

The Corporation of the Municipality of Magnetawan

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
Wednesday, January 11th, 2006
7:00 p.m.
Magnetawan Community Centre

Any and All Minutes are to be considered Draft until approved by Council at a Regular Meeting of Council

In Attendance:

Council Members: Mayor Sam Dunnett
Councillors: Jack Crossman; Dick Smith; and Frank Tod

Municipal Staff: Jim Dymont, Municipal Planner
James Mahoney, By-law Enforcement Officer
Ron Catcher, Manager, Operations and Roads
Brenda J. Fraser, Clerk/Administrator

Regrets: Councillor Sam Stewart

1. OPENING COMMENTS

By Mayor Sam Dunnett

2. DECLARATIONS OF 'PECUNIARY INTERESTS'

Mayor Sam Dunnett declared a 'Pecuniary Interest' with Arrow Printing.
Councillor Jack Crossman declared a 'Pecuniary Interest' with the Land Fill Site Contract and with the Ahmic Harbour Croft Fire Brigade.
Councillor Dick Smith declared a 'Pecuniary Interest' with Agenda Item 5.1.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-04

Moved by: Jack Crossman

Seconded by: Dick Smith

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan approves the Minutes of the Council Meeting(s) as presented and circulated:

3.1 Special Meeting of Council on Thursday, December 8th, 2005; and

3.2 Regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday, December 14th, 2005.

Carried.

PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL

James Dymont, Municipal Planner presented the Magnetawan Island Park Strategy Report to Council, resulting in the following Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-05

Moved by: Jack Crossman

Seconded by: Frank Tod

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan hereby receives and endorses the Magnetawan Island Park Strategy prepared by Meridian Planning Consultants, dated December 2005. **Carried.**

Mr. Dymont offered to prepare a time line outlining the process for developing a Strategic Plan for our Municipality.

4. REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL BOARDS/COMMITTEES

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-06

Moved by: Frank Tod

Seconded by: Jack Crossman

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan accepts the Minutes, as circulated, of the following Boards and Committees:

4.1 Central Almaguin Planning Board - December 2005

4.3.1 Magnetawan Library Board - November 2005

Carried.

5. REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

Councillor Dick Smith vacated his seat on Council and left the room at 7:40 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-07

Moved by: Jack Crossman

Seconded by: Frank Tod

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan authorizes the Treasurer to refund \$515.00 to Councillor Dick Smith, from the Parks and Recreation Fund as a result of a change in assessed value of a newly created lot. **Carried.**

Councillor Smith returned to his seat on Council at 7:45 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-08

Moved by: Jack Crossman

Seconded by: Dick Smith

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan authorizes the By-law Enforcement Officer to purchase a USB Flash Drive, for data storage for Municipal By-law Enforcement records. **Carried.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-09

Moved by: Dick Smith

Seconded by: Frank Tod

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan authorizes the attendance of John McLean at the Emergency Management Ontario 'Senior and Elected Officials Workshop' in North Bay on January 17, 2006. All regular expenses to be paid. **Carried.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-10

Moved by: Jack Crossman

Seconded by: Frank Tod

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan approves the Reports, as submitted by the following departments:

- 5.2 By-law Enforcement - December 2005
- Building Department - December 2005
- 5.3 Parks and Maintenance - January 2006

Carried.

6. BY-LAWS

Draft By-laws: to establish penalty and interest charges for non-payment of taxes; for Temporary Borrowing with RBC; and to provide for an Interim Tax Levy were provided to Council.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-11

Moved by: Dick Smith

Seconded by: Jack Crossman

Whereas Municipal Governments in Ontario are required to subsidize Provincial health and social services programs, like welfare and employment services, disability benefits, drug benefits, social housing, child care, homes for the aged, public health and ambulance services;

And Whereas many young families and seniors in Ontario are finding the Municipal property tax to be a financial hardship;

And Whereas other housing costs such as hydro rates, natural gas rates and costs for water and sewer treatment and virtually all costs of running a home are increasing sharply;

And Whereas the incomes of working families and seniors have not kept pace with these escalating costs;

And Whereas due to increases in Municipal property tax and other housing costs, many working families and seniors will be forced out of their homes and the communities that they love;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan requests that the Province of Ontario provide relief and remedy for working families and seniors, who are hardest hit by unacceptable spikes in the cost of living and by the likely property tax increases to come;

And further be it resolved that we request the Province of Ontario end its downloading of Provincial programs and the use of Municipal property tax dollars for the subsidization of Provincial health and social services programs and that the Province be urged to work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, to develop a plan to begin the immediate uploading of Provincial program costs back to where they belong to be funded through Provincial revenues.

Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-12

Moved by: Frank Tod

Seconded by: Dick Smith

In support of the Resolution circulated by the Township of Severn, be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario create an appropriate tax class under the Assessment Act, for Canadian Heritage Museums and other similar type non-profit operations.

Carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-13

Moved by: Jack Crossman

Seconded by: Dick Smith

Whereas Municipalities in Ontario are strapped with a Current Value Assessment (CVA) system that has created outrageous spikes in assessment, some over 100 % and these unprecedented hikes in assessment will translate into corresponding increases in taxes for the portion of assessment that is in excess of the average increase in any given Municipality;

And Whereas Municipalities are at a loss to adequately analyse the full impact of the new property assessments by only receiving the new Assessment Roll in mid-December while the majority of the 2006 assessments are in the hands of ratepayers by mid-October;

And Whereas the criterion of realty sales for establishing new assessments each year is very volatile, very frivolous, very unfair and very unpredictable and there is no correlation between the severe tax increases generated by many of these assessments and the provision of Municipal services which remain virtually unchanged from year to year;

And Whereas the Provincial Government froze the 2004 Assessment roll for the 2005 taxation year in response to cries of outrage stemming from a flawed Current Value Assessment system, yet the proposed Assessment Roll for the 2006 taxation year will create even more hardship than that generated at the time of the freeze;

And Whereas Ontario's Municipalities deserve immediate, as well as long term relief from a "broken" assessment system that is failing all areas of this Province;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan urge the Provincial Ombudsman, Andre Marin, who has launched a full investigation into the Current Value Assessment system and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, to recommend to Premier Dalton McGuinty, an immediate short term solution whereby the 2005 moratorium on assessment increases would be extended through the 2006 taxation year. This "freeze" would also allow more time for MPAC to replace their 30-year old computer system for the new Integrated Property System that is scheduled for implementation before the end of 2006;

And further be it resolved that we encourage both Ombudsman Andre Marin and Premier Dalton McGuinty to recognize that the Provincial Government should undertake a systemic review of CVA during the 2006 moratorium period in order to develop and implement a more equitable, more stable and more transparent assessment system.

Carried.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

The Emergency Management Workshop was addressed by Resolution No. 2006-09.

10. ACCOUNTS

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-14

Moved by: Frank Tod

Seconded by: Jack Crossman

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan approves the accounts as presented and circulated in the amount of: Roads (Invoices and Payroll)\$40,464.02; Levies \$53,525.53; and General Government (Invoices and Payroll) \$80,018.29; for a total of \$174,007.84.

Carried.

11. ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-15

Moved by: Jack Crossman

Seconded by: Dick Smith

Be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan does hereby now adjourn.

Time: 8:55 p.m.

Carried.

Sam Dunnett, *Mayor*

Brenda J. Fraser, *Clerk/Administrator*