



**Municipality of Huron East Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
72 Main Street South, Seaforth, ON
Tuesday, November 7, 2023**

Members Present:

Mayor: Bernie MacLellan; Deputy Mayor: Alvin McLellan; Councillors: Raymond Chartrand, Brenda Dalton, Dianne Diehl, Robert Fisher, Larry McGrath, Justin Morrison, Jeff Newell, John Steffler, and Gloria Wilbee

Staff Present:

CAO Brad McRoberts; Clerk Jessica Rudy; Director of Finance/Treasurer Stacy Grenier; Fire Chief Kent Readman; Drainage Superintendent Ken McCallum and Director of Community Services Lissa Berard

Others Present:

Huron County Planner Shae Stoll

Trevor Kuepfer and Eddison Peel, RJ Burnside & Associates (Item 8.3)

1. Closed Session and Reporting Out

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Diehl

That a closed meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 for the purpose of the following matters:

- 1.1 239(2)(b) – personal matters about identifiable individuals

And that CAO Brad McRoberts, Fire Chief Kent Readman and Clerk Jessica Rudy remain in closed session.

Carried

2. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Mayor MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and acknowledged the informative posts to social media from staff in regards to the status of Main Street, Seaforth.

Mayor MacLellan acknowledged Economic Development Officer Taralyn Cronin on her response and readiness during a recent radio interview regarding downtown Seaforth.

Mayor MacLellan called for a motion to reconvene into open session.

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East reconvene into open session at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Mayor MacLellan reported out from the Closed Session that Council discussed personal matters about identifiable individuals in relation to employee matters.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor MacLellan provided the land acknowledgement.

4. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated November 7, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Councillor Dalton and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve the following Council Meeting Minutes as circulated:

6.1 Regular Meeting – October 17, 2023

Carried

7. Consent Agenda

Councillor Morrison requested to remove item 7.4, Township of McKellar regarding Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006 and moved that the Municipality send a letter of support.

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That Council of the Municipality of Huron East support the Township of McKellar motion regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006

Carried

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Fisher:

That the Consent Agenda items 7.1 to 7.3 and 7.5 to 7.9 be received for information and approved.

- Western Ontario Wardens Caucus re: Leave to Construct Threshold
- Western Ontario Wardens Caucus re: Strong Mayor Powers
- Town of Rainy River re: Water Treatment Training
- Ontario Energy Board re: Notice of Rate Hearing – Enbridge Gas Inc. has Applied to increase its Natural Gas Distribution Rates
- Town of Aurora re: Cannabis Retail Applications for the Twon of Aurora
- Personnel Committee re: Minutes from November 1, 2023
- CLK-23-20, Ontario Ombudsman Complaint Resolution
- CAO-23-33, Brussels, Morris & Grey Community Centre (BMGCC) Renovation Update #3

Carried

8. Public Meetings/Hearings and Delegations

8.1 Delegation: Matt Cronin and Jeff Ryan re: Concerns and Impact of Proposed Seaforth Battery Energy Storage System

Mayor MacLellan informed the delegations that the companies proposing battery storage have indicated that they will not be applying for funding in 2023.

Jeff Ryan and Matt Cronin appeared before Council in opposition of any battery storage facilities receiving Council endorsement and provided their concerns to Council including loss of prime agriculture land, environmental risks, noise pollution, decreased property value, responsibilities, regulations, traffic impacts and the co-relation to the wind farms. J. Ryan implored Council to listen to the community members and the growing petition and veto any municipal support resolutions.

Mayor MacLellan expressed to the delegation Council's position in not wanting to lose prime agricultural land and noted that the in previous conversations with MPP Lisa Thompson it was expressed that the Province would also not support the usage of prime agricultural land. Mayor MacLellan reiterated that Council understands the concerns of the public and that to date there has been no requests for municipal support of a battery storage facility.

