

**ST. CLAIR TOWNSHIP
COUNCIL MINUTES
SESSION #6**

St. Clair Civic Centre
Council Chambers
March 17, 2008
6:00 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
	C. Quenneville	Treasurer
	G. Hackett	Director of Community Services

AGENDA:

6:00 p.m. – 2008 Operating budget

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Adopt Minutes:

Council Meeting of March 3, 2008 – Session #5
Finance & Administration, Public Works & Operations – March 10, 2008

Business Arising from the Minutes:

DEPUTATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 p.m. Jane Marsh – St. Clair River Trail

7:15 p.m. Maria Beauchamp – off lease dog park

7:30 p.m. Rezoning – Public Hearing – C. Lang
- Part Lot 11, Con. 1, (geographic Township of Moore)

7:45 p.m. Rezoning – Public Hearing – Eric Allaer
- Part Lot E, Con. 6, (geographic Township of Sombra)

8:00 p.m. St. Clair Parkway sanitary sewer extension – Court of Revision

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Capt Kidd Days – permission
- b) Moore Presbyterian Foundation – appointment
- c) Lambton Drug Awareness Committee – campaign
- d) Julie & Jason Everaet – grant request
- e) Moore Skating Club – grant request
- f) Bluewater Sharks – grant request
- g) St. Clair Child & Youth – proclamation

INFORMATION:

- 1) Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal – COMRIF
- 2) A.M.O. – Conference registration
- 3) Corunna Community Policing - March 4 minutes
- 4) County of Lambton – Council highlights
- 5) Ducks Unlimited – wind farm
- 6) County of Lambton – Health Study appointment
- 7) County of Lambton – Best Start
- 8) County of Lambton - budget
- 9) AMO- Municipal Infrastructure
- 10) Jeff Baranek – planning report – Lang Rezoning
- 11) Jeff Baranek – planning report – E. Allaer
- 12) St. Clair Region Conservation Authority – draft agreement
- 13) Minutes of Fisheries & Oceans – ice breaking
- 14) Lambton Seniors Association – invitation
- 15) Township of Warwick – 2008 County budget

DRAINS:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

Committee of Adjustment – applications A8/08, A10/08, A11/08

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Moore Community Foundation

DEPUTY TREASURER’S REPORT:

2007 Council Remuneration & Expenses

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

Equipment usage agreement
Fire inspection – Paget Street - Newalta

CLERK'S REPORT:

Dirt bike tracks

CAO’S REPORT:

MOTIONS:

BY-LAWS:

- By-law #12 of 2008 – Water & sewer rates
- By-law #13 of 2008 – Agreement – SCRCA – shoreline maintenance
- By-law #14 of 2008 – St. Clair Parkway sewer local improvement
- By-law #15 of 2008 – Lang rezoning
- By-law #16 of 2008 – E. Allaer rezoning

COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular meeting of Council Monday April 7, 2008 ~ 7:00pm
Finance & Administration, Public Works & Operations Monday April 14, 2008 ~ 6:00pm
Regular meeting of Council Monday April 21, 2008 ~ 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked members of Council to declare any possible conflicts of interest at the appropriate time. The Mayor then called upon the Treasurer, Charles Quenneville who presented to Council, the latest version of the draft 2008 operating budget amended as requested by the Finance and Administration Committee. Mr. Quenneville led Council into discussion of his budget redraft dated March 17, 2008. It was pointed out that the financing from the St. Clair Township Beacon will be from the general revenue fund and that the funding placed in the OPG assessment appeal reserve fund has been reduced by \$150,000.00. In response to Council's question, Mr. Quenneville advised that the current projected increase for the tax rate for 2008 over the 2007 rate is 9.08%. This will represent an approximate \$48.00 tax increase for a property assessed at \$130,000.00. After considerable discussion, it was

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #1: That the draft 2008 operating budget as amended in accordance of the Treasurer's budget report dated March 3, 2008 be adopted and approved.

CARRIED

While present, Council asked the Director of Community Services for his thoughts on possible health club and pool usage rates in an attempt to improve revenue streams. Council proceeded to review the minutes as listed on the agenda. Councillor Brown offered amendments to the resolution dealing with correspondence.

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #2: That the minutes of the Council meeting of March 3, 2008, Session #5, as amended be adopted and circulated.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #3: That the minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting of Finance & Administration, Public Works & Operations Committee be tabled for further discussion later in this meeting.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion #4: That permission be granted for a refreshment tent at the annual Captain Kidd Days to be held August 1 and 2nd, 2008, subject to the provision of the appropriate policing and security as per Township policy.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by J. Agar

Motion #5: That Ron Skreptak remain as the Township Representative for the Advisory Committee of the Moore Presbyterian Foundation for 2008.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Brown

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #6: That the Lambton Drug Awareness Action Committee be granted permission to locate approximately 19 purple ribbons at intersections throughout the Township for awareness of traffic collisions involving an impaired driver.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #7: That the request for funding by the Moore Skate Club be granted in the amount of \$400.00.

