GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT 2011-9

Report of the General Committee of Council Meeting held Monday, November 14, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Office Council Chambers.

Present: Chair, Deputy Mayor S. Kramp,
Vice-Chair, Mayor G. McKay
Councillors J. Attwood, Z. Pendlebury, J. Charlebois, B. Jeffery, M. Ross*, P. File** and G. Canning

Also Present: Chief Administrative Officer, T. Walker
Director of Parks and Recreation, B. Peter
Director of Public Works, S. Berriault
Director of Finance/Treasurer S. Gignac
Police Inspector, R. Wheeldon
Director of Fire Services (Fire Chief) and Emergency Mgmt., K. Foster
Acting Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary, K. Desroches

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Ross declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Section B, Item #2, Full Tax Relief for Royal Canadian Legions by reason that he is a member of the Midland Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion

SECTION A – PUBLIC WORKS MATTERS
(Referred to the Chair, Councillor B. Jeffery)

1. Easement Agreement - D.G. Pratt Construction Limited - Watermain to Service Soccer Pitches

   Your Committee reviewed a report dated November 10, 2011**,** from S. Berriault, Director of Public Works, recommending that the Town enter into an Easement Agreement with D.G. Pratt Construction Limited to provide for an easement at 823 King Street to accommodate a watermain to service the Midland Soccer Pitches.

   Your Committee supported the proposed easement and recommended the appropriate by-law and agreement be forwarded to the November Council meeting.

SECTION B – ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
(Referred to the Chair, Mayor G. McKay)

1. Municipal Law Enforcement Officer's Investigative Report – October 2011

Your Committee reviewed and received as information a report dated November 9, 2011, from J. Reichheld, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, providing updates on departmental operations, monthly ticket count and street parking meter revenue.

2. Full Tax Relief for Royal Canadian Legions

Having previously declared a pecuniary interest, Councillor Ross vacated his seat.

Your Committee reviewed and received as information a report dated October 27, 2011, from P. Wayne, Manager of Revenue and Taxation, providing information regarding the above.

Councillor Ross then returned to his seat.

3. RFP Process for General Insurance and Risk Management Services for 2012

Your Committee reviewed a report dated November 7, 2011, from T. Walker, CAO, recommending that the quote for General Insurance and Risk Management Services for 2012 received from BFL in the amount of $373,208.00 be accepted; and further that the liability amount be increased from 25 million dollars to 50 million dollars for an additional annual premium of $8,500.

Your Committee supported the quote and the proposed increase in liability insurance and recommended the appropriate motion be forwarded to the November Council meeting.

4. Council Strategy – Staffing – Priority Rating #6

Your Committee reviewed a report dated October 27, 2011, from T. Walker, CAO, providing recommendations specific to each goal identified under the above Council Strategy Priority Item.

Your Committee supported the strategic recommendations contained in the report and recommended the appropriate motion be forwarded to the November Council meeting.

5. Council Strategy – Priority Rating #3 – Citizen Engagement and Voting

Your Committee reviewed a report dated October 27, 2011, from K. Desroches, A/Deputy Clerk, providing recommendations specific to each goal identified under the above Council Strategy Priority Item.

Your Committee supported the strategic recommendations contained in the report and recommended the appropriate motion be forwarded to the November Council meeting.

6. Closed Meeting Investigation Services - 2012

Your Committee reviewed a report dated November 8, 2011, from K. Desroches, A/Deputy Clerk, requesting direction from Council on how to proceed regarding the appointment of a Closed Meeting Investigator.

Mayor McKay advised that the County's Performance Management Committee met earlier and reviewed a report submitted by the Clerk's Department recommending re-appointment of JGM Consulting for the provision of Closed Meeting Investigation Services. The Committee defeated the County Clerk's recommendation to renew the contract and will be recommending to County Council that the County consider the provision of Closed Meeting Investigation Services through the Provincial Ombudsman.

A discussion ensued whereby it was suggested that regardless of what the County's final decision was with respect to the provision of Closed Meeting Investigation Services, the Town of Midland should proceed with the Provincial Ombudsman for the provision of this service.

Following further discussion, the matter was put to a straw vote and supported six to three in favour of utilizing the Provincial Ombudsman for the provision of Closed Meeting Investigation Services.

7. Farmers' Market – North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre

Your Committee reviewed a report dated November 8, 2011, from K. Desroches, A/Deputy Clerk, advising of a request to conduct a Farmer's Market at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre on Saturday's from January 7 to May 12, 2012.

Some concerns were raised regarding the impact of the proposed Farmer's Market on the downtown businesses.

Following further discussion, your Committee recommended that the appropriate by-law and agreement be forwarded to the November Council meeting and that the BIA be invited to provide their comments and/or concerns regarding the proposed market prior to the meeting.

8. Commercial Grain Elevators

Your Committee reviewed an email dated October 12, 2011, from Mr. J. Carman, Clerk, County of Brant, requesting support in their petition to the Province of Ontario to amend Ontario Regulation 282/98 to remove commercial grain elevators from the industrial property class and include them in the commercial property class.

Your Committee recommended that the County of Brant's letter be forwarded to the ADM Milling Company to solicit feedback prior to further consideration of the matter at an upcoming meeting.

9. Joint and Several Liability Reform

Your Committee reviewed an email dated October 20, 2011, from Ms. J. Arcaro, Deputy Clerk & Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, C of A, Town of Pelham, advising of their resolution supporting the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in its efforts to seek joint and several liability reform in Ontario, and providing a copy of the "Cost of Risk and the Risk of Cost" presentation on the 2011 Municipal Insurance Survey Results.

Your Committee supported the Town of Pelham in their petition and recommended the appropriate motion be forwarded to the November Council meeting, and further that a copy of the motion be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

10. Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards

Your Committee reviewed a letter dated October 3, 2011, from Ms. A. Lannan, Ontario Community Newspapers Association, providing details regarding the Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year Awards Program and advising that the deadline for nominations is November 30, 2011.

Your Committee directed staff to ensure that local schools are made aware of the Awards program and encourage the nomination of a deserving youth.

11. Community Christmas Tree and Tree Lighting Ceremony

Your Committee reviewed a letter dated October 26, 2011, from Ms. S. Robitaille, Executive Officer, Southern Georgian Bay Real Estate Association, highlighting some of the events being planned for this year's Community Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration on Friday, November 18, 2011, and requesting the Town's support of same.

Your Committee expressed support of the event and, noting that the event will be held in advance of the next Council Meeting, recommended the appropriate motion formally confirming approval be forwarded to the November Council Meeting.

12. Approval Process for Alternative Energy Projects

Your Committee reviewed an email dated November 9, 2011, from Ms. K. Shillum, Acting Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Township of Mulmur, requesting support in their petition to the Province of Ontario for changes to the Approval Process for Alternative Energy Projects.

Your Committee supported the Township of Mulmur in their petition and recommended the appropriate motion be forwarded to the November Council meeting.

13. Safe Communities Midland

Your Committee reviewed a letter dated November 8, 2011, from Mr. T. Huntley and Ms. A. Payne, Co-Chairs, Safe Communities Midland, requesting that Council dissolve the Committee due to lack of funding and expressing thanks for Council's support.

Your Committee expressed thanks and appreciation for the many achievements and excellent work provided by the Committee over the past few years. However, recognizing the escalating financial challenges facing the Committee, your Committee, with much reluctance, supported the request and recommended the appropriate by-law providing for dissolution of the Safe Communities Midland Executive be forwarded to the November Council meeting.

14. Refreshment Vehicle By-law 2010-28

Your Committee reviewed a letter received in October 2011, from Mr. T. Meridis, Midland Fish and Chips, requesting that Council review By-law 2010-28, and amend it so that seating is not permitted to be provided by refreshment vehicles operating within the Town of Midland.

A discussion ensued following which your Committee referred the matter to the Administration Department for further review and consideration.

15. 12th Annual Festival of Christmas Trees

Your Committee reviewed a letter received November 4, 2011, from Ms. J. St. Amant, Rotary Club of Penetanguishene, regarding the above event taking place in the Mountainview Mall from November 21 to December 16, 2011, and requesting that the Town participate by sponsoring a pre-lit tree at a cost of $250.

Deputy Mayor Kramp suggested that Council collectively, at their own expense, contribute the required funds. Deputy Mayor Kramp noted that he would cover any short fall up to the required amount.

16. Provision of a Pilot Transportation Component for Voucher Users

Your Committee reviewed a letter dated October 19, 2011, from Ms. Willma Bureau, Contracts & Collections Supervisor, County of Simcoe, in response to the Town of Midland's request with respect to a pilot transportation component for voucher users, as well as providing an update regarding special collection services.

Following a lengthy discussion, the letter was received as information.

SECTION C – COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS
(Referred to the Chair, Councillor Z. Pendlebury)

1. Information Report

Your Committee reviewed a report dated November 4, 2011, from B. Peter, Director of Parks and Recreation, providing an update on the soccer fields project, a new playground at Harbourside Park, Parks and Harbour Operations, upcoming events, a Municipal Cultural Planning Institute Workshop and highlights from a recent Public Meeting regarding proposed User Fees.

2. Repaving Rotary Pier Midland Harbour

Your Committee reviewed a report dated November 9, 2011, from B. Peter, Director of Parks and Recreation, recommending that the $45,000 budget in the 2011 Harbour Capital for the repaving of the Rotary Pier be transferred to Reserve in 2011 and drawn out in 2012 when the work will be undertaken.

Your Committee supported the proposed transfer of funds to permit the work to be undertaken in 2012 and recommended the appropriate motion be forwarded to the November Council meeting.

3. Council Strategy Plan

Your Committee reviewed a report dated November 2, 2011, from B. Peter, Director of Parks and Recreation, recommending that Council authorize staff to focus on the strategic results/issues in the Council Strategy Plan pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Department that do not require increases to Capital and/or Operating Budgets.

A question was raised regarding the parking situation at Pete Pettersen Park and whether additional parking could be incorporated to accommodate visitors. B. Peter noted that increased parking is being contemplated and included in the recommendations contained in the report.

Your Committee supported the strategic recommendations contained in the report and recommended that the appropriate motion be forwarded to the November Council meeting. Staff were also directed to prepare a report for a future meeting detailing options being considered with respect to parking at Pete Pettersen Park for consideration by Council and the public at large.

4. 2012 Ontario Winter Games

Your Committee reviewed a report dated November 9, 2011, from B. Peter, Director of Parks and Recreation, recommending that Council grant special permission to the 2012 Ontario Winter Games for an Air Rifle/Air Pistol Competition at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre in March 2012 provided all safety regulations by the Canadian Sport Shooting Association are enforced and that the Town of Midland is named as an additional insured for a minimum of two million dollars.

Your Committee supported the event and recommended the appropriate motion be forwarded to the November Council meeting.

5. Fire Department Activity Report

Your Committee reviewed the Fire Department Activity Report for the month of October 2011 providing an update on suppression, training, fire prevention and public education. Chief Foster noted that a cooperative training workshop involving the five local municipalities is being held at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre. An invitation has been extended to other Fire Services. The report was then filed.

SECTION D – OTHER BUSINESS

1. Economic Action Initiative Strategy Documents

Mayor McKay spoke to an Economic Action Initiative Strategy document that provides details regarding common economic goals identified by the four North Simcoe Mayors through a series of meetings. The Strategy document is comprised of two parts; the first identifying the vision and strategy, and the second focuses on the organization of the EAI, the three teams and their roles, actual tasks and deliverables.

Mayor McKay advised that the document is being presented to each of the North Simcoe Councils for review and support. It is requested that any comments on the document be provided prior to the end of the year.

Your Committee recommended that the document be forwarded to the next Planning and Development Committee meeting for further review and consideration.

2. Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund

Councillor Pendlebury raised concern regarding the apparent disparity in the allocation of funding to municipalities. Councillor Pendlebury noted that the actions of a neighbouring municipality have resulted in their obtaining a meeting with a provincial representative(s) from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss the inequality of grant distribution. Councillor Pendlebury recommended that the Town of Midland use the same approach to obtain a meeting with a Provincial representative to discuss the insufficient funding being provided to the Town of Midland.

Following a brief discussion, your Committee recommended that a motion detailing Council's concerns be brought forward at the November Council meeting.

3. Accessible Transportation

Councillor File provided an update on an initiative proposed by the Midland Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding accessible transportation. Councillor File noted that the Committee is seeking Council's support to coordinate a meeting with organizations that currently provide transportation services such as the Red Cross, local taxicab companies, as well as local businesses to determine if their may be an opportunity for funding and resource sharing. Councillor File noted that there have been requests by residents for extended hours of operation for the Accessibility Transit (i.e. evenings and weekends).

S. Berriault advised that, with the exception of the local taxicab companies, there is a committee comprised of representatives from the organizations highlighted that meets regularly to address accessible transportation. S. Berriault invited the Midland Accessibility Advisory Committee to submit recommendations to him for consideration by the group at an upcoming meeting.

4. County Initiatives

Councillor Jeffery spoke to various initiatives being considered by the County of Simcoe that could impact the Town of Midland. Councillor Jeffery stressed the importance of ensuring that the Town of Midland retains its autonomy and continues to control its own destiny.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

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K. Desroches, A/Deputy Clerk