

**Minutes of
Committee of the Whole
Tuesday, March 19, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.**

Those in attendance were Mayor Donaldson, Councillors Cairns, Colhoun, Donoghue, Jorgensen, King, Lorenz and Watson.

Councillor Bratty had previously advised that she would be absent from the meeting.

Also in attendance were Chief Administrative Officer D. Weldon, Chief Municipal Law Officer J. Wouters, Chief Building Official D. Eidsness, Community Events Facilitator and Marketing Assistant A. Taylor, Director of Development Services S. Lucas, Director of Infrastructure and Community Services G. Carleton, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer K. Watson, Deputy Treasurer J. LePage, Director of Economic Development and Communications R. Romanin, Manager of Arts and Culture B. Rundle, Manager of Community Services, Recreation and Centennial Centre Operations D. Broderick, Tax Collector R. Webb and Director of Legislative Services/Clerk C. Thwaites.

I. Closed Session - Nil

II. Working Session – 2013 Operational and Capital Budget

1. Presentation of Proposed BIA Budget

The new Chair, Annette Gillan, provided an update on activities of the Business Improvement Area and the proposed 2013 budget. Ms. Gillan further advised that one of the goals of the BIA is to brand Gravenhurst as the “friendliest town” and they are seeking ideas from anyone.

There were no questions from members of Council.

2. Public Comments

Mr. Gord Durnan advised that he had attended the special meeting held on Saturday, March 2nd and had received and read a copy of the proposed budget package. He indicated that he had submitted questions to the Treasurer in which he received responses to his questions. Mr. Durnan expressed his satisfaction with the budget and indicated that he felt that the Town was in a good position to move forward.

Mayor Donaldson advised that the letter previously submitted by the Muskoka Lakes Association had been responded to and that the MLA had expressed their appreciation for the response.

The Committee recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

The Director of Economic Development and Communications, the Community Events Facilitator and Marketing Assistant and the Tax Collector joined the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Councillor King
Seconded by Councillor Watson

Recommendation “A”

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda as presented to Committee of the Whole on March 19th, 2013 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

III. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Nil.

V. Deputations

1. Suzanne Witt-Foley, YWCA re: Knowing Her Mind Presentation

Ms. Foley provided a presentation through PowerPoint as well as a video highlighting the importance of health and mental health in our communities. Factors impacting good health were identified and statistics, both locally and provincially, were provided indicating that the North Simcoe Muskoka area statistics were significantly higher than the Provincial average. Ms. Foley invited everyone to attend a workshop being held throughout Muskoka on March 28, April 3 and April 4.

2. Marg McLaughlin, Gravenhurst Winter Carnival

Ms. McLaughlin provided highlights of the 2013 Winter Carnival along with a listing of the events and statistics of participation in the various events. Ms. McLaughlin thanked the members of Council and staff for participation whether volunteering or attending the different events and suggested that more staff should be available in the future to help out with the event.

3. Jason Gliddon re: ATV Use on Roads

Mr. Gliddon advised that he was present to ask that Council allocate staff time to prepare a report on the use of ATV's and ORV's on some municipal roads. Mr. Gliddon indicated that there are economic benefits to the community to permit such use and explained some of the concerns frequently heard about ATV's. Mr. Gliddon provided various statistics and background information he had gathered to the Clerk.

A brief discussion ensued amongst Council and staff was requested to look at the various areas of the municipality in which ATV's or ORV's could be used and that public consultation would be required. It was suggested that a report would not be brought back until late summer or early fall.

4. Rebecca Godfrey, PKF Consulting Inc. re: Resorts and Tourism Interim Options Report

Ms. Godfrey presented highlights of the report through a PowerPoint presentation outlining the process that had been undertaken including the consultations that had been held with various stakeholders and the next steps in the process of finalizing the report.

Questions and clarification requested from Members of Council included whether or not the District of Muskoka was generally considered as being more restrictive in its regulations than other areas, what the motivation was for initiating the study and the differences between the travelling public and the types of accommodations they select.

A lengthy discussion ensued with regard downsizing of zoning when a commercial property owner no longer wishes to, or cannot afford, to be in the commercial business any longer, the conflicting wants of the owners of such properties and the neighbours/community, whether municipalities should be requiring people to maintain a commercial operation when it is no longer viable. Further discussion ensued on private rentals of waterfront properties and whether any research had been conducted on the economic impact of such rentals.