CARRIED

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #8: That the letter received from Carter Wierwick of the Bluewater Sharks hockey tour regarding a request for monetary contribution be denied.

CARRIED

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #9: That the letter received from Julie & Jason Everaet regarding a request for a monetary contribution be denied.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #10: That the request from the St. Clair Child & Youth group be referred to the Lambton County Warden since the group is under the mandate of Lambton County.

CARRIED

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. Capt Kidd Days – permission
Inst. Motion#4
- b. Moore Presbyterian Foundation – appointment
Inst. Motion #5
- c. Lambton Drug Awareness - campaign
Inst. Motion #6
- d. Julie & Jason Everaet – grant request
Inst. Motion #9
- e. Moore Skating Club – grant request
Inst. Motion #7
- f. Bluewater Sharks – grant request
Inst. Motion #8
- g. St. Clair Child & Youth - proclamation
Inst. Motion #10

CARRIED

The correspondence from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal regarding the commerce grant program is to be brought forward to Council after the March 31st funding announcements.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS:

Council reviewed the applications to the Committee of Adjustment as listed on the agenda. Councillor Brown questioned the requested setback reduction for Application #A11/08.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Moved by P. Brown

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #12: That the report submitted by the Treasurer of St. Clair Township dated March 7, 2008 regarding the Moore Community and Recreational Foundation be tabled for further information.

CARRIED

At the appointed time the Mayor on behalf of Council welcomed Jane Marsh and Peter Cassel, Co-Chairs of the St. Clair River Trail Committee plus several other members of the Committee, present to discuss with Council the recommendation from the March 10th Finance and Administration Committee meeting to reduce Municipal funding for the River Trail from the current 2 for 1 funding formal to a 1 to 1 funding formal starting January 1st, 2008. Ms. Marsh stated that there are approximately 7 to 8 kilometers of trail left to be constructed at an estimated cost of \$750,000.00. With the reduced funding from the Municipality the trail completion would be delayed approximately 12 years. It is also feared that the reduction in Township financial support may discourage the active volunteers who may no longer be interested in serving as a volunteer for the Trail Committee. It was pointed out by Mr. Cassel that 2008 is projected to be what is known as a "No build year" and that the Trail Committee will not be coming to the Municipality for major funding for 2008. Mr. Cassel also detailed to Council the funding commitment of \$40,000.00 received so far from Shell to assist in the development of a trail lighting program north of Corunna.

After considerable discussion it was:

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #13: That the Finance and Administration Committee and Public Works and Operation Committee minutes of March 10th be lifted from the table.

CARRIED

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion #14: That Motion #4 from the Finance and Administration Committee minutes be amended to provide for \$2.00 for \$1.00 funding for all funds raised by the St. Clair River Trail Committee through brick sales and other fund raising events and further that the funding ratio of \$1.00 for \$1.00 be established for all other funding from sources such as industrial senior government grant programs or donations from other charitable foundations and the maximum Township contribution from the Municipality to be \$100,000.00 annually, with this policy to be implemented as of January 1, 2008

CARRIED

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion #14: That Motion #4 from the Finance and Administration Committee minutes be amended to provide for \$2.00 for \$1.00 funding for all funds raised by the St. Clair River Trail Committee through brick sales and other fund raising events and further that the funding ratio of \$1.00 for \$1.00 be established for all other funding from sources such as industrial senior government grant programs or donations from other charitable foundations and the maximum Township contribution from the Municipality to be \$100,000.00 annually, with this policy to be implemented as of January 1, 2008

CARRIED

At the appointed time Council welcomed Maria Beauchamp present to discuss with Council her concept for the development of a dog lease free park in Corunna perhaps at Duggin Field or in a section of CAP Park. Ms. Beauchamp stated that she has circulated a petition in the area of Duggin Field that has received considerable support. Council reviewed Ms. Beauchamp's mission stating the basic principles of the dog park as well as improvements that will be required at Duggin Field or CAP Park to facilitate such use. Council encouraged Ms. Beauchamp to continue her petition efforts in an attempt to demonstrate to Council a very strong positive response from the Community for the development of such a dog park. At the conclusion of the discussion it was:

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #15: That the request filed to consider the establishment of a dog park in Corunna be referred to the Parks Advisory Committee for review and comment and as well an opinion be obtained from the Township's general insurance underwriter as to possible liability and insurance coverage.

