

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Regular Council Meeting

Meeting No. 06-2011

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Members Present: Mayor Bill Weber
Deputy Mayor Elizabeth Davis-Dagg
Councillor Dave Maguire
Councillor Doug Bonesteel
Councillor Lorie Scott
Councillor Ruth Illman
Councillor Martin Underwood
Councillor Doug Cook
Councillor John Russell

Staff Present: C.A.O. John Byrne
Clerk Carol McKenzie
Treasurer Janet Ferguson
Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo West

Media Present: Lynda Rapley – Lakeshore Advance
Kimberly Powell-McConaghy – The Standard
Gord Whitehead – Various Publications

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mayor Weber asked members to declare any pecuniary or conflict of interest that they may have with respect to the business itemized on the agenda and none were declared.

3. McCormick Rankin Corporation – Lambton Shores Road Needs Study

Mr. Mick Oliveria, representing the McCormick Rankin Corporation presented the final draft of the Lambton Shores Road Needs Study. Mr. Oliveria noted that the goal of the study was to provide the Municipality with information to maintain the road network, and to establish a means to measure road performance. The report includes surface upgrade recommendations, a road inventory, and road condition appraisal, traffic counts, GIS data and more.

Mr. Oliveria also reviewed the scope of work, the road need assessment methodology, and how the needs were prioritized. Included in the final reports are maps that provided details on the sample traffic count by road section, and also the details on the condition of the road by section. When recommending gravel roads to be improved, items taken

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into consideration included traffic demand, road function, and proximity to other paved roads.

It was also noted that the existing road network was in reasonable condition with a rating of 14.7 out of 20 (75%), and that the recommended annual allocation for road maintenance was 2 million dollars— 1.5 million for resurfacing and .5 million for reconstruction.

The current value of Lambton Shores' road inventory as they exist today was set at 130 million dollars, and would be \$173.8 million if the roads were to be reconstructed now.

Mayor Weber called for questions from Council:

Councillor Cook questioned if one of the gravel roads were paved, would it change traffic patterns, and was advised that the paved road would draw traffic to it. Also questioned was how the load limit would be determined if a gravel road was paved, and Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West advised that core samples would be taken, and then analysed by a geotechnical firm.

Councillor Underwood questioned the 2 roads that had a rating of only "1" and Mr. Oliveria stated that those were likely the "earthen" roads.

Deputy Mayor Davis-Dagg asked if there were ways to extend the life of the roads and delay the reconstruction, and it was noted that "crack sealing" on certain roads will help them maintain their ranking.

When Councillor Cook asked if alternative forms of road resurfacing material was considered, he was advised that only the two standard treatments, asphalt and tar and chips were considered. Mayor Weber advised that the Municipality had tried options such as metro mat and slurry seal with varying degrees of success.

Councillor Russell thanked Mr. Oliveria for the excellent report and there was a discussion on how the document could be used as a tool for staff at budget time. It was noted that the report should be reviewed and updated every 2 years and in response to the question from Councillor Russell, Mr. Oliveria advised that some municipalities do have similar reports for sidewalks and trails.

Mr. Oliveria was unable to provide an average cost per kilometre of gravel road to update, as it would depend on factors such the condition of the base, whether there were culverts that needed replacing, and the type of surface treatment, etc.

**11-0215-01 Moved by: Councillor Russell
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Davis-Dagg**

That the Road Needs Study, prepared by McCormick Rankin Corporation, dated February 2011, be received and used as a guide for future road planning and budgeting. Carried

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John Russell reported that when considering upgrading of Cedar Point Line, the County of Lambton should be asked if they intend to proceed with the improvements to Thomson Line, as there had been a plan in the mid 1950's to extend and improve the road all the way to Highway 21. At the time of amalgamation, there was a promise from the County that the road will be paved, and residents noted during the strategic plans sessions that this was the logical road to pave.

Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne advised that the County is looking to strategically download roads, and may consider downloading Thomson Line and provide funds for its reconstruction. The Lambton Shores representatives on County Council will be taking that under advisement

3. 2011 Budget Deliberations

With respect to the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority budget, Councillor Scott asked for more direction on the percent increase that was acceptable to Lambton Shore, and was advised that a 5 – 8% increase would be more acceptable; however, it was noted that the Conservation Authorities' budgets are part of the operating budget and any increase will impact the Municipal operating budget and Municipal operations. The direction from Council was to vote against the budget at the current rate, as it far exceeds the rate of inflation.

