

Township of Howick Council Meeting Minutes March 2, 2021

Present: Reeve Doug Harding
Deputy Reeve Eldon Bowman
Councillor Doug Hargrave
Councillor Megan Gibson
Councillor Bob Illman

By-law Enforcement Officer Nicole Mullin
Fire Chief Shawn Edwards
Operations Manager Brady Nolan
Treasurer Brenda Weishar
Clerk Carol Watson

1. Call to Order

Reeve Harding called the meeting to order at 9 am and welcomed everyone in attendance and those who joined by telephone.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Hargrave:
Be it resolved that Council approve the agenda as presented. Carried. Resolution No. 56/21**

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

No one declared a pecuniary interest in relation to any item on the agenda at this time.

4. Approval of Minutes

**Moved by Councillor Illman; Seconded by Deputy Reeve Bowman:
Be it resolved that Council approve the minutes of the February 16 Special, Council and Public and February 23, 2021 Special meetings as presented. Carried. Resolution No. 57/21**

5. Huron County Planner Jenn Burns

Planner Burns presented Housing Initiative – ‘through a housing friendly lens’. Council agreed to a workshop at the Howick Community Centre to discuss the options and provide direction on implementation, date to be determined.

6. Staff Reports

6.1 By-law Enforcement Officer Nicole Mullin

Officer Mullin presented a report to Council-By-law Enforcement-2021-01 providing a department update of complaints of on-compliance filed between September 1, 2020 and February 1, 2021.

6.2 Fire Chief Shawn Edwards

Chief Edwards presented a report to Council-Fire-2021-01 providing a department update on calls for service; operations; budget; inspections/enforcement; training; personnel; health and safety and emergency management.

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Illman:
Be it resolved that Council approve the hiring of Madelyn Yungblut as a volunteer Firefighter effective March 5, 2021. Carried. Resolution No. 58/21**

He also presented report to Council-Fire-2021-02 regarding the closure of the Ontario Fire College, Gravenhurst campus.

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Hargrave:
Whereas, the Province of Ontario has announced that as of March 31, 2021 the Gravenhurst campus of the Ontario Fire College will be permanently closed; and
Whereas, the Province of Ontario announced plans to modernize and expand access to firefighter training in Ontario; and
Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario on how to obtain firefighter training in the absence of the Ontario Fire College campus; and
Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario on how firefighter training in Ontario will be modernized and expanded; and
Whereas, there has been no clear plan communicated by the Province of Ontario regarding the costs or funding for modernized and expanded firefighter training in Ontario; and
Whereas, the Township of Howick is a small rural municipality that operates a volunteer fire department to provide fire protection;
Now therefore, be it resolved that Council respectfully request a clear plan be communicated that establishes how the Province intends to modernize and expand firefighter training ensuring equal access to all municipal fire departments in Ontario, and as well, present a plan for funding to subsidise and or regulate the cost for firefighter training in the Province of Ontario. Carried.
Resolution No. 59/21**

6.3 Operations Manager Brady Nolan

Manager Nolan presented report to Council-Public Works-2021-10 recommending hiring a part time/seasonal arena operator at the Howick Community Centre.

**Moved by Councillor Illman; Seconded by Councillor Hargrave:
Be it resolved that Council approve hiring Curtis Harding as a Part Time/Seasonal Arena Operator at step 1 of the 2021 wage grid, effective February 20, 2021.
Carried. Resolution No. 60/21**

6.4 Treasurer Brenda Weishar

Treasurer Weishar presented report to Council-Treasurer-2021-05 providing information regarding the CIBC loan; Modernization Intake 2 and the budget by-law.

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Illman:
Be it resolved that Council direct staff to complete an expression of interest seeking funding for projects under Municipal Modernization Intake 2. Carried.
Resolution No. 61/21**

6.5 Clerk Carol Watson

A report to Council-Clerk-2021-06 on Huron County Business Retention and Expansion project was presented.

A report to Council-Clerk-2021-07 seeking direction for a replacement Animal Control Officer and approval of the position description was presented. Council suggested some amendments to the description and requested further information as to the cost of the Officer.

7. Committee and Board Reports

Minutes from the Belmore Community Arena Board meeting dated January 18, 2021 was received.

Minutes from the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting dated January 22, 2021 was received.

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Illman:
Be it resolved that Council receive minutes from the Council Committee and Board included in the March 2, 2021 agenda. Carried. Resolution No. 62/21**

8. Councillor Report

Councillor Hargrave led a discussion on Legion banners featuring veterans and how Howick could help with the program. Manager Nolan suggested that he would coordinate the going up and coming down of banners in consultation with Ray Stewart and the Management Boards of the tri-villages.

9. Correspondence

Correspondence received from Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority including a report of remuneration and expenses for Howick's representative was noted and filed.

Avon Maitland District School Board meeting highlights dated February 23, 2021 was noted and filed.

Correspondence received from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario including an open letter to Ontario Municipal Councils was noted and filed.

10. Members Privilege – Good News and Celebrations

Reeve Harding shared that Howick Township was now in the yellow zone.

Deputy Reeve Bowman shared that the Howick Optimist was planning a drive through roast beef dinner in April and commented on how busy the Howick Community Centre was.

Reeve Harding shared highlights of the Howick Recovery Action Group meeting yesterday.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Hargrave; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:

Be it resolved that Council give first, second and third and final reading to By-law No. 17-2021; being a by-law to confirm the actions of Council at the March 2, 2021 Council meeting. Carried. Resolution No. 63/21

Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Deputy Reeve Bowman:

Be it resolved that Council adjourn the Council meeting at 10:52 am. Carried. Resolution No. 64/21

Reeve Doug Harding

Clerk Carol Watson