CARRIED

Council advised Ms. Beauchamp that they were of the opinion that the petition referred to earlier in the discussion should be filed with Council.

At the appointed time the Mayor called to order the Public Hearing called to consider the application to rezone property described as Part of Lot 11, Con. 1, (geographic Township of Moore), Township of St. Clair at 1833 Tennyson Line. The Mayor then called upon Planner Jeff Baranek to present his planning merit report on the application dated March 11, 2008. Mr. Baranek advised that the rezoning requested was a condition of an earlier consent that was granted on the basis of the house on the property being declared as surplus farm dwelling. Mr. Baranek also pointed out that the proposed rezoning conforms to the Township's Official Plan and also conforms to Provincial Policy statements. At the conclusion of Mr. Baranek's presentation the Clerk advised the meeting that no written submissions have been received relative to the application. The Mayor called for any verbal presentations from those in attendance either in support or opposition of the proposal. Mr. Don Lange identified himself as the father of the applicant and in response to questions raised in Mr. Baranek's presentation advised that the septic tank on site has been commissioned and is operational. Hearing no further comments the Mayor declared the public hearing closed and Council returned to order.

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #16: That By-law #15 of 2008 to rezone property known as Part of Lot 11, Con.1, (geographic Township of Moore), Township of St. Clair at 1133 Tennyson Line be read the required number of times and be finally passed, signed and sealed.

CARRIED

DEPUTY TREASURER'S REPORT:

Council reviewed Mr. Lozon's report on 2007 Council Remuneration. The Clerk advised that the report omitted the remuneration paid for 1 member of the Township's Committee of Adjustment.

Moved by D. Randell

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #17: That the report submitted by the Deputy Treasurer of St. Clair Township dated March 12, 2008 regarding the 2007 Council Remuneration as amended be accepted and received as information.

CARRIED

Mayor Arnold asked for a clarification on expenses claimed for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference. Also, Staff was instructed to contact the County of Lambton to obtain a copy of its policy relative to conference attendance.

DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion #18: That the agreement submitted by the Fire Chief dated February 20, 2008 regarding Greenfield Energy's use of the Township's pumper truck and two operators be accepted and approved.

CARRIED

In discussion of the Fire Chief's report Council made the general comment that the remuneration paid to the firefighters providing such standby service seems to be insufficient.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by J. Agar

Motion #19: That the report submitted by the Fire Chief dated March 7, 2008 regarding the fire inspection at 264 Paget Street, Corunna be received and accepted as information.

CARRIED

At the appointed time, Mayor Arnold called to order the Public Hearing called to consider the Application submitted by Mr. Eric Allaer to rezone property in Port Lambton both east and west of the St. Clair Parkway between the addresses 4488 and 4534 St. Clair Parkway. Parts of Lot E and F, Con. 6, (geographic Township of Sombra), Township of St. Clair. Mr. Baranek presented his planner's merit report on the issue dated March 13, 2008. Mr.

Baranek advised that the proposed zoning is consistent with the Township's Official Plan and Provincial Policy statements. At the conclusion of Mr. Baranek's presentation the Mayor called upon those in attendance giving an opportunity for those wishing to speak in support of or opposition to the application. No comments were received. The Clerk advised that no written comments had been received relative to the rezoning application. Hearing no further comments the Mayor declared the public hearing closed and Council returned to order.

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #20: That By-law #16 of 2008 being a by-law to rezone property identified as Parts Lot E and F, Con. 6, (geographic Township of Sombra), Township of St. Clair be read the required number of times and finally passed, signed and sealed.

CARRIED

The Mayor called to order a meeting of the Court of Revision held under the authority of the local improvement section of the Municipal Act to deal with possible assessment appeals for the St. Clair Parkway sanitary sewer extension program south of the Courtright Line.

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by P. Brown

Motion #21: That the Court of Revision on the St. Clair Parkway sanitary sewer extension be convened with the Mayor as Chair.

CARRIED

The Clerk explained to the Court the purpose of the court is to address any gross or manifest errors. The Committee's attention was drawn to the cost breakdown statement prepared by the Township Treasurer and Coordinator of Engineering Services as well as the Schedule of Assessment detailing individual assessments dated February 19, 2008. The Clerk advised that no written appeals had been received for consideration of the Court of Revision. The Mayor then asked those in attendance if anyone wished to appeal before the Court with no response. Hearing no comments if was:

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by P. Gilliland

Motion #22: That the Engineer's assessment on the St. Clair Parkway sanitary sewer extension project dated February 19, 2008 be accepted as presented and that the Court of Revision be closed.

CARRIED

After the Court was closed a ratepayer questioned the financing method for the project if a ratepayer wishes to pay off the outstanding balance of their assessment at a later date. The Clerk advised that the project will be financed from a Provincial debenture fund and the ratepayer would have an option of paying the entire assessment up front, a portion of the assessment up front, or allow it to be included in the tax roll for a period of 10 years. There is no provision for an early payment once the individual costs are debentured.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Moved by P. Carswell-Alexander

Seconded by S. Miller

Motion #23: That the report submitted by the Clerk dated March 14, 2008 regarding dirt bike tracks be received and accepted as information.

CARRIED

In discussion of the Clerk's report Council did not instruct for any further action at this time relative to dirt bike tracks.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT:

CAO Rodey advised Council that Engineering Coordinator Ken Graham has filed his resignation from his position and has provided the Municipality three weeks notice of his intention to leave the employment of the Municipality. Also, the CAO advised of making contact with CSX Railway over the possible closing of all or a portion of the rail right-of-

way through St. Clair Township. Mr. Rodey advised Council of a future information exchange protocol between the Municipality and CSX. Mr. Rodey also briefed Council on information received from CSX regarding closing protocols and procedure.

BY-LAWS:

Moved by J. Agar

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion #24: That By-law Number 12 of 2008, being a by-law to establish water and sanitary sewer usage rates within the Township of St. Clair and to amend the Township of St. Clair By-law #6 of 2007, 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 S. Miller

Seconded by P. Carswell-Alexander

Motion #25: That By-law Number 13 of 2008, to authorize the execution of an agreement with the St. Clair Conservation Authority for shoreline protection maintenance for the Township's riverfront parks, 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 D. Randell

Seconded by J. Agar

Motion #26: That By-law Number 14 of 2008, to provide for the Construction and financing of a Municipal Sanitary Sewer extension on the St. Clair Parkway south of Courtright Line as authorized by Section 11 of the Municipal Act 2001, as a local improvement, be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, the Corporate seal affixed thereto and finally passed.

CARRIED

COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Pete Gilliland

Deputy Mayor Gilliland advised of attending on behalf of the Mayor a recent meeting of Lambton County Health Study and as well a 95th Birthday celebration. Also, the Deputy Mayor will meet with the Coordinator of Operations on site on Cameron Street to discuss possible signage improvements.

Jeff Agar

Councillor Agar advised of receiving comments from ratepayers wondering why the emergency alert sirens in Corunna were not activated during the recent Imperial Oil upset on Friday. Mr. Rodey advised Council that he did in fact hear the sirens. Council requested a report from the Fire Chief as to the possibility of dead zones in Corunna where the sirens may not be heard. Also, Councillor Agar noticed considerably construction in the Paddock Green area, this lead to increased heavy truck traffic, parking congestion and mud being placed on the roads. This situation was referred to Public Works Staff for investigation and discussion with the construction contactor. Mayor Arnold and Deputy Mayor Gilliland also interjected that they have received some other complaints as those received by Councillor Agar.

Darrell Randell

Councillor Randell asked Staff to review and investigate the traffic problem in Sombra Village identified by a local business owner. In the letter to Councillor Randell the business owner also cited future concerns once the summer season brings with it an increased traffic volume across the Sombra Ferry. Council instructed that Mr. Lowell Dalgety of the Bluewater Ferry Company be invited to attend a future meeting of Council to discuss possible ways to remediate parking and traffic difficulties as were experienced several times last summer.

Pat Carswell-Alexander

Councillor Carswell-Alexander asked Staff to investigate a major pothole on Boswell Street east of Duncan Street. Also, Staff was questioned as to the results of its review of the site plan for the building on the west side of the Parkway constructed by Shell. CAO Rodey advised that the site plan identified the structure as a steel clad structure. In response to Council's questions, Mr. Rodey advised that the site plan process cannot dictate architectural features.

Pat Brown

Councillor Brown provided Staff with information on solar lighting and the coal fired electric generation program in China and India. Also, Councillor Brown provided to each member of Council a copy of the Lambton County hazardous waste disposal days at the Clean Harbor facilities.

Steve Arnold

In response to Mayor Arnold's questions, the CAO advised that the information promised by T. W. Gray Associates for the Township's emergency service building has been forwarded as promised to the architect. The Mayor also questioned site plan provisions for the Robbin's Nest refreshment facility in Courtright. Council advised that such facilities are not subject to the Township's site plan process. The Mayor also suggested possible future council consideration of roundabouts as a traffic calming method. The Mayor also received a funding request from the VON which will be copied and forwarded to Council at its next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Moved by P. Gilliland

Seconded by D. Randell

Motion # That the minutes of the March 10th meeting of the Finance & Administration, Public Works & Operations Committees with motion #4 being amended, be accepted and approved and recommendations contained therein be accepted and approved.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by S. Miller

Seconded by D. Randell

That the meeting do hereby adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK