

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Special Council Meeting

January 16th, 2019

7:00 p.m.

There was a Special Council Meeting of Council called by the Mayor and held in the Municipal Council Chambers on Wednesday January 16th, 2019 Subject to the procedural by-law 2015-53 passed under section 238, as per Section 240(a) the Head of Council may at any time call a special meeting. Present were Mayor David Bennett, Deputy Mayor Glen Campbell, Councillor Lane Cleroux, Councillor Doug Humphries and Councillor Tom Webster. Staff present was Hope Dillabough, CAO/Clerk and Jennifer M. Barr, Treasurer/Tax Collector

1. Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Members, Staff and the Public requested to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
3. There was no declaration of pecuniary interest.
4. 2019 Horton Hoedown – Proposal Review

Tina Hunt, Recreation Public Advisory Member, was present to discuss her amended proposal for the 2019 Horton Hoedown. She disseminated a paper copy of her amendment for each member of council and reviewed her information. Councillor Humphries commended Ms. Hunt on her work and feels the Festival should move forward. Deputy Mayor Campbell thanked Ms. Hunt for providing additional information and reviewed that he did support the 2018 Festival. He exclaimed his worry regarding the burden being placed on volunteers to have to fundraise to pay back any debt incurred and admitted he was nervous about the size of the festival being so large. Councillor Webster thanked Ms. Hunt for the information. He questioned portions of the budget that had been submitted and wanted to see more information regarding a possible safety net and was nervous there wasn't one per se. He also reiterated Deputy Mayor Campbell's comments on the burden being placed on the Recreation volunteers. Councillor Cleroux discussed many items. He referred to the Festival being a huge exercise with no revenue at the end and if it does go sideways, there is a lot of pressure that is being placed not only on the Volunteers to fundraise, but also Council. He voiced his concern over the budget figures and that perhaps they may not be accurate.

Mayor Bennett asked for Council consensus to allow for members of the Public to speak that were present. Angela Burgess of KOA Campground felt that any property Horton owned wasn't large enough to hold a festival and KOA was willing to hold it at no cost to the Township. She said that KOA employees are all on board and she's not afraid of overworking her staff. She stated her son has volunteered to be responsible for all social media advertising (Facebook, Instagram and twitter) as well as creating a specific website for the Hoedown. Additionally, he volunteered for the actual weekend to provide First Aid. Kelly Hunt discussed the attraction of on-site camping as it would comprise 50% of the concert goers. He also discussed certain costs could be reduced by reducing the footprint of the festival and look at getting more donated items (i.e. stage, fencing etc.)

Councillor Cleroux felt that with this new information provided at the table, it should be incorporated into a new proposal with time for Council to review instead of being brought forward the night of discussion. He questioned the CAO/Clerk about Staff's involvement and procurement policies. CAO/Clerk Dillabough reviewed staff issues, particularly that due to the impending retirement of the Treasurer, there would be at least two positions requiring intensive training. She does not want the Hoedown to preclude staff's day-to-day duties and she expressed she was not in favour of overworking her staff. She also stated that the Township does have a Procurement By-law that must be followed in terms of purchasing. The Township does not have a credit card policy that would allow Volunteers to have or borrow a credit card for purchases. Currently, the CAO/Clerk and the Mayor hold signing authority for any purchases. Any purchases greater than what is being budgeted for would have to come back to the Council table to amend the budget to allow for said purchases.

Mayor Bennett asked if Council would like any additional information to be provided to them or if they were ready to vote. Councillor Humphries and Deputy Mayor Campbell expressed they were ready. Councillor Cleroux wanted to see more information regarding actual budget figures and asked the Mayor to provide his comments regarding the proposal.

Mayor Bennett expressed that there is always concern regarding taxpayer's money and it is a huge commitment from the Recreation Committee, however, there have been lessons learned from last year. Recreation has a strong base of volunteers. He mentioned there are some loose ends on the Hoedown budget that aren't accurate and asked Ms. Hunt to provide an amended proposal prior to noon on Friday January 18th so it can be included in the Council package. He would like Council to have a bigger comfort level to ensure they can make an informed decision. He asked Council to contact Ms. Hunt with any comments or concerns so they can be addressed in her amended proposal to be submitted in the Council package.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Campbell

Resolution No.2019-14

Seconded by Councillor Humphries

THAT Council enact By-law 2019-08 to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Township of Horton at the Special Council Meeting held on January 16th, 2019.

Carried

5. Mayor Bennett declared the meeting to be adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Mayor David M. Bennett

CAO/Clerk Hope Dillabough