

CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF GEORGINA

**SPECIAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**

-Budget Input-

February 23, 2011
(7:05 p.m.)

1. MOMENT OF MEDITATION:

A moment of meditation was observed.

2. ROLL CALL:

The Deputy Clerk gave the roll call and the following Council Members were present:

Mayor Grossi
Councillor Craig
Councillor Hackenbrook
Councillor Szollosy

Regional Councillor Wheeler
Councillor Davison
Councillor Smockum

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Councillor Wheeler

Seconded by Councillor Craig

RESOLUTION NO. SC-2011-0093

THAT THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING ADDENDUM ITEM, BE APPROVED:

3.1 MEMORANDUM DATED FEBRUARY 23, 2011, CONCERNING APPOINTEE REVISIONS TO REPORT NO. DAS-2011-0015.

Carried.....

4. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

None.

5. DEPUTATIONS:

5.1 Budget Requests:

- 5.1.1 Gary Radner accompanied by Margaret Lavis, Janice Simmons and Stan Ash requesting the Town assume ownership of the bridge at Island Drive, Willow Beach.

Gary Radner circulated photographs to identify the situation.

Janice Simmons stated that Island Drive is a private right-of-way from Lake Drive East via a wooden bridge which services nine properties and is the only method of access. She noted that some repairs were made to the bridge in 1979.

Ms. Simmons explained that the municipal water and sewer system was installed in 2006 but no consideration was given to road restoration or bridge improvements at that time. The Engineering Department proceeded with the project without any consultation with property owners regarding the bridge. She stated that on December 11, 2006, residents approached the Town requesting the Town to assume Island Drive and a recommendation was made that the Town not assume Island Drive due to the high costs involved.

Ms. Simmons explained that the bridge has severely deteriorated since that time. The main structure has rotted so that it will soon be unusable and due to the high repair costs, the bridge will only be left to deteriorate further. She stated that because of concerns that the bridge may become unusable shortly, letters were forwarded to the Fire Department, EMS, York Regional Police, and the Town's water and sewer emergency services requesting they provide the residents with a viable action plan in the event the bridge is no longer a source of access, and no response has been received to date. Road maintenance, water and sewer maintenance, garbage pickup, fire and EMS services are all funded through shared tax funding and safe access to their homes should be a right to all taxpayers. She advised that a petition is being circulated requesting Town involvement.

Ms. Simmons stated that they are requesting Council make funds available to assume responsibility for and replace the bridge, possibly through the gas tax fund. Residents should not have to question their rights to emergency services.

Mr. Radner indicated that the bridge deterioration is a big problem. The rotting is severe and the main structure could collapse at any time. He stated that the bridge is the issue and not the road. He noted that there is a serious problem with the easement and access to the properties.

Mayor Grossi stated that the easement goes with the properties and the road is the bridge, which was known at the time the residents purchased their properties, along with the inherited costs associated with the properties.

5. DEPUTATIONS cont'd:

Mr. Radner stated that no appraisals have been done on the potential costs to repair the bridge, but Bob Magloughlen, the Director of Engineering and Public Works, had mentioned the figure of \$300,000 at the last presentation to Council.

Bob Magloughlen stated that an environmental assessment would be required which would account for approximately 5% of the total cost of the repairs. He also advised that the bridge would need to be owned by the Town in order for it to qualify for federal gas tax rebate funding

Mr. Radner stated that he is aware that the Engineer did attempt to contact the owners of the bridge.

Moved by Councillor Szollosy

Seconded by Councillor Smockum

RESOLUTION NO. SC-2011-0094

THAT THE DEPUTATION MADE BY GARY RADNER AND JANICE SIMMONS REQUESTING THE TOWN TO ASSUME OWNERSHIP OF THE ISLAND DRIVE BRIDGE AND REPAIR SAME, BE RECEIVED.

Carried.....

5.1.2 Barry Dell, Sutton Curling Club

Barry Dell handed out a sheet of information to Council. He stated that the Sutton Curling Club has been grateful for the Town's support in the past and they are in the process of taking Council's advice and are creating a capital reserve. The Committee is conducting a building audit and looking into funding options. He explained that two projects are in the planning stage; the first is replacing brass fittings on the plant which are five years old and is the expected lifespan for them, and the second is refurbishing the headers as preventative maintenance.

Mr. Dell requested the Town to partner with the Curling Club and provide a grant in the amount of \$2,500, which is a reduction from the original request of \$3,000.

Mr. Dell indicated that the Curling Club provides community support. It provides Sutton District High School free ice time every Tuesday afternoon, posts intermediate playdowns with curlers from communities such as Scugog, Pickering and Oshawa, is hosting a cancer fundraising bonspiel in March as well as the York Region High School playoffs, and is hosting an all-abilities youth bonspiel.

5. DEPUTATIONS cont'd:

Mr. Dell indicated that he had requested assistance with the replacement cost of the roof last year and Council had suggested at that time that the Curling Club request an annual grant.

Moved by Councillor Smockum

Seconded by Councillor Hackenbrook

RESOLUTION NO. SC-2011-0095

THAT THE DEPUTATION MADE BY BARRY DELL, SUTTON CURLING CLUB, REQUESTING THE TOWN PROVIDE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500 TO ASSIST WITH TWO PROJECTS BEING UNDERTAKEN AT THEIR BUILDING, BE RECEIVED.

Carried.....

5.1.3 Dan Fellini, Jason Laidler and Al Fenton, Chamber of Commerce representatives

Al Fenton, President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber is committed to the economic health for the Town. Their funding request is reflected in projects to foster business growth and provide opportunities for local businesses to flourish. It conducts the Business Fellowship Award, supports and promotes of GTTI and supports the annual Georgina Idol contest. The Chamber actively participates in the Business Retention and Expansion Program with the Town and will see increased growth in 2011. The Chamber is currently preparing a 3-5 year strategic plan, has launched a new website and is looking into programs to increase tourism.

Mr. Fenton stated that the Town is in possession of an itemized list of expenses and cost comparison, and the Chamber is requesting funds of \$82,792 from the Town to maintain their premises and continue to provide a service of excellence. An additional \$40,000 is being requested to employ one additional full-time staff member which will increase the Chamber's ability to benefit the local businesses, community and tourism.

Mr. Fenton stated that the Chamber is also requesting \$22,500 to allow it to continue to support business in Georgina.

5. DEPUTATIONS cont'd:

Jason Laidler, Treasurer, stated that this is his fourth year acting as Treasurer for the Chamber. He is pleased with the success the Chamber has had, noting that 2010 is the best year they have had financially speaking. This year to date, the Chamber has twenty new members. The Chamber had just over 300 members at the beginning of the year and is growing, with 23 new members so far.

Mr. Laidler explained that the budget proposal submitted to the Town includes three components; the first is a 3% cost of living increase, the second is a \$5,000 funding increase for the purpose of hosting the Business Excellence Awards and the third is a \$40,000 request for a third staff person. He stated that is only a matter of time before the current employees will not be able to keep up with the work.

Mr. Laidler explained that the strategic plan includes new programs and an expansion of the current programs. Also, the Chamber is following up on the Business Retention and Expansion program participated in with the Town and is preparing a strategic plan. In addition, the Highland Gathering and events of that nature continue to grow, as well as an increasing membership. The change in the economy and the workplace and the increase in the number of individuals being self employed in this area may account for the number of new members recently.

Mr. Laidler stated that at the annual general meeting held in January, the keynote speaker for Regional Business Studies had statistics on the total number of business within the Region and within Georgina and there are thousands of registered businesses in the Town, a trend that is anticipated to continue. The Chamber is increasing its communication with residents and businesses and its events are becoming larger.

Moved by Councillor Wheeler

Seconded by Councillor Davison

RESOLUTION NO. SC-2011-0096

THAT THE DEPUTATION MADE BY AL FENTON AND JASON LAIDLER OF THE GEORGINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUESTING FUNDING FOR ITS 2011 SEASON, BE RECEIVED.

Carried.....

5.1.4 Representative of the Jackson's Point Business Improvement Area

No-one was in attendance.

5. DEPUTATIONS cont'd:

Mr. Ivan Davis stated that the Town is working toward funding grants for 2011 when staff is not yet fully aware if the various departments have spent all of their funding in 2010. If staff wants to obtain input from the public, it needs to start requesting input one year before it is required. The public should be able to provide input much sooner than when the budget binder is published.

Mr. Davis inquired if departments attempt to spend all of their allocated funds for the previous year in the last quarter so that they will not lose any allocation for the upcoming budget. He is not aware that this is the case, but he has had similar experiences.

