

**TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH-WEST OXFORD
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
March 23, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor James Hayes
Councillors: Jay Heaman, Gerry Mitchell,
Ron Sackrider, D. Anne Vanhoucke, David Mayberry,
George Klosler

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Ellen Greb, Clerk-Treasurer/CAO
Dianne Harnett, Deputy Clerk
Diane Larder, Deputy Treasurer

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor James Hayes

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The purpose of the meeting was to consider grant requests for the year 2010 from Community Hall and Park Boards and other groups.

AGENDA

Resolution No. 1 Moved by David Mayberry
Seconded by Gerry Mitchell

RESOLVED that the Agenda for the March 23, 2010, Special Meeting of Council be accepted.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations.

DELEGATIONS

Tillsonburg District Multi-Service Center

Maureen Vandenberghe / Wendy Woodhouse

Ms. Vandenberghe informed Council they are here to request support for Adult Literacy. Unfortunately, due to the economic downturn they are seeing more displaced workers...particularly people who have worked in a plant for twenty-five years or so that may not have transferable skills in another workplace. The increase being requested this year from the Township relates directly to the area residents involved in the program.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Deb Landon

Mrs. Landon requested financial assistance for 2010 and appreciates Township's past support. 2009 was one of our best years ever, which shows through the

support we received from our communities. We have seen an increase in each of events held. We have 80 matches currently in our program for the children registered.

Oxford Heights Peace Park

Sue Brain, Jim Brain and Victoria McGregor

Ms. Brain informed Council that In the Sweaburg community we are well supported. Our park is an all season park with a great tobogganing hill. Ms. Brain informs Council that the majority of the costs are for grass cutting and looking after woodlot throughout the spring/summer/fall seasons. She also remarked that their costs have not fluctuated very much in past few years.

Ingersoll & District Minor Hockey

Ruth Lepik, President

Mrs. Lepik informs Council that they have 300 participants from 4- 18 years old. We have two teams entering finals this year and they introduced a development program and used some ice time for skill development. The organizations registration numbers are down this past year, but we are pleased to have twenty-three families registered from South-West Oxford Township.

Sweaburg Lions Club

Larry Sales and Phil Gagnon

Mr. Sales informs Council that their main task is being the custodial keepers of the Sweaburg Park and keeping it safe for the community. Major construction last year was the undertaking of a new water main, with many donations coming from in kind sources i.e. backhoe operator. They currently have 25 members and request assistance with the 2010 upkeep of the park.

C.A.O. Greb noted that the Township is budgeting for the replacement of the ground cover beneath the composite structure at the park.

Salford Recreation

Donna Franklin and Cathy Korevaar

Request a grant to assist with the upkeep of the Salford ball diamonds and play area.

C.A.O. Greb noted that the Township is budgeting for the replacement of the ground cover beneath the composite structure at the park.

Oxford 4-H

Geoff Innes

Mr. Innes informed Council they currently have 297 members and have forty-seven projects currently in the community. The ages of our 4-H members are from 10-21 years of age. One of our recognizable icons in the community is our successful ice cream cart.

Ingersoll District Nature Club

Cathy Kindree and Ken Whiteford

Ms. Kindree asks for financial support to construct 400 feet of boardwalk through the swampy areas of the tract. Also some refurbishing of signage is required. Mr. Whiteford noted that there would be more tree identification done. Also, more Carolinian plants will be planted in areas throughout the tract.

Centreville Pond

Karen Paton Evans

The pond was well used this past winter as it freezes over, and we had many kids out skating. Ms. Evans informs Council that Scout groups come out to clean up and the location is a well received family place. The perimeter around the pond was cleaned up, and some overgrown mature trees were taken down before they ended up in pond. They were able to put a path around the pond this past year. Ms. Evans explains that lawn cutting is their largest annual expense for the pond.

She asked if the Upper Thames Conservation Authority had any plans for the dam. Council noted that the Township contributes \$5,000.00 annually to the U.T.R.C.A. for the dam however some of the monies were used for a study. The balance will be used should there be an issue in the future.

Dereham Centre Community Hall and Park

Doris Grundy and Marlene Spanjers

The Board will be replacing some chairs this year as well as having the ceiling of the hall painted. A deck box will be placed outside for garbage storage.

C.A.O. Greb noted that the Township is budgeting for the replacement of the ground cover beneath the composite structure at the park.

Ingersoll Skating Club

Carol De Bruyn and Tanya Folkema

We have programs for all levels of skaters with sixty-five per cent of the skaters from the Township. There are currently over 200 registered with the majority ranging in age from 5-16 years old. A Special Olympics is hosted annually.

Salford Recreation Committee

Andy Bruggeman and John Way

Mr. Bruggeman informs Council that their rental revenues are up. We had two good fundraisers in spring/fall. In the seniors room we have one old wall mural which needs to be refreshed and redone. We would like to also paint the washrooms and kitchen. Council's support is greatly appreciated.

The Board would like to repave the front parking lot at an approximate cost of \$30,000.00 but will bring this matter to Council for discussion.

Brownsville Board

Janet Justice and Wilma Van Gorp

We appreciate the Township applying for federal funding and constructing the new community hall. Since the current hall condition is not appropriate for preparing meals etc. we are looking forward to the new hall later this year. We are continuing to do fundraising.

Ebenezer Cemetery

Ed Lovell and Frank Ellery

Explained their financials contained some investment certificates that have been reinvested. We appreciate all the efforts with grant assistance from the Township.

Councillor David Mayberry urged the Board to consider raising the plot prices to ensure future financial sustainability.

Brownsville Park

Deb Holcombe and George Beard

Our largest expenditure is grass cutting however there has been a substantial increase for the hydro at the park. The ball diamond is not available this year due to the repositioning. We are looking forward to new play equipment and ground cover being installed.

C.A.O. Greb noted that the Township is reimbursing the board for the increase in hydro usage as it is directly related to the construction of the new facility in the park.

Mount Elgin Hall

Dawne Fewster and Dianne McGregor

Ms. Fewster informed Council that they had a good year. The hall has had some unexpected costs this year, including the replacement of the stove (\$5,000.00). Installation of two railings has been done, as the walkway can be slippery in the winter for many.

Ms. Fewster expressed appreciation for the updates that have been done at the hall in the past few years noting that the changes have translated into saving \$6,000.00.

The Dereham District Lions Club continues to be a major contributor to the hall.

We have had 107 bookings this past year and the Rural Café has been a success with about 30 people attending every Tuesday morning.

Crime Stoppers

Mike Hanna, OPP Constable, Jan Hought, Board Member

On average we receive about 400 tips a year. This service is praised by investigators in their pursuit of solving crimes. This year we have purchased a new exhibit, which was proudly displayed at the Mt. Elgin Community Centre this past month, along with our popcorn maker which is also a real crowd pleaser at events.

Mount Elgin Cemetery Board

Ross Albright and Arnold Belore

Thank you for your past support. One of our constant costs remains our lawn care. We appreciate any support the Township can offer to our Board for care of the cemetery.

The Board expressed concern over potential personal liability in their role as trustees of the Cemetery. It requested that the Township check to see if it could be covered by the Township insurance policy. C.A.O. Greb noted that the Township does not own the Cemetery and the only way to have it included with the Township policy is to have the Board turn the property over to the Township. As with other cemeteries the Board would continue to manage the property.

Councillor David Mayberry urged the Board to consider raising the plot prices to ensure future financial sustainability.

Oxford Trails Council

Mike Hawkins and Rosaline Bruyns

We thank Council for their support on behalf of Trails. Our goal is to have a trail connecting Woodstock to Ingersoll. We are aiming to start this significant undertaking for the community early in the spring. Hydro One will be providing 50 loads of gravel free of charge the last week of March. There are many species indigenous to this area and being able to cultivate this for all to enjoy is our mandate. The Trail Council will be eligible for matching grant funding for any donations received up to March 31, 2010.

Mount Elgin Recreation

Seth Allin and Ryan Fewster

We thank Council for their past support and this year we have picnic tables to be replaced and the ball diamond to be repaired. We would like to install outside water connections to be used when the hall is closed. This year T-Ball and two travel teams will be using the park. We will be offering soccer for 3-5 yr. olds and so far there is interest and it looks like there will be more children out this year than in the past.

C.A.O. Greb noted that the Township is budgeting for the replacement of the ground cover beneath the composite structure at the park.

