

Township of Howick Council Meeting Minutes April 20, 2021

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

Drainage Superintendent Wray Wilson
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 7 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance and those who joined by telephone.

2. Acceptance of Agenda

Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Councillor Illman:

Be it resolved that Council approve the agenda as presented. Carried. Resolution No. 77/21

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. Delegation

Sharon D'Arcey, Chair of the Howick Family Betterment Committee provided an update which included three options with pros/cons for Council consideration; Howick Township as provider, YMCA or London Bridge as provider and a co-operative as provider. She provided facts from their survey and additional information for discussion. Members of the Committee Hailey McCann, Kelsey Brent, Lindsay Dinsmore and Rachel Thring joined by telephone.

Council suggested that the committee arrange for a presentation from Huron County Children's Services. Reeve Harding thanked committee members for the presentation.

5. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Deputy Reeve Bowman:

Be it resolved that Council approve the minutes of the March 16 Council and April 1, 2021 Special Council meetings as presented. Carried. Resolution No. 78/21

6. Staff Reports

6.1 Drainage Superintendent Wray Wilson

Superintendent Wilson presented report to Council-Drainage-2021-05 recommending approval of a tile drain loan application received for lands at Lot 5, Concession 14. Council considered By-law 20-2021 later in the meeting.

6.2 Fire Chief Shawn Edwards

Chief Edwards presented report to Council-Fire-2021-03 providing a department update including calls for service; operations; budget; training; health and safety and emergency management. Council considered By-law 22-2021 later in the meeting.

He also presented report to Council-Fire-2021-04 updating on firefighters pay grid and announced that this week was Volunteer Appreciation Week.

Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Hargrave:

Be it resolved that Council approve the 2021 Firefighter Pay Grid, as follows:

Acting Captain - \$450.00 annually

Mechanical Officer - \$450.00 annually

Truck checks - \$15.96 flat rate

Public education - \$26.96 flat rate

Firefighting - \$26.96

Support/standby - \$26.96 flat rate

Meetings - \$15.96 flat rate

Long weekend On-Call - \$135.92 flat rate

Captains - \$900.00 annually

Deputy Chief - \$2860.00 annually

Full day training session - \$135.92 flat rate

and further, that cost-of-living allowance be added annually and the effective date be January 1, 2021. Carried. Resolution No. 79/21

Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Councillor Illman:

Be it resolved that Council approve the appointment of Krystal Lannin to the position of Mechanical Officer with associated remuneration, effective January 1, 2021. Carried. Resolution No. 80/21

Moved by Councillor Illman; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:

Be it resolved that Council approve the appointment of Corey Hill to the position of Acting Captain with associated remuneration, effective January 1, 2021. Carried. Resolution No. 81/21

6.3 Operations Manager Brady Nolan

Manager Nolan presented report to Council-Public Works-2021-13 recommending extending the grass cutting contract with Aeration Plus.

Moved by Councillor Hargrave; Seconded by Deputy Reeve Bowman:

Be it resolved that Council approve extending the grass cutting contract with Aeration Plus for 2021. Carried. Resolution No. 82/21

**Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Councillor Illman:
Be it resolved that Council authorize Reeve Harding to sign the Gorrie Conservation Area Maintenance Agreement; and further, direct the Clerk to prepare the necessary by-law. Carried. Resolution No. 83/21**

He also presented report to Council-Public Works-2021-14 recommending grass cutting at ball parks during COVID-19.

**Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Councillor Illman:
Be it resolved that Council approve grass cutting at the ballparks during Covid-19 lockdown; and further, direct staff to keep the washrooms open and available at the Fordwich and Gorrie ballparks for use by the public during this time. Carried. Resolution No. 84/21**

He also presented report to Council-Public Works-2021-15 recommending extending Randy Rock's employment.

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Hargrave:
Be it resolved that Council approve extending Randy Rock's employment until May 28, 2021 at current wage step. Carried. Resolution No. 85/21**

He also presented report to Council-Public Works-2021-16 recommending changing yield signs to stop signs in the Village of Fordwich. Council considered By-law 23-2021 later in the meeting.

He also presented report to Council-Public Works-2021-17 recommending a structural assessment at Belmore Community Centre.

**Moved by Councillor Hargrave; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:
Be it resolved that Council approve the use of Municipal Modernization funding to pay for a structural assessment at Belmore Community Centre at a cost of approximately \$5,000. Carried. Resolution No. 86/21**

He also presented report to Council-Public Works-2021-18 regarding walking trails in the tri-villages. Councillor Gibson inquired about the walking trail at the Howick Community School. Council supports the trails in Fordwich and Wroxeter

**Moved by Councillor Hargrave; Seconded by Deputy Reeve Bowman:
Be it resolved that Council support staff in applying to Canada Healthy Communities Initiative for a grant to establish walking trails in the Villages of Fordwich and Wroxeter. Carried. Resolution No. 87/21**

He also presented report to Council-Public Works-2021-19 regarding a request for road allowance purchase in Fordwich. Manager Nolan suggested Council sell the road allowance in Gorrie also.

6.4 Treasurer Brenda Weishar

Treasurer Weishar presented report to Council-Treasurer-2021-07 including the accounts payable listing; financial report; COVID-19 expense summary; taxes receivable comparison; 2022 property assessment; 2021 court security and SLED grant.

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:
Be it resolved that Council support staff in applying for Supporting Local Economic Development funding for a floor scrubber and bench top replacements at the Belmore Community Centre. Carried. Resolution No. 88/21**

6.5 Clerk Carol Watson

A report to Council-Clerk-2021-08 recommending retaining Monteith Ritsma Phillips Professional Corp to act on behalf of Howick Township was presented.

