

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE 2007
6:00 p.m.**

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Wednesday, 6 June 2007 in the Council Chambers of the Administration Centre, Township of Essa.

In attendance: Mayor David Guergis
Deputy Mayor Terry Dowdall
Councillor Sandie Macdonald
Councillor Rick Newlove
Councillor Ron Henderson

Staff in attendance: Greg Murphy, CAO/Manager of Public Works
Carol Trainor, Clerk/Deputy-Treasurer
Paul Macdonald, Fire Chief
Jim Hosick, Acting Manager of Planning and Development
Julie Barrett, Treasurer

1. OPENING OF MEETING BY THE MAYOR

Prior to the Committee of the Whole meeting, Mayor Guergis had the pleasure of welcoming four youth from the Angus area and their families for a special presentation. On May 5, 2007, an accidental fire took the life of one young Angus resident, but thanks to the bravery of four young people, Tyler Kononiuk, Holli-Ann Pitcher, Aaron Seamans and Becky Simms, two other young people were saved from the burning building. Mayor Guergis presented each of these individuals with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Township, thanking them and their families for setting an example and bringing honour to our community by taking quick action and preventing further tragedy.

Comments of gratitude and appreciation were expressed by all members of Council, Fire Chief Paul Macdonald, and OPP Sergeant Dirk Cockburn. Mayor Guergis also thanked the members of the Essa Fire Department, Hall 2, for their participation in saving the two young lives.

Refreshments were served in the lobby following the presentations.

Mayor Guergis opened the Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:00.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

3. DELEGATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / PUBLIC MEETINGS

- a. **6:00 Cheryl Brine, Economic Development Consultant, OMAFRA**
Re: Economic and Rural Business Development Services

Cheryl Brine, Economic Development Consultant with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Farm and Rural Affairs, provided an overview of the services of the Regional Economic Development Team. She explained that the focus of the Team is rural affairs, and provides assistance to rural businesses and communities to secure funding, resolve barriers to growth, promote expansion, keeping and engaging youth within the community, and in finding access to capital. She helps to build strategies for economic development through facilitation, strategic planning, capacity building, getting partners in place, community readiness for development, network development and accessing resources. Ms. Brine outlined some of the programs they offer.

Business Retention and Expansion: designed for existing businesses, this community based tool encourages growth and stability of local businesses and helps communities identify and address opportunities and barriers facing local business. A healthy business community keeps people in the community, and keeps people coming to the community. This is a peer to peer program which creates a level of comfort for businesses.

First Impressions community exchange program: Volunteer exchange program with another community to offer objective, first impression opinions and insight that one doesn't see in their own community. This provides impressions that outsiders see of the community overall, signage, land, schools, businesses, and industry. They have had very good success with it. First Impressions allows communities to develop a strategy for improvements, conservation, attraction, revitalization and strategic planning. This program also looks at customer service and where improvements may be made in individual businesses in dealing with customers.

REDDI: the Rural Economic Development Database Intelligence is a web based program which helps identify local priorities and carry out strategies to achieve community goals through downtown revitalization, accessing resources, and customer surveys.

The Client Account Officer in each Rural Development Team deals mostly with agricultural types of businesses to help promote innovation and resources to help these businesses grow.

Councillor Newlove asked about wind energy projects. Ms. Brine advised that the Client Account Officer has been working with wind energy in Bruce County and has been approached by other communities to see what the benefits are. Wind energy is still in a research capacity.

Councillor Macdonald expressed interest in the First Impressions program. Any workshop done by OMAFRA would have to be custom fit to Essa as we are unique and do not have the same issues as other municipalities. She would welcome Ms. Brine to attend an EDC meeting in September and she looks forward to working with the Regional Economic Development Team. Ms. Brine stated that any project can be customized strictly for a downtown area, or to be applied throughout the whole municipality.

Mayor Guergis thanked Cheryl for her presentation and providing this excellent information, and Council looks forward to working with her in the future and with the Economic Development Committee.

b. 6:15 Wayne Wilson, CEO and Fred Nix, Chair, NVCA
Re: Watershed Report Cards

NVCA Chair Fred Nix thanked Council for the opportunity to present a series of Watershed Report cards for the Nottawasaga Valley watershed area, which is a new service being offered to municipalities. Mr. Nix noted that the focus of the NVCA is moving away from parks and recreation and education toward a science driven education and data collection service.

