig be reframed, and hung in the Ailsa Craig office, with a plaque attached indicating whom it was originally donated by. She also suggested that the historical plaque be mounted on the new building or set in the garden area. She requested that this be done before the area froze.

SURPLUS LANDS

The committee then went in camera to discuss property issues. Upon adjournment, it was recommended that the integrity of the site Town Hall in Ailsa Craig be promoted when discussing the sale with interested parties. Those interested are to be advised that there is a joint agreement with the Church in regard to the parking lot that will have to be honoured. "Offer to Purchase" is to be accepted up to December 30, 2001. Council will then meet with all interested parties will then have an opportunity to re-negotiate, if necessary, up to January 15, 2002. Negotiations are also to be made to allow the sign to be used for a period (fifteen years suggested). The hydro for the sign is within the building, therefore, a payment will have to be made to the successful purchaser by the municipality.

It was recommended that the former Cheese House be declared surplus, and listed with the realtor.

TAX ASSESSMENT ON LARGE FARMS

There was a discussion regarding the tax assessment discussion paper, as submitted and discussed with the County last week. A letter received from Tom Kroesbergen was also reviewed. Administrator Scott questioned whether or not preparations were to continue for the public meeting. She advised that the County would not be present. Those present suggested that the Province, Federation of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Christian Farmers' as well as the local MPP could be asked if they will attend, a meeting could be scheduled. Disappointment was expressed in that the County was not willing to participate. Deputy Mayor Brebner suggested that their position was not strong enough at this time to attend. The whole issue is only in "discussion paper" format. After a thorough discussion, it was determined that the meeting is to be arranged at a later date. Local submissions are to be encouraged and forwarded to the County, MPP and any other agency they feel would be beneficial.

BUDGET TO OCTOBER 30, 2001

The Committee reviewed the financial update, submitted by Treasurer Chuck Daigle, and many questions arose. Those present were advised that this was created from a 150 page document that the computer produced, due to the great number of accounts (1600-2000). Each report is intended to be more what is wanted as an end result. All questions will be transferred to the Treasurer for further clarification on the next report.

REGISTRATION OF ROAD NAME CHANGE

Solicitor, Robert Dack, was asked to register the by-law which dealt with the road name change (Centre Road to Greives Road) He has advised that the registry office have reported that few, if any, by-laws of this nature are registered due to the cost with new electronic system. Because it is not absolutely necessary to register name changes, the Committee agrees, and it is recommended that this no longer be done.

OTHER MATTERS

There was then an informal discussion regarding the structure of the meetings. Various suggestions were made and several viewpoints were put on the table. It was concluded that although we have had a progressive first year, with a few adjustments, next year can be better.

It was noted that due to an article in the paper, it appears that the West Williams project may continue. Administrator Scott advised that she had been trying to contact the Planner on the project but the calls are not being returned. Efforts will continue to make contact. The bureaucracy regarding permission to have water lines installed (C of A) was discussed. Public Works Superintendent Joe Adams advised that a developer of the nature of this development would be able to get a pre-approved base package from Toronto.

Deputy Mayor Ian Brebner announced that he was putting his name forward to run for the office of Warden.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

MAYOR

ADMINISTRATOR