

This meeting of Council was held at Zorra Highland Park Elementary School to help commemorate Local Government Week.

Delegations

Mr. Matt Roberts' Grade 5/6 class presented two requests for Council. The first request was to install free public access wifi in Embro and the second was to allow a community garden also in Embro. The students had well prepared presentations and were able to answer questions from Council.

The second delegation was from the Oxford County Federation of Agriculture concerning natural gas service to rural Oxford County. Heather Derks, Steve Veldman and Terry Lupton appeared before Council seeking support how to best work with Union Gas to coordinate gas distribution service to residents in the vicinity of the new gas transmission line being installed on 41st Line.

Public Meetings

Dan Heather, 54 Commissioner Street, Embro, Application for Minor Variance

The applicant is seeking relief from the provisions of Table 5.1.1.3, Regulations for Accessory Uses in the 'Residential Type 1 Zone (R1)' to increase the maximum lot coverage and height for a detached accessory structure to facilitate the construction of a detached garage with sufficient floor area and height to store a camping vehicle/trailer.

The subject lands comprise an area of approximately 2,006.7 m² (21,600 ft²), have frontage on Commissioner Street, and contain an existing single-detached dwelling and detached garage (to be removed). The surrounding land uses are predominately low density residential, with agricultural land designated for future urban growth to the north. Council deferred the application to give the applicant an opportunity to address concerns noted by the Planning Department.

Connie & Mike Massie, 256370 Sunova Cres., Application for Minor Variance

The applicant is seeking relief from the provisions of Table 5.1.1.3, Regulations for Accessory Uses in the 'Residential Lot Zone (RE)' to increase the maximum lot coverage and height for a detached accessory structure to facilitate the construction of a detached garage with sufficient floor area and height to store a camping vehicle/trailer.

The subject lands comprise an area of approximately 6,373 m² (1.57 acre), have frontage on 25th Line (Sunova Cres) and contain an existing single-detached dwelling and detached garage (to be removed). The surrounding land uses are predominately agricultural. Council approved the application.

Department Reports

Fire

Zorra Fire & Emergency Services have responded to 14 calls in September and a total of 157 year to date. For the same period in 2017, the Fire Service responded to 130 calls.

Zorra Fire Prevention Committee, comprised of members from each of our three stations met on Thursday September 20 to discuss the activities for Fire Prevention Week. All stations will be visiting their respective elementary schools during that week. Thamesford

@ TPS - Wednesday, October 10. Uniondale @ AJ Baker - October 11. Embro @ Zorra Highland - Friday October 12. There are plans to attend Cambrocourt to meet with their residents.

Recreation

Ice rentals at Thamesford District Recreation Centre were up to 152 hours compared to 125 in 2017 over the same time frame. Recreation Staff began installing ice at Embro Zorra Community Centre after the 160 Embro Fair. The first ice rental in Embro is to begin on October 1.

Building and Drainage

The Building Department issued a total of 22 permits in August and a total of 194 for this year. During the same period in 2017, there were 133 permits issued. There were no new housing permits issued in September and the total remains at 30. During the same period in 2017, there were 16 new housing starts. To date, the Township has collected \$211,070 in building permit fees compared to \$138,563 for the same period in 2017.

Public Works

Staff are just about finished projects on Roads 78 and 88. Ditchwork and shaping are still required as well as installation of several entrances.

A tender for the supply of Winter Maintenance Salt was administered by the Service Sharing Committee. Compass Minerals were the only bidder and had been the supplier for the past three winter seasons for all the municipalities within the County. The two major salt suppliers who did not submit cited a lack of material supply following the harsh conditions of the previous winter. Huron County had a similar tender recently and saw similar pricing. Zorra's price for the last winter maintenance season was \$68.41 per tonne for untreated salt and \$95.20 for treated salt. The price/tonne for the three years are as follows, HST is not included in the price but delivery to the shops is included. This is funded under the winter maintenance budget. This has been accepted by all other municipalities within the County.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Untreated Salt	\$75.40	\$77.66	\$79.99
Treated Salt	\$100.90	\$103.93	\$107.04

Finance

Council passed a resolution to write off \$7,747 in taxes for the following reasons:

- the property is eligible to be reclassified in a different class of property
- the land has become vacant or excess land
- the land has become exempt from taxation
- a building on the land was razed or damaged by fire, demolition or otherwise
- a mobile unit on the land was removed
- a person was overcharged due to a gross or manifest error in assessment
- repairs or renovations to the land prevented the normal use of the land.

The Director of Finance also presented a report showing the budget to actual figures as of September 25, 2018; general comments were provided on a number of line items. With respect to the Operating budget there are no immediate concerns with revenues and expenditures.

Corporate Services

No items.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is to be held on October 16, 2018, at 9:30 am AJ Baker Public School in Kintore.