



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE “SPECIAL” MINUTES

Tuesday, April 6th, 2010

Immediately following the 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

**Lanark Highlands Municipal Office - 75 George Street, Lanark, Ontario
Council Chambers**

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Chair, Deputy Mayor, Bruce Horlin
Mayor, Bob Fletcher
Councillor Tom Lalonde
Councillor Leonard Echlin
Councillor Bob Sutcliffe
Councillor Peter McLaren
Councillor Brian Stewart

Staff Present: Tom Derreck, Chief Administrative Officer
Amanda Mabo, Clerk/Deputy CAO
Robert Bunker, Treasurer
Dan Koroscil, Fire Protection Advisor, Office of the Fire Marshal
Jeff Rothwell, Acting Fire Chief (District Chief, Station #1 – Lanark)
Megan Seageant, Fire Department Assistant
Ron Closs, District Deputy Chief, Station #1 – Lanark Village
Chris Pearman, District Chief, Station #2 – Middleville
Paul Sullivan, District Chief, Stations #3 – LDNS
Jeremy Adam, District Deputy Chief, Stations #3 – LDNS
Dave Smith, District Chief, Station #7 – Tatlock
Steve Roberts, District Chief, Station #8 – White Lake
Cory Power, District Deputy Chief, Station #8 – White Lake
Mike Lee, Firefighter

Members & Staff Absent: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:56 p.m.
A quorum was present.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None at this time.

3. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- i) **Fire Department.**
Acting Chief Jeff Rothwell.

The Acting Fire Chief addressed Council regarding a letter received by the Township which made comments in reference to the Fire Department – *attached, page 5.*

The Acting Fire Chief informed the Committee of the following:

- have most number of firefighters in County due to geographic area
- at time of amalgamation, the Fire Department was last to amalgamate services
- at time of amalgamation, a delegation of Fire Chiefs made a request to Council for someone to do the paper work, that request was granted via a part-time Fire Chief
- fleet has 20 year life cycle, have program in place to replace and update fleet, must do this for insurance purposes
- the budget for the Fire Department has been decreasing, all other costs are increasing
- Council is the employer, Council is responsible for everything the Department does
- with fixed costs increasing yearly, there is no option but to pay these costs
- most of the costs are legislated
- there's a minimum requirement for number of firefighters on a scene
- the department finally has an Administrative Assistant, cannot afford to lose this position
- all firefighters are volunteers and have other jobs, but still have same rules and responsibilities as City of Ottawa or City of Toronto full time firefighters
- as a comparator, take the Public Works Department that oversees roads employees, the Fire Department should be set up in the same manner with a Department Head, a Fire Chief, along with administrative support and firefighters
- currently, a part time Chief or no Chief does not make sense to run a department with over 100 employees
- the department has 8 stations
- in 2009, heating and hydro was just under \$20,000, telephones were \$7,400, alarms \$1,300, there were safety checks, breathing apparatuses to be tested every two years, air bottles tested every 5 years, etc.
- 80% of budget will be to maintain what is already there, this does not leave much room for new items
- have over 100 pagers, plus radios in vehicles and halls, have to license every year with industry Canada (approx. \$40 each)

- implementing OFM review recommendations, is slow but is moving along, has been difficult with part time Chief
- the entire Lanark Highlands Fire budget is half that of a neighbouring municipality and Lanark Highlands has double the firefighters
- training needs to be increased in future budgets

The Chair informed the Committee that none of the cuts mentioned in the letter have been discussed by Council. Also, an Administrative Review was conducted by the Office of the Fire Marshall (OFM) and there are a number of recommendations that are still to be undertaken of which there is a cost.

The Fire Protection Advisor informed the Committee that there is a one day seminar put on by the Fire Marshall's Office for all Councillors after this year's municipal election and he advised that the entire Council attend.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 8:19 p.m. on motion by Councillors B. Sutcliffe and T. Lalonde.



**Amanda Mabo,
Clerk/Deputy-CAO**

DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

From: Clair Johnston [mailto:habber1993@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2010 12:33 PM
[REDACTED] John Hall; rfsr1@sympatico.ca
Subject: FW: Cost Cutting Council and Taxpayers Association

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the call yesterday.
I appreciate your thoughts and time. I had to go see clients and mostly listened and appreciate your information, so wanted to touch bases.

We are still of the same mind that you and council must start with the same 5.4 million budget from 2009 and work backwards from there. (same as your thought about kids Christmas, that is the \$\$'s available)

So then decide the various things to cut. Close a fire station or two and sell property. Put freeze on new trucks, we seem to have alot, close library, cut dump hours by 30% (can't think it is very busy at Middleville dump 6 to 9 pm on winter nights), shut down the Lanark water/sewer spending and people can go to the bank for a line of credit or redeem investments. Cut snow removal, gravel, etc. Look at layoffs. Cancel the computer software \$. Drop consultant costs, accountant/auditor costs, look at contracting out snow removal and layoff some staff and sell trucks.....

Does township have land to sell? Would other townships take over some far reaching roads? All options but the 10% tax increase must go on the table.

As discussed, lets show the province how the taxes have spiralled out of control, if they don't have a solution, they will need to send more money. If no money, no money! "The township taxes cannot go up 10% again, and majority of taxpayers would understand that. You won't attract a tax base with these taxes. Freeze for 3 years and more people will move here.

We look forward to the newsletter and meeting that we hope is full of solutions for the zero increase.

We've heard the big township/low tax base answer and that means cuts!!

Thanks again for your time

Clair and Susan Johnston
256 8484

09/03/2010