



Council Meeting Highlights

February 13, 2018

Delegations

Carmeuse Lime

Chris Martin from Carmeuse Lime appeared before Council to advise that Carmeuse has been given approval to burn an alternate fuel source in their lime kiln. This will lessen their carbon foot print and reduce the amount of coal that is burned in the production process. The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has granted temporary approval to burn an engineered fuel source containing a mixture of plastics, wood waste, tire fluff (not rubber), glycerin, glycerin pitch and off spec non-recyclable rubber.

County of Oxford

Jay Heaman, Manager of Strategic Initiatives from the County of Oxford, presented to Council on the County's proposal to submit an application under Infrastructure Canada's Smart City Challenge. Council supported this endeavor and appointed Councillor Ryan to serve on the Steering Committee. The County's sustainability initiatives include; commitment to achieving 100% renewable energy, working towards zero waste and the overall sustainability plan.

Public Meetings

Graham Watt & Christine Tomlinson, Minor Variance Application, 603340 Road 60

The applicants applied for relief from the provisions of Section 5.14.7 – Bed and Breakfast Establishment to permit a bed and breakfast establishment as a home occupation located in an accessory structure (horse barn). Council, sitting as Committee of Adjustment, approved the application.

Department Reports

Fire

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services responded to 26 calls in January compared to 27 in January of 2017.

Corby Kirwin and Matt Van Ginkel were the successful candidates for Captain positions at Embro Fire Station.

Recreation

The lift at Embro Town was officially unveiled at an open house with MPP Ernie Hardeman in attendance. The project is nearing completion and it is anticipated it will be operational in March.

The Recreation, Arts & Culture Master Plan has been completed in draft form and is under review by the Master Plan Committee. It is hoped the final draft will be presented to Council in March

A March Break Day Camp will be held in Embro. The Camp is presently 75% full and registrations are still being accepted. Summer Day Camp registration will begin on March 19. More information will be available later in February. Please pass along this information to anyone having school aged children that may be interested in these programs.



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Building and Drainage

The Building Department issued a total of 6 permits in January compared to 7 in January 2017. There were 3 new housing permits issued in January.

Public Works

Council accepted the tender of Ontario Custom Crushing for crushing of 75,000 tonnes of granular m aggregate, 2,000 tonnes of class 1 stone and screening 10,000 tonnes of winter sand. Cost for granular m was \$2.31 and in 2017 it was \$2.30 while winter sand screening was \$1.80 while in 2017 it was \$1.62.

Council also considered tenders for application of 55,000 tonnes of to the north end of the Township. Two tenders were submitted and Council accepted the bid of E & W Blane Trucking in the amount of \$3.90/tonne for a total of \$214,500. The last north end gravelling tender was in 2016 and the cost was \$3.11.

Finance

The Director of Finance advised Council the projected 2017 surplus is \$239,504 (operating \$26,411 and \$213,072 in capital). In accordance with policy, these amounts were transferred to the Capital Reserve and the Surplus/Deficit Reserve, respectively.

Council also considered the 2018 Budget and held a public meeting at 4:00 to gather public input. The Budget once approved by Council will see levy requirement of \$7,752,756 or \$408,715 more than 2017. This represents a 5.56% increase. The final tax levy will not be known until the County of Oxford sets tax ratios and the Province sets the education levy.

All Budget information is available on the Township website.

Administration

In a report from the CAO, it was noted that Council only went into closed session on five occasions in 2017. Two sessions dealt with proposed purchase or sale of land and three sessions dealt with personnel matters. In 2016 Council held three closed sessions and in 2015, six closed sessions were held.

Zorra Township is home to 43 licensed pits and quarries and each year the operators are required to file compliance reports to detail whether Ministry of Natural Resources licences are being adhered to. In 2017, 39 reports were filed with the Township and 33 did not note any deficiencies. In 2016, 11 reports noted deficiencies. The Township is now monitoring these reports and will be asking the Ministry of Natural Resources to follow up on sites having repeat deficiencies.

The Township's insurance renewal for 2018/19 was approved by Council at a premium of \$178,895 which is up 4.66% from the previous expiring premium of \$170,937. In the last 10 years the Township has had 16 claims resulting in total losses of \$2,527,604. It should be noted there has only been three claims filed since 2013.