

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HURON SHORES**  
**November 25, 2020 (20-27) – Special Meeting**

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The special meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores was held on Wednesday, November 25, 2020, and called to order by Mayor Georges Bilodeau at 7:07 p.m.

**PRESENT (Council Chambers):** Mayor Georges Bilodeau, Councillors Jane Armstrong, Debora Kirby, Jock Pirrie and Darlene Walsh

**PRESENT (electronically):** Councillors Gord Campbell, Nancy Jones-Scissons, Blair MacKinnon, and Dale Wedgwood

**STAFF (Council Chambers):** Clerk/Administrator Deborah Tonelli; and Public Works Superintendent Harry Hadikin

**STAFF (electronically):** Treasurer John Stenger; and Deputy Clerk Natasha Roberts

**GALLERY (electronically):** Jim Falconer (lost connection from 7:20-7:25 p.m.)

**AGENDA REVIEW**

No amendments

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

4-1. Motion: ROMA Delegation (deferred from November 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting)

Respecting the H&M COFI Project, Mayor Bilodeau reported on the recent and scheduled presentations being given to Minister Rickford, Minister Monsef, MP Terry Sheehan, and FedNor Staff.

**20-27-01** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Clerk/Administrator be instructed  
N. Jones-Scissons to apply for delegations during the ROMA Conference as  
D. Walsh follows: Minister of Infrastructure regarding the need for  
funding for the H&M COFI Regional Community Owned  
Broadband Project, and to repair/replace our Municipal  
Bridges; and Minister of Indigenous Affairs regarding the  
Thessalon First Nation Boundary Claim respecting the  
impact of the Court Injunction and need to retain Crown  
Lands within the boundary of the Municipality. CARRIED.

4-2. Motion: Canada Post Mailboxes serving Lakeview Road and area  
Council deliberated the matter.

**20-27-02** WHEREAS the Community Mailboxes on Lakeview Rd.  
J. Pirrie where relocated by Canada Post;  
G. Campbell AND WHEREAS the Community Mailboxes where relocated  
to patented land owned by the Municipality of Huron  
Shores;  
AND WHEREAS the Municipality did not authorize nor was  
it consulted in the relocation of the Mailboxes to the  
Municipal property at 690 Dean Lake Road;  
AND WHEREAS damage to the lawn has taken place  
through the delivery and pick up of mail;  
AND WHEREAS Canada Post has confirmed that the  
existing site would be difficult for their snow removal

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**20-27-02 – cont.** operations;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby directs Canada Post to relocate the Community Mailboxes from the Municipal lot and fund the repairs to the rutted sections of said lot and that the relocation site be selected in close consultation with the Municipality and adjacent landowners. CARRIED.

4-3. Motion: To make application for COOP Imagery 2021 funding

**20-27-03** WHEREAS the Municipality has been invited by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to participate in its **2021 Central Ontario Orthophoto Project (COOP)** to provide digital orthophotography of the majority of the Municipality;  
J. Armstrong AND WHEREAS by participating in a cost-sharing structure with other municipalities in the proposed mapping area it is estimated that the Municipality would save significantly when compared to undertaking a similar project on its own;  
D. Kirby AND WHEREAS the total cost to the Municipality will be subject to the number of participating municipalities and the Municipality's mapping requirements;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes Clerk/Administrator Tonelli to sign the required **Letter of Intent** for the Municipality to participate in the Central Ontario Orthophoto Project (COOP) and forward it to Bryce Matthews, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR);  
AND THAT Council authorizes the required minimum partnership payment of \$1,000.00 to participate;  
AND THAT the Municipality's total share in the costs for said Project be included in the 2022 Municipal Budget. CARRIED.

Treasurer Stenger provided a report for the Special Meeting to assist in the preliminary 2021 budget discussions, together with updated Capital Asset Management Planning, Staff Priorities and Summary of Reserves by Year documents, attached herewith as Appendices 'A', 'B' and 'C', respectively.

Clerk/Administrator briefly went through staff priorities, identifying that the top two priorities are training of new staff and succession planning in preparation for her retirement in 2022.

On a query from Councillor Armstrong, Public Works Superintendent identified the work required on Veterans Bridge. Discussion ensued respecting lack of response from ASPA/OFSC for funding assistance. Councillor Armstrong will address that with the Iron Bridge Nighthawks Snowmobile Club.

