

**ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP
COUNCIL MINUTES
SESSION #1**

St. Clair Civic Centre
Council Chambers
January 7, 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:

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Adopt Minutes:

Council Meeting of December 17, 2007

Business Arising from the Minutes:

DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

7:15 pm Christopher Allen – Engineered Systems Wind Power Devices

CORRESPONDENCE:

INFORMATION:

- 1) MOE – Guthrie Park Shoreline project
- 2) Dennis Trinaistich – OMB appeal
- 3) St. Clair Region Conservation Authority – staff report
- 4) Paul & Jan Smith – Shell project
- 5) St. Clair River Trail – November 28th meeting
- 6) Chad Anderson – wastewater treatment
- 7) Ministry of Finance – OMPF
- 8) OCWA – water flows
- 9) Arch Rankin – Bickford Line
- 10) St. Clair Conservation Authority – December 13, 2007 minutes

DRAINS:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

PROPERTY STANDARDS OFFICER REPORT:

– Petrolia Line

CLERK'S REPORT:

CAO'S REPORT:

MOTIONS:

BY-LAWS:

By-law #1 of 2008 – Borrowing By-law
By-law #2 of 2008 – Appointment

COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

IN-CAMERA:

Personnel

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.

MINUTES:

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

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #1 That the minutes of the Council meeting of December 12, 2007 – Session #23 be adopted as printed and circulated:

CARRIED

In discussion of business arising out of the minutes, Mayor Arnold clarified that his statement at the last meeting of Council relative to water flows and revenue generation was specifically for the bulk water station, located at the Moore Line Works yard. Mayor Arnold also suggested that staff be asked to consider improved lighting for the loading station.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council proceeded to review the communications as listed on the agenda. Council noted the correspondence received from the Ministry of the Environment relative to the Guthrie Park Shoreline Project and the verbal report from the Mayor that the Conservation Authority is progressing with the project in accordance with the Ministry of the Environment guidelines. Also Council asked staff to investigate with the appropriate St. Clair Regional Conservation Authority staff estimated costs to develop and service campground sites. Council suggested that a proposal submitted by Mr. Paul Smith relative to the proposed Shell project be circulated to Council members and that the correspondence received from Mr. Chad Anderson, be referred to the appropriate staff for review.

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #2 That the letter of request received from Mr. Arch Rankin for consideration for paving of the Bickford Line Road from Highway 40 to the Kimball be referred to the appropriate staff for review and possible capital budget priority ranking.

CARRIED

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

PROPERTY STANDARDS OFFICER REPORT:

Council reviewed the Property Standards Officer's report relative to the property on Petrolia Line.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #3 That the Property Standards Officer's report dated January 4, 2008 relative to a Petrolia Line property be accepted and received for information.

CARRIED

CLERK'S REPORT:

The Clerk advised Council verbally of the circulation of copies of By-law #72 of 2007 and #78 of 2007 being by-laws to establish accountability and notice policies. The clerk suggested in his report that members of Council keep the copies of the two by-laws on file for future reference.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The CAO advised of a personnel issue to be discussed in camera.

At the appointed time, Mayor Arnold welcomed Michael Levesque and Mr. Chris Allen of Engineered System, Wind Power Division Ltd. and several other company representatives and consultants present to discuss with Council a proposal to establish several wind turbines on property known as Lot 29, Con. 13 geographic Township of Sombra, Township of St. Clair. Prior to the presentation, Mayor Arnold advised those in attendance that this meeting and presentation is being made at the request of Engineered Systems and cautioned Council that the presentation before Council tonight should not prejudice any future public meetings that will be called in reaction to planning process applications. That this being said, Mayor Arnold invited Mr. Levesque to make his presentation on behalf of his company. Mr. Levesque stated that his company was started in 1989 and was centered in LaSalle. The company has applied for an official plan amendment and a zoning by-law amendment to provide for the establishment of 6 wind turbines on the subject property and the adjacent agricultural property. It was pointed out that the proposed wind turbines are approximately 100 meters in height and would generate sufficient power to service approximately 7,000 homes. Mr. Levesque also pointed out that his company has developed an affiliation with Lambton College who are offering course curriculum in the study of alternate energy sources and it was hoped that a similar tower would be developed on the college site in the future to provide electrical power to the college facility. Mr. Levesque pointed out that the wind turbines proposed are constructed with relatively leading edge technology at the cost of approximately \$4.8 million, per turbine. It was pointed out that the environmental assessment process is being developed with open houses being planned for public information purposes in late winter of 2008 with a hope that the project will be up and running by August 2008. Official plan amendment applications and rezoning applications have been submitted to the Township but a public hearing has not been scheduled pending filing with the Municipality, several outstanding items such as the noise study. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mayor Arnold thanked Mr. Levesque and his company representatives for the informative presentation.

BY-LAWS:

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion #4 That By-law number 1 of 2008, the Borrowing By-law for the Township of St. Clair for the year 2008, having been given the necessary three readings, be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporate seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

CARRIED

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #5 That By-law Number 2 of 2008, being a by-law to establish Standing Committee of Council and to establish certain appointments for the Township of St. Clair for the year 2008, having been given the necessary three readings, be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporate seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

CARRIED

COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Pete Gilliland

Deputy Mayor Gilliland questioned staff as to the status of the outstanding property standards order for another property on Petrolia Line. The Clerk advised of a discussion with the Property Standards Officer who has inspected the site and has determined considerable progress has been made to clean up the site in compliance with the order and at the request of the property owner, has extended the compliance deadline by approximately six weeks. Deputy Mayor Gilliland also brought to Council's attention the situation of high speed traffic on Cameron Street in the area of the CSX railway. Deputy Mayor Gilliland is recommending improved signage due to the poor visibility, warning of pedestrian crossing.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by J. Agar

Motion #6 That staff be instructed to investigate and erect appropriate pedestrian warning signage on Cameron Street on the east and west side of the CSX railway.

Jeff Agar

Councillor Agar advised of participating in the recent silver stick hockey tournament at the Sports Complex on the weekend and commended the Township staff on an excellent job done.

Darrell Randell

Councillor Randell advised Council that he has attended his second Source Water Protection meeting and will be making a Friends of the St. Clair River presentation to a 4-H meeting to be hosted in Wyoming. Also, Councillor Randell will be speaking to the Lambton Wildlife Group on the subject of wetlands and asked Council to consider any possible volunteers for the Marsh monitoring program.

Pat Carswell-Alexander

Councillor Carswell asked staff to re-establish the traffic rumble strips on Brigden Road on Petrolia Line. Councillor Alexander also advised of her opinion of the need for rumble strips on the Kimball Road both north and south of the Petrolia Line. It was pointed out that this would be a Lambton County responsibility.

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #7 That the County of Lambton be requested to establish vehicular rumble strips on the Kimball Road both north and south of the Petrolia Line, as a vehicular safety enhancement.

CARRIED

Councillor Carswell-Alexander also advised of numerous potholes on the Rokeby Line from Highway 40 to the Brigden Road and requested staff to provide information as to the priority rating in future capital budgets for the upgrading and reconstruction of the Rokeby Line. Councillor Carswell-Alexander also requested Council to consider a concept to establish a protocol for the hiring of appropriate consultants to assist in drafting staff reports for Council consideration for issues that may be beyond the expertise of Township staff. Councillor Carswell-Alexander stated such as similar protocol was established many years ago by the Township of Moore relative to Safety Clean issues.

Pat Brown

Councillor Brown attended the December 20, 2007 District Fire Chiefs meeting in Corunna and questioned relative to the passage of by-law 2 of 2008 the transition between new and former members of various committees. Council was of the general consensus that was hoped that former members of the Committee would attend the first meeting of the various committees with the new appointee for the purpose of introduction and contact information. Councillor Brown also advised that he was unable to attend the Roma/OGRA conference, but would prefer to attend the AMO educational opportunity on February 1 and 2, 2008.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #8 That members of Council be authorized to attend the AMO training sessions in London on February 1st and/or 2nd with the appropriate fees and expenses to be paid.

CARRIED

Steve Arnold

Mayor Arnold advised that he as well attended the District Chief's meeting in Corunna and also observed from a distance the recent house fire on LaSalle Line. Mayor Arnold was impressed that the effectiveness the ladder truck with fire fighting capabilities stationed out of the Corunna station and suggested that Fire Chief Dewhirst be asked to report on the possibility of purchasing a second such unit to be used in the Township fire services. Mayor Arnold also received a letter from a rate payer regarding a property tax issue at which time the residential tax class was applied to a property that should have been classed as an agricultural property. Treasurer Charlie Quenneville also received a copy of the same correspondence from the rate payer. The Mayor also asked staff to investigate the status of the barricade gates ordered by Council on the Ladysmith Road between the Courtright Line and Oil Springs Line as well as the solar powered flashing stop signs at the intersection of Petrolia Line and Brigden Road. The Mayor also had the discussion of the owner/operator of the D & D membership transit service who have been asked to contact the Clerk for an agenda appointment time to present a transit proposal to Council. The Mayor also attended the International Blue Ribbon Panel on the St. Clair River as well as the Physician Recruitment event on December 27, 2007. The Mayor also attended recent meetings with the MTO and the selected contractor for the 2008 Highway 40 reconstruction project. The Mayor requested that the Co-ordinator of Public Works and Operations become familiar with the issues relative to the detour during the construction of the project in 2008. Councillor Carswell-Alexander also suggested that the appropriate school bus signage be installed on the Kimball Road during the 2008 Highway 40 closure and detour. Staff was also requested to check the status of the installation of the streetlights at the intersection of Highway 40 and Lambton Line and the condition of the ice at Rink #1. Mayor Arnold as well thought that Township staff did an excellent job in accommodating the participants and guests at the recent Silver Stick tournament at the Moore Sports Complex.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion by Councillor Carswell-Alexander to petition the province to increase the speed limit on Highway 40 from 80 kms per hour to 90 kms per hour failed to get a seconder and was defeated.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Committee of the Whole ~ Wednesday January 16, 2008 at 6pm
Regular meeting of Council ~ Monday January 21, 2008 at 7pm

Moved by P. Brown

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #9 That the meeting enter an in-camera session to discuss a personnel issue.

CARRIED

Meeting returned to order.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by J. Agar

Motion #10 That the regularly scheduled meeting of Council for Monday February 18, 2008, be postponed until Tuesday February 19th at 7pm.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Gilliland

That the meeting do hereby adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK