

The Corporation of the Town of Deep River

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Mayor	David Thompson
Deputy Mayor	Mary MacCafferty
Councillors	Daniel Banks
	Christopher Carroll
	Ronald Desrochers
	Terry Myers
	Ruth Syme

Guests:

C.W. Yeatman
Wendy Brawley
Ivan Saari

Staff:

Michelle Larose, CAO/Clerk
Dawn Recoskie, Deputy Clerk
Shelly Cull, Recreation Manager
Brian Quibell, Treasurer
John Walden, Planning/Development Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Thompson opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

NIL.

3. APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF MEETING AGENDA

Mayor Thompson requested permission to address by-law #59-2010, as the Procedural By-law does not permit passing of by-laws at a Committee of the Whole meeting. The need to address the by-law is because it is time sensitive and must be submitted to the Province by a specified date. Committee agreed to the addition of the by-law.

Deputy Mayor MacCafferty indicated according to the Procedural By-law, the Mayor does not chair Committee of the Whole meetings. Mayor Thompson asked permission to chair the meeting while the Procedural By-law is reviewed by staff and Council and the appropriate changes made. Committee agreed to allow the Mayor to chair the meeting.

Items Added to the Agenda:

1. Item# 9.2 United Way fundraising – Deputy Mayor MacCafferty

Deputy Mayor MacCafferty requested to bring the topic of the Nuclear Preparedness Committee under item 10 of the agenda.

Councillor Myers recommended Item #7.6.2, Proposed Bus Entrance to Mackenzie High School, be heard earlier on the agenda as there were members of the public present for this item. Committee agreed to hear the item prior to Item #7.1

4. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Presentation – Trees – C.W. Yeatman

Mr. Yeatman provided an overview of his concerns regarding the diseased pine trees within the municipality. Mr. Yeatman would like to see the diseased needles and limbs removed from the trees so the rest of the tree does not become diseased and have to be cut down. He noted the cost to remove a tree would be approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000; whereas the cost to trim a tree would be approximately \$100 to \$300. If possible, Mr. Yeatman would like to see the municipality limit or ban the planting of currants and gooseberries, as these species are essentially co-hosts of white pine blister rust disease. Mr. Yeatman indicated Deep River previously had a by-law (By-law No. 489, passed on October 16, 1968) in this regard which was nullified in 1996 by the Province of Ontario rescinding the relevant Provincial Diseases Act. Mayor Thompson thanked Mr. Yeatman for attending the meeting and providing his presentation. Mayor Thompson advised that once the Public Works Director is hired, a meeting will be facilitated for Mr. Yeatman to speak to staff regarding the viability of trimming diseased pine trees and whether the municipality can legally limit or ban the planting of currants and gooseberries.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF DELEGATIONS

Nil.

6. REPORTS FROM OTHER SPECIAL PURPOSE BODIES

Nil.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS – STAFF BRIEFING NOTES

7.6.2 2010JW008ISS – Proposed Bus Entrance to Mackenzie High School

Planning/Development Manager, John Walden, provided an overview of his report. Wendy Brawley and Ivan Saari were present on behalf of the School Board to answer questions from Council.

The following options were put forth regarding the proposed location of the bus entrance on Brockhouse Way:

1. Direct staff to move forward with a site plan agreement that locates the bus lane at the proposed location put forth by the School Board representatives.
2. Advise the School Board that the Town would like the entrance to be at the alternate location, further down Brockhouse Way and proceed with a site plan agreement.
3. Direct staff to meet with the School Board to explore other options.

Mr. Walden advised staff prefers Option #1, to move forward with the site plan agreement at the proposed location for the bus entrance just past the Keys School off of Brockhouse Way. Staff also recommended if Option #1 is approved that the following items be considered as well:

- That Brockhouse Way be designated as a Community Safety Zone to increase the safety of motorists and pedestrians in that area.
- The removal of the scrubs and/or minimal trees to improve the visibility at the intersection of Brockhouse Way in front of the Keys School.

Mayor Thompson thanked Ms. Brawley and Mr. Saari for attending the meeting. The Mayor indicated a resolution regarding the location of the proposed bus entrance will be placed before Council at its next meeting for debate.

7.1 Council

7.1.1 A/O List

CAO/Clerk, Michelle Larose, indicated the A/O List outlines issue and information items to come forward before Council. Ms. Larose noted the A/O List for December 15, 2010 has been changed as follows: 1. The resolution for standing committee appointments will be placed before Council; and 2. The Waterfront Revitalization presentation has been moved to January 2011.

7.1.2 Council Election Mandate – Councillor Daniel Banks

Councillor Banks provided a draft of possible guiding principles for Council to discuss. Deputy Mayor MacCafferty indicated the draft will need to be re-worded to remove any negative connotations before a formal resolution can be placed before Council. Mayor Thompson asked the Deputy Mayor to share her notes with Councillor Banks so that a revised draft can be presented before Council.

7.1.3 Press Release – Deep River Fire Department – Mayor David Thompson

Mayor Thompson read the following press release into the minutes:

As the residents of our community are aware, there was a tragic house fire on October 22nd of this year. Despite the heroic efforts of our firefighters, there was a fatality that has prompted investigations from both the Fire Marshal's Office and the Ministry of Labour.

It is anticipated the Fire Marshal's investigation will be concluded at the end of January and the results will be presented to Council during our first meeting in February.

The Fire Marshal's Office has made it explicitly clear, their investigation has nothing to do with either the skill level or dedication of our firefighters; neither is in question. But rather, it is important to recognize that the Deep River Fire Department is the smallest full time fire department in the entire Province of Ontario. In addition, the Town of Deep River is the smallest municipality in all of Ontario to have a full time fire department.

Despite an operating budget in excess of \$1,000,000 we are currently unable to meet current Fire Marshal guidelines. We will never have the staff complement required to meet the 10 in 10 recommendation of having 10 firefighters respond to a fire call within 10 minutes.

In addition, in response to Ministry of Labour expectations of providing instruction and supervision on the requirement for Rapid Intervention Training (RIT), the Town of Deep River has developed a procedure for the emergency extraction of a firefighter who may become lost or trapped. In the procedure it was determined that a minimum of six personnel must be present at the scene before entering a burning building. Again, given our current complement, that will be a very difficult criteria to meet.

Laurentian Hills, in the spirit of cooperation of neighbours helping neighbours, has been very generous in their support during this time of need. A more formalized agreement will be negotiated when the new Council of Laurentian Hills is sworn in.

As a reminder, our residents need to take personal responsibility to help ensure their own safety. Especially during this holiday season, all residents should:

- Ensure their smoke alarms are fully functional and placed appropriately throughout the home;
- Plan, discuss, and practice a fire evacuation route with each member of the household; and
- Remain diligent when dealing with combustible materials including candles, cigarettes, and during food preparation.

As we await the Fire Marshal's report and explore a variety of options, we do so with the desire to protect both our residents and the health and safety of our valued employees.

7.2 Administration

7.2.1 Administration Report

CAO/Clerk, Michelle Larose, was present to answer any questions from Council regarding her monthly report.

Councillor Carroll questioned if the Community Association was looking for a final decision regarding the lease agreement on December 15, 2010. Ms. Larose advised a draft lease agreement will be presented before Council for discussion.

7.3 Recreation

7.3.1 Recreation Monthly Report

Recreation Manager, Shelly Cull, was present to answer any questions from Council regarding her monthly report.

In response to Deputy Mayor MacCafferty, Ms. Cull advised the Santa Claus Parade had 20 floats and the community enjoyed the evening parade. She noted there was a larger turnout at the reception at the Legion afterwards compared to the daytime parade. Ms. Cull advised she would recommend having an evening Santa Claus Parade again next year.

7.4 Public Works

7.4.1 Public Works Monthly Report

This report was accepted as an information item.

7.5 Finance

7.5.1 Operating and Water/Sewer Reports

Treasurer, Brian Quibell, provided an overview of his monthly report.

7.5.2 2010BMQ009ISS – Ridge Road Reconstruction – Long Term Financing

Treasurer, Brian Quibell advised the Town was approved for funding under the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund to reconstruct Ridge Road. The maximum eligible costs were \$3,930,000 with the Town's share being \$1,310,000. To finance the Town's share of the cost, a construction loan in the amount of \$1,310,000 was arranged through Infrastructure Ontario. Mr. Quibell indicated the project came in on budget and it is now time to permanently finance the Town's portion of the cost. He explained the former Council agreed to place the sum of \$704,000 on a debenture through Infrastructure Ontario over a 15 year term. It was also agreed to take the balance of the Town's construction cost from the Sewer, Water, and Gas Tax reserves. The debenture will be for a term of 15 years at an interest rate of 4.12%. By-law 59-2010 was prepared to authorize the long term financing of the project.

7.6 Planning & Development

7.6.1 Planning & Development Monthly Report

Planning/Development Manager, John Walden, was present to answer any questions from Council regarding his monthly report. Deputy Mayor MacCafferty noted that she was pleased to see representatives from the Business Development Bank in North Bay are showing interest in the Town.

Responding to Councillor Myers, Mr. Walden indicated that if a regional tourism levy is implemented in our region, the funds filter back to our local tourist association.

7.7 Fire Department

7.7.1 Fire Department Monthly Report

This report was accepted as an information item.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

Nil.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 Resolution – Bonnechere Valley – Farm Tax Rebate Program

The correspondence was received as an information item.

9.2 Deputy Mayor MacCafferty advised of the correspondence received from the United Way inviting municipal employees to participate in a payroll deduction program. She passed the correspondence to the CAO for review.

10. COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson advised he met with the Fire Marshal on December 2, 2010. The staff Christmas function was held on December 3, 2010. Mayor Thompson attended Council orientation training on December 4, 2010 as well as the social sherry function at the library and the Santa Claus Parade. He attended an emergency management meeting with the CAO/Clerk and Deputy Mayor on December 6, 2010 and also attended a meeting with the Planning/Development Manager regarding future development of the property behind the JL Grey building. He attended a meeting with the Police Chief along with the CAO/Clerk and Deputy Clerk on December 7, 2010 to discuss the budget for the police department. Mayor Thompson noted that the Striking Committee met earlier in the evening and there are still a few more vacancies on the committees to be filled.

Deputy Mayor MacCafferty advised she attended the emergency management meeting on December 6, 2010 regarding nuclear preparedness. At the meeting she recommended the committee establish a call-out list as was previously done many years ago. The Deputy Mayor advised once the document is prepared and received by Administration, a copy will be provided to Councillor Syme as she will be the Deputy Mayor's alternate for the committee.

Councillor Desrochers advised he will be attending the AGM for the Deep River Science Academy on December 9, 2010.

Councillor Myers advised he and Councillor Syme attended the recent landfill meeting. He indicated the landfill has been open eight years and approximately 1½ years worth of waste volume has been used in that time. He noted the Town's financial contribution will be going down and a new website has been established.

Councillor Syme advised the next landfill meeting will be held on December 20, 2010.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Nil.

12. BY-LAWS

12.1 By-law No. 59-2010

RESOLUTION # 2010-236

MOVED BY: Councillor Carroll

SECONDED BY: Councillor Myers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-law be read a first and second time;

By-law No. 59-2010 – A by-law of the Corporation of the Town of Deep River to authorize the borrowing upon amortizing debentures in the principal amount of \$704,000.00 towards the cost of the Ridge Road Reconstruction.

CARRIED.

RESOLUTION # 2010-237

MOVED BY: Councillor Carroll

SECONDED BY: Councillor Myers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-law be read a third time, signed by the Mayor and the Clerk and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto;

By-law No. 59-2010 – A by-law of the Corporation of the Town of Deep River to authorize the borrowing upon amortizing debentures in the principal amount of \$704,000.00 towards the cost of the Ridge Road Reconstruction.

CARRIED.

13. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

13.1 By-law No. 61-2010

RESOLUTION # 2010-238

MOVED BY: Councillor Banks

SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor MacCafferty

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-law be read a first and second time;

By-law No. 61-2010 – A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Deep River at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 8, 2010.

CARRIED.

RESOLUTION # 2010-239

MOVED BY: Councillor Desrochers

SECONDED BY: Councillor Banks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following by-law be read a third time, signed by the Mayor and the Clerk and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto:

By-law No. 61-2010 – A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Deep River at the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 8, 2010.

CARRIED.

14. ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION # 2010-240

MOVED BY: Deputy Mayor MacCafferty

SECONDED BY: Councillor Banks

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby adjourns the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

CARRIED.

Mayor David Thompson

CAO/Clerk – Michelle Larose