

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
PUBLIC WORKS & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

St. Clair Civic Centre
Sombra Room
November 9, 2005
1:00 p.m.

The meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Wednesday, November 9, 2005 with the following people present:

Members present:

S. Miller,	Chairperson, Public Works and Operations
S. Warner,	Chairperson, Finance & Administration
J. Dedecker,	Mayor
S. Arnold,	Deputy Mayor
D. Randell,	Councillor
P. Alexander,	“
P. Gilliland	“

Staff	J. Rodey,	CAO
	J. DeMars,	Director of Administration/Clerk
	R. Kerr,	Director of Public Works
	C. Quenneville,	Director of Finance/Treasurer

PUBLIC WORKS AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

AGENDA:

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

2. DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

- Monthly Report dated November 3, 2005
- 2006 Water and Wastewater Budgets

3. COORDINATOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT:

- Monthly Report dated November 2, 2005
- Winter Maintenance Staffing
- Black Creek Cemetery

4. COORDINATOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES:

- Monthly Report dated November 2, 2005
- St. Clair Parkway Sanitary Sewer – COMRIF Application
- St. Clair Parkway Sanitary Sewer/Water – Easement Acquisition & Expropriation

5. DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Monthly Report dated November 2, 2005

6. CLERK'S REPORT:

7. CAO'S REPORT:

8. NEW BUSINESS:

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and asked members to declare any conflict of interest at the appropriate time.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #1 That it be recommended to Council that the monthly report of the Director of Public Works be accepted.

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed Mr. Kerr's report on the 2006 water and wastewater budgets. In his report Mr. Kerr is recommending that the 2006 usage rates remain the same as those established for 2005. The Committee also discussed with Mr. Kerr the concept of a dedicated Water/Wastewater Coordinator that will be the subject of discussion in a future report.

Moved by S. Warner

Seconded by S. Arnold

Motion #2 That it be recommended to Council that Mr. Kerr's report on the 2006 water and wastewater budgets be accepted and that the draft 2006 water and wastewater budgets dated November 9, 2005 be adopted as presented and that the rates approved February 7, 2005 be continued without change for 2006.

CARRIED

COORDINATOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT:

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #3 That it be recommended to Council that the monthly report of the Coordinator of Operations dated November 2, 2005 be received and accepted.

CARRIED

The Committee discussed the portion of Mr. Selman's report regarding centreline painting. The County of Lambton is no longer able to continue and complete this project in 2005, and the option would be to delay completion until 2006 or hire an outside contractor at a slightly higher cost, estimated to be about \$1700.00.

Moved by J. Dedecker

Seconded by S. Arnold

Motion #4 That it be recommended to Council that the centerline painting project authorized earlier by Council be carried out to completion in 2005.

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed Mr. Selman's report dated November 2, 2005 regarding Winter Maintenance Staffing. The report highlighted provincial legislation and regulation that establishes a maximum number of hours per duty shift.

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #5 That it be recommended to Council that Public Works hire up to four part-time contract employees to be available as needed between December 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006. These employees would be issued pagers and required to respond when paged or forfeit the minimum weekly, and further that remuneration for the part-time contract employees to be a minimum of \$200.00 or actual hours worked per week. The hourly rate for this position is to be set at \$13.50 per hour.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Warner

Seconded by P. Alexander

Motion #6 That it be recommended to Council that the Coordinator of Operations report on the Black Creek Cemetery be received and accepted.

CARRIED

COORDINATOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT:

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by S. Warner

Motion #7 That it be recommended to Council that the monthly report of the Coordinator of Engineering Services dated November 2, 2005 be received and accepted.

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed Mr. Burnham's report on the status of the St. Clair Parkway Sanitary Sewer COMRIF Application. It was pointed out in the report that the number of residences sampled was less than that anticipated, and possibly less than the standard required for a successful COMRIF Application. Deputy Mayor Arnold expressed his disappointment in the sampling program.

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #8 That it be recommended to Council that the Coordinator of Engineering Services report on the St. Clair Parkway Sanitary Sewer COMRIF Application be received and accepted.

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed Mr. Burnham's report on the status of the St. Clair Parkway Sanitary Sewer/Water Easement Acquisition and Expropriation. It was pointed out that the final property owner has agreed to the Easement Agreement, but that agreements remain unsigned by several owners who have recently accepted the Easement Agreement. The required License Agreement with CSX Transportation is still being reviewed by CSX Canadian Properties Group.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

Motion #9 That it be recommended to Council that the Coordinator of Engineering Services report on the St. Clair Parkway Sanitary Sewer/Water Easement Acquisition and Expropriation be received and accepted.

CARRIED

DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by P. Alexander

Motion #10 That it be recommended to Council that the report of the Drainage Superintendent dated November 2, 2005 and the recommendations contained therein be received and accepted.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

Councillor Warner questioned her fellow Committee members as to apparent rumors as to the municipally sponsored relocation of the Corunna Gymnastics Club.

Councillor Gilliland questioned the status of the Moore Line Bridge drainage issue and his concern was responded to by Mr. Kerr. Councillor Alexander stated that Mr. Miller would like a letter of explanation from the Township as to its intention on this drainage issue.

Mr. Kerr asked for Council's direction as to the removal or repair and replacement of sidewalks in various locations that was subject to an earlier report to this Committee. The direction received to Mr. Kerr was that the issues of sidewalk removal or repair/replacement should be addressed in the 2006 budget.

Moved by J. Dedecker

Seconded by P. Alexander

Motion #11 That the meeting do hereby adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

S. Miller,
Chairperson

J. DeMars
Secretary

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

AGENDA:

4:00 p.m. - Frank Gare, Chair
Lambton Group Police Service
Corunna Community Policing

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

2. GENERAL ACCOUNTS: Month of October, 2005

3. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION: months ended October 31, 2005

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

A-1 – OMERS Bill 206

A-2 – Ombudsman Announces MPAC Investigation

A-3 – Web site statistics

A-4 – St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Payment Explanation – August 2005

A-5 – McGuinty Government Delivers Second Speech from the Throne

A-6 – OSIFA Loans – OSIFA announces progress on current “call for applications”

A-7 – MPAC Open House on November 2, 2005

A-8 – Provincial Assessment Summary for 2006 Taxation Year

A-9 – Update to the 2005 Capital Budget projected till December 31, 2005

A-10 – Strategic Planning for the 2006 to 2009 Budget Years

5. BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

B-1 - Building Permit Reports Ending October 2005

6. CLERK'S REPORTS:

7. C.A.O.'S REPORTS:

8. OPP – Community Policing – Sgt. Paul Futers:

L.G.P.S.B. – minutes & reports – September 21, 2005

E-1 – Accident Statistics

E-2 Community Policing Issues

9. DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

F-1 – 2005 Fire & Emergency Statutes

F-2 – Brigden Firefighters Assoc. – Passenger Van

F-3 – Corunna Volunteer Firefighters – grant request

10. NEW BUSINESS:

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Warner called to order the meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee at 2:35 p.m. and asked members to declare any conflict of interest at the appropriate time.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared.

GENERAL ACCOUNTS: Month of November 2005

The Committee proceeded to review the list of monthly accounts and Treasurer Quenneville responded to several questions posed.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #12 That this Committee recommend to Council that General Accounts for the new accounting system starting with supplier number 228001 to XER003, totaling \$1,760,130.32 be approved for the month of October 2005.

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed the report on the Statement of Financial Position for the municipality for the period ending October 31, 2005.

Moved by J. Dedecker

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #13 That it be recommended to Council that the Statement of Financial Position for the Municipality for the period ending October 31, 2005 be received and accepted.

CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Committee reviewed Mr. Lozon's report on OMERS Bill 206 regarding a suggested enhancement to the OMERS Pension Plan Program.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #14 That it be recommended to Council that the following draft resolution regarding OMERS Bill 206 be passed.

CARRIED

Resolution:

WHEREAS the provincial Standing Committee on General Government is currently debating Bill 206, *An Act to revise the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act*; and

WHEREAS the OMERS pension fund is currently equal to approximately 8% of Ontario's annual GDP; and

WHEREAS the OMERS pension fund serves approximately 900 employers and 355,000 diverse employee groups including: current and former employees of municipal governments; school boards; libraries; police and fire departments; children's aid societies; and, electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS Ontario's municipalities and their employees depend on the prudent management of the \$36 Billion plan and to ensure that employees and employers are paying for benefits they can afford; and

WHEREAS OMERS employer and employee members are facing an increase in OMERS contributions in 2006 of approximately 9% as a result of a significant deficit in the OMERS fund; and

WHEREAS the Bill includes significant, potentially costly and unnecessary changes to the governance structure of OMERS including a Sponsors Corporation structured to be governed by arbitration; and

WHEREAS the Bill would permit the creation of expensive supplementary plans to provide optional enhanced benefits that will impose new collective bargaining obligations on municipalities, the operating costs of which cannot yet be fully assessed; and

WHEREAS the Province has a responsibility to study the potential impact of the changes it is proposing and to share the results with employers and employee groups; and

WHEREAS AMO and others have urged the government to consider the potential implications of Bill 206 and to ensure the proposed policy changes protect the interests of employers, employees and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS the Government is moving in haste with a Bill, which in its current form raises significant technical, public policy and economic issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Township of St. Clair does not support Bill 206 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with Bill 206 in its current form; and

FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT Caroline Di Cocco, MPP, the Honourable John Garretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario be advised that this Council does not support proposed changes to the OMERS pension fund contained in Bill 206.

The Committee reviewed Mr. Lozon's report on a proposed investigation of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #15 That it be recommended to Council that the report entitled Ombudsman Announces MPAC Investigation be received and accepted.

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed Mr. Lozon's report on the development of a St. Clair Township Web site. The general consensus of the Committee was that the web site should be enhanced and expanded and used as an information vehicle to Township ratepayers, but that caution should be expressed that if the project becomes too cumbersome and time consuming for current staff outside assistance should be considered.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #16 That it be recommended to Council that the Deputy Treasurer's report entitled "Web site statistics" be received and accepted.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Alexander

Motion #17 That it be recommended to Council that the report of the Deputy Treasurer regarding the explanation of an August 2005 payment to the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority be received and accepted.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #18 That it be recommended to Council that the Treasurer's report on the Provincial Throne be received and accepted as information.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #19 That it be recommended to Council that the Treasurer's report on the Provincial OSIFA Loan Program be received and accepted.

CARRIED

In discussion of this loan program Councillor Gilliland questioned if the St. Clair River Trail should be completed, financed from this loan program to be repaid over a longer term of perhaps ten years. The Treasurer pointed out that traditionally municipal contributions towards the Trail come from the Environmental and Education Reserve Funding and that debenturing the completion of the Trail would involve current year budget implications financed from tax revenue.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #20 That it be recommended to Council that the Treasurer's report on the recent MPAC open house held November 2, 2005 be received and accepted.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #21 That it be recommended to Council that Treasurer's report on the MPAC Provincial Assessment Summary for the 2006 Taxation Year report be received and accepted.

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed Mr. Quenneville's report on the update to the 2005 capital budget projected to December 31, 2005. In his report Mr. Quenneville is projecting a potential capital budget surplus of \$126,000.00 due mainly to the Moore Line resurfacing project that was completed at less than the budget estimate.

Moved by J. Dedecker

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #22 That it be recommended to Council that the report entitled Update to the 2005 Capital Budget projected till December 31, 2005 be received and accepted and that the \$20,000. from the Ontario Service Grant allocated towards enhanced training be transferred to fire reserve for 2006.

CARRIED

The Committee reviewed in detail Mr. Quenneville's report identified as A-10 on Strategic Planning for the 2006 to 2009 budget years. After considerable discussion, it was;

Moved by J. Dedecker

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #23 That it be recommended to Council that the Treasurer's report on Strategic Planning for the 2006 to 2009 budget years be tabled for further discussion by Council at its November 21st meeting.

CARRIED

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

Moved by J. Dedecker

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #24 That it be recommended to Council that the monthly report of the Building Inspector showing monthly and year to date building statistics be received and accepted.

CARRIED

OPP COMMUNITY POLICING:

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #25 That it be recommended to Council that the minutes of the September 21, 2005 meeting of the Lambton Group Police Services Boards and the attached reports be accepted and received.

CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

Council reviewed the report prepared by Fire Chief Dewhirst on the year to date Emergency Services Response Statistics. Chief Dewhirst pointed out that the calls responded to, so far to the end of October 2005, were 142, down from a similar period last year, and that medical assistance calls to the end of the same period were 31. It was pointed out that earlier concerns

that the tiered response protocol would increase medical assistance responses has not occurred. The Committee reviewed the request from the Brigden Fire Fighters Association for forgiveness of the annual \$5,000. payment for the van purchased by the Fire Fighters Association. Fire Chief Dewhirst explained to the Committee that a similar request in the amount of \$7,500. has been received from the Corunna Fire Fighters Association, and he stated, in his opinion, these requests were in reaction to funds committed by the Township to the auto extrication competition team from the Wilkesport Station.

Moved by J. Dedecker

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #26 That it be recommended to Council that the request of the Brigden Fire Fighters Association for forgiveness of the \$5,000. loan repayment for the year 2005 be approved.

DEFEATED

The Committee reviewed the request received on behalf of the Corunna Station for the purchase of approximately \$2,500. in multi-media and other equipment to be used in training. Chief Dewhirst stated in his opinion such equipment would enhance training capabilities, but could be shared amongst the six Fire Halls.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Alexander

Motion #27 That it be recommended to Council that the Fire Chief be authorized to purchase two sets of computers, multi-media projectors and audio speakers at an estimated cost of \$2,500. per set, to be financed from the Fire Marshall's Training reserve fund.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #28 That it be recommended to Council that the Fire Chief's report on the Emergency Services Responses for the period ending October 2005 be received and accepted.

CARRIED

The Committee was joined by Community Policing Sgt. Paul Futers, invited by the Committee to discuss issues of mutual concern, such as, OPP activity in St. Clair Township. Sgt. Futers stated that the OPP continue to be busy in St. Clair Township and in Corunna specifically, with October calls for service increased to 127 from 90 calls for a similar period a year ago. Property crime is also on the rise particularly in the Corunna area and it is suspected that the persons committing such property crimes are from outside of the area. It was also pointed out that incident reports in the future will be E-mailed to the CAO.

The Committee discussed briefly with Sgt. Futers motor vehicle accidents in St. Clair Township and Corunna in particular, and that the most current stats could be found in a similar report filed with the municipality approximately one year ago. The Committee discussed specifically a potentially dangerous intersection at Colborne Street and Hill Street and suggested hedge trimming in the area to improve vehicular visibility as well as consideration for stop line painting and the relocation of the stop sign. It was pointed out that the stop sign at this location is the responsibility of Lambton County and the Committee directed Mr. Kerr to contact County Public Works in this regard.

Also in response to the Committee's questions Sgt. Futers stated that the 2005 community festival season was relatively incident free with the exception of the unfortunate accident following the Corunna Fire Fighters Field Day. It was also pointed out that Port Lambton Gala Days was relatively incident free again this year due in great part to the efforts by the local volunteers, however, Sgt. Futers stated that if this same caliber of volunteer is not available to continue in the future consideration should be made to the requirement of paid duty officers for this community event.

At the appointed time the Committee welcomed Mr. Frank Gare, Chairman of the Lambton Group Police Services Board and members Cam Ivey and Liz Walsh present to discuss with the Committee the Corunna Community Policing facility. Mr. Gare pointed out that the current facility does not meet OPP adequacy standards and the current landlord has offered to relocate the facility to other space in the existing building. The upgrade in space would see the Community Policing Office increase from 1700 sq. ft. to 4800 sq. ft. and a proposal has been received to develop the space with or without holding cells. It was pointed out that

earlier this year St. Clair Township asked the Police Service Board to consider the establishment of holding cells in Corunna to minimize the opportunity for prisoner transport to the Petrolia Detachment that requires taking an officer out of front line duty perhaps for several hours at a time. It was pointed out that with the increased rental cost for the enlarged buildings and proposed lease hold improvements. The rental cost of the Corunna Community Policing facility currently being paid for by the Lambton Group Police Services Board would increase dramatically. Mr. Gare on behalf of the Board is asking St. Clair Township consideration for participating in the Corunna Community Policing Office issue, by perhaps offering a municipal facility for rent, or perhaps making a contribution to the holding cell costs for such facilities as requested by the municipality.

Mr. Ivey stated that the proposal submitted to the Board on behalf of the landlord should be responded to and he is respectively requesting St. Clair Township to consider its ability to assist with a response to the Board in approximately one month. At the conclusion of the discussion the Committee requested the CAO investigate other options and alternatives available with associated cost estimates for report to Committee or Council in a one month period. At the conclusion of the discussion the Committee thanked Mr. Gare and members of the Police Services Board for their attendance and explanation on its facility needs. Hearing no further business, it was;

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #29 That this meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee do hereby adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

S. Warner,
Chairperson

J. DeMars
Secretary