CEO Wayne Wilson introduced a series of watershed report cards which have been prepared on the various watersheds as a means to evaluate and grade the waters, forests and wetlands. Measurements are based on standards set by Environment Canada and Conservation Ontario. Each report card provides a grade and information on forest conditions, surface water quality and wetland conditions for each of the specified areas, and local actions needed for improvement in each area.

In the case of Essa Township, Council was provided with the Pine River, Middle Nottawasaga River, Mad River and Innisfil Creek report cards. Mr. Wilson noted that the Pine River is one of the most heavily forested areas in the watershed with several natural heritage corridors and received an "A" grade. The watersheds closer to Cookstown received an "F" grade due to their proximity to intensive agricultural operations and less forest cover.

Mr. Wilson advised that the NVCA has conducted \$167,000 worth of health water projects in Essa, working with land owners. They completed 21 projects over the last 5 to 6 years but are challenged by the number of people interested. The NVCA has many projects to choose from without enough funding to complete all of them. He closed by noting that all the Report Card information is on the NVCA website.

Deputy Mayor Dowdall questioned safe e-coli levels for swimming. Mr. Wilson replied that natural systems will have acceptable e-coli levels but where there is a lot of agricultural activity, levels are higher. Some work has been done around livestock operations so they can be targeted for remediation, but general e-coli levels from wildlife would be difficult to pin down. Higher levels could also be caused from faulty septic systems.

Mayor Guergis thanked Mr. Nix and Mr. Wilson for being in attendance, thanking them for putting this technical information into easy to understand terms which will be put to good use. This is the information that Council likes to see, and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

Before moving on to staff reports, CAO Greg Murphy introduced and welcomed Jim Hosick, who is replacing the Manager of Planning and Development while she is on maternity leave.

STAFF REPORTS

4. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

a. Brownley Meadows Request for Zoning By-law Amendment

Resolution No: CW138-2007 Moved by: Macdonald, Seconded by: Dowdall

Be it resolved that Report P07-59 from the Manager of Planning and Development be received; and further

That the draft by-law (attached) containing reduced setbacks for singles, links (or semis) and townhouses in the Brownley Meadows Subdivision be received; and further

That the link lots within the Brownley Meadows Subdivision contain driveways and garages which are 1 ½ parking widths (4.5 metres wide); and further

That the townhouse lots within the Brownley Meadows Subdivision contain a front yard setback of, at least, 11 metres to accommodate parking.

Carried

b. Queensgate Homes Plan of Subdivision Draft Plan Approval

Resolution No: CW139-2007 Moved by: Macdonald, Seconded by: Henderson

Be it resolved that Report P07-60 from the Manager of Planning and Development be received as amended to include comments from the County of Simcoe; and further

That draft plan approval be issued to apply to the Queensgate project on Centre Street in accordance with all other conditions as attached to this report, and which, all other key agencies are supportive of.

Carried

5. PARKS AND RECREATION / COMMUNITY SERVICES

a. Ice Resurfacers Thornton Arena

Resolution No: CW140-2007 Moved by: Newlove, Seconded by: Macdonald

Be it resolved that Report PR-2007-12 from the Recreation Coordinator/Programmer be received; and further

That as recommended by the Thornton Arena Manager the quote submitted by Olympia at a cost of \$70,135 be accepted for the purchase of a new Ice Resurfacers.

Carried

b. Dasher Boards for the Thornton Arena

Resolution No: CW141-2007 Moved by: Henderson, Seconded by: Dowdall

Be it resolved that Report PR-2007-13 from the Recreation Coordinator/Programmer be received; and further

That the quote from Aimcom Recreation for the supply and installation of dasher boards at the Thornton Arena at a cost of \$60,000, which has been ordered by staff, be confirmed.

Carried

c. Request to waive rental fee for free Flu Clinic

Resolution No: CW142-2007 Moved by: Macdonald, Seconded by: Dowdall

Be it resolved that Report PR-2007-14 from the Recreation Coordinator/Programmer be received; and further

That the Thornton Arena meeting room fees for a flu clinic on November 14, 2007 from 3 – 8 pm be waived.

Carried

6. FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

a. Sale of Fire Department Vehicle

Resolution No: CW143-2007 Moved by: Newlove, Seconded by: Henderson

Be it resolved that Report F08-2007 from the Fire Chief be received; and

That staff be directed to accept the bid provided by Cochrane Mechanics for the 1993 half ton fire vehicle as is, where is, with no warranty expressed or implied, for the sum of \$827.00.

Carried

7. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Sale of Blue Utility Box

Resolution No: CW144-2007 Moved by: Dowdall, Seconded by: Macdonald

Be it resolved that the offer in the amount of \$1,515.00 as submitted by James Hoover of HJV Equipment for the surplus blue utility box c/w crane be accepted; and further

That this equipment be sold as is, where is, with no warranty expressed or implied.

Carried

b. Sale of Surplus 1981 Trackless Machine

Resolution No: CW145-2007 Moved by: Newlove, Seconded by: Macdonald

Be it resolved that the offer in the amount of \$2,000.00 as submitted by Nad-Core Environmental Shredding for the surplus 1981 Trackless machine be accepted; and further That this equipment be sold as is, where is, with no warranty expressed or implied.

Carried

c. Sale of Truck Bed

Resolution No: CW146-2007 Moved by: Henderson, Seconded by: Macdonald

Be it resolved that the offer in the amount of \$160.00 as submitted by R.W. Equipment for the 8' X 12' truck bed be accepted; and further That this equipment be sold as is, where is, with no warranty expressed or implied.

Carried

d. Hydro One's Proposed New Lines on Township Road Allowances

Resolution No: CW147-2007 Moved by: Macdonald, Seconded by: Dowdall

Be it resolved that Report PW-07-34 from the CAO/Manager of Public Works in connection with Hydro One's proposed upgrading/installing new lines on Township road allowances be received.

Carried

e. Rainbow Campground Request for Temporary Water Connection

Resolution No: Moved by: Macdonald, Seconded by: Henderson

Be it resolved that Report PW-07-35 from the CAO/Public Works Manager be received.

Carried

f. Proposed Sidewalk Construction, Innisfil Beach Road

Resolution No: CW148-2007 Moved by: Newlove, Seconded by: Henderson

Be it resolved that Report PW-07-36 from the CAO/Public Works Manager be received; and further That a sidewalk be constructed along the south side of Innisfil Beach Road, from Camilla Crescent to the northeast corner of Thornton Crossing Plaza property with the necessary funds being paid for out of Reserves for Special Projects.

Carried

8. FINANCE

9. CLERKS / BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT

a. Volunteer Policy and Declaration

Resolution No: CW149-2007 Moved by: Dowdall, Seconded by: Henderson

Be it resolved that Report C07-2007 from the Clerk be received; and that the attached draft Volunteer Policy and "Declaration of Understanding" be approved and circulated to all citizens appointed by Council to a board or committee for ratification.

Carried

b. Parkside Drive Dog Complaints

Resolution No: CW150-2007 Moved by: Henderson, Seconded by: Newlove

*Be it resolved that Report C08-2007 from the Clerk, and the letter from the resident of Parkside Drive be received; and
That the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer continue to work with and monitor the situation to ensure continued compliance with the Dog Control By-law; and
That the dog owner be required to have one of four dogs removed to maintain the limit of three dogs per household.*

Carried

c. Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Monthly Report

Resolution No: CW151-2007 Moved by: Macdonald, Seconded by: Dowdall

Be it resolved that Report BL04-2007 from the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer be received.

Carried

10. OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Clerk advised that the Thornton Cookstown Trans Canada Trail is lacking Essa representatives, and has requested that another person be appointed. A resolution was produced for passage on the Regular Council agenda.
2. Councillor Macdonald advised that the Rural Economic Development funding application submitted by the Essa Public Library has proceeded to the second stage toward approval.

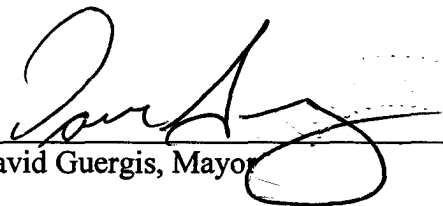
3. Mayor Guergis commented on the very successful opening of the new TD Bank branch in Angus yesterday. He is very impressed with the response from the community to this new business.
4. Councillor Macdonald wished to clarify comments resulting from the last meeting wherein it was implied that the Angus Gardens had been neglected. She noted that the Angus Horticultural Society has done a very good job, to the extent that they can, but the situation remains unmanageable for a number of reasons. The Horticultural Society is to be commended for their work.

11. ADJOURNMENT


Resolution No: CW152-2007 Moved by: Macdonald, Seconded by: Dowdall

Be it resolved that this meeting of Committee of the Whole of The Township of Essa adjourn at 7:30 p.m. to meet again on June 20, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Carried



David Guergis, Mayor



Carol O. Trainor, Clerk