



Municipality of Huron East Council Meeting Minutes
Council Chambers
72 Main Street South, Seaforth, ON
Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Members Present:

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

Absent:

Councillor Dalton

Staff Present:

CAO Brad McRoberts; Clerk Jessica Rudy; Director of Finance/Treasurer Stacy Grenier; Director of Community Services Lissa Berard; Director of Public Works Barry Mills; and Fire Chief Kent Readman (Virtual)

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Mayor MacLellan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor MacLellan reported that the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) held their conference from January 21-23, 2024, at which some members of Council and staff received a positive delegation with the Minister of Long Term Care.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Mayor MacLellan provided the land acknowledgement.

3. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated January 23, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

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

5.1 Regular Meeting – January 9, 2024

Carried

6. Consent Agenda

In response to Council, Director of Public Works Barry Mills provided an explanation on Item 6.1, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) re: Potential Municipal Equipment Operator Course. Deputy Mayor McLellan requested that Council remove item 6.1 from the Consent Agenda for Council support.

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

Whereas, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

And Whereas, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public road systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

And Whereas, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

And Whereas, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment;

Therefore it be resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Huron East supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

And That the Municipality of Huron East calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

And That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, Municipality of Huron East's Member of Provincial Parliament Lisa Thompson and the Association of Road Supervisors.

Carried

In response to Council regarding Item 6.6, FD-24-01, Fire Siren Update, Fire Chief Kent Readman confirmed that the siren is not necessary to notify firefighters of a call

however, the firefighters have indicated that the siren is useful with public responsiveness and traffic I. It was confirmed that the audit results would be coming back to Council with reinstatement options for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That the Consent Agenda items 6.2 to 6.6 be received for information and approved:

- 6.2** Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) re: 2024 Draft Plan and Budget
- 6.3** Municipality of North Perth re: Transportation Master Plan
- 6.4** Town of Mono re: Road Safety Emergency
- 6.5** FIN-24-01, BMGCC Pledge Procedure and Update
- 6.6** FD-24-01, Fire Siren Update

Carried

7. Public Meetings/Hearings and Delegations

8. Planning

9. Municipal Drains

- 9.1** DRAINS-24-01 – Improvement Request – Holland Anderson Municipal Drain

Moved by Deputy Mayor McLellan and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East accept the Section 78 request for a Municipal Drain Improvement by John Huether (Lot 2, Concession 12, Grey) for the Holland Anderson Municipal Drain;

And That Council instruct Headway Engineering to prepare a report 30 days after notification to the Conservation Authorities.

Carried

10. Reports & Recommendations of Municipal Officers

- 10.1** CAO-24-03, Request to Purchase Unopened Allowance - Brussels

CAO Brad McRoberts provided an overview of the property location and noted that due to servicing the east side of the allowance could only be declared surplus, with the westerly portion being retained by the Municipality.

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Deputy Mayor McLellan:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East declare the unopened road allowance, legally described as Concession 5, Part Lot 30, Morris Township as

Registered Plan 22R-3503 Part 1, surplus and proceed with the process of issuing notices of the declaration of surplus and the intent to dispose of the lands.

Carried

10.2 CAO-24-04, Request to Purchase Unopened Road Allowances – Terpstra

B. McRoberts provided a detailed overview of the property location and noted that the Council of the Municipality of Morris-Turnberry had reviewed the request and had no concerns, subject to approval from Huron East.

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East declare the unopened road allowances, legally described as:

- PIN 41338-0180 (LT) Lane Plan 192 Brussels as closed by R178525 abutting Lots 352 & 353, Plan 92; and
- PIN 41338-0122 (LT) Stretton Street, Plan 192 Brussels, North of Beech Street;

surplus and proceed with the process of issuing notices of the declaration of surplus and the intent to dispose of the lands.

Carried

10.3 CS-24-03, Seaforth & District Community Centre Roof Tender Results

Director of Community Services Lissa Berard provided an overview of the tender process and confirmed that construction is scheduled for April with a 90-day completion.

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East award the Seaforth & District Community Centre roof replacement to Danval Construction Company for the amount of \$1,172,000 + HST.

Carried

10.4 FIN-24-03, Fees and Charges By-law 2024

Director of Finance/Treasurer Stacy Grenier noted that the 2024 fees by-law was done in collaboration with department heads and stated that the biggest changes were the unifying recreation fees. S. Grenier confirmed that the fees are determined from a cost recovery perspective opposed to using them as a stream of revenue.

Moved by Councillor Steffler and Seconded by Councillor Wilbee:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve the proposed fees and charges for 2024;

And That Council consider the By-law to set the fees and charges for 2024.

Carried

10.5 PW-24-03, Roadside Mowing

B. Mills provided an overview of the report and detailed analysis of contracting the service versus hiring a full-time employee to provide the roadside mowing service and provide relief in the winter months.

In response to Council, it was noted the department would have more control on frequency of cutting, however, it was stated the equipment would not be able to cut to the fence line as it would require specialized attachments. It was confirmed that the equipment would be rented, covering the costs for repairs and maintenance.

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Newell:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East authorize staff to proceed with establishing the roadside mowing program in house and creating a full-time position for the purpose of the program, winter control and general operational maintenance.

Carried

11. Correspondence

11.1 Brussels Minor Ball re: Request for Road Closure on June 1, 2024

Moved by Councillor Morrison and Seconded by Councillor Newell:

That the Council of the Municipality of Huron East approve the request from Brussels Minor Ball to close a portion of Sports Drive, Brussels on June 1, 2024 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the Brussels Minor Ball “Ball Day”.

Carried

12. Unfinished Business

13. Council Reports

13.1 Council Member Reports

13.1.1 County Council Report

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that County Council started the budget process and are currently looking at an approximate 9% increase. It was noted that the long-term care home would cost an extra \$77,000 for operation during a leap year and that Council is considering a construction loan for the Wingham yard. It was reported that employee health benefits rose 15% and that \$9,000,000 of the \$60,000,000 capital budget is required from the levy which includes replacing two generators at long-term care homes, two new ambulances and a new grader.

13.1.2 Other Boards/Committees or Meetings/Seminars

Deputy Mayor McLellan reported that he attended the Bluewater Recycling Association meeting and confirmed that he would inquire regarding charges for redelivery of bins and noted that the association is budgeting for new trucks.

Councillor Chartrand reported that he is a member of the usable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Human Resources Committee, and they are currently in the process of recruiting a new ABCA General Manager.

13.2 Requests by Members

13.3 Notice of Motion

13.4 Announcements

14. Other Business

15. By-laws

Moved by Councillor Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Steffler:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 005-2024, A By-law to Establish Fees and Charges for 2024 and to Repeal By-laws 18-2012, 005-2023, 038-2023 and 067-2023, 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 Diehl and Seconded by Councillor Morrison:

That Be it Hereby Resolved By-law 006-2024, A By-law to Temporarily Close a Portion of Sports Drive, Brussels, 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

16. Closed Session and Reporting Out

Moved by Councillor Chartrand and Seconded by Councillor McGrath:

That a closed meeting of Council be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:52 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:

16.1 Adoption of January 9, 2024 Closed Session of Council Meeting Minutes

16.2 239(2)(j) – a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality and has monetary or potential monetary value in relation to an agreement.

16.3 239(2)(b) – personal matters about identifiable individuals in relation to committees

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

Carried

Moved by Councillor Newell and Seconded by Councillor Diehl:

That Council of the Municipality of Huron East reconvene into open session at 7:07 p.m.

Carried

Mayor MacLellan reported out from the Closed Session that Council went into a closed session to discuss details of a lease agreement and personal information about identifiable individuals relating to committees.

17. Confirmatory By-Law

Moved by Councillor Wilbee and Seconded by Councillor Newell:

That Be It Hereby Resolved that By-law 007-2024, 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

18. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Fisher and Seconded by Councillor Newell:

The time now being 7:07 p.m. That the regular meeting adjourn until February 6, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Bernie MacLellan, Mayor

Jessica Rudy, Clerk