VI. Consent Agenda

A brief discussion ensued with regard to the correspondence received from the Ombudsman's Office as well as Road Closing Application RC04-2012 and it was agreed that the Road Closing would be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda.

Moved by Councillor Watson
Seconded by Councillor King

Recommendation "B"

BE IT RESOLVED THAT all items contained on the Consent Agenda as presented on March 19th, 2013 be approved:

1. Correspondence from Ombudsman's Office
2. Proclamation of the "Day of the Honey Bee"
3. Council and Committee Remuneration and Expenses
4. ~~RC 04-2012 – 1477792 Ontario Inc.~~
5. SRC 14-2012; 670409 Ontario Inc.
6. Minutes of Heritage Committee – January 8th, 2013
7. Minutes of the Business Improvement Area – November 29th, 2012 & January 31st, 2013
8. Appointments to BIA Board
9. Correspondence from Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs re: Municipal Politicians Seminar
10. Grant Agreement– OMAFRA – MIII
11. Revision of Fire Department Establishing and Regulating By-law

CARRIED.

The Chief Building Official joined the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

VII. Unfinished Business - Nil

VIII. New Business

1. Cancellation, Reduction or Refund of Taxes

Clarification was requested as to whether there was any direct impact on the budget. Resolution will be considered by Council.

2. 2013 Operational and Capital/Special Project Budget

A brief discussion ensued with regard to the process that had been followed for the 2013 budget, the number of open meetings held with opportunities for the public to provide their input, that the budget had been approached based on policy decisions made and the accomplishments Council wanted to see rather than focusing on the smallest percentage increase or the bottom line. Resolution to be considered by Council.

3. 2013 Management Salary Increase

Received with resolution to be considered by Council.

4. Building By-law

Received with By-law to be considered by Council.

5. Building Fees Schedule

Received by By-law to be considered by Council.

6. Municipal Cultural Plan Project – Steering Committee Member Selection

Received with resolution to be considered by Council.

7. In-Water Boat and Cottage Show with Muskoka Ribfest, Significant Event Designation

The Community Events Facilitator and Marketing Assistant highlighted the report and advised that a revised resolution had been prepared to include other events being held in 2013 including the Sidewalk Sale and the Antique and Classic Boat Show if Committee would like to consider them at this time. Committee agreed.

Moved by Councillor Donoghue
Seconded by Councillor Cohoun

Recommendation “C”

Be It Resolved That the 2013 Muskoka In-Water Boat and Cottage Show with Muskoka Ribfest and the Celebrate Uptown Gravenhurst Sidewalk Sale be designated as a “Municipally Significant Event”;

And Further That the 2013 Antique and Classic Boat Show be designated as a “Community Festival”.

CARRIED.

8. RC04-2012 – 1477792 Ontario Inc.

A brief discussion ensued with regard to the process that is generally followed for such applications, whether the municipality should obtain a separate appraisal and the difference between an Opinion of Value and an Appraisal.

Moved by Councillor Watson
Seconded by Councillor Colhoun

Recommendation “D”

Whereas an application (File No. RC04-2012) has been received from Scott Hiebert on behalf of 1477792 Ontario Inc., to close a portion of an unopened road allowance (Sketch attached);

Be It Resolved That Committee direct Staff to proceed with the Application to Close Unopened Road Allowance (No. RC 04-2012) received from Scott Hiebert on behalf of 1477792 Ontario Inc.;

And Be It Further Resolved That Committee will accept the consideration fee of \$8,000.00 plus H.S.T. based upon an Opinion of Market Value prepared by John Byrne, for the subject unopened road allowance of Application No. RC 04-2012 (1477792 Ontario Inc.);

And Whereas the lands must be declared surplus prior to selling, therefore

Be It Further Resolved That the following property is hereby declared surplus:

That part of an Unopened Road Allowance between Concessions 4 & 5, Lots 15 and 16 and between Lots 15 & 16, Concession 5, in the former Township of Muskoka, now in the Town of Gravenhurst, as shown on the attached sketch.

CARRIED.

IX. Closed Session – Nil

X. Adjournment

On verbal motion by Councillors Jorgensen and Donoghue, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk