

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre held this date at the Municipal Office, Coldstream at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Al Edmondson (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)
Albert Bannister
Ken Filson
John Brennan
Clare Bloomfield
Frank Berze

ABSENT WITH REGRETS

Brian Ritchie

ALSO PRESENT

Cathy Saunders	Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk
Maureen Looby	Manager Public Works and Engineering
Jim McConnell	Manager, Planning & Development Services
John Elston	Supervisor, Emergency Services and Fire Chief
Mauro Castrilli	Transportation Coordinator
Heather Pierce	Public Works and Engineering Assistant
Jeff Little	Road Supervisor
Ken Crossan	Road Supervisor
Roy Ireland	Road Supervisor

Albert Bannister opened the meeting and presided until 7:15 p.m. Al Edmondson presided over the remainder of the meeting.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None were disclosed by any of the members.

MINUTES

1. CW#2009/001
Moved by Clare Bloomfield
Seconded by Frank Berze

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of Committee of the Whole held on December 10, 2008 be approved.

- Carried -

PRESENTATION – CHRIS PRENTICE AND JOE HEYNINCK, IBI GROUP – PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY STRATEGY

Chris Prentice summarized the finding of the Public Works Facility Strategy undertaken by the IBI Group. He indicated that the purpose of the Study is:

- Review existing road maintenance operations and related facilities
- Identify future road infrastructure maintenance needs
- Recommend appropriate future Public Works and Engineering facility strategy for Middlesex Centre

Mr. Prentice indicated that the following factors influence the long term strategy:

- Current operations and road maintenance practices – staffing, organization structure
- Road kilometers and surface mix
- Size and geography of municipality
- Trends in industry – environmental, health
- Population growth and locations

- Traffic volumes

He indicated the following key findings:

- Population growth – 66% increase over the next 25 years with 4800 additional vehicles, 21,000 added trips/day and increased road kilometers by approximately 34.2 kilometres
- Increased traffic will increase road maintenance costs
- Need to progressively upgrade road surfaces to reduce future maintenance costs

Mr. Prentice summarized the recommendations of the Study to be as follows:

- Over time the Transportation Division should be reduced from three divisions to two divisions with the two divisions being located at the new site on Denfield Road and an expanded Delaware facility with the Arva and Coldstream facilities being closed over time.

Ken Filson asked for clarification regarding the growth projects indicated on Page 6 of the Report. Mr. Prentice indicated that the growth projections were obtained from the Middlesex Centre Planning staff, noting that the Report referenced Middlesex County and that this would be corrected.

Frank Berze questioned if more land is needed for the Delaware site should the Municipality determine that reducing the number of Public Works facilities from three to two would be appropriate. Staff indicated that it may be difficult to obtain additional land given that the site is adjacent to the Komoka Provincial Park. Mr. Prentice indicated that the Delaware site should be sufficient in size to meet future needs.

Frank Berze requested clarification regarding the compost site provisions at the future Denfield site. Mr. Prentice confirmed that there is not sufficient land available at the Denfield site for compost and an alternate site would be required.

Questions were asked regarding the need to move from tar and chip roads to hard surface roads. Mr. Prentice indicated it is costly to maintain tar and chip roads dependent on the volume of traffic using the road system. He indicated that most municipalities use guidelines from Ontario Good Roads to determine road maintenance.

John Brennan questioned whether the amount of road system to be maintained in the future may be reduced as the County of Middlesex takes over some of municipal roads. Mr. Prentice indicated that the increase of 34 kilometres to the road system is subdivision roads that would not be assumed by the County of Middlesex.

John Brennan questioned whether some efficiency could be reached with the County and the Municipality sharing salt and sand facilities. Mr. Prentice indicated that he had not considered this in the Study; he indicated however, that the sharing of facilities would not impact the recommendation with respect to site location for facilities.

Clare Bloomfield questioned if the salt and sand facility at the Coldstream site would be maintained. Mr. Prentice indicated that from an operational perspective it would be beneficial to retain the site for salt and sand storage.

Albert Bannister indicated that he had a number of concerns and questions regarding the report and has summarized his concerns in writing. A copy of Mr. Bannister's concerns was shared with the Committee, staff and the consultant. He indicated in summary that he believes that some of the information contained in the report is overstated. He suggested that traffic data may not have taken into consideration that many travelers would use County and Provincial road systems before they would use local roads. He questioned whether traffic counts had been undertaken.

Mr. Prentice indicated that the deterioration of roads can occur as a result of a number of factors, including use by farm equipment. Mr. Prentice indicated that traffic counts had not been conducted as part of the Study as that was not the purpose of the Study.

Ken Filson suggested that proposed Alternate 2B should extend the boundary the entire length of Egremont Drive. Mr. Prentice indicated that the Study would be amended to reflect this change.

Albert Bannister questioned the comparable municipalities used in the Study. He suggested that more Middlesex County municipalities such as North Middlesex should have been used. Mr. Prentice indicated that it is helpful to look at municipalities throughout Ontario and not just Middlesex County.

Maureen Looby indicated that staff would review the comments from Committee and bring forward a staff report to the Public Works Committee recommending that the recommendation of the Study be adopted with an implementation plan.

CW#2009/002

Moved by John Brennan

Seconded by Clare Bloomfield

THAT staff be directed to bring forward a Report regarding the Public Works Facility Study and proposed implementation plan to the February 23, 2009 Public Works and Engineering Committee meeting for consideration.

-Carried -

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, this meeting of the Committee of the Whole adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

CHAIR

CLERK