

**ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
SESSION #21**

St. Clair Civic Centre  
Council Chambers  
November 3, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of St. Clair was held this evening with the following members present:

	S. Arnold	Mayor
	P. Gilliland,	Deputy Mayor
	P. Carswell-Alexander,	Councillor
	P. Brown,	“
	D. Randell,	“
	S. Miller,	“
	J. Agar,	“
Staff:	J. Rodey,	CAO
	J. DeMars,	Director of Administration/Clerk/ Deputy CAO

**AGENDA:**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked members of Council to declare any possible conflicts of interest at the appropriate time.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

None declared.

**MINUTES:**

Council proceeded to review the minutes as listed on the agenda. Chairperson Randell presented the minutes of the October 20, 2008 Finance and Administration Committee for approval.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #1** That the minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee meeting of October 20, 2008 be adopted as printed and circulated:

**CARRIED**

Chairman Agar presented to Council for approval, the minutes of the Public Works and Operations meeting held on October 20, 2008.

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #2:** That the minutes of the Public Works and Operations Committee meeting held October 20, 2008 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

Council proceeded to review the minutes of the October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council. Councillor Brown pointed out that there was an error in Motion #6 where he was identified as the mover of the motion who actually should have been Pat Carswell-Alexander. Council also reviewed the minutes of the September 18, 2008 Sombra Museum Board.

Council Meeting Minutes  
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Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #3:** That the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as printed and circulated:

Council meeting of October 20, 2008, Session #20 – as corrected  
Sombra Museum of September 18, 2008

**CARRIED**

At the appointed time, Council welcomed Mr. Jim Sanders Director of Operations, Gas Storage for the Enbridge gas facility located in the Municipality. Mr. Sanders advised that there is several purposes of his meeting with Council one being to introduce himself as the new Director of Operations, secondly to invite members of Council and staff to an official ribbon cutting of the Phase 1 completion of the gas distribution system. The Phase 1 component of the long term project involved improvements at the compressor site on the Burman Line. Township representatives were invited to attend the Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup> ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30am with a reception to follow at the Wilkesport Community Center. Mr. Sanders also advised of Enbridge's continuing community commitment and asked for Council's assistance in identifying two or three local projects of significance that Enbridge could focus their efforts and perhaps make a financial contribution. Several projects were suggested such as the proposed Corunna splash pad, the Port Lambton skateboard park, the Museum, the Corunna Horticultural Society and the St. Clair River Trail. Also while present, Mr. Sanders asked Council to consider in future capital budgets, the improvement of the Tecumseh Road north to the Rokeby Line. In response to Council's questions, Mr. Sanders did advise that Enbridge may be interested in entering into a partnership with the Municipality to achieve this road surfacing. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Mayor advised that Township staff would contact appropriate Enbridge staff through Mr. Sanders to discuss this possible co-operative project. Mayor Arnold thanked Mr. Sanders for his attendance at this meeting.

At the appointed time Mayor Arnold welcomed Mike Raa, Ron Prior and Cindy Scholtens representing the Sarnia Lambton Task Force on physician recruitment present to discuss with Council their funding request for 2009. Mr. Raa provided to Council a brief history on the task force which started in 2001 in an effort to attract family physicians to the Sarnia Lambton area. To date, eleven family physicians have been recruited. Also Mr. Raa provided positive news that Dr. Jason Hall is prepared to sign a letter of commitment to set up family practice in conjunction with Dr. William O'Mahony in Corunna. The representatives provided to Council, in response to its questions information regarding physician recruitment. Council was advised that Ontario no longer provides a wage cap on doctor's in Ontario and that the task force provides a financial incentive of \$30,000 for physicians entering into family practice in Sarnia Lambton with the provision of a four year work commitment. It was also pointed out that Bluewater Health provides funding to reimburse the costs of relocation expense. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Raa advised that the task force is requesting a financial grant from the Municipality for 2009 in the amount of \$20,000. It was;

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #4:** That the request for the Sarnia Lambton physician recruitment task force for grant funding for the year 2009 in the amount of \$20,000 be referred budget deliberations.

**CARRIED**

At the appointed time, Council welcomed Mr. Bruce Weatherby owner of property known as 403 Beresford Street, present to discuss with Council, Council's position relative to the encroachment of his dock relative to the projection of the property line between he and his neighbor to the south. Mr. Weatherby offered Council photos of the current dock as well as photos of the dock prior to repair. These were compared to photos provided by the neighbor to the south earlier this year. Mr. Weatherby was of the opinion, the neighbor's photos were taken during the refurbishing of the dock and in no way reflect the current condition of the dock. He further stated that the effort was made to refurbish the dock to cover the open pipe dock supports as a safety measure. It was also pointed out that the subject dock was an original ferry dock for the use by Stag Island residents and has been in existence for over 30 years. Mr. Weatherby further stated that he has sought legal advice and it is his current intention to seek civil action against his neighbor. It was also pointed

out that apparently the dock location and construction was approved by neighboring property owners in 1978. In conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Weatherby apologized that Council found itself involved in an apparent neighbor dispute and asked that the issue of the dock be settled by the neighbors involved with court action if required.

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by J. Agar

**Motion #5:** That the issue of the Beresford Street dock encroachment be tabled for either six months or until settlement of the issue by way of civil action.

**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Council reviewed the request received from Mr. Ron Swartz for the possible lease of the portion of the Township's gravel dock in Sombra for the use of Fawn Island residence for parking.

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by P. Brown

**Motion #6:** That the request of Mr. Ron Swartz be referred to Public Works for a report and recommendation.

**CARRIED**

Council reviewed the Communications from the SCRCA regarding the tender results for the remedial work for the Guthrie Park Seawall. It was pointed out that six qualified bidders have tendered for the project and after a review of the tender documentation, the Conservation Authorities consultant is recommending the low bidder.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #7:** That Council recommend that the SCRCA accept the low tender submitted by Coores Construction Inc. subject to completing a financial check of the contractor outcome of meeting disposal of excavated material and a review of quarry suitability.

**CARRIED**

Council reviewed the request received from the Corunna Community Policing Committee for an operating grant from the municipality in the amount of \$500 for 2009.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #8:** That the grant funding request received from the Corunna Community Policing Committee in the amount of \$500 be referred to budget deliberations.

**CARRIED**

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by J. Agar

**Motion #9:** That the following correspondence be received and dealt with as per Council's instructions as noted:

- a. Ron Swartz – gravel dock property  
**Inst.** See motion #6
- b. SCRCA – Guthrie Park tender  
**Inst.** See motion #7

**DRAINS:**

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #10:** That Drainage By-law #20 of 2008, being a by-law to raise the sum of \$133,579.64 being money expended out of the General Funds of the Township of St. Clair for the reconstruction and improvement to the Wadsworth Drain be given the necessary readings and be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Corporate seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

**CARRIED**

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by J. Agar

**Motion #11:** That Drainage By-law #21 of 2008, being a by-law to raise the sum of \$3,038.26 being money expended out of the General Funds of the Township of St. Clair for the maintenance of the Lukey Drain be given the necessary readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Corporate Seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

**CARRIED**

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by P. Brown

**Motion #12:** That Drainage By-law #22 of 2008, being a by-law to raise the sum of \$4,216.73 being money expended out of the General Funds of the Township of St. Clair for the maintenance to the Chapple Drain be given the necessary readings and be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Corporate Seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

**CARRIED**

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

**Motion #13:** That Drainage By-law #23 of 2008, being a by-law to raise the sum of \$5,055.08 being money expended out of the General Funds of the Township of St. Clair for the maintenance to the Baxter Drain be given the necessary readings and be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Corporate Seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

**CARRIED**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Moved by P. Brown

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #14:** That the report submitted by the Treasurer of St. Clair Township dated October 28, 2008 recommending that financing for the renovation of the OPP building be from the remaining balance in the Property Reserves estimated to be \$433,000, \$600,000 from the St. Clair Education and Environment Reserve and the balance estimated to be \$500,000 from the General Fund Year End Reserves be approved.

**CARRIED**

Moved by P. Brown

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #15:** That the 2008 Capital Budget report dated October 16, 2008 be received and approved.

**CARRIED**

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS & OPERATIONS:**

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by P. Brown

**Motion #16:** That the report submitted by the Director of Public Works & Operations dated October 29, 2008 regarding the proposed sidewalk on Albert Street between Hill and Beckwith be referred to the 2009 capital budget deliberations.

**CARRIED**

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #17:** That the report submitted by the Clerk dated October 30, 2008 recommending that the Township's land disposal policy be waived relative to the requirement to obtain an appraisal prior to the disposal of the two residential properties on John Street and St. Clair Ave. in Sombra village be approved.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Carswell-Alexander asked for a recorded vote:

Councillor Randell	yes
Councillor Agar	yes
Deputy Mayor Gilliland	yes
Councillor Miller	yes
Councillor Carswell-Alexander	no



had been inactive for several years and an effort is being made to reactivate the Committee. Council acknowledged that Councillor Miller is the Township representative on this Committee.

**Pat Carswell-Alexander**

Councillor Carswell-Alexander thanked Mayor Arnold for attending the Regional meeting of the neighborhood watch groups held in Brigden on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Carswell-Alexander also asked for clarification as to the protocol of disposing of the two vacant residential properties in Sombra village. Councilor Carswell-Alexander also asked for the dates which these properties were declared surplus to the Township's needs. The Clerk advised that the property on John Street was declared surplus to the Township needs earlier this summer and from his recollection, the property on St. Clair Avenue which was obtained through a tax sale process, was declared surplus in 2003 or 2004. Councillor Carswell-Alexander asked for specific dates.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Miller

**Motion #21:** That the Township declare surplus to its needs, property identified as 135 St. Clair Avenue and the property on John Street willed to the Township as part of an estate for the benefit of the Sombra Museum be declared surplus for the Township's needs and offered for sale by competitive bid.

**CARRIED**

**Pat Brown**

Councillor Brown offered staff information he received from a business offering its service to manage the Township's website. Councillor Brown also had information pertaining to flu clinics that will be hosted by Lambton Community Health and also reminded Council of a meeting of the Sarnia Heavy Construction Association on November 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a consensus of Council that if members of Council are interested in attending this function, they should R.S.V.P. to the appropriate contact.

**Steve Arnold**

Mayor Arnold asked members of Council to forward to him in a timely fashion, any comments relative to the performance appraisal he is preparing for the CAO. The Mayor also advised Council that he attended the Great Lakes Conference in Niagara Falls on October 23 and 23 which he found most informative. There was information provided on behalf of the City of Windsor as to Windsor's protocol for primary and secondary sewage treatment and as well, had the discussion with a representative of the Eco-Justice Group regarding the Hill Street Brownfield's site in St. Clair Township. He also attended Maria VanBommel's fifth anniversary celebration at which time he had the opportunity to discuss with Ms. VanBommel and MPP Bob Bailey, the Township's concerns about the new assessment protocols for the Lambton Generating Station.

Moved by P. Brown

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #22:** That the meeting enter an in-camera session to discuss a legal issue.

**CARRIED**

The meeting returned to order.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

That the meeting do hereby adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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MAYOR

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CLERK