

**ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP
COUNCIL MINUTES
SESSION #10**

St. Clair Civic Centre
Council Chambers
Monday, May 1, 2006
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:

	J. Dedecker,	Mayor
	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
	R. Kerr,	Director of Public Works

AGENDA:

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Adopt Minutes:

Council Meeting of April 17, 2006
Moore Museum Advisory Committee of April 5, 2006

Business Arising from the Minutes:

DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

8:00 p.m. Public Hearing – 2006 changes and fees

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Optimist Club of Moore – appointments
- b) S. Loosemore – Property Standards
- c) Sarnia Lambton Plebiscite – request
- d) Vince Gagner – Property Standards
- e) Lambton Federation of Agriculture – grant request
- f) Dave Cram – St. Clair River Trail tenders
- g) County of Lambton - AMO

INFORMATION:

- 1) Ministry of Natural Resources – rabies
- 2) A.M.O. – Alert – Child Care
- 3) A.M.O. – Alert – COMRIF Intake Two
- 4) MPAC – Ombudsman report
- 5) County of Lambton – News release
- 6) M.O.E. – Clean Harbors
- 7) VON – donation request
- 8) OMB - Invenergy
- 9) County of Lambton – “Smoke-free Ontario”
- 10) Lambton Farm Safety Association – April 24 minutes

DRAINS:

By-law 8 of 2006 – to levy various drains
By-law 9 of 2006 – Babcock Drain
By-law 10 of 2006 – DeMars Drain
By-law 11 of 2006 – O’Mara Drain

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT:

- Truck tender results

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

- Grass tenders

COORDINATOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES:

Moore Line Drainage – J. Cunningham
St. Clair River Trail – 2006 phase

CLERK'S REPORT:

- Summer Meeting Schedule

CAO’S REPORT:

- Corunna Banner replacement

MOTIONS:

BY-LAWS:

By-law 23 of 2006 – Deeming Lot 1, Plan 719 (Nash Landing Extension)
By-law 24 of 2006 – Transfer agreement – St. Clair Parkway assets

COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- New Moore Gymnastic Club - request

NEW BUSINESS:

- May 3 – St. Clair River Trail – May 3 agenda

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Committee of the Whole – F&A and PW&O. – Wednesday, May 10, 2006 – **1:30 p.m**

NOTE: Presentation by Corunna Legion re: Civic Square – 1:30 p.m.

Regular Council – Monday, May 15, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Dedecker 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:

Councillor Alexander declared a conflict of interest relative to the consideration of By-law 8 of 2006 since she is a relative to a ratepayer on one of the drains identified in the by-law.

MINUTES:

Council proceeded to review the minutes as listed on the agenda. Councillor Gilliland pointed out that on Page 8 of the minutes the Corunna United Church was incorrectly identified as the Courtright United Church.

Moved by S. Warner

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #1 That the minutes of the following meetings be adopted as printed and circulated:

Council Meeting of April 17, 2006, Session #9 as amended
Moore Museum Advisory Committee minutes of April 5, 2006

CARRIED

In review of the minutes of the Moore Museum Advisory Committee, Council instructed staff to contact the local OPP regarding the issue of vandalism at the Moore Museum site.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by S. Warner

Motion #2 That Council accept the following appointments to the Courtright Community Centre Hall Board:

Ken Abrams, Chair
Gord Dawson
Steve Inglis
Don Smith
Ed Litton
Jack (John) Mullen
Steve Mullen

CARRIED

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #3 That the property standards complaint filed relative to property known as 204 Paget St., Corunna be referred to the Property Standards Officer for investigation and report.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #4 That permission be granted to the Sarnia Lambton Plebiscite project to conduct a Plebiscite Poll at the Moore Sports Complex on Saturday, May 13, 2006 with the rental fee waived.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #5 That the Property Standards complaint filed relative to vacant property south of Murray Drive be referred to the Property Standards Officer for investigation and report.

CARRIED

Council reviewed the letter received from the Lambton Federation of Agriculture requesting a grant from the Township to help sponsor the production of a map identifying farm gate businesses in Lambton County.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Arnold

Motion #6 That a donation in the amount of \$250.00 be provided to the Lambton Federation of Agriculture to assist in the production of a farm gate business map for businesses in Lambton County to be financed from the St. Clair Education and Environmental Reserve Fund subject to a letter of further clarification from the Federation of Agriculture on this project.

CARRIED

Council reviewed the letter received from Mr. Dave Cram regarding tenders that recently closed for the construction of a portion of the St. Clair River Trail from Riverview School to Holt Line. Council referenced the Coordinator of Engineering Services Report on the

agenda for later in the meeting advising that the Engineering staff have approved the final design. Tenders were as follows:

Slim's Bulldozing	\$72,397.41
Sarnia Paving Stone	\$101,966.18
Cope Construction Sarnia	\$111,925.21

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #7 That Council accept the bid from Slim's Bulldozing in the amount of \$72,397.41 for the construction of a portion of the St. Clair River Trail from Riverview School north to the Holt Line.

CARRIED

In response to the County of Lambton communication regarding AMO transportation, staff was instructed to contact the County and advise that at least 7 delegates from St. Clair Township would be interested in the transportation offer made by the County of Lambton.

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. Optimist Club of Moore - Appointments
Inst. See Motion #2
- b. S. Loosemore – Property Standards
Inst. See Motion #3
- c. Sarnia Lambton Plebiscite - request
Inst. See Motion #4
- d. Vince Gagner – Property Standards
Inst. See Motion #5
- e. Lambton Federation of Agriculture – grant request
Inst. See Motion #6
- f. Dave Cram – St. Clair River Trail tenders
Inst. See Motion #7
- g. County of Lambton – AMO
Inst. instructions to staff

CARRIED

DRAINS:

Council proceeded to review By-law 8 of 2006. Councillor Alexander declared a conflict of interest and left her chair during the discussion on By-law 8 since her father is a ratepayer on one of the drains identified.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

Motion #9 That Drainage By-law #8 of 2006, being a by-law to raise the sum of \$14,780.73 being money expended out of the General Funds of the Township of St. Clair for the maintenance to various drains in the Township 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. Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #10 That Drainage By-law #9 of 2006, being a by-law to raise the sum of \$784.45 being money expended out of the General Funds of the Township of St. Clair for maintenance repairs on the Babcock 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 D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

Motion #11 That Drainage By-law #10 of 2006, being a by-law to raise the sum of \$829.50 being money expended out of the General Funds of the Township of St. Clair for maintenance repairs on the De Mars 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. Gilliland

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #12 That Drainage By-law #11 of 2006, being a by-law to raise the sum of \$829.50 being money expended out of the General Funds of the Township of St. Clair for maintenance repairs on the O'Mara Drain be given the necessary readings and signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and the Corporate Seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

CARRIED

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Council reviewed Chief Dewhirst's report regarding the tender results for the purchase of a new Fire Services pickup truck. The tenders were as follows:

Mid County Ford	\$34,115.00
MacFarlane Chevrolet	\$36,894.00
Wallis Motors	\$38,245.00
Lambton Motors	\$34,453.45
Ron Clark Motors	\$35,259.00

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #13 That Council Approve the tender for the purchase of a 2006 4 X 4 pickup truck from Mid County Ford at the tendered price of \$34,115.00.

CARRIED

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Mr. Hackett reviewed in his report the tenders received by the St. Clair Parks Commission for the grass cutting of former parks assets owned by the St. Clair Parks Commission. The report identified that the two lowest bidders have chosen not to accept the contract, it was also pointed out that the contract call did not provide for any bid bonds or tender deposits.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #14 That LCM Services be awarded the contract for Parkway Parks grass cutting for 2006 for a cost totaling \$1,550.00 per cut for approximately 20 cuts with an option to renew for a one year period for 2007 as no cost increase.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by P. Alexander

Motion #15 That staff be authorized to proceed with the required main hydro line repair for Cathcart Park at an estimated cost of approximately \$8,000.00.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #16 That staff be authorized to submit a reserve bid for the sale by auction of the 2002 Ranger pickup truck formerly owned by the St. Clair Parks Commission.

CARRIED

COORDINATOR OF ENGINEERING SERVICES:

Council reviewed Mr. Burnham's report regarding the Moore Line/Burton Creek Bridge status update. The report provided to Council information relative to the negotiation of a Mutual Agreement Drain between the municipality, Mr. McBean and Mr. Cunningham.

Moved by P. Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #16 That the construction of a drain on the north side of the Moore Line in the vicinity of the Burton Creek Drain be constructed at the expense of the Township and that negotiations be limited to maintenance portion of the Mutual Agreement Drain only.

CARRIED

Council asked staff to investigate if the drain proposed will solve the drainage issues that have been raised by Mr. McBean.

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #17 That the notice of application for approval to expropriate land as prepared by Patton Cormier and Associates be approved by Council and signed as required.

CARRIED

CLERK'S REPORT:

Council considered the report prepared by the Clerk suggesting a summer meeting schedule. Councillor Alexander advised of a conflict and her inability to attend the meeting of the Committee of the Whole scheduled tentatively for Wednesday, July 12, 2006 and as well Councillor Gilliland and Councillor Miller have a conflict with the July 24th meeting. It was suggested that staff revisit the schedule to consider appropriate amendments.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Moved by S. Warner

Seconded by P. Alexander

Motion #18 That Council approve the request from the Corunna Horticultural Society to replace 40 banners in the former Corunna Business Improvement Area and that the replacement cost approximately \$2,760.00 be financed from the BIA reserve, provided the banners have been approved by the Engineering Department due to stress and wind resistance on the poles.

CARRIED

BY-LAWS:

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Alexander

Motion #19 That By-law Number 23 of 2006 a Deeming By-law to remove from a registered Plan of Subdivision, Lot 1, Plan 719, (Nash Landing Extension) geographic Township of Moore, Township of St. Clair, be given the necessary readings, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporate seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

CARRIED

Moved by S. Warner

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #20 That By-law Number 24 of 2006, being a by-law to authorize execution of an Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen represented by the Ministry of Tourism and the St. Clair Parks Commission, be given the necessary readings, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporate seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council reviewed the request received from Denise Cuthbertson on behalf of the New Moore Gymnastics Club for financial assistance from the municipality to finance personal out-of-pocket expenditures resulting from the closure of the school at its former location in the former Murray Street School facility.

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #21 That the request of Denise Cuthbertson on behalf of the New Moore Gymnastics Club be lifted from the table.

CARRIED

In discussion of the issue Councillor Alexander felt that the more appropriate source for the funding requested would be through a donation from area service clubs. Councillor

Gilliland expressed his disappointment in the landlord of the former facility for not making a stronger effort to accommodate the Gymnastics Club.

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #22 That the request of Denise Cuthbertson on behalf of the New Moore Gymnastics Club for a donation from the municipality in the amount of \$1,524.84 representing closing costs for the New Moore Gymnastics Club be approved and to be financed from the St. Clair Education and Environment Reserve Fund.

CARRIED

DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

After a five minute recess the Mayor called to order the public hearing called to consider proposed increases in fees and rates as prescribed by the Municipal Act. The Mayor then called upon Mr. Ron Kerr, Director of Public Works who provided a summary as to the proposed water and wastewater fee increases. Mr. Kerr pointed out that the original budget for such fees for 2006 did not accommodate the correction of a billing error from the Lambton Area Water Supply System. The cost to the Township for the 2006 portion of the correction of the error is approximately \$270,000.00 which would have to be financially accommodated from the 2006 usage rates. The proposed increase would be approximately 8% from \$0.608/cu.m to \$0.677/cu.m. It was also pointed out that it is proposed to leave the wastewater surcharge at 115% of the water usage rate, which would generate an approximately \$90,000.00 in additional revenue to be assigned for the sanitary sewer system reserve proposed to be expended on major improvements to the Courtright Sanitary sewage Treatment Plant and to the Corunna Sewage Treatment Plant. However it was pointed out that despite the recent tender results for the Courtright Plant Council has not made a decision on the progress of the proposed project.

The Mayor then opened the meeting for discussion from those in attendance.

Gerry Little

Mr. Little questioned the need for the proposed 2006 water rate increase relative to his recollection of a 2005 rate increase considerably higher than the rate of inflation. Mr. Little stated his opinion that such increase rates coupled with increased energy costs and other utility costs put an undue burden on those on fixed incomes, and those he considers to be working poor.

Gary Smith

Mr. Smith expressed his opinion that although he could understand the rationale of the water rate increase he felt using the water rate increase to generate additional sanitary sewer fund reserves was double dipping and was inappropriate.

In response to questions Council advised that the water and waste water systems are self sufficient and are basically considered to be user pay services and that the proposed increased rates are to be effective April 1, 2006.

Dan O'Brien

Mr. O'Brien identified himself as a relatively large water user and felt that the proposed 8% increase is significant.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Clerk advised the meeting that several other rates are proposed to be increased ranging from campground fees, ice rental fees and road encroachment agreement fees.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Mayor declared the public meeting closed.

Moved by S. Arnold

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #23 That the report of the Director of Public Works dated May 1, 2006 relative to water and waste water rate increases be accepted and that the revised water and waste water

rates as detailed in the report of the Director of Public Works dated May 1, 2006 be approved with the rates to be effective April 1, 2006.

