

**ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP
COUNCIL MINUTES
SESSION # 5**

St. Clair Civic Centre
Council Chambers
March 16, 2009
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. DeMars,	Director of Administration/Clerk/ Deputy CAO
Absent:	J. Rodey,	CAO

AGENDA

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Adopt Minutes:

Council Meeting of March 2, 2009
Finance and Administration Meeting – Draft Budget review – March 2, 2009
Finance and Administration Meeting of March 9, 2009
Public Works & Operations Meeting of March 9, 2009

Business Arising from the Minutes:

DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

7:00 p.m. - Heritage Awards presentation and acknowledgement
- Arnold Pole and Eldon Grant
7:20 p.m. - Charles Quenneville
- 2009 draft budget
7:30 p.m. - Shawn & Sherri Crowley – second house request

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Shawn & Sherri Crowley – second house request
- b) Captain Kidd Days permission
- c) L.C.R.G.P.A. – 2009 annual meeting

INFORMATION:

- 1. County of Lambton – Council highlights
- 2. Katherine Walker – stop signs
- 3. Corunna Community Policing – March 3rd minutes
- 4. Minister Responsible for Seniors – Senior Awards
- 5. County of Lambton – JEPP grant
- 6. MOE – renewable energy workshops
- 7. AMO – Alert – Pesticides ban

DRAINS:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT:

Applications A5/09 and A6/09

PLANNER'S REPORT:

Green Energy Act - Review

COORDINATOR OF OPERATIONS (Roads/Drainage):

Stone Quote for 2009 and dock rental

CLERK'S REPORT:

CAO'S REPORT:

MOTIONS:

BY-LAWS:

By-law #10 of 2009 – Sale Lot 6, Plan 3, Sombra Village
By-law #11 of 2009 – Temporary second residence – S. Crowley

COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Council – Monday, April 6, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Committee of the Whole – Monday, April 13, 2009 –
Drainage Committee – Tuesday, April 14, 2009 – 6:00 p.m.
Regular Council – Monday, April 20, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

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.

Mayor Arnold welcomed MPP Bob Bailey who was present at Council's invitation to attend the presentation to Mr. Arnold Pole, the Ontario Heritage Trust Volunteer Recognition Award for his significant contribution to build cultural and natural heritage preservation through his many years of volunteer work at the Moore Museum. Mayor Arnold and MPP Bailey made the presentation to Mr. Pole on behalf of the Province. Also in attendance was Mr. Eldon Grant recent recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for lifetime achievement for volunteer contributions to conserve community heritage over a period of 25 years or more on behalf of the Sombra Museum. Both Mr. Pole and Mr. Grant had an opportunity to express their appreciation to the Ontario Heritage Trust as well as the Township. At the conclusion of the presentation, members of the Moore Optimist Club were present to publicly acknowledge major

contributors to the Corunna splash pad project co-sponsored by the Township and the Moore Optimist Club. The Moore Optimist Club and the Township thanked Mr. Bob Baker, Lorne Powell, Steve Repergel, Randy Glendenning, and Joanne Brown for the generous funding contributions made on behalf of Tim Horton's, Mr. Powell as an Optimist Club member, the Lambton Generating Station, OMI and Nova Chemicals. Mayor Arnold and Optimist Club member, Fred Strickland thanked all those that have contributed financially to the project, in particularly the industry representatives in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Strickland stated that the Optimist Club was hopeful that the splash pad would be completed and operational by the Victoria Day holiday.

After a short recess, Mayor Arnold invited MPP Bailey to provide to Council a brief update on the happenings of the Provincial Government. Mr. Bailey provided an update of the pilot project to find an alternate fuel source for the Lambton Generating Station and Council brought forward concerns on issues relative to Highway #40 such as safety improvements that could be initiated at the intersection of Highway #40 and Indian Road and as well, sought Mr. Bailey's support for the increase of the speed limit on Highway #40 from the current 80 km per hour to 90 km per hour in an effort to transfer traffic from the Kimball Road to Highway #40. At the conclusion of his brief presentation, Mr. Bailey advised that he looks forward to an invitation to attend a future Council meeting to address Council's concerns. On behalf of Council, Mayor Arnold thanked Mr. Bailey for his offer and advised that Township staff would be in contact with Mr. Bailey's staff.

Shawn and Sherri Crowley owners of property known as 307 Rokeby Line, Parts of Lot 27 & 28, Concession 8 geographic Township of Moore were present to present their request to Council to occupy the existing house while a new home is being constructed. Mr. Crowley advised that he is willing to enter into an agreement with the Municipality that would require him to remove the existing house from the property once the new house is ready for occupancy.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #1 That the request from Shawn and Sherri Crowley regarding permission to live in their current home while building a new one be granted subject to the execution of the standard agreement.

CARRIED

MINUTES:

Council proceeded to review the minutes as listed on the agenda.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #2 That the minutes of the Council meeting of March 2, 2009 – Session #4 be adopted as printed and circulated:

CARRIED

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by J. Agar

Motion #3 That the minutes of the Finance and Administration Meeting held March 2, 2009 be adopted as printed and circulated.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #4 That the minutes of the Finance and Administration Meeting held March 9, 2009 be adopted as printed and circulated.

CARRIED

In discussion of the minutes of the Public Works and Operations meeting held March 9th, Deputy Mayor Gilliland requested an explanation for the direction to staff stated in motion #23 asking for a traffic study for the intersection of the St. Clair Parkway and St. Clair boulevard. Councillor Miller provided the explanation of the request to the Deputy Mayor's satisfaction.

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #5 That the minutes of the Public Works and Operations meeting held March 9, 2009 be adopted as printed and circulated.

CARRIED

Council reviewed with Mr. Quenneville, his report dated March 10, 2009 relative, to the current draft of the 2009 Operating and Capital budget. Council discussed in general terms, the current and past practices of financing major capital works from reserve funds for such projects as the Township's new emergency services building as opposed to long term borrowing.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #6 That the Treasurer be instructed to prepare a report for Council's consideration on the issue of capital borrowing on a long term basis for major capital projects.

CARRIED

Mr. Quenneville pointed out the portion of his report as a cautionary note that with the decrease in prime interest rates, the Township may experience a loss of revenue of approximately \$100,000 for the year 2009. Councillor Carswell-Alexander expressed her concern of the long term impacts of the reduction in granular application on the Township's rural roads.

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion #7 That the paving project for the Branton Cundick Park be postponed until August of 2009 until after the granular application project is completed to determine if additional granular material was required that could be financed from the parking lot paving project.

DEFEATED

Also in response to Council's questions, Mr. Quenneville provided an explanation as to the funding for the Sombra splash pad that was funded 50% from the Education and Environment reserve with the remaining 50% financed from the Township's cash reserve. It was pointed out that over the five year period, the 50% loan will be returned to the Township's cash reserves. Councillor Randell also provided to Council, as requested at the last meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee, projects proposed in 2009 at the Wilkesport Community Center and what projects would be financed from the Township's grant, from the Board's available funds and possible grants. It was also pointed out that the tables and chairs identified as an expenditure at the Sombra Community Hall will be paid for from reserved funds held by the Hall Board. At the conclusion of the discussion, Council suggested that the final decision on the budget should be tabled until the requested traffic count is completed at St. Clair Parkway and St. Clair Boulevard and the report on the Albert Street sidewalk project is available.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #8 That the current draft of the 2009 operating capital budget be tabled pending further information.

CARRIED

Council also requested that staff prepare a report as to the costs incurred to date for the regional wastewater treatment facility.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #9 that permission be granted for a refreshment tent at the annual Captain Kidd Days to be held July 31st and August 1st 2009 subject to the provision of the appropriate policing and security as per Township policy.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Brown

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #10 That 2009 membership fees for the Lambton County Rural Game Protective Association be paid and the appropriate number of banquet tickets be purchased.

CARRIED

In discussion of the letter received from Catherine Walker regarding stop signs on the Petrolia Line, Council instructed staff to draft the appropriate response for the Mayor's signature. Also in discussion of the Corunna Community Policing minutes, Council asked Councilor Miller as a member of the Lambton Police Services Board, for an annual or semi-annual report on crime statistics in St. Clair Township as a whole. Mayor Arnold advised Council that he has enrolled in the renewable energy workshop sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment scheduled for next week.

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #11 That the following correspondence be received and dealt with as per Council's instructions as noted:

- a. Shawn and Sherri Crowley – second house request
Inst. Motion #1
- b. Captain Kidd Days – permission
Inst. Motion #9
- c. LCRGPA – 2009 annual meeting
Inst. Motion #10

CARRIED

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

Council reviewed the applications to be heard at the next Committee of Adjustment meeting and offered no comments.

Council reviewed the Planner's Report relative to the new Provincial legislation known as the Green Energy Act. In general discussion Council was disappointed that if the Green Energy Act passes, local planning processes will be changed significantly by eliminating the public input process and Council's authority to act on planning issues as prescribed in the Planning Act. Council was in agreement that its position should be known relative to alternative energies by way of a policy as outlined in the draft Official Plan Amendment that was subject to an earlier public meeting. Council instructed Staff to draft a response letter to the proposed legislation and bring forward to the next meeting of Council the draft Official Plan Amendment regulating alternative energy installations. Council was advised that the Ministry is requesting responses to the draft legislation by March 28th.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #12 That the Mayor be authorized to file a response to the proposed Green Energy Act to the Province prior to the March 26th deadline.

CARRIED

COORDINATOR OF OPERATIONS(ROADS/DRAINS):

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by J. Agar

Motion #13 That the report submitted by the Coordinator of Operations (Works) dated March 11, 2009 regarding the stone quote for 2009 recommending that the requirements under the Township of St. Clair procurement policy be waived to purchase granular "M" dolomite for the 2009 stone application on Township roads and that the quoted price be accepted from Lafarge North America at their Courtright Dock for \$12.15 per tonne and from Southwestern Sales Corporation at their Sombra Dock for \$11.93 per tonne and that the dock rental agreement between St. Clair Township and Southwestern Sales Corporation for the rental of the Sombra Stone Dock be extended for a 2 year period at the quoted price of \$0.50 per tonne be received as information.

CARRIED

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised of a need for an in camera meeting to discuss a legal issue.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion #14 That By-law Number 10 of 2009 being a by-law to authorize the sale of municipally owned property known as Lot 6, Plan 3, Sombra Village be given the necessary three readings, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporation Seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

CARRIED

Moved by St. Miller

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #15 That By-law Number 11 of 2009, being a by-law to authorize an agreement on property municipally known as 307 Rokeby Line Township of St. Clair for the temporary use of an existing house while a new one is being constructed be given the necessary three readings, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporate Seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

CARRIED

COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Pete Gilliland

Deputy Mayor Gilliland requested Staff contact the County of Lambton regarding the pothole on the Petrolia Line west of the CN Tracks and as well request the status report from the County relative to the meeting held with Township, County and MTO Officials regarding the possible widening of the Petrolia Line west of Highway #40.

Jeff Agar

Councillor Agar made the same request as Deputy Mayor Gilliland relative to the pothole on Hill Street.

Darrell Randell

Councillor Randell advised of an earlier presentation this afternoon on behalf of the Friends of the St. Clair River Committee to three students who had participated in a recent competition sponsored by the Friends of the St. Clair Group. Also, Councillor Randell had information on the upcoming prescribed burn by the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network. Council was advised that the Fire Chief and the Coordinator of Operations (Roads/Drainage) are aware of the prescribed burn.

Pat Brown

Councillor Brown provided Council information on the upcoming "shred it" day sponsored by the Corunna Community Policing Committee and as well the scheduled for the County sponsored Hazardous Waste Disposal at the Clean Harbors site.

Steve Arnold

Mayor Arnold asked Staff for a status report on the establishment of the Green House on County Road #80 near the Mandaumin Road. Also, the Mayor lead Council in a discussion of railway crossing materials and suggested that steel plating has been used in some jurisdiction with considerable success.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion#16 That Staff be instructed to contact the CSX and the CN Rail regarding possible alternatives for rail crossing materials from the current practice to perhaps incorporate steel plating for such crossing.

CARRIED

The Mayor advised Council of his activities since the last meeting of Council including attendance with a Chatham-Kent delegation for a meeting in Toronto with Health Minister Caplan to discuss rural hospital emergency rooms, a meeting of the Health Study Group in Sarnia, a meeting with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority at Guthrie Park, a Clean Air Seminar in London as well as a facility tour and a presentation on Bio- mass alternatives at the Lambton Generating Station.

Mayor Arnold also advised that he and Deputy Mayor Gilliland will attend the March 18th meeting of County Council to review the County's draft 2009 budget.

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #17 That the meeting enter an in camera session to discuss a legal issue.

CARRIED

Meeting returned to order.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #18 That the meeting due hereby adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK