

TOWNSHIP OF WHITEWATER REGION
Committee Meeting

Meeting Title: Finance and Administration Date: Wed May 16, 2007

Place: Cobden Council Chambers Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Minutes
3. Delegation – Bruce Beakley HR County of Renfrew – Council Honorarium
4. Other Business
 - a. Council Code of Conduct - Draft
 - b. Charitable Monetary Donation - Resolution
 - c. 'We Support Our Troops' Banners
5. Adjournment

Present: Mayor Don Rathwell Deputy Mayor Ron Lowe Councillors: Art Cobb, Jack Ferguson, Jim Labow, Izett McBride, Daryl McLaughlin, Jacob Rook, and Joseph Trimm

Staff Present: Dean Sauriol,

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Jacob Rook, Seconded by Ron Lowe

“Be it Resolved that the Minutes of the previous Finance and Administration Committee Meeting dated March 7th, 2007 be adopted as circulated.”

Carried
Art Cobb

Delegation - Bruce Beakley HR County of Renfrew

Bruce Beakley of the County of Renfrew presented a document containing 13 recommendations regarding Council remuneration.

1. **THAT** the Province through the Municipal Act Section 283(1) permits a 1/3 Tax Free Allowance for elected official compensation. Provided the Municipal elected positions remain “part-time” in Whitewater Township, the 1/3 Tax Free Allowance should be applied to councillor remuneration.
2. **THAT** Whitewater Council abolish the meeting per diems for the position of Mayor; **AND THAT** the annual salary for the position of Mayor be established at \$21, 000 annually, paid out in monthly installments effective January 1, 2007.
3. **THAT** Whitewater Council abolish the meeting per diems for the position of Deputy Mayor; **AND THAT** the annual salary for the position of Deputy Mayor be established at \$13, 125 annually, paid out in monthly installments effective January 1, 2007.
4. **THAT** Whitewater Council abolish the meeting per diems for the position of Councillor; **AND THAT** the annual salary for the position of Councillor be established at \$10, 500 annually, paid out in monthly installments effective January 1, 2007.
5. **THAT** no additional per diem be paid for Whitewater Township Committee Chair or Vice Chair of a Standing Committee of Council.
6. **THAT** Whitewater Council ensure proper maintenance of the Councillor remuneration model by passing a resolution that may provide an annual increase to the base compensation using either a 12 month annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase or the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) provided to non union staff; **AND THAT** any CPI or COLA adjustment be effective January 1, of each year passed.
7. **THAT** each elected official be allocated \$1500 per year in expenses related to

conferences and conventions; **AND THAT** \$3000 per year be allocated to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Expenses are inclusive of:

- Expenses actually incurred for accommodations and parking;
- A meal allowance of \$65.00 per day
- All registration fees
- All mileage consistent with approved mileage per diem

These expenses shall be charged to the General Ledger account called Education Fees.

8. **THAT** when on municipal business authorized by Council outside the Township of Whitewater, members of Council shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred for accommodation and parking (receipts required).
9. **THAT** Whitewater Township adopt the existing federal mileage rates of 50 cents per kilometre for the first 5, 000 km and 45 cents per kilometre for all additional kilometres per calendar year; **AND THAT** Whitewater Township adjust mileage allowance to coincide with any changes that may occur by the Treasury Board Secretariat. (www.tbs-sct.gc.ca)
10. **THAT** Whitewater Council establish a meal allowance of \$45.00 per day for meetings held within the County of Renfrew and \$65.00 per day for meetings external to the County of Renfrew. Receipts are required in both circumstances and it is understood that no meal allowance is paid for regular meetings of council.
11. **THAT**, as Section 282 of the Municipal Act allows for the provision of Health and Dental benefits be provided to elected officials; **AND THAT** Whitewater Council implement a Health and Dental plan for it's elected officials similar to a plan provided to non union staff. The plan participation should be voluntary. It is recommended to be implemented January 1, 2008 and would be in effect for each elected official for the duration of their term in office.
12. **THAT** Whitewater Township not have elected members participate in Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement (OMERS) until such time that any of the elected positions are deemed to be full-time.
13. **THAT** in 2010 Council will meet to discuss Council structure with consideration to reduction in the number of elected officials who currently represent Whitewater Township as a cost constraint initiative.

Councillor Lowe suggested that we table this document until we have a better handle and time to digest the report

Council posed questions to Mr. Beakley regarding the report.

Mr. Beakley explained the reason for some of his recommendations.

2007 Council Remuneration Report

Moved by Ron Lowe, Seconded by Joe Trimm

"Be it Resolved that the Finance and Administration Committee agree to table this issue to a further Finance and Administration Committee Meeting giving the Committee some time to review and digest the report presented by Bruce Beakley."

Carried
Art Cobb

Council Code of Conduct

Committee discussed the report and several statements of clarification were obtained.

A common theme was that we must use a common sense approach.

Council Code of Conduct

Moved by Jack Ferguson, Seconded by Jim Labow

"Be it Resolved that the Finance and Administration recommend to Council that the

proposed Council Code of Conduct be adopted by the Township of Whitewater Region and that all members be required to execute the document.”

Carried
Art Cobb

Charitable Monetary Donation

Moved by Joe Trimm, Seconded by Art Cobb

WHEREAS the Municipality collects tax revenues in order to provide important and necessary public service;

AND WHEREAS there are, in our community, a number of service clubs, other volunteer groups, and individuals who provide aid and support to those in need;

AND WHEREAS the municipality does receive requests from time to time for monetary donations;

AND WHEREAS a municipal government is not mandated to make charitable donations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township develop a policy that the Township of Whitewater Region will not comply with requests for charitable monetary donation.”

Carried
Art Cobb

Councillor Trimm spoke to the motion.

Councillor McLaughlin stated several examples of a challenging issue.

Deputy Mayor Lowe stated that we are elected to make those decisions and that he wasn't in favour of the motion.

Many items we discussed and questioned.

Support Our Troops - Banners

Moved by Joe Trimm, Seconded by Art Cobb

WHEREAS a number of service personnel from CFB Petawawa reside in our community;

AND WHEREAS several members of the Armed Forces from Base Petawawa have given their lives and others have sustained wounds in the service of our country;

AND WHEREAS it is very important to have our fighting men and women that know they have our support;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the municipality erect a banner with “We Support Our Troops” in each of our six villages and hamlets and further we add a yellow “ribbon” to the two municipal signs on Highway 17.”

Carried
Art Cobb

Councillor Trimm spoke to reasons for presenting the motion. They are in support of our Troops.

Adjournment

Moved by Jim Labow, Seconded by Jack Ferguson

“Be it Resolved that the Township of Whitewater Region Finance and Administration Committee Meeting dated May 16th, 2007 be adjourned at 8:10 p.m.”

Carried
Art Cobb