The review of the 2011 capital program budget continued:

Allen Street, Thedford

The road portion of the Allen Street project (paving, storm sewers and culverts) is estimated at \$339,000.00 however, Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West noted that it may be necessary to defer the 2nd lift of asphalt until 2012, in order to allow the road to settle.

In discussing the road needs study, Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West advised that none of the recommendations from the study are incorporated in the budget; however, some of the projects in the study were scheduled for 2011. In 2012 and onwards, the budget will reflect the Road Needs Study recommendations.

Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne noted that the challenge for Council will be to prioritize the roads needs while taking into consideration infrastructure requirements. ie if a waterline needs to be replaced, it may change the priority of a road reconstruction.

Re-surface Treatment

The only project scheduled for 2011 is 2 lifts of tar and chips for Lake Valley Grove Road.

Bridge and Culverts

Proposed projects for 2011 included installing a guide rail on a section of Kennedy Line; however, it is being recommended that this project be "deferred" in order to resolve an

outstanding legal issue respecting the exact location of the “given” road. Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West advised that signage could be erected in the interim, warning of the sharp drop.

**11-0215-01 Moved by: Councillor Scott
Seconded by: Councillor Russell**

That the allocation for the Kennedy Line – Guiderails, in the amount of \$55,000.00 be deferred until the outstanding legal issues pertaining to the “given” road are resolved. Carried

RECREATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES & FIXTURES

With respect to the Legacy Centre, Deputy Mayor Davis-Dagg asked for clarification on the total amount to be spent on the Legacy Centre, and Treasurer Janet Ferguson advised that the description shows the unfunded portion and the fully financed at the bottom of the page.

Arkona Pavilion

It was noted that the pavilion in Arkona was proposed as part of the redevelopment of the community; however, at this time, there hasn't been a study as to the best location for the structure. Councillor Cook noted that the repair and replacement of the sidewalks would be a greater priority for Arkona at this time and asked if the funds could be transferred from the pavilion to the sidewalks. Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne advised that the pavilion would be funded from the recreation reserve and the sidewalks from the transportation reserve; however, an option could be to utilize some of the savings from the Kennedy Line project for the sidewalks.

**11-0215-02 Moved by: Councillor Cook
Seconded by: Councillor Underwood**

That the Arkona pavilion project be deferred, and that the \$35,000 allocation in the Recreation and Leisure Facilities and Fixture capital program for the project remain in the Recreation Reserve. Carried

Councillor Cook requested a report for the next meeting on how some of the \$55,000.00 savings in the Road Capital budget could be used for additional sidewalks in Arkona.

Arkona Senior Centre

The urgent need for the repairs to the canopy entrance at the Arkona Senior Centre was discussed, and it was recommended that the work should proceed this year.

**11-0215-03 Moved by: Councillor Underwood
Seconded by: Councillor Illman**

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That the allocation for the capital allocation for the installation of a canopy at the entrance to the Arkona Senior Facility be moved from the 2012 capital program to the 2011 capital program.

Carried

Port Franks Community Centre

Proposed works for 2011 at the Port Franks Community Centre include new windows and an outdoor pavilion. Councillor Scott recommended that the roof repairs scheduled for 2012 be moved to 2011, and the pavilion moved to 2012.

**11-0215-04 Moved by: Councillor Scott
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Davis-Dagg**

That the allocation for the repairs to the roof at the Port Franks Community Centre be moved from the 2012 capital program to the 2011 program, and that the construction of the pavilion be deferred until 2012, and that the area needs be reviewed in conjunction with the recommendations in the Recreation Master Plan.

Carried

With respect to the windows, Councillor Scott advised she would like to see 2 windows replaced with casement windows, instead of replacing all of the windows, and that there are funds from the Optimist (\$1400.00) that are available for this project.

**11-0215-05 Moved by: Councillor Scott
Seconded by: Councillor Bonesteel**

That the allocation for the replacement of windows at the Port Franks Community Centre be reduced from \$9,600.00 to \$2,000.00.