Council reviewed the Capital Asset Management Planning document by category as follows:

**CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT**

**Roads:**

Clerk/Administrator noted that the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail is conducting an improvement feasibility study of the bicycle trail and there has been preliminary discussion about the potential of funding for pavement vs. surface treatment. This matter will be brought back to Council as the study proceeds. Council deliberated the quandary of continued surface treating of the roads being damaged by steel wheeled traffic by the Amish buggies. Councillor Jones-Scissons recommended surface treating to the ditch line. Councillor Wedgwood recommended removal of the berm which holds water and promotes breakage of the edges of the surface treatment. Mayor Bilodeau questioned if there were different grades of surface treatment. Public Works Superintendent noted that surface treatment is specified through MTO.

Councillor Jones-Scissons reiterated her annual request for sections of Basswood Lake Road to be considered for surface treatment. There was discussion about municipal roads that run between Provincial Hwys. and their possible use in an emergency (specifically, Station Road and Basswood Lake Road). Clerk/Administrator will make further inquiries to ascertain parameters for a road to become a connecting link, as the Municipality does not currently qualify for any connecting link funding.

Councillor Wedgwood addressed his priorities as follows:

- continued patching at a greater pace;
- removal of berms from road shoulders;
- consideration of paving Eley Road rather than surface treatment;
- request that Council receive the motions for upcoming Council meetings by the Friday prior to the meeting;
- receipt of 5-year road plan for Budget consideration meetings; and
- Council consideration of contracting out all of public works.

Councillor MacKinnon noted ongoing concerns respecting improvements required on Lake 11 and Hamilton Lake Roads and any others of similar nature within the Municipality, that have deteriorated over the years and their status as they relate to planning and development. Mayor Bilodeau concurred and noted that a long term solution must be considered.

**Bridges:**

Clerk/Administrator spoke to Veterans Bridge, Dean Lake Bridge and others such as Potomac, Bolton River, etc., as well as the plan towards replacing the large culverts within the Municipality.

On a query from Councillor Jones-Scissons, the flow issue at the twin-culverts on Township Line was discussed. Public Works Superintendent has looked at that location and is reviewing possible solutions. Councillor Jones-Scissons also noted that the beaver dams have not fully been addressed on the south side of Little Basswood Lake. Staff will note this concern with Trapper James MacFarlane.

On concern voiced by Councillor Walsh, Public Works Superintendent will address the approaches to MacDonald Bridge.

Councillor Campbell addressed the need for a strategy and plan respecting our bridges. Projects must be shelf-ready for funding applications (ie. plans for a new bridge, if necessary).

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Councillor Armstrong agreed that bridges have already been made a priority by Council. Clerk/Administrator identified the issue, being the need for provincial funding in order to proceed with repair/replacement of the bridges.

Clerk/Administrator will ensure that all necessary information is obtained from Tulloch Engineering to make applications as soon as Provincial/Federal funding opportunities are announced.

Council discussed with Public Works Superintendent, the possibility of replacing the Potomac Bridge with a culvert structure. The Tulloch Engineering Report will be pulled and addressed further with Council in preparation for an application. Public Works Superintendent reported that he had a representative from Canada Culvert look at this area to seek out ideas and he recommended an arch culvert.

**Buildings:**

Councillor Pirrie noted that the Library has submitted its 2021 budget and requested relocation of the hot water tank and two new computers (1 for staff and 1 for public use).

The Museum septic system was to have been replaced this summer but, will be scheduled to be done prior to June of 2021.

Councillor MacKinnon spoke to the Natural Playground plan and hope to continue to develop that area. Two separate applications have been submitted to the Ontario Trillium Foundation but have been denied both times.

Clerk/Administrator noted that she believes there to be concerns with the roof leaking at Sowerby Hall. This will be further researched and considered in the 2021 budget, if necessary.

Councillor Armstrong questioned the progress with respect to the canteen renovations at the Iron Bridge Recreation Centre. Clerk/Administrator will review the Minutes for Council's most recent direction on this matter. Councillor Armstrong also voiced concerns with the leaks that have persisted following the work done by Dynamic Roofing. Public Works Superintendent will continue to address this concern with the company.

Councillor Campbell suggested that, with global warming, Council give consideration to installing air conditioning in some of the Municipal facilities.

Treasurer Stenger noted that the epoxy floor contract for the Fire Halls may be delayed to Spring 2021. Council deliberated the matter briefly.

On a query from Councillor MacKinnon, no issues have presented regarding the SCBA replacement.

There was a brief discussion around surplus the Ward 4 Storage Building. Staff review of the municipal lands inventory will include researching the size of the lot on which the Storage Building is located, as well as potential broadband tower locations.

The 2021 budget will include installation of a fixed generator at Ward 1 Public Works garage, as they have found that it is not feasible to piggy back off of the Fire Dept. generator.

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The carpet replacement is to take place over the Christmas closure.

**Rolling Stock:**

Further to a request from a ratepayer to further address the financial savings to be gained by the municipality purchasing a vehicle rather than paying mileage, Treasurer Stenger conducted a historical analysis and found savings to be approximately \$1,300.00 per year for the Equinox. However, he cautioned that the cost of a new vehicle would be much higher today, and with higher fuel costs and reduced travel due to COVID-19, he would not recommend replacement of the Equinox. It was agreed that further consideration will not be given to this matter at this time. The previous decision to not purchase a replacement vehicle remains firm.

Councillor Jones-Scissons recommended that the one-ton replacement be pushed to 2022 budget deliberations.

**Street Lights:**

A discrepancy in the numbers of lights listed was noted. This will be reviewed and corrected. The next street light installation to be considered under budget deliberations would be at the intersection of Dean Lake Road and Chevis Road.

**Parks:**

Councillor Jones-Scissons noted a concern with drainage at Little Basswood Beach. Public Works Superintendent will investigate the matter.

The proposed area for the Eagle Viewing Station has been flagged and staff is awaiting further direction from the property owner.

**Cemeteries:**

It was noted that a meeting has been scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup> with members of Council of the Town of Thessalon to discuss services that are shared between the two municipalities.

**Environment:**

Councillor Jones-Scissons questioned if there was a way to research further the idea of obtaining a shredding unit to reduce the footprint of the garbage currently in our Waste Sites.

Councillor Walsh reported that the Environmental Committee will be meeting prior to the next Meeting of Council to review the punch card program being rolled out for 2021 and recommendations will be brought to the December 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Councillor MacKinnon addressed a ratepayer issue respecting the Little Rapids Drain and significant loss of heritage seeds from his field. He advised that a site meeting was held with the Drainage Superintendent to address solutions respecting the Little Rapids drain water flow to alleviate the spring break-up water that flows into the ratepayer's field.

On a query from Councillor Wedgwood respecting work that was to take place on the Seabrook and Baxter/Lauszus Drains this summer, Clerk/Administrator advised that the work was not done this year due to

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COVID-19 and the timing of that work will have to be re-assessed with the Drainage Superintendent.

On a query from Councillor Armstrong, Public Works Superintendent advised that the Daniel Zook drainage matter has been delayed to 2021 at Mr. Zook's behest. It was noted that this project is not a Municipal Drainage works.

**Emergency Equipment:**

On a query from Councillor Armstrong, Clerk/Administrator will confirm the number and locations of the dry hydrants.

Council then proceeded to review the Staff Priorities.

**STAFF PRIORITIES 2021 BUDGET**

Clerk/Administrator noted that the list outlines some of the projects that Staff is working on and are planned. The document goes hand-in-hand with the Capital Asset Management document.

**General Governance:**

The Clean Yard By-law remains a document to be reviewed.

**Information Technology:**

On a query from Councillor Armstrong, Council deliberated solutions to provide a better and more professional sound system for our virtual Council meetings. Deputy Clerk noted that once eSCRIBE is operational, it might provide a better meeting experience.

Mayor Bilodeau noted that bandwidth at the Municipal Office has not been ideal for some of the Zoom meetings to which he has participated. Clerk/Administrator will check the Office invoicing with Eastlink to discover the download/upload speeds.

**Protection – Fire:**

Clerk/Administrator noted that Bell has acquired the building at the Maple Ridge Towers in which the Fire Department has housed communication equipment. They have asked for information in order to establish an agreement with the Municipality for the equipment to continue to be located in that building. Once the draft agreement is received, it will be placed on a Council Agenda for review.

**Protection – Other:**

Clerk/Administrator reported that the due date for the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan has been extended beyond January 2021 but, that the new deadline has not yet been announced. Activity towards development of the plan has been stalled due to COVID-19.

**Public Works (Transportation and Drainage):**

Clerk/Administrator reported the rate increases for the Sand Agreement with Ferrovia and that she will ask if the 850 tonne threshold to the higher rate can be "per patrol yard" rather than "per Municipality", as it currently reads. If Ferrovia is unwilling to make the change, not factoring in the rate

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increase, an extra \$4,000.00, minimum, will have to be budgeted for sand in 2021.

Council briefly discussed paving vs. surface treatment of Eley Road. Public Works Superintendent noted that the pavement on Little Rapids Road has stood up well over the years and has withstood a lot of truck traffic.

Clerk/Administrator noted that the Future Projects listed is not an exhaustive list and will continue to be tweaked as staff and Council continue to develop the Asset Management Plan.

Council briefly discussed work that is required on Red Rock Road and that discussions pertaining to proposed work will have to be conducted in consultation with Evolugen, owner of the Road.

Clerk/Administrator noted that Basswood Lake Road is not currently on the list of Future Projects. Public Works Superintendent noted base work required on that road prior to surface treatment application. He has been proceeding based on previous direction of Council, in that, all existing surface treated roads be improved prior to surface treating any graveled roads. Councillor Jones-Scissons noted that she has made the request for past 6 years, at the instruction of the ratepayers that reside on the section of road in question. Mayor Bilodeau noted that any surface treating of Basswood Lake Road would have to be a phased-in project. Public Works Superintendent noted that, due to the work required to the base of that road, it would have to be, at minimum, a 3-year project.

**Environmental:**

Councillor Walsh re-addressed the need to provide recycling awareness to our Community. In-person sessions have been delayed due to COVID-19. As much information, as possible, will be provided with the package being sent to all ratepayers with the punch-card program mail-out, being initiated on January 1, 2021.

Clerk/Administrator noted the issue respecting the requirement to start ramping at the Ward 4 Landfill, in that, fill will have to be trucked in over Chevis and Dean Lake Roads in order to create the ramps. A report will be provided to Council regarding how best to proceed with that program once further discussions are held with AECOM.

On a query from Councillor Walsh, Clerk/Administrator will seek out a price for curbside pick-up from GFL.

As noted at a previous meeting, Councillor Campbell re-iterated that there is an issue with the footprint outlined for the Ward 4 Waste Site. Public Works Superintendent noted that test holes were dug to determine where waste is buried. It was noted that a site meeting must be held with Councillor Campbell in order to pursue this matter. Councillor Campbell noted that plans were in place to conduct an environmental assessment to increase the footprint of the Ward 4 Landfill just prior to amalgamation.

**Recreation & Culture:**

Councillor Armstrong noted a concern that there may be fewer active volunteers available post COVID-19. This concern should be considered as we move forward. Clerk/Administrator noted that, together with staff, our volunteers are certainly one of the Municipality's biggest assets and

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expenses to operate our recreation facilities, etc. would be much higher if we lost our volunteers.

**Planning:**

Council deliberated the maximum amount it is willing to budget for the Flood Mapping and Risk Assessment funding to which Deputy Clerk is making application. The Municipality must contribute 50% of the project cost. Deputy Clerk outlined the benefits of receiving this updated information. Council deliberated the matter. Councillor MacKinnon reminded Council that flooding also impacts agricultural lands and industrial operations, as well as housing development. Councillor Wedgwood recommended that Staff seek out the contract for the Mississagi River rip rap to establish what company is required to maintain the \$19M Rip Rap Project. On a query from Councillor Kirby, Treasurer Stenger noted that there are insufficient reserves to complete all of the priority projects and planned equipment purchases. Council agreed that it would support, at maximum, a \$400,000.00 project for the purposes of the application. Deputy Clerk will inquire with Hatch, the consulting engineering firm, as to the lowest figure we could put towards a project that would still provide value for the Municipality.

**STATE OF RESERVES**

Councillor Walsh expressed concern that there are insufficient reserves in place to implement all of the projects discussed this evening. With that said, it is difficult to address putting more money into reserves.

On a query from Councillor Campbell, Treasurer Stenger identified the reserves that were budgeted for dedicated purposes, as follows: Public Works rolling stock reserve; Fire Dept. rolling stock and significant equipment reserve; bridges reserve; and Veterans Bridge reserve.

Mayor Bilodeau requested that should any members of Council have budget related ideas over the next two weeks, to pass them along to the Clerk/Administrator, Treasurer and Public Works Superintendent.

Respecting Treasurer Stenger's Report, Council supported the following:

- the unused Safe Restart Phase 1 Funding (\$165,800.00) will be placed in a restricted reserve for continued use in 2021;
- any savings realized from recreation facilities not opening due to COVID-19, will be placed in reserves;
- the Algoma Public Health municipal levy reimbursement of \$3,663.77 will be placed in working fund reserve, for the time being.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**20-27-04**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does adjourn at 9:56 p.m.

D. Kirby

CARRIED.

J. Armstrong

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MAYOR

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CLERK