8.2 Delegation: Jacob Hanlon, Food Cycle Science re: Municipal Food

Waste Diversion Programs

Jacob Hanlon, Food Cycle Science appeared before Council to provide an overview of Food Cycle Science's Municipal Food Waste Diversion Programs providing a background to the company and information on the widespread municipal programs, the problem with food waste, the municipal impact, various solutions that have been used and why they have not worked, details regarding the FoodCycler solution including economic impacts and highlighted the food waste reduction challenge, and the pilot program.

In response to Council, J. Hanlon noted that the project is implemented with both urban and rural communities and has been successful in all sizes of municipalities and that the machines do come with a one-year manufacturing warranty.

8.3 Engineer's Report re: Sinclair Municipal Drain

Trevor Kuepfer, and Eddison Peel from RJ Burnside & Associates appeared before Council to provide a summary of the Sinclair Municipal Drain final report, noting the background, timeline, attributes and recommended drain improvements.

Landowners were provided an opportunity to provide input on the report and landowner Scott McGregor stated that he felt the request for improvement was mischaracterized and requested that the approval be delayed until February 2024, to allow for sufficient time to read the full report.

In response to Council, Drainage Superintendent Ken McCallum noted that process and timeline has been followed per the Drainage Act and stated that a delay would likely push construction to 2025 and see a difference in tender submissions versus the Engineer's estimate. K. McCallum provided an overview of next steps including the Court of Revision and various stages in which a landowner could appeal decisions.

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East accept the engineers report on the Sinclair Municipal Drain Improvement 2023 and designate it as By-law 076-2023;

And That the Court of Revision be set for December 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and that Alvin McLellan, Dianne Diehl and Raymond Chartrand be appointed as members with Alvin McLellan acting as Chair.

Carried

9. Planning

9.1 Planner's Report re: Consent Application C65-2023

Huron County Planner Shae Stoll provided an overview of the application and property details and recommended the application for approval. A copy of the presentation is [appended](#) to the original minutes.

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Newell:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East acknowledge the report of Huron County Planner, Shae Stoll, dated November 2, 2023 and has no objection to consent application C65-2023, provided the conditions, as outlined in the planning report, are met.

Carried

9.2 Planner's Report re: Consent Application C68-2023

Huron County Planner Shae Stoll provided an overview of the application and property details and recommended the application for approval. A copy of the presentation is [appended](#) to the original minutes.

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East acknowledge the report of Huron County Planner, Shae Stoll, dated November 2, 2023 and has no objection to consent application C68-2023, provided the conditions, as outlined in the planning report, are met.

Carried

10. Municipal Drains

11. Reports & Recommendations of Municipal Officers

11.1 CLK-23-21, United Way Hron East Community Committee Appointments

Mayor MacLellan noted that the United Way originally sought one Council member and one staff member and inquired as to whether there is a need to have both Council members appointed. It was noted that the committee is not one of Council and members could reach out to the United Way to serve on the committee in a personal capacity.

Councillor Steffler offered to step down as a Council appointment.

In response to Councillor Fisher, Clerk Jessica Rudy confirmed that Council appointments would be eligible for attendance as per the current remuneration by-law.

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East appoint Councillor Robert Fisher and the Director of Community Services Lissa Berard to the United Way Huron East Community Committee effective January 2024.

Carried, as Amended

12. Correspondence

12.1 Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) re: 2024-2026 Proposed Risk Management Official Servicing Agreement

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East agree to enter into the agreement with ABCA for Source Protection Plan Part IV Enforcement Transfer under the Clean Water Act.

Carried

12.2 Don and Judy Smith re: Stop Sign for Cardiff and McNabb Road

In response to Council, B. McRoberts noted that the Public Works Department is working on converting all yield signs to stop signs, using a phased approach.

Council requested an update report be brought forward to the next Council meeting.

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East direct staff to provide a report at the next Council meeting regarding the status of converting yield signs to stop signs.

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

14. Council Reports

14.1 Council Member Reports

14.1.1 County Council Report

Councillor Dalton accepted Mayor MacLellan's offer of a ticket to the Farm Succession planning event being held by the County of Huron Economic Development Department on November 16, 2023. Deputy Mayor McLellan noted that he also had an available ticket for the same event and would make it available to anyone wishing to attend.

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that County Council had finished their service level review discussions, next steps include Council members producing a list of priority items. Other County Council discussions included the homes for the aged and the status of the Huron County SWIFT program.

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that the Bluewater Recycling Association meeting was recently held and it was reported that only 13% of waste comes in through recyclables, often in the form of diapers, garbage bags and children's toys. It was noted that on April 1st the producers will be paying for recyclables which should help with the municipal budget and tax levy.

In response to Councillor Chartrand's request regarding the Optimists Club request for defibrillators; Mayor MacLellan noted that County staff was directed to report back to County Council.

14.1.2 Other Boards/Committees or Meetings/Seminars

Deputy Mayor McLellan commented on the Ladies' Night event in Brussels in which Dan Fritz, Councillor Newell, Councillor Morrison and himself volunteered.

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that the Ethel turkey supper served approximately 300 people with approximately 200 attending the sit-down option and acknowledged the donations received and announced that the dinner made approximately \$4500.

14.2 Requests by Members

14.2.1 Request from Councillor Fisher for ROMA delegation with the Ministry of Long-term Care re: Long-Term Care Beds in Seaforth

In response to Mayor MacLellan's request for clarification on the delegation request, Councillor Fisher explained that he would like to present the Minister with the opportunity of 5 acres of land available for long-term care in Seaforth and request they dedicate additional long-term care beds for Seaforth.

Mayor MacLellan noted that staff could submit his delegation request and suggested that MPP Lisa Thompson be invited to attend in support of the request.

14.3 Notice of Motion

14.3.1 Motion from Deputy Mayor McLellan

Deputy Mayor McLellan provided an overview of his motion, noting that he is not trying reward the station for not following procurement procedures, however felt that it was an important and needed piece of equipment. Deputy Mayor McLellan requested that if Council does not wish to consider the full amount that they at least consider paying for a portion in the 2024 budget process.

Council discussed the motion presented by Deputy Mayor McLellan and agreed that the equipment is an important piece, and that they would be in favour of reimbursing the full amount.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Mayor MacLellan:

Whereas the Grey Fire Fighter Association purchased a replacement fan;

And Whereas the fan was not purchased in line with the procurement policy or allotted within the 2023 Huron East budget;

Now be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Huron East agree to reimburse the Grey Fire Fighter Association the total cost of \$5,785.65 plus HST through the 2024 budget process.

Carried

14.4 Announcements

Deputy Mayor McLellan paid tribute to former Grey Township Councillor and Deputy Reeve Fred Uhler, who recently passed away on October 24, 2023.

Councillor Chartrand noted that Saturday is Remembrance Day and the Seaforth Legion will have a parade from the Legion to the Cenotaph.

Mayor MacLellan requested confirmation Huron East representation and laying of wreaths for the various remembrance day ceremonies and announced he would not be able to attend the Hensall ceremony. In response, Councillor Wilbee volunteered to attend the Seaforth ceremony; Councillor Newell volunteered to attend the Brussels ceremony and Councillor Dalton volunteered to attend the Hensall ceremony.

15. Other Business

15.1 Recommendation from the Personnel Committee re: 2024 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)

In response to Council discussion B. McRoberts noted that pay equity helps to ensure that pay equity is maintained, and confirmed that the need and purpose of the Committee would be brought to Council in 2024 for review.

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Chartrand:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve a cost of living adjustment of 3.8% to be applied to all staff wages for 2024.

Carried

Councillor Fisher requested a report from staff in regards to process on requesting items to be added to Committee and/or Council agendas.

16. By-laws

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 076-2023, A By-law for the Sinclair Municipal Drain be given first, and second, readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk.

Carried

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 077-2023, A By-law to Abandon the McDonald Municipal Drain, Branch C, be given first, second, third and final readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 078-2023, A By-law to Authorize a Source Protection Plan Part IV Enforcement Transfer Agreement under the Clean Water Act with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) and Repeal By-law 071-2020, be given first, second, third and final readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 079-2023, A By-law to Authorize the Collection of Assessments for the Moore Municipal Drian (Bluewater), be given first, second, third and final readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto.

Carried

17. Closed Session and Reporting Out

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That a closed meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 8:07 p.m., in Town Hall Council Chambers, in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 for the purpose of considering the following matters:

17.1 Adoption of October 17, 2023 Closed Session of Council Meeting Minutes

17.2 239(2)(b) – personal matters about identifiable individuals

17.3 239(2)(c) – proposed or pending disposition of land in Brussels and Vanastra

And that CAO Brad McRoberts, Director of Finance/Treasurer Stacy Grenier and Clerk Jessica Rudy remain in closed session.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That Council of the Municipality of Huron East reconvene into open session at 8:58 p.m.

Carried

Mayor MacLellan reported out from the Closed Session that Council discussed personal matters about identifiable individuals in relation to employee matters and proposed or pending disposition of land in Brussels and Vanastra.

18. Confirmatory By-Law

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That Be It Hereby Resolved that By-law 080-2023, a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of Council, be given first, second, third and final reading and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Seal of the Corporation be affixed thereto.

Carried

19. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

The time now being 8:59 p.m. That the regular meeting adjourn until November 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Carried


Bernie MacLellan, Mayor

Jessica Rudy, Clerk

Consent C65-2023

Subject Lands: Plan 207, Park Lots 19 to 23, Part Park Lots 1,2, and 24, Grey Ward, Municipality of Huron East. (Municipally know as 43810 Cranbrook Road)

Applicant/ Owner: Murray and Marlene Fischer



1

Subject Property



2

Proposed Lots

Area to be severed: approx. 3692 square metres (0.9 acres) of vacant land

Area to be retained: approx. 23 270 square metres (20 acres) of vacant land

Severed to merge with abutting land to south (blue outline)



3

Review

- Zoned R1 (Low Density Residential) in Huron East Zoning By-Law
- Designated Residential in Huron East Official Plan
- Huron East Official Plan Consent Policies
- Submitted stage 1 & 2 archaeology assessment due to proximity to cemetery

4



5

Comments Received

- No concerns from staff, neighbours or other agencies

6


Recommendation

- Application is consistent with the PPS, conforms to the Huron County Official Plan and Huron East Official Plan and complies with the Huron East Zoning By-Law.
- Application C65-2023 is recommended for approval with the attached conditions

Consent C68-2023

Subject Lands: Plan 197, Parts 2,3 & 4 on 22R-7290, subject to R174716 (storm sewer easement), Brussels Ward, Municipality of Huron East (Fishleigh Street, Brussels)

Applicant/ Owner: Christine Welsh



8

Subject Property





9

Proposed Lots

Area to be severed: approx. 465 square metres (5003 sq ft)

Area to be retained: approx. 480 square metres (5,760 sq ft) subject to 6 metre wide storm sewer easement



10

Review

- Zoned R1 (Low Density Residential) in Huron East Zoning By-Law
- Designated Residential in Huron East Official Plan
- Previously subject to consent file C30-2023
- Huron East Official Plan Consent Policies

11



12



13

Comments Received

- No concerns from staff, neighbours or other agencies
- Development agreement to address extension of servicing has been completed

14

Recommendation

- Application is consistent with the PPS, conforms to the Huron County Official Plan and Huron East Official Plan and complies with the Huron East Zoning By-Law.
- Application C68-2023 is recommended for approval with the attached conditions

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