**Moved by Councillor Illman; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:
Be it resolved that Council authorize the Reeve and Clerk to sign the Retainer Agreement with Monteith Ritsma Phillips Professional Corporation to represent Howick Township in court regarding parking infractions issued. Carried. Resolution No. 89/21**

A report to Council-Clerk-2021-09 recommending retaining Knox O'Brien to act on behalf of Howick Township.

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Hargrave:
Be it resolved that Council authorize the Reeve to sign the Retainer Agreement with Knox O'Brien to represent Howick Township at the Noah Martin Drain Appeal. Carried. Resolution No. 90/21**

A report to Council-Clerk-2021-10 regarding disposal of land being Helena Street North Road Allowance in Fordwich was presented. Council directed staff to sell road allowances in Fordwich and Gorrie.

7. Committee and Board Reports

Minutes from the Belmore Community Arena Board meeting held February 15, 2021 were received.

Minutes from the Howick Family Betterment Committee meeting held February 23, 2021 were received.

Minutes from the Howick Township Court of Revision meeting held March 16, 2021 were received.

Minutes from the Howick Township Committee of Adjustment meeting held April 1, 2021 were received.

Minutes from the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority meetings held November 18 and December 16, 2020, January 27 and February 17, 2021 were received.

**Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Councillor Illman:
Be it resolved that Council receive minutes from the Council Committee and Board included in the April 20, 2021 agenda. Carried. Resolution No. 91/21**

8. Correspondence

Thank you to Fordwich Management Board received from Cathy Weber was noted and filed.

Correspondence received from Huron County Economic Development Department advising Howick's 2021 Supporting Local Economic Development (SLED) application had been approved was noted and filed.

Correspondence received from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority including their 2021 general levy was noted and filed.

Avon Maitland District School Board meeting highlights dated March 23, 2021 were noted and filed.

Correspondence received from the Municipality of Tweed including a letter addressed to Premier of Ontario regarding advocacy for reform of joint and several liability was discussed.

**Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:
Be it resolved that Council support the Municipality of Tweed advocating for reform and reconsideration of the Negligence Act, R.S.O 1990, c N.1 to provide for alternatives. Carried. Resolution No. 92/21**

Correspondence received from the Town of Kingsville including their resolution regarding Bill C-21, an act to amend certain acts and to make certain consequential amendments (firearms) was discussed.

**Moved by Councillor Illman; Seconded by Councillor Hargrave:
Be it resolved that Council support the Town of Kingsville opposing the adoption of any by-laws restricting the possession, storage and transportation of legally obtained handguns. Carried. Resolution No. 93/21**

Correspondence received from Ontario Federation of Agriculture; Township of North Shore; Township of Addington Highlands; Township of South Stormont; Township of La Vallee; Township of St. Joseph; Town of Amherstburg; Town of Plympton-Wyoming supporting tile drainage contractors/installation plans were noted and filed.

Correspondence received from Municipality of Grey Highlands; Municipality of South Bruce; Municipality of Tweed; Conmee Township; Huron County supporting firefighter training were noted and filed.

Correspondence received from the Solicitor General updating on the OPP Detachment Board proposal was noted and filed.

Correspondence received from the Municipality of South Huron inquiring who would represent Howick Township on the OPP detachment proposal was discussed. Council directed staff to prepare a report for the next meeting.

Correspondence received from the Ministry of Solicitor General advising Howick Township was compliant in 2020 with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act was noted and filed.

Correspondence received from Municipal Property Assessment Corporation advising of Aggregate Resources Act regulation changes was noted and filed.

OPP calls for service billing summary report from January to March 2021 was noted and filed.

9. Members Privilege – Good News and Celebrations

Reeve Harding advised he was discouraged returning to lock down and encouraged everyone to get vaccinated.

10. By-laws

Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Deputy Reeve Bowman:

Be it resolved that Council give first, second and third and final reading to By-law No. 20-2021; being a by-law imposing special annual drainage rates upon lands in respect of which money is borrowed under the Tile Drainage Act (Con 14, Lot 5). Carried. Resolution No. 94/21

Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Illman:

Be it resolved that Council give first, second and third and final reading to By-law No. 21-2021; being a by-law to appoint Acting By-law Enforcement Officers for the Township of Howick. Carried. Resolution No. 95/21

Moved by Councillor Gibson; Seconded by Councillor Illman:

Be it resolved that Council give first, second and third and final reading to By-law No. 22-2021; being a by-law to authorize Fire Safety Grant Transfer Payment Agreement. Carried. Resolution No. 96/21

Moved by Councillor Hargrave; Seconded by Deputy Reeve Bowman:

Be it resolved that Council give first, second and third and final reading to By-law No. 23-2021; being a by-law to provide for the erection of stop signs in the Township of Howick. Carried. Resolution No. 97/21

Moved by Councillor Illman; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:

Be it resolved that Council give first, second and third and final reading to By-law No. 24-2021; being a by-law to authorize a Retainer Agreement with Monteith Ritsma Phillips Professional Corporation. Carried. Resolution No. 98/21

Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:

Be it resolved that Council give first, second and third and final reading to By-law No. 25-2021; being a by-law to authorize a Retainer Agreement with Knox O'Brien LLP. Carried. Resolution No. 99/21

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. 26-2021; being a by-law to confirm the actions of Council at the April 20, 2021 Council meeting. Carried. Resolution No. 100/21

Moved by Deputy Reeve Bowman; Seconded by Councillor Gibson:

Be it resolved that Council adjourn the Council meeting at 9:55 pm. Carried. Resolution No. 101/21

Reeve Doug Harding

Clerk Carol Watson