MINUTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Date: Monday, September 24, 2018
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: HELD IN THE WINGHAM TOWN HALL THEATRE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Reeve Neil Vincent
Deputy Reeve James Campbell
Councillor Ray Hallahan
Councillor Yolanda Ritsema-Teeninga
Councillor Trevor Seip
Councillor Brock Vodden
Councillor John Stewart

STAFF PRESENT: Barb Black, Deputy Clerk
Amanda Piskorski, Administrative Assistant to CAO/Clerk
Dwayne Evans, CAO/Clerk
Donna White, Director of Finance
Kim Scholl, Acting Director of Recreation and Facilities
Sean McGhee, Director of Public Works
Kirk Livingston, CBO/Property Standards/Zoning
Marty Bedard, Fire Chief

OTHERS PRESENT: Denny Scott, The Citizen
Adam Bell, CKNX
1. CALL TO ORDER

Reeve Vincent called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

M452/18
MOVED BY: B. Vodden
SECONDED BY: J. Campbell
THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron accept the agenda for the September 24, 2018 Town Hall Public Meeting; as presented.
CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

4. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

4.1 OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Reeve Vincent welcomed the assembly.

Reeve Vincent outlined the procedures for the Town Hall Public Meeting.

Reeve Vincent read a statement advising that Council is unable to provide comments or take questions regarding a property standards matter that is currently before the courts.

Members of the Public spoke on the following topics:

1. Joe Sanders
   - A prepared statement was read regarding an issue related to 84412 Marnoch Line, Belgrave ON
   - Inquired why Council went with the option they did
   - Inquired if the petition was forwarded to the complainant, so the complainant could withdraw their complaint
   - Inquired what was the argument of the complainant
   - Inquired if the building report can be provided
   - Inquired what was the original complaint

Reeve Vincent advised that when you are on Council you take an oath of office, and are obligated to follow all laws and by-laws, federal, provincial and municipal. If you want to change a by-law, you have to do so before a complaint is received. When a complaint is received Council has no choice but to proceed.
2. Rick McInroy
   - Inquired whether this is a by-law issue or a building department issue
   - Why is the complainant able to hide

Reeve Vincent advised that the matter is a provincial issue. If a complaint is received, Council is obligated to act on the complaint under the Municipal Act.

3. Joe Hallahan
   - No comment at this time

4. Ranko Markeljevic
   - Mr. Markeljevic advised that he sent a letter to the CAO and asked that it be forwarded to all members of Council. The prepared letter dated September 17, 2018 was read to the assembly. The letter referenced Zoning By-law 82-2008, and asked a number of questions. (letter attached)
   - Mr. Markeljevic directed a question to Councillor Ritsema-Teeninga, asking on what basis was her decision made to second a motion and what procedure did she follow to justify her decision.

Councillor Ritsema-Teeninga advised that she based her decision on the report and evidence brought forward by the CBO. In response whether she verified the information, she further advised that she trusted the expertise of staff and the information provided and did not think it needed to be verified.

Reeve Vincent advised that Mr. Markeljevic will be provided with a written response to his September 17, 2018 letter by the end of the week.

5. Dan Kitts
   - Inquired whether the taxes will actually drop in the fourth year when the OPP take over, or will the savings be spent on other projects

Councillor Seip responded that it is unknown what the agreement with the OPP will look like in the fourth year. It will be a Council decision at the time of the agreement. Councillor Seip commented that it is his opinion that some of the savings should be put back to the tax payers for their benefit.
5. Dan Kitts

- Inquired as to the status on the new development of annexed land on the south east of Wingham where houses were to be built. Is there a reason people aren't moving to Wingham – Taxes are way too high in Wingham.
- Is there any truth to the rumour that the swimming pool has another crack in it.

Reeve Vincent advised that the A2A owners of the development have had an extension to their project. Not a lot of movement has been seen that has come to the attention of Council. We currently have a development in Blyth. Developers must be willing to come forward and Council is only able to disclose if the developers agree. In regards to the swimming pool, the question will be referred to staff.

6. Doreen Taylor

- Comments and complaint about the shape of roads in the East Wawanosh Ward. There is a crown on Nature Centre Road and numerous potholes on Marnoch Line.
- Inquired what is going on along Scott Line. There are mounds of dirt on the side of the road.

Reeve Vincent advised that there is a complaint process in place.

Reeve Vincent explained the process of crowning the roads, to control water runoff.

Sean McGhee, Director of Public Works advised that municipal staff are working diligently to reshape and bring the rural roads up to standard, including the installation of new culverts and ditches to assist with water flow. New experienced staff have been hired. If anyone has a particular area of interest or concern that they would like to discuss, they may call directly to the Public Works Department at the municipal office.

7. Sandra Bos

- Advised that the property standards matter in question, was originally severed by her husband and herself. This is not an animal welfare issue. This is not a noise complaint. Provincial statue is legal and compliance. This is all good practice and not a nutrient management issue. Ms. Bos is not looking to discuss by-laws, wanted to know why Council chose to change provincial law.
- Why is council spending tax dollars to discourage agricultural?
Reeve Vincent reiterated that Council is obligated to act on formal complaints, and there are legal proceedings. In regards to severances, Reeve Vincent noted there are conditions for each severance.

8. John Stadleman

- Inquired when will there be common sense regarding snow blowing in Blyth. The streets are narrow and when it snows, the streets need to be cleaned. He commented that we had great snow removal in the past before amalgamation and that ratepayers we were spoiled with previous staff.

Reeve Vincent noted that Blyth always did have streets cleaned. To do any further snow removal, staff would be pulled from the other Wards to clean Blyth. Previous snow plow operators were very good

Sean McGhee, Director of Public Works advised that everyone is aware of the concerns. New snow plowing equipment and staffing are two of the concerns that will be coming forward in a report to Council.

Councillor Vodden noted that Blyth has had street clearing of concerns raised. Public Works does realize the streets are very narrow.

Councillor Seip advised that Council has asked for report from Public Works and it will be coming forward.

9. Irma DeVries

- Commented on the Charter of Rights and Freedom, asking Council how many believe everyone has the right to practice a religion.
- Inquired if there was an understanding of the history of the Amish. The Amish live quiet lives and will not fight for themselves. This is why there are so many neighbours and other people here to stand up for them.
- If the Township would withdraw, the Amish will forgive

Reeve Vincent responded that the rules and regulations were being followed by Council under the Oath of Office.

Councillor Stewart commented that as he has only been on Council for a short time and is gaining a better understanding of current issues. He notes we are a community that works together and he trusts that these issues can be settled through common sense. He reiterated that Council is under litigation and cannot speak to the issue. Councillor Stewart took exception to a previous statement, and stated he was not a racist as previously implied.
5. ADJOURNMENT

M453/18
MOVED BY: J. Stewart
SECONDED BY: J. Campbell

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron agree that there being no further business before Council; the meeting be hereby adjourned at 8:01pm.

CARRIED

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Neil Vincent, Reeve

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Dwayne Evans, CAO/Clerk