

MUNICIPAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Municipal Liaison Committee was held at 1:00 p.m. on November 20, 2014, City Hall Annex – Avon Room, 82 Erie Street, Stratford.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

City of Stratford: Councillor Frank Mark (Chairperson), Councillor Tom Clifford, Councillor Bonnie Henderson

County of Perth: Councillor Vince Judge, Warden Bob Wilhelm, Councillor Walter McKenzie

Town of St. Marys: Councillor Don Van Galen

STAFF PRESENT:

City of Stratford: Andre Morin – Director of Corporate Services, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

County of Perth: Renato Pullia – Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer, Betty Jo Belton – Archivist, Bill Arthur – CAO, Linda Rockwood - Director of Emergency Medical Services, Linda Becker – POA Coordinator

Town of St. Marys: Kevin McIlwain - CAO

MINUTES

Where appropriate, motions contained in the Municipal Liaison Committee Minutes are considered recommendations to the affected municipalities.

1.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Tom Clifford, seconded by Bonnie Henderson, to adopt the November 20, 2014 Agenda as printed. Carried.

2.0 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared.

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES – July 17, 2014

Motion by Bob Wilhelm, seconded by Walter McKenzie to adopt the minutes of July 17, 2014 as presented. Carried.

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Andre Morin updated committee members regarding item 7.1 Social Services Restructuring Proposal from the July 17, 2014 meeting minutes. Council has decided to move forward with the current structure, which is a separate Social Services department. They will be hiring a new Director of Social Services, he will remain as Acting-Director in the meantime. They are hoping to conduct interviews in December and have a new Social Services Director in place early in the New Year.

5.0 2014 – 3rd QUARTER REPORTING

5.1 Stratford Perth Archives – Betty Jo Belton

Betty Jo Belton noted that the Archives have participated in some recent public outreach events. In June, the Perth County Courthouse and Archives were part of the Doors Open tour. In the fall, the Stratford Festival used a number of letters written by WWI soldiers and nurses from Perth County to create a performance event, "Letters from the Front". This event will be broadcast on November 25th on CBC. During the North Perth Culture weekend in September, the Listowel branch of the Archives prepared a self-guided tour of historic homes in Listowel, which can be found on the website.

Motion by Tom Clifford, seconded by Bob Wilhelm that the Stratford Perth Archives Report dated November 6, 2014 be accepted as circulated. Carried.

5.2 Provincial Offenses – Linda Becker

Linda Becker reported that due to legislation changes, it is less intimidating for people to request court dates, resulting in a rise in court dates. She is also hoping to see some upcoming enforcement enhancements. Councillor Mark inquired on the status of uncollected fines. Ms. Becker stated that fines are always a struggle to collect and they currently have two separate agencies working on collections. Renato Pullia added that their total outstanding receivables is approximately five million dollars. The issues faced locally in collecting fines is mirrored across the province. He noted that Alberta works with Revenue Canada and withholds tax refunds in order to collect fines.

Motion by Vince Judge, seconded by Don Van Galen that the Provincial Offences Administration Update dated November 6, 2014 be accepted as circulated. Carried.

5.3 Emergency Medical Services – Linda Rockwood

Linda Rockwood reported that all of their agencies are prepared with Ebola emergency plans, learning from the SARS outbreak. It has given everyone a good opportunity to have a close look at their existing emergency plans. They have purchased Level 4 suits, hoping the Province will cover the cost, as they did with SARS. There is room left in their protective equipment budget to cover if the province does not come through with funding.

Bill Arthur reported that planning for the new ambulance base is proceeding. Council has approved a short list of bidders to compete on the RFP, closing in January. Construction on the new building is planned to begin in the Spring.

Frank Mark inquired if cross-border calls continues to be an ongoing issue? Ms. Rockwood explained that they continue to work on it, as it is still a problem with some counties.

She also explained the new format that the OPP is using for road closures in the County. A road cannot be closed unless it has a barrier at each end. They are changing their verbage, due to the fact that they do not have enough barriers for all the roads, as well as the safety issues of physically going out and putting up the barriers. Only when they can physically close roads completely with barriers will they do so. The OPP will now be making radio announcements such as, "If you don't need to travel, don't", "Urging motorist to re-evaluate their need to travel", "Stay off the roads until conditions improve", "Urging motorists to avoid travel, driving is extremely hazardous". Unfortunately, this is going to create some confusion, when people continue to drive on roads because the OPP have not closed them. Another issue will be employers and employees coming to an agreement on what is acceptable during these situations. The onus will be on the drivers, with the OPP providing as much information as possible for them to make an informed decision and not to take risks. Bob Wilhelm inquired about liability in these situations? Bill Arthur stated that driving around barriers will remain an insurance issue for drivers, however, where liability lies will be decided by lawyers and insurance companies, if there are no barriers and the OPP have cautioned drivers not to be on the roads. EMS will continue to respond to calls in the same manner. Legislation states that they are not permitted to respond to a non-emergency call on a closed road and the call will be deferred until it is safe. If it is a code 3 or 4, which is deemed an emergency, they will respond in whatever capacity they can. If that means travelling with a snow plow, they will make an attempt. Bill Arthur will look further into a media release to inform people.

Motion by Tom Clifford, seconded by Bob Wilhelm that the Perth County EMS Third Quarter Report dated November 6, 2014 be accepted as circulated. Carried.

5.4 Social Services – Andre Morin

Andre Morin reviewed the 3rd Quarter report, as circulated with the agenda.

Kevin McLlwain inquired if Mr. Morin knew the total amount of dollars available for capital retrofits for 2015? He does not have that exact figure yet. Renato Pullia reported that the OMPF numbers were released by the Province and the program has been phased down from \$600,000,000 to \$500,000,000, resulting in a 2015 allocation reduction for the County of approximately \$2,800,000. Since the reductions have started, the Province's message has always been that these reductions should be offset by the upload benefit to the municipalities. He inquired, if in the 2015/16 budget, does he foresee the uploads translating to changes to allocations for the municipalities? Mr. Morin will better be able to report on these numbers once the 2015 budget has been set by Council and can give further updates at the January MLC budget meeting.

Motion by Bonnie Henderson, seconded by Don Van Galen, that the Social Services Third Quarter Report dated September 30, 2014 be accepted as circulated. Carried.

6.0 STRATFORD PERTH ARCHIVES – MOVING PLAN & TEMPORARY CLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC – BETTY JO BELTON

Betty Jo Belton reviewed the report previously circulated with the agenda.

Motion by Tom Clifford, seconded by Bob Wilhelm to receive the Stratford Perth Archives Report on their Moving Plan and Temporary Closure to the Public, dated November 6, 2014. Carried.

7.0 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MLC

Motion by Walter McKenzie, seconded by Vince Judge to refer the Draft MLC Terms of Reference to staff for review. Further discussion at the January 29, 2015 MLC meeting. Carried.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

None.

9.0 BUDGET MEETING DATE: January 29, 2015 – 1:00 p.m. (County of Perth)

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bob Wilhelm, seconded by Don Van Galen that the meeting adjourn. Carried.

Time: 1:50 p.m.