

MINUTES
OF THE
COUNCIL OF THE
COUNTY OF OXFORD

County Council Chamber
Woodstock
June 25, 2009

MEETING #20

Oxford County Council meets in special session this twenty-fifth day of June 2009, in the Council Chamber, County Administration Building, Woodstock.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

7:01 p.m., with Warden Holbrough in the chair.

All members of Council present except Councillors Hayes and Molnar.

Councillor Molnar arrives at 7:08 p.m.

Staff Present: M. R. Bragg, Chief Administrative Officer
R. G. Walton, Director of Public Works
B. J. Tabor, Clerk

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

RESOLUTION NO. 1:

Moved by: Patrick Sobeski
Seconded by: Kenn. R. Howling

That the Agenda be approved.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

NIL

4. ADOPTION OF COUNCIL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

NIL

5. PUBLIC MEETINGS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2:

Moved by: Kenn. R. Howling
Seconded by: Donald Doan

That Council rise and go into a public meeting pursuant to the direction of Council, to consider 2009 and 2010 water and wastewater rates, and that the Warden chair the public meeting.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried (7:03 p.m.)

1. County of Oxford Water and Wastewater Systems –
2009 and 2010 Water and Wastewater Rates

Robert Walton, Director of Public Works, comes forward to address Council on the 2009 and 2010 water and wastewater rates. He introduces staff members Shahab Shafai, Manager of Wastewater Services, Deborah Goudreau, Manager of Water Services, Brenda Smith, Public Works Services Coordinator, who are in the audience tonight. He also introduces, Craig Binning, representing the consulting firm of Hemson Consulting Ltd., who assisted the County with the rates study.

R. Walton proceeds through a twenty-seven screen PowerPoint presentation, which was updated slightly from what was posted on the County web site for the last couple of weeks, providing background to the proposed rate increases. He draws Council's attention to written submissions received from the Town of Tillsonburg, dated June 22, 2009, and from the Woodstock-Ingersoll & District Real Estate Board, dated June 24, 2009, which were provided as attachments to Council's electronic Agenda. The correspondence from the Town of Tillsonburg recommends that County Council consider a Water Conservation Incentive Program in the County to be implemented through existing Service Agreements with Area Municipalities. The correspondence from the Woodstock-Ingersoll & District Real Estate Board makes recommendations to break down the water and wastewater monthly charges into two categories, one being the actual charge to supply water and wastewater and the second being the charge to build up a reserve fund for future years. He points out a slide in his presentation which provides answers to the comments received.

R. Walton comments that the rates proposed today are lower than those that were proposed in November. Comparisons have been made to what is happening in other municipalities, and what is happening in Oxford is not much different to what other areas are experiencing. He explains that a new component to the process is that all assets have to be placed on the books and the municipality has to show how they will manage these systems with sustainability a key component. Staff are recommending that a by-law be passed for the 2009 and 2010 rates and then, over the next two to three years, that the asset management plan be worked on to confirm what is in the Hemson Report and where the rates need to be in the future.

The Chair opens the meeting to questions from members of Council.

R. Walton responds to a question from Councillor Molnar with regard to the impact of third party funding from senior levels of government and how the funding would potentially be distributed to the closed systems within Oxford County.

R. Walton responds to a question and concerns from Councillor Sobeski with regard to discrepancies between money being spent and reserves building up.

The Chair asks if there are any members of the public wishing to speak.

Jim Northcott, PAC Chair, Woodstock-Ingersoll & District Real Estate Board, comes forward. The Chair draws attention to the correspondence received from the Board, dated June 24th. J. Northcott speaks to the letter which was drafted over a week ago before seeing the changes made to the rate increases and amortization period. He explains that the Board would like to see a twenty-five year amortization instead of eighteen to provide a lesser burden on the current homeowner, and would also

like the rate on monthly invoices to be broken down into two components being the actual charge to supply water and wastewater service, and the charge to build up the reserve.

Martha Dennis, General Manager, Woodstock District Chamber of Commerce, comes forward to express the Chamber's concerns with regard to the proposed 2009 and 2010 water and wastewater rates. The Chamber is concerned with regard to the timeframe of consultation with the lower tier municipalities in that meetings were to be scheduled for January of 2009 to present the consultant reports and methodology. The meeting in Woodstock did not occur until June 8th with only a short report presented and no methodology provided. The second concern is with regard to the calculation of industrial and commercial rates and that no explanation has been given to rationalize the differential between residential and commercial/industrial rates. M. Dennis points out their third concern being with regard to Table 1 and Table 2 of Expenditures and Revenues which shows a \$57 million cash reserve by 2021. She states that the relationship between the net reserve fund contribution and the closing cash balance doesn't match the rate of allocation. The fourth and fifth concerns are that background calculations have not been produced for these rates, and the timeframe for the passing of the by-law. M. Dennis provides Council with recommendations put forward by the Chamber being 1) delay the proposed date for by-law approval from July 8th to early September 2009; 2) provide consultant's report and background information and calculations; 3) hold more in-depth consultations with lower tier municipalities providing background calculations following release of the consultant's report and the calculations; 4) hold public meetings in conjunction with the Chambers of Commerce to provide information and rationale to commercial and industrial ratepayers.

Gord Niznik, Senior Manager, Corporate Planning, Toyota Boshoku Canada Inc., Woodstock, and a resident of Woodstock, comes forward representing his company. He states that being an Engineer and an Accountant, he is very interested in numbers but he is not seeing in the 120 pages he has reviewed what makes these numbers up. He believes there should be more transparency to the numbers and methodology provided. He also believes more time should be allowed for review and further input.

Marie Keasey, a resident of Thamesford, comes forward and states that she could not access the report on the County web site. She was only able to locate Schedule A rates. She questions how that Schedule A ties in with the rates shown part way through tonight's presentation. She also questions what the reserves are and where they are coming from. She comments on the cost to install meters and that Woodstock is able to use a reserve for that purpose. M. Keasey questions what it will cost the individual homeowner to install a meter and whether there are meters for both water and wastewater, how these fees will be paid and how implementation can take place before October. R. Walton responds to the questions posed by M. Keasey.

James Stewart, a businessman and member of the Woodstock Economic Development Committee, comes forward to present two main points, one being the policy of water and wastewater and the second one, the present process being worked through. He states that the Woodstock Economic Development Committee has five questions that they would like to ask County staff, but they have to go through Woodstock City Council first. His hope is that those questions will be answered when they come from Woodstock. He speaks regarding the present process and lack of transparency and accountability behind the calculations. J. Stewart comments on a concern with regard to time constraints and limitations on consultation with the public and stakeholders. He requests that the County stop and have some sober second thought on what policies are being implemented and how the rates affect the policies. He speaks with regard to the differentiation between residential, commercial and industrial. J. Stewart questions why residential should pay less for water than business and states that the policy should benefit all of Oxford County. Regarding reserves, he struggles with the need for \$57 million by the year 2021 and what drives that. He requests that Council consider policies that will benefit all of Oxford including business, industry and commerce and how that will impact the residents of Oxford.

Jeff Brown, a Councillor for the Township of Zorra, representing Thamesford, seeks clarification with regard to metering in Thamesford as he understood there was to be a flat rate, but from the presentation made tonight he is wondering if there will be both. He also questions whether there is a program proposed for placing meters in residences in Thamesford, in the future, and the timeline involved. J. Brown supports the position taken earlier in the meeting that a timeframe of 25 years should be considered by Council giving the example that under the current proposal, Thamesford will

experience a 24% increase in four months for wastewater. R. Walton responds to the questions posed by J. Brown.

The Chair asks whether there is anyone else wishing to speak. No one indicates such intent.

RESOLUTION NO. 3:

Moved by: Margaret Lupton
Seconded by: Michael Harding

That Council adjourn the public meeting and reconvene as Oxford County Council with the Warden in the chair.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried (8:14 p.m.)

At 8:15 p.m. Council recesses for a break.

At 8:29 p.m., Council resumes with Warden Holbrough in the chair.

All members of Council present except Councillor Hayes.

D-1 2009-53

Re: County of Oxford Water and Wastewater Systems –
2009 and 2010 Water and Wastewater Rates Public Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. 4:

Moved by: Don McKay
Seconded by: Donald Doan

That the recommendation contained in Report No. D-1 2009-53, titled "County of Oxford Water and Wastewater Systems – 2009 and 2010 Water and Wastewater Rates Public Meeting", be adopted.

DISPOSITION: See Action of Council
following Resolution No. 6

Recommendation Contained in Report No. D-1 2009-53:

That County Council receive Public Works Report D-1 2009-53, regarding 2009 and 2010 water and wastewater rates for County systems, as information;

And that Public Works Department staff be directed to bring the by-law for Water and Wastewater rates for consideration at the July 8, 2009 County Council meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 5:

Moved by: Patrick Sobeski
Seconded by: Stephen Molnar

That County Council receive Public Works Report D-1 2009-53 as information and further be deferred until the August meeting of County Council to permit further consultation between County staff and local municipalities, and residential, commercial and industrial stakeholders.

DISPOSITION: No Vote Taken
Due to the ruling of the Warden on a Point of Order
(not an amendment to the original motion)

RESOLUTION NO. 6:

Moved by: Patrick Sobeski
Seconded by: Stephen Molnar

That the motion be deferred to the August 8th meeting for further consultation.

DISPOSITION: Motion Withdrawn

DISPOSITION ON
RESOLUTION NO. 4: A Recorded Vote is requested
by Councillor Sobeski with
the following results:

Those in Favour of the Motion

Councillors Doan, Holbrough, Howling, McKay

Total 4

Those Opposed to the Motion

Councillors Harding, Lupton, Molnar,
Sobeski, Talbot

Total 5

Resolution No. 4 is Not Carried
Absent: 1 (Councillor Hayes)

RESOLUTION NO. 7:

Moved by: Michael Harding
Seconded by: Margaret Lupton

That Council rise and go into Committee of the Whole.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried (9:50 p.m.)

At 9:50 p.m., Council, in Committee of the Whole, recesses for a break.

At 9:57 p.m., Council, in Committee of the Whole, resumes with Warden Holbrough in the chair.

All members of Council present except Councillor Hayes.

RESOLUTION NO. 8:

Moved by: Margaret Lupton
Seconded by: Michael Harding

That Council, in Committee of the Whole, rise and reconvene as Oxford County Council.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried (9:58 p.m.)

RESOLUTION NO. 9:

Moved by: Michael Harding
Seconded by: Margaret Lupton

I move to reconsider the vote on Resolution No. 4 of the June 25, 2009 meeting of Council. I voted against the resolution with the prevailing side.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

DISPOSITION ON
RECONSIDERATION
OF

RESOLUTION NO. 4: A Recorded Vote is requested
by Councillor Sobeski with
the following results:

Those in Favour of the Motion

Councillors Doan, Harding, Holbrough,
Howling, Lupton, McKay

Total 6

Those Opposed to the Motion

Councillors Molnar, Sobeski, Talbot

Total 3

Reconsidered Resolution No. 4 is Carried
Absent: 1 (Councillor Hayes)

6. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

NIL

7. CONSIDERATION OF DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Not Required.

8. CONSIDERATION OF CORRESPONDENCE:

NIL

9. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

A CORPORATE SERVICES

NIL

B SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

NIL

C COMMUNITY AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

NIL

D PUBLIC WORKS

D-1 2009-53

Re: County of Oxford Water and Wastewater Systems –
2009 and 2010 Water and Wastewater Rates Public Meeting

Report dealt with under Public Meetings.

E HUMAN RESOURCES

NIL

F C.A.O./CLERK

NIL

G PUBLIC HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

NIL

H WARDEN

NIL

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councillor Molnar seeks clarification as to when a Committee of the Whole meeting will be held to discuss projections for water and wastewater rates beyond 2010 as the Warden had indicated could take place earlier in the meeting. The Warden's response is early fall of 2009.

11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS:

NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS/ENQUIRIES/COMMENTS:

NIL

13. CLOSED SESSION:

NIL

14. CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CLOSED SESSION:

Not Required.

15. BY-LAWS:

NIL

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Council adjourns its proceedings until the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

10:03 p.m.

Minutes adopted on July 8, 2009 by Resolution No. 2

Paul J. Holbrough
WARDEN

Brenda J. Tabor
CLERK