Mr. Davis stated that an efficiency audit should be conducted on Town staff as he understands that this has not been done.

Mayor Grossi stated that staff do not rush to spend all of its current budget before the next budget comes out, that staff is more responsible than that. The budget is a twelve month, 365 day a year process, but Council needs to deal with the numbers on one specific day. He indicated that regardless of the steps Town staff takes to involve the public in the process through posters, newspaper advertisements, website advertisements, blogs, and hosting numerous public input sessions, the majority of the public does not attend nor provide input.

Mr. Davis stated that it appears from the budget documents that some departments have not spent all of their allotted 2010 budget funds.

Rebecca Mathewson, Director of Administrative Services and Treasurer, stated that any unspent funds from the 2010 allotment will not be spent at this time. Any unspent funds are reported to Council and the fact that there are unspent funds is a good indicator that staff do not rush out to spend unspent funds. Usually, staff is unable to spend some of the funding on projects in any given year due to time constraints.

Mr. Davis inquired if 4% of last year's budget was not spent by the end of December, how that 4% is reflected in this year's budget.

Mayor Grossi stated that the Town will end up with a surplus identified as part of the budget document. Surpluses are usually either dedicated towards a reserve or if it is felt the money is needed elsewhere for another project, it is assigned to that project. Twenty years ago the Town had no funds in reserve, but it now has in excess of \$20 Million in reserves. If there is a surplus and if there is an option to use that surplus for another project, it is assigned to that project instead of increasing taxes to pay for it.

5. DEPUTATIONS cont'd:

Mr. Davis reminded Council that the taxes only come from one pocket and most people do not work for municipalities or governments and are therefore not guaranteed automatic wage increases and therefore have to think about budget increases. Council should give serious thought to using surplus funds rather than increasing taxes, noting that a lot of residents are still being affected by the recession.

Moved by Councillor Szollosy

Seconded by Councillor Smockum

RESOLUTION NO. SC-2011-0097

THAT THE DEPUTATION MADE BY IVAN DAVIS EXPRESSING HIS CONCERNS WITH THE BUDGET PROCESS AND CAUTIONING COUNCIL TO CONTINUE TO USE SURPLUS AND RESERVE FUNDS RATHER THAN INCREASING TAXES, BE RECEIVED.

Carried.....

6. COMMUNICATIONS

6.1 Matter for Disposition:

6.1.1 Annabel Slaight, Ladies of the Lake, requesting a \$10,000 grant for the SPLASH Festival

Moved by Councillor Smockum

Seconded by Councillor Craig

RESOLUTION NO. SC-2011-0098

THAT CORRESPONDENCE FROM ANNABEL SLAIGHT, LADIES OF THE LAKE, REQUESTING A \$10,000 GRANT FOR THE SPLASH FESTIVAL BE RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO THE 2011 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS.

Carried.....

7. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

7.1 Report from the Administrative Services Department:

7.1.1 Appointments of Members to Committees and Boards

Report No. DAS-2011-0015

Moved by Councillor Davison

Seconded by Councillor Craig

RESOLUTION NO. SC-2011-0099

1. THAT REPORT NO. DAS-2011-0015 REGARDING APPOINTMENTS OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND BOARDS BE RECEIVED.
2. THAT A BY-LAW BE PASSED APPOINTING CITIZENS AND APPOINTEES SELECTED BY OTHER REQUIRED BODIES, AS SET OUT IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, TO THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND BOARDS FOR THE 2010-2014 TERM OF OFFICE, EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE OF SIGNING, AS LISTED IN THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE '1';
3. THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE REVISIONS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND BOARDS AS OUTLINED IN THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE '2'.

Carried.....

8. BY-LAWS:

Moved by Councillor Smockum

Seconded by Councillor Szollosy

That the following by-law be given three readings:

- 8.1 By-law Number 2011-0018 (COU-1) Being a by-law to appoint Members of various Committees/Boards for the 2010-2014 Term of Office

Carried.....

9. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

Moved by Councillor Wheeler

Seconded by Councillor Hackenbrook

That the following by-law be given three readings:

By-law Number 2011-0019 (COU-2) Being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Special Council.

Carried.....

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Councillor Smockum

Seconded by Councillor Craig

That the meeting adjourn at this time (8:00 p.m.)

Carried.....

Robert Grossi, Mayor

Roland Chenier, Town Clerk