Carried

Grand Bend Harbour

Funds are included in the 2011 program for repairs to the Municipal launch ramp on River Road in Grand Bend, which includes the need to de-water the area and level out the concrete. This project is scheduled for the fall, to comply with the requirements of the "Species at Risk" legislation.

Grand Bend Lion's Park

\$10,000.00 has been allocated in the budget for playground equipment for the Lion's Park and \$42,630.00 as the Lambton Shores' share of the erosion project. Director of Community Services Peggy Van Mierlo-West advised that the Grand Bend Baseball group is interested in partnering with the Municipality for playground equipment, and if the funding is approved, a RFP for equipment would be issued, and the suppliers will design a playground for the park.

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Mayor Weber noted that the Grand Bend Baseball Project had submitted a budget for additional works, and it was confirmed that some of the items in the budget were in the operating budget.

Councillor Maguire had talked to Mr. Whiting and the Club would like a 2 year commitment from the Municipality, and are looking for the Municipality to contribute \$30,000.00 towards the project. The group plans to apply for Trillium funding, and may need to work with other community groups to complete the project.

**11-0215-06 Moved by: Councillor Maguire
Seconded by: Councillor Russell**

That the 2011 allocation of \$10,000.00 for playground equipment for the Grand Bend Lions Park be deferred to 2012, and that the 2012 proposed projects be moved to 2011, with the funding increased to \$30,000.00 to match the proposed Grand Bend Baseball Committee's budget, and that a staff report be prepared on the Grand Bend Baseball Projects request for improvements and funding, and that the requests be linked to the Recreation and Leisure Plan. Carried

It was noted that the Eilber Street playground was unsafe and was being removed and the alternative playground areas were discussed.

Councillor Scott asked that the Optimist Club of Ausable Port Franks be recognized for the donation of the tennis courts. Councillor Illman advised that the community sign program was part of the recommendations in the Community Improvement Plans.

PARKING LOTS

The proposed budget includes an allocation for the resurfacing of the James Street parking lot in Forest, which is quite dangerous due to its poor condition.

Councillor Underwood questioned how each community's needs were prioritized and it was noted that the C.A.O. had reported earlier on the significant dollars that have been allocated to the various communities for projects such as sidewalks, roads, water, recreation facilities, etc. One of the purposes of the Road Needs Study, and the Recreation and Leisure Master Plan, as well as the Community Improvement Plans and Strategic Plans was to allow Council to look at the overall community needs and be more proactive. The need to establish a strategic direction for the Council in the near future so that the overall vision for the community can be determined was discussed.

Community Signs

An allocation of \$ 35,000.00 each year is included in the budget for community entrance signs, and Councillor Maguire asked if this could be used for specialized street signs, similar to the ones in the community of Port Franks, and was advised there are no set plans for this allocation.

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At the conclusion of the review of the Capital budget, Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne advised that staff would prepare a report on the changes made to the next meeting.

**11-0215-07 Moved by: Councillor Underwood
Seconded by: Councillor Illman**

That staff are authorized to prepare tenders for the following projects/acquisitions:

Gravel, Dust Suppressant, Allen Street reconstruction, Gill Road, Highway 21 bridge railing design, paving of the James Street parking lot in Forest, the 5 ton truck, the 1 ton truck, and the culvert concrete work. Carried

Chief Administrative Officer John Byrne has asked Council for direction on what an acceptable budget change over 2010 would be, and Councillor Underwood noted it would be hard to set a number without going through the entire budget and look at the services and what could be cut and the ensuing impact on the community. Councillor Bonesteel noted that a message needs to be sent to the residents that Council is fiscally responsible and looking for cost effectiveness and efficiency.

**11-0215-08 Moved by: Councillor Bonesteel
Seconded by: Councillor Cook**

That staff be directed to return a budget with a 0% tax rate increase (as a starting point). Carried

The next budget meeting will be March 9th from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., and will continue at the March 15 meeting if required.

Mayor Weber asked for questions from the audience:

A question was raised by Mr. Sharen if all the stop signs in Southcott Pines were approved by by-law.

**11-0215-08 Moved by: Councillor Russell
Seconded by: Councillor Maguire**

That the Council budget meeting, held the 15th day of February adjourn at 4:40 p.m. Carried