CARRIED

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #24 That the following schedule of rates and fees be approved:

CARRIED

1. Road encroachment/crossing agreements
residential/agricultural \$0.00 to \$200.00
Commercial/industrial \$500.00 to \$1,000.00
2. Water service connect/de-connect fee
proposed increase \$25.00 to \$75.00
3. Ice rental rates
 - Aug. 1, 2006
 - a) \$130/hr. prime rate to \$135.00/hr.
 - b) \$100/hr. last minute prime to \$105.00/hr.
 - c) \$75/hr. non-prime to \$ 80.00/hr.
 - d) \$60/hr last minute non-prime to \$ 65.00/hr.
 - Aug. 1, 2007
 - a) \$135/hr. prime rate to \$140.00/hr.
 - b) \$105/hr last minute prime to \$110.00/hr.
 - c) \$80/hr. non-prime to \$85.00/hr.
 - d) \$65/hr. last minute non-prime to \$70.00/hr.
4. Campground \$1,250/yr. seasonal rate with sewers to \$1,325.00/yr.
\$1,100/yr. seasonal rate without sewers to \$1,175.00/yr.

CARRIED

COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Steve Arnold

Deputy Mayor Arnold advised that the security fencing to protect the air conditioning unit at the Courtright Community Centre has been installed. Deputy Mayor Arnold also questioned the Tom Wheeler driveway issue status. Deputy Mayor Arnold also requested staff to investigate the condition of the boat launch ramp adjacent to Cundick Park. Deputy Mayor Arnold also suggested arranging a meeting with Carolyn DiCocco, MPP the newly appointed Minister of Culture to discuss areas of mutual interest such as the status of any outstanding grant applications filed on behalf of the municipality to Ms. DiCocco's Ministry. It was suggested staff prepare a list of any such applications. Deputy Mayor Arnold to contact Ms. DiCocco's office to arrange such a meeting.

Shirley Warner

Councillor Warner advised of attending a recent Terra International Community Liaison meeting at which time Terra announced the success of their safety record program. Also, Terra advised that it will hold a Fortieth Anniversary open house on September 9, 2006 and further details would be forwarded at the appropriate time. Also, Councillor Warner suggested Council give consideration to replacing the St. Clair Parkway logo with the Township logo on former St. Clair Parks Commission vehicles.

Darrell Randell

Councillor Randell advised of his success in the recent St. Clair Region Conservation Authority sponsored canoe race and also advised that he will be attending a meeting at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority relating to the health of the St. Clair River. Councillor Randell requested the status of an earlier request received from the 4-H Club.

Pat Alexander

Councillor Alexander detailed to Council her rationale for her position relative to the Hay Road improvement proposal. Councillor Alexander also suggested staff consideration for the retaining of an additional By-law Enforcement Officer to deal with specific nuisance complaints, such as noise complaints. The consensus of Council was that such a discussion was inappropriate at this time and that staff not be directed to consider the issue at this time.

Pete Gilliland

Councillor Gilliland requested staff to investigate and replace as required the flag at the former St. Clair Parks Commission, Courtright Park. Also, received a request from the St. Clair River Trail Committee to authorize the placement of commemorative bricks at the St. Clair Civic Square in Corunna as a fund raiser.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by S. Arnold

Motion #25 That the St. Clair River Trail Committee be authorized to sell and install commemorative bricks at the St. Clair Civic Square in Corunna as a fundraising promotion for the River Trail Committee.

CARRIED

Councillor Gilliland also requested staff to investigate the status of the earlier Council request for the Lambton County Roads Authority to install a No Parking provision adjacent to the Corunna United Church handicapped access.

Councillor Gilliland also requested that staff be instructed to contact the CSX regarding the road crossings on Beckwith Street and the Bentpath Line.

Steve Miller

Councillor Miller questioned the status of the forwarding of plans for the St. Clair Township Civic Centre to the OPP. Council was advised that these plans have been forwarded to the OPP. Councillor Miller also advised that as promised the Lambton Group Police Services Board have determined its financial ability to pay annual rent for St. Clair Township Community Policing Office of approximately \$30,000. per year.

Joe Dedecker

Mayor Dedecker advised that he attended along with several members of Council the April 30th retirement reception hosted at the Sombra Community Centre for Sombra Museum Curator Glenda Young.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Warner

That the meeting do hereby adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK