

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

St. Clair Civic Centre  
Council Chambers  
Monday, November 21, 2005  
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	Deputy Mayor
	P. Alexander,	Councillor
	S. Miller,	“
	S. Warner,	“
	P. Gilliland,	“
	D. Randell,	“
Staff:	J. Rodey,	CAO
	J. DeMars,	Director of Administration/Clerk/ Deputy CAO
Absent:	J. Dedecker,	Mayor

**AGENDA:**

**6:30 p.m.** – Strategic Planning for the 2006 to 2009 Budget Years – Referred from Committee of the Whole meeting – November 9, 2005.

**Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

**Adopt Minutes:**

Council Meeting of November 7, 2005  
Public Works & Operations Comm. of November 9, 2005  
Finance & Administration Comm. of November 9, 2005  
Moore Museum Advisory Committee of November 2, 2005

**Business Arising from the Minutes:**

**DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

7:05 p.m. – Sarnia Lambton Taskforce on Health Worker Recruitment  
- Ken James, Pat McCarthy and Lynn Laidler

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a) Meadowview Villa – donation
- b) Corunna Garden Centre – Site Plan extension

**INFORMATION:**

- 1) County of Lambton – Planning – Brownfields
- 2) Clean Harbors – November 23, 2005, exercise
- 3) County of Lambton – Library
- 4) Bialek & Kirkman family – Thank you
- 5) I. Biscaro – Thank you
- 6) O.M.B. – appeal – Greenfield Energy
- 7) O.M.B. – appeal – Greenfield Energy
- 8) O.M.B. – appeal – Greenfield Energy
- 9) St. Clair River Trail – October 26, 2005 minutes

**DRAINS:**

By-law 34 of 2005 – Hubbard Drain - Amending

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:**

Committee of Adjustment-Applications B 37-41/05

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Federal Gas Tax Revenues for Municipalities
- Sale of 380 Beresford Street Property

**COORDINATOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT:**

- Bickford Line Bridge at Bear Creek
- St. Clair Parkway Sewer – easements

**CLERK'S REPORT:**

**CAO'S REPORT:**

**MOTIONS:**

**BY-LAWS:**

- By-law 96 of 2005 Enbridge Energy Dist. for transmission of gas along certain roads in St. Clair Township
- By-law 97 of 2005 – Municipal Funding Agreement for the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues

**COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Christmas recognition

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- Committee of Adjustment – November 28, 2005 – 7:30 p.m.
- Regular Meeting of Council – December 5, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.
- Budget Meeting – December 14, 2005 – 10:00 a.m.
- Committee of the Whole (F&A and PWO) – December 14, 2005 – 2:00 p.m.
- Regular Meeting of Council – December 19, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.

**IN CAMERA:**

- Property issues (2)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

In the Mayor's absence Deputy Mayor Arnold called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked members of Council to declare any possible conflicts of interest at the appropriate time.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

Deputy Mayor Arnold declared a conflict of interest on the issue of the sale of municipal property known as 380 Beresford Street and vacated the chambers.

Council proceeded to discuss with Treasurer Charles Quenneville his report entitled Strategic Planning for the 2006 to 2009 Budget Years – Referred to Council by the Finance and Administration Committee at its last meeting. In his report Mr. Quenneville highlighted to Council the financial impact of several major budget items such as the loss of revenues from the conversion from the Community Reinvestment Fund to the new Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund which will have a negative impact through the loss of revenue from the year 2006 to 2009 of \$1,049,000.00. Mr. Quenneville also cited increased OPP costs over the current contract term and the loss of revenues with the proposed closure at the end of 2006 of the Lambton Generating Station.

Council discussed the concept of establishing reserves now, to help level out and mitigate sharp property tax increases particularly projected in the year 2008. Also in his report Mr. Quenneville suggested Council consideration of a strategic planning process to examine the Township's core services and as a planning tool for use by Council and staff.

Deputy Mayor Arnold requested the Treasurer prepare a similar report with historical data for the first five years of St. Clair Township to be used as a comparator for the projections provided by Mr. Quenneville for the next four years. This report is to be available for the next meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee. After considerable discussion no decision was made on the suggestion to initiate a strategic planning process with the issue to be further discussed possibly during budget deliberations.

Council proceeded to review the minutes as listed on the agenda. In review of the November 2, 2005 Moore Museum Advisory Committee minutes, Deputy Mayor Arnold requested through Councillor Warner a financial statement regarding the cost and revenues from the recent Murdock Concert sponsored in part by St. Clair Township.

In review of the Public Works and Operations Committee minutes, Councillor Gilliland requested that a note be placed in the minutes that in response to his questions, Mr. Kerr advised that the drainage at the Moore Line Bridge was proposed to be improved by way of lowering the catchbasin in the drainage ditch on the north side of the road.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Alexander

**Motion #1** That staff be instructed to contact Mr. Steve Miller to advise him of the Township's plans relative to the drainage issue at the Moore Line Bridge reconstruction site.

**CARRIED**

**MINUTES:**

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Alexander

**Motion #2** That the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as printed and circulated:

Council Meeting of November 7, 2005

Moore Museum Advisory Committee of November 2, 2005

**CARRIED**

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

**Motion #3:** That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole (Combined meeting of Finance & Administration and Public Works & Operations) meeting of November 9, 2005 be adopted as printed and circulated.

**CARRIED**

**DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

At the appointed time Deputy Mayor Arnold welcomed on behalf of Council, Mr. Ken James, Lynn Laidler and Mr. Pat McCarthy representing the Sarnia Lambton Taskforce on Health Worker Recruitment.

Mr. James provided Council information on the past success of the Taskforce that has attracted seven physicians since 2004 and four strong prospects have been identified for recruitment in 2006. Mr. James stated that there is a current need for over twenty family physicians in the immediate area and that Sarnia Lambton has been identified as one of one hundred and thirty-nine under serviced areas, which require a total of seven hundred and eighty-nine family physicians.

Mr. James explained budgetary items related to the taskforce and stated that the current budget is approximately \$200,000.00 a year financed in part from donations from the City of Sarnia, Village of Point Edward, Town of Plympton-Wyoming and the Township of St. Clair as well as major area industries. The taskforce is requesting a St. Clair Township contribution for the year 2006 of \$15,000.00. In response to Council's questions Mr. James stated that the taskforce is very mindful of the needs for medical worker recruitment for St. Clair Township and that the taskforce would work diligently to satisfy these needs. At the conclusion of the discussion Mr. James thanked Council for their financial support in the past, and the support given to the taskforce with the appointment of Councillor Alexander to their group and efforts made by Council in support of the local medical community.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

**Motion #4** That the request of the Sarnia Lambton Taskforce on health care worker recruitment for a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the year 2006 be referred to budget deliberations.

**CARRIED**

Mr. Charlie Grant and several of his neighbours were present to discuss with Council their earlier request to improve the road/right-of-way referred to as the Hay Road to allow farm vehicle access. Mr. Grant stated that he and his neighbours were able to harvest this years crops but are afraid that if the road is not improved problems will arise next year. Mr. Grant was also of the impression that the adjacent property owner is willing to provide property to the municipality at no cost to allow the road in question to be widened. Council was reminded that it had directed staff to conduct an on side meeting with the adjacent property owner as well as the owners needing access by way of the road to discuss upgrading options.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #5** That the appropriate staff be instructed to conduct an on site meeting with the interested parties relative to options to upgrade the access referred to as the Hay Road, with a report on the issue for the December meeting of the Public Works and Operations Committee.

**CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Moved by S. Warner

Seconded by P. Alexander

**Motion #6** That a fifty dollar donation be made to the Meadowview Villa Social Committee to sponsor a 2006 card party.

**CARRIED**

Moved by S. Warner

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #7** That a one year extension be granted to the Corunna Garden Centre to December 31, 2006 to complete driveway and parking lot paving as a condition of the existing site plan agreement.

**CARRIED**

In review of the information correspondence Council was advised that the solicitors for the Greenfield Energy Centre have corresponded with the Ontario Municipal Board and asked that the appeal filed against an earlier Committee of Adjustment decision be deemed to be frivolous.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Alexander

**Motion #8** That the following correspondence be received and dealt with as per Council's instructions as noted:

- a. Meadowview Villa - donation  
**Inst.** See Motion #6
- b. Corunna Garden Centre – Site Plan Extension  
**Inst.** See Motion #7

**CARRIED**

**DRAINS:**

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #9** That Drainage By-law Number 34 of 2005 being a by-law to levy the Hubbard Drain Costs be given the necessary readings, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, Corporate Seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

**CARRIED**

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:**

Council reviewed the applications to the Committee of Adjustment identified as B 37 to B 41/05 and A 30 and A 31/05 offered no comments.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Council reviewed the Treasurer's report on the Federal Gas Tax Revenue as well as a report on the proposed sale of property known as 380 Beresford Street.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

**Motion #10** That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement with The Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the Federal Gas Tax Revenues.

**CARRIED**

Prior to the Discussion on Mr. Quenneville's report on the proposed sale of property known as 380 Beresford St., Deputy Mayor Arnold declared a conflict of interest as a bidder on the proposed property sale vacated his chair and the Council Chambers. The Clerk advised that Council would be required to appoint a Chairperson to conduct the meeting in the absence of the Deputy Mayor.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

**Motion #11** That Councillor Steve Miller be appointed as the Chair of Council for the discussion of the proposed sale of property known as 380 Beresford St.

**CARRIED**

Council reviewed the Treasurer's report giving a summary of the bids received and his recommendation to select the bid of Mr. Ken Weed in the amount of \$33,223.50 as the high bidder.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #12** That Council award the sale of the 380 Beresford Street Property to Ken Weed in the amount of \$33,223.50 and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents.

**CARRIED**

The Deputy Mayor returned to the meeting and assumed his role as Chair.

**COORDINATOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES REPORT:**

Council reviewed Mr. Burnham's report on the Bickford Line Bridge repair and the St. Clair Parkway Sanitary Sewer Extension, easements and property acquisitions. Mr.

Burnham's report on the Bickford Line Bridge repair included quotes received for the repair work. Quotes were as follows:

Intrepid General	\$15,400.00 Plus G.S.T.
Facca Incorporated	\$19,000.00 Plus G.S.T.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

**Motion #13** That the quote submitted by Intrepid General Limited in the amount of \$15,400.00 plus G.S.T., for the Expansion Joint Repair – Bickford Line Bridge at Bear Creek be accepted and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign a contract or other related documents.

**CARRIED**

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by S. Miller

**Motion #14** That the Minutes of Settlement, prepared by Patton Cormier & Associates for the Fred & Doris Schulze property be accepted by Council and signed as required.

**CARRIED**

### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Clerk advised Council of the request received from the Corunna Santa Claus Parade organizers as to municipal Councillors participation in the upcoming event. Councillor Miller and Councillor Alexander expressed an interest in participating.

### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:**

The CAO advised that he had property issues he would like discussed in an in camera session.

### **BY-LAWS:**

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

**Motion #15** That By-law Number 96 of 2005, being a by-law to authorize Enbridge Energy Distribution Inc. to construct, use and operate works required for the transmission of gas along certain roads in the Township, be given the necessary readings, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporate seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

**CARRIED**

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #16** That By-law Number 97 of 2005, being a by-law to authorize execution of this Municipal Funding Agreement for the Transfer of Federal Gas Tax Revenues under the New Deal for Cities and Communities between the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Township of St. Clair, be given the necessary readings, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporate seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

**CARRIED**

### **COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**

#### **Darrell Randell**

Councillor Randell advised of his attendance at a recent Clean Harbors Community Liaison Committee at which time the condition of the Brigden Road near the intersection of Plank Road was brought to his attention.

Also Councillor Randell advised that Sharon Mooser questioned the status of her earlier request to Council for drainage improvements in Corunna. Staff was asked to respond to Mrs. Mooser's request and advise of any remedial action proposed.

Also Councillor Randell pointed out an error in the recently circulated Moore Complex News Letter with an incorrect listing for the contact person of the Wilkesport Community Centre. It was suggested before the next issue of the newsletter is issued staff be requested to confirm the contact persons for the various Community Groups.

**Pete Gilliland**

Councillor Gilliland questioned the status of the requested staff report on communication vehicles and options that may be available to Council.

The Township's developing web site was discussed as such a communication tool for public information.

The CAO advised that he is working on the report requested by Council and referred to by Councillor Gilliland and it would be forthcoming.

**Pat Alexander**

Councillor Alexander advised of the Brigden Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony to be held this coming weekend.

Councillor Alexander also reminded Council of an earlier request to investigate the condition of the sidewalk on the St. Clair Parkway between the Shell property and LaSalle Line. It was pointed out that the priority of this sidewalk would not probably rank its repair or replacement high enough to qualify as a 2006 project.

Councillor Alexander also brought to Council and staff's attention the need for road shoulder gravelling near the intersection of Boswell and First Street in Brigden.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #17** That staff be instructed to carry out a road shoulder gravel repair at the intersection of Boswell and First Street in Brigden.

**CARRIED**

Council again discussed the developing St. Clair Township web site and felt its development and improvements should be a priority in 2006 and if necessary due to limited in house resources consideration should be made to have the site done through the use of a consultant.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by S. Warner

**Motion #18** That Treasury staff report to Council or Committee on the status of the St. Clair Township web site, ways to improve the site, time lines required and further development costs.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Alexander also requested a report from the property standards issue relative to the Courtright Line property standards complaint.

**Steve Arnold**

Deputy Mayor Arnold advised he attended the recent Southwest Regional Conference co-sponsored by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and AMO at which time Mayor Dedecker was awarded the Long Service Award by the Province. It was suggested that an appropriate recognition of the Mayor's achievement be held at the December 14<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by S. Warner

**Motion #19** That staff be instructed to proceed on the same basis as last year with the Christmas recognition to staff and Council.

**CARRIED**

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

**Motion #20** That the Special Finance and Administration Committee called for December 14<sup>th</sup> to consider the draft 2006 capital budget commence at 9:00 a.m.

**CARRIED**

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

**Motion #21** That the meeting enter an in camera session to discuss property issues with the Deputy Mayor as Chair.

**CARRIED**

Meeting returned to order.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #22** That the CAO be instructed to proceed with the land sale negotiations for a parcel of property in the St. Clair Industrial Park.

**CARRIED**

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #23** That the County of Lambton be advised that St. Clair Township is formally requesting the County to re-establish itself as the lead negotiator with the Ministry of Tourism with the request that St. Clair Township to be included in the communications loop.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

**Motion #24** That the meeting adjourn.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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MAYOR

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CLERK