

Highlights of April 12, 2021 regular Council meeting

- **Item 10.1** - The Township Building and By-law quarterly activity report was presented to Council. Building activity has increased compared to last year. The number of by-law complaints have also increased. Many past complaints are still being addressed by our new by-law officer. Action will be taken to bring property owners into compliance. I request all residents to please follow the Township by-laws, as they will be enforced. The few residents that choose not to comply are causing a financial burden on the entire Township tax base which is not fair to the rest of the residents.
- **Item 10.4** - The Fire department received a grant of \$7,300 from the province. This grant will be used to support increased assistance for computer equipment for the training for our firefighters.
- **Item 10.6** - Farsight Homes (Everett) provided a letter read at the Public Comment section at the Council Meeting regarding street names. Council directed staff to come up with a street naming policy that expands the list of names for any new Township roads. The current naming policy, which restricted the names to war veterans and family names of long time residents of the Township, was found to be too restrictive. Council felt that streets could be named after birds, animals, trees, seasons, places etc.
- **Item 10.9** - Council has voted to take on debt of \$1.5 Million to pave more gravel roads, this debt will be fully paid with future annual gas tax grants received from the upper levels of government and will not be a burden to the taxpayer. The below road projects will be completed within 2021-2022 if approved by Council at the June Council meeting, dependant on the tenders fitting within the \$1.5 Million debt approved. I will update residents on the outcome of the vote.

Concession Road 7 from 5th Sideroad to County Road 14 (Adjala)
Concession road 7 from County Road 5 north 1.8 KM (Tosorontio)
Concession Road 7 from County Road 5 south 350 meters
Trillium Trail and Deer Lane intersection repaving

- Staff are working on solutions to future paving of Concession 5 from Sideroad 5 to Sideroad 10 (Adjala) and Concession 3 from Sideroad 10 to County Road 1 (Adjala). There are problems with road width, tree clearing, ditching etc. It is a multi year project. Council is also looking at completing the paving of the 3rd Concession in Adjala. Staff and Council are doing our best within our limited budget.
- Maintaining Gravel roads is extremely costly. The road study report (required by the province) dated November 2020 has indicated that the Township needs to spend a minimum of \$3.5 Million annually on failing infrastructure, and \$544,000 annually on placement of gravel. Our current budget for gravel is only \$120,000. In addition, there is an annual cost of approx. \$110,000 to spread calcium for

dust control, purchasing a grader every 10 years at approx. \$500,000, staff time in grading gravel roads and then removing and disposing of the gravel that has gone into the ditches over time from the roads. Paving roads will save the Township these expenses. These savings can then be put towards maintaining the existing roads and paving more roads. Council has directed staff to work towards paving roads.

- **Item 10.10** - Council approved replacement of Structure 64, one of the Township's old bridge/culverts for a total cost of \$489,947. Residents living in the area will be informed of the commencement of the work.
- **Item 10.11** - Council voted against the use of funds for Structure 19 as this was voted down during the budget, this structure will be readdressed when grants become available as the cost is over a million.
- **Item 10.12** - Council voted against use of additional gas tax of \$218,145.54 to fund minor rehabilitation to bridges and culverts. The use of this funding will be discussed during 2022 budget. Council already approved culvert and bridge work for this year.
- **Item 10.13** - The motion for the financial plan was defeated, as that the plan included adding additional debt to the entire Township tax base over and above the existing debt that the water and wastewater users owe the Township. This debt would be paid by 2034. This additional debt would cause further financial strain on the Township. Tax dollars are to be used to pay to fix our failing bridges, culverts, roads and not subsidizing water and wastewater rates that have not been raised since 2014. There were also concerns of the Township not receiving upfront payment from developers for Township debt used to build infrastructure they will be using.
- **Item 10.19** - Council approved the Township providing Civil Marriage ceremonies services. Once Staff have confirmation from the Registrar's Office, residents will be able to obtain civil marriage licenses at the Township office. Please look on the Township's website for further information on this moving forward.
- **Item 10.21** - Large Accessory structures: There have been numerous complaints from residents with regards to the limited size of structures permitted in the Township. Council listened to the residents and amended the zoning bylaw to increase the size of the structures. These sizes do not affect agricultural structures.
- The new sizes for properties within the Oak Ridges Moraine will be as follows:

Property size less than 0.25 hectares = 55 sq meters/592 sq feet approx
Property size 0.25 to 1 hectares = 75 sq meters/807 sq feet approx
Property size greater than 1 hectares = 140 sq meters/1507 sq feet approx

The new sizes for properties outside the Oak Ridges Moraine will be as follows

Property size less than 0.25 hectares = 55 sq meters/592 sq feet approx

Property size 0.25 to 2 hectares = 100 sq meters/1076 sq feet approx

Property size greater than 2 hectares = 185 sq meters/1991 sq feet approx

- **Item 13.2** - The new Township auditor presented the Township audit. Clarity was also provided with regards to the cost of the investigation into the Fire department. It was found that \$143,044.29 was spent on the investigation and legal fees. These costs were incurred without it being brought forward to Council.