

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 6:30 PM
South Edwardsburgh Community Centre
24 Sutton Dr.
Johnstown Ontario

PRESENT: Mayor Tory Deschamps
Deputy Mayor Stephen Dillabough
Councillor Joe Martelle
Councillor Waddy Smail
Councillor Chris Ward
John Hunter (Advisory Member)
Karen Roussy (Advisory Member)

STAFF: Dave Grant, CAO
Rebecca Crich, Clerk
Sean Nicholson, Treasurer
Gord Shaw, Director of Operations
Mike Spencer, Manager of Parks, Recreation & Facilities
Chris LeBlanc, Manager of Public Works
Dwane Crawford, Chief Building Official
Candise Newcombe, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order – Chair, Mayor Deschamps

Mayor Deschamps called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: C. Ward

Seconded by: W. Smail

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest & the General Nature Thereof

None.

4. Business Arising from Previous Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes (if any)

Members raised the following:

- Inquired about discussions with the UCLG regarding the proposal of a formal crosswalk on County Road 2 in the village of Cardinal.
- Canal bank stabilization report status.

5. Delegations and Presentations

a. Baseload Power - Ventnor Battery Energy Storage Project

Mr. Sandler introduced himself and his colleague Mr. Ratcliffe and presented an overview of Baseload Power's 60 years of experience with energy infrastructure, which is held on file. He detailed the proposed Ventnor Battery Energy Storage project as an energy storage program intended to store unused energy in low-usage times to subsidize additional requirements in peak usage times.

Mr. Sandler reviewed the benefits of such a program to the local energy grid, generated tax revenues, and the significantly smaller carbon footprint this type of project generates compared to solar or wind power generation.

There was discussion about the implications of the Township providing a motion of support, the public consultation process, estimated project construction value, employment opportunities, safety mitigation and fire suppression process, and concerns, the battery disposal process, and the proposed number of battery units required for the project.

Mr. Sandler identified the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), as the crown corporation responsible for operating the electricity market, and noted the identification of the need for additional electrical servicing needs in the area. He reviewed the RFQ process for submitting to the program, clarifying the requirement of municipal support in order to proceed with the RFQ application. He noted the intention to return to the November Committee of the Whole - Community Development meeting following a public consultation process to present their findings and seek support through a resolution of Council.

b. Don Berry - Cormorant Control

Mr. Berry introduced himself as a local hunter/angler who resides in the Township and provided a brief history of the increased Cormorant population experienced in the area and the adverse effects on the local ecosystem. Mr. Berry referenced the adjustments made by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) this year regarding the Cormorant hunting season and requested Council support through the purchase of supplies such as shotgun shells and disposal services for residents interested in participating in the mitigation of the cormorant concern.

There was discussion about the intent of the current program to control and not eradicate the cormorant population, the lack of surrounding municipal uptake of the program, and the liabilities associated with the delegation's request. Committee noted their support of the PFAH adjustments to the cormorant hunting season, and the Township's current programming, however, highlighted that it would not be prudent or fiscally responsible of the Township to supply provisions for the proposed initiative.

Committee thanked Mr. Berry for his presentation.

6. Consent Agenda

The Chair requested that item 6c, the 3rd Quarter Facility Stats Report, be pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Moved by: J. Martelle

Seconded by: W. Smail

That the following consent agenda items be received as presented:

- a. 3rd Quarter Building Report [See item 8a]
- b. 3rd Quarter Bylaw Report [See item 8b]
- c. ~~3rd Quarter Facility Stats Report [See item 8f]~~
- d. 3rd Quarter Facility Maintenance Report [See item 8g]

Carried

7. Discussion Items

- a. Citizen of the Year - Program Review

Committee was provided with a brief overview of the current Citizen and Youth Citizen of the Year programming and consulted on the satisfaction of the current program or the appetite to alter the programming in the future.

Committee discussed the perceived shortfalls of the current program, the appetite for a more decorated celebration for the award, low nomination submission concerns, additional community engagement by reaching out to local schools, encompassing all recognition awards into a large annual banquet, and engaging a community group to host the event.

Members noted that discussions regarding future intent for the program would continue at a future meeting in early 2024 and recognized that the current program would remain status quo for 2023.

8. Action/Information Items

- a. 3rd Quarter Building Report - CONSENT

Moved by: J. Martelle
Seconded by: W. Smail

That Committee receives the 3rd Quarter Building report as presented.

Carried

- b. 3rd Quarter Bylaw Report - CONSENT

Moved by: J. Martelle
Seconded by: W. Smail

That Committee receives the 3rd Quarter Bylaw Report as presented.

Carried

- c. 3rd Quarter Treasury and Reserve Report

Committee was provided with a summary of the report and informed of the cancellation of the advertised tax sale. There was discussion regarding the following subjects: loan percentages for 2023 capital project debentures, optimal purchasing timelines for various assets, Cardinal pool rehabilitation work timeline, and that the Weir Rd work was deferred in order to coordinate efforts with the shave and pave work planned for Edison Dr. in the spring of 2024 to save costs.

Members discussed the anticipated completion date for the Cardinal pool renovations, and exploring collaborative purchasing opportunities to expedite the delivery of Township asset orders.

- d. 3rd Quarter Budget Variance Report

Committee was provided with a summary of the report and noted discrepancies in revenue shortages from the parks, recreation, and facilities departmental budget.

- e. 3rd Quarter Council Remuneration Report

Committee was provided with a brief overview of the report and highlighted the networking and personal education benefits of taking advantage of the multitude of training courses and conferences available to local leaders.

- f. 3rd Quarter Facility Stats Report

Committee was provided with an overview of the report and discussed the current ice rental statistics at both facilities, increased canteen operations, and requested the ice rental statistics from 2022 for future comparison.

- g. 3rd Quarter Facility Maintenance Report - CONSENT

Moved by: J. Martelle
Seconded by: W. Smail

That Committee receives the 3rd Quarter Facility Maintenance Report as presented.

Carried

h. 2023 Year End Cormorant Control Report

Committee reviewed the report and discussed requesting a delegation with the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) regarding the growing concerns with the cormorant population, and the possible aid the province could provide. There was a general discussion on additional recruitment efforts for the Township's current cormorant control program.

i. County Rd 2 - Debenture Report

Committee was provided with a detailed overview of the report and discussed deferring the debenture until 2024, repayment flexibility of both the RBC and the Infrastructure Ontario (IO) debenture options, and the risks associated with percentage increases when delaying the debenture commitment.

Moved by: J. Martelle
Seconded by: S. Dillabough

That Committee recommends that Council direct the Treasurer to engage Infrastructure Ontario to secure a 20-year debenture, payable semi-annually in the amount of \$1,030,150 to complete funding for the County Road 2 project.

Carried

j. New Scott Road Transfer Site 60% Design

Committee was provided with an overview of the report and discussed continued brush drop-off, the public consultation process, the end of the Boneyard contract with the Township, the added benefits the new location provides, and the proposed security for the location.

It was clarified that the new location is not a dump, highlighting that the facility is intended as a transfer site until the items can be burned or transferred to a new location for proper disposal.

Moved by: W. Smail
Seconded by: J. Martelle

That Committee recommends that Municipal Council:

1. Review the 60% design and associated estimates provided by Jp2G; and
2. Direct staff to advise Jp2g of any changes and to proceed with final design.

Carried

9. Councillor Inquiries/Notices of Motion

None.

10. Mayor's Report

Mayor Deschamps reported the following:

- Noted the attendance of Council and staff members at the Affordable Housing Summit held on September 29, 2023.
- Attended the Greenfield Global Inc. commissioning and completion of the new VHQ facility.
- Noted the upcoming St. Lawrence Kings days on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

11. Question Period

None.

12. Closed Session

Moved by: W. Smail

Seconded by: C. Ward

THAT Committee proceeds into closed session at 9:19 p.m. in order to address a matter pertaining to:

1. Section 239(2)b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; Specifically: Succession Planning, Recreation, Public Works, and Environmental Services

Carried

- a. Section 239(2)(b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; Specifically: Succession Planning, Recreation, Public Works, and Environmental Services

Moved by: W. Smail

Seconded by: C. Ward

That the closed meeting of Committee does now adjourn and the open meeting does now resume at 9:57 p.m.

Carried

13. Report Out of Closed Session

The Chair reported that direction was provided to the CAO.

14. Adjournment

Moved by: C. Ward

Seconded by: W. Smail

THAT Committee does now adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

Carried

Chair

Deputy Clerk