

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon held a special meeting on the 22nd day of May, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor D. White, Deputy Mayor D. Besley, Councillor W. Hannon, Councillor M. Mercer and Councillor D. Thwaites were present. Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk and Wendy Atkinson, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk were also present. Mayor White presided and called the meeting to order.

Mayor White welcomed Solicitor General Sylvia Jones, who was invited by Council to come and have a brief informal chat on various topics that are of concern to Melancthon Council. Those topics included the following:

Repeal of the Green Energy Act

This is of concern due to the Amenities Agreements that Council has with various wind developers. Ms. Jones advised that they are not eliminating existing contracts, but would not be renewing them. She could not comment on the content of the contracts as she has never seen one. Concerns were mentioned about decommissioning of all of the turbines in Melancthon, as well as the assessment cap for taxation.

Provincial Ag. Land Mapping

It was noted that our Planner has concerns with the Provincial Agricultural Land Mapping because the refinement criteria, when applied to Melancthon, does not appear to provide any opportunity for refinement back to the Rural land use designation. Ms. Jones was aware of this topic ahead of time and advised that she has already spoken with Minister Steve Clark, Municipal Affairs and Housing and he has given his assurances to her that he will have a look at this.

Proposed Shelburne By-pass

Ms. Jones noted that she has been involved with several meetings with Shelburne about this matter. The County of Dufferin has supported it, and when it became a County initiative, this allowed it to come forward. The route has not been determined but there are several proposals. Shelburne is in the process of setting up a meeting with the Ministry of Transportation.

Bill 108 – Conservation Authority and Library cuts and soft services (Development Charges)

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the above.

Ms. Jones explained how the library funding is distributed by the Province and spoke to the Southern Ontario Library Service Interlibrary Loan Program cuts.

She spoke to the Conservation Authorities – she has five in her riding and said she is frustrated by the inconsistent approvals. There were concerns raised by Council that the Conservation Authorities would just download their funding cuts to the municipalities in the watershed. Ms. Jones advised that Conservation Authorities are the act of legislation and they shouldn't be downloading their cuts to us.

With regards to the soft service changes of the Development Charges Act, she asked that information be forwarded to her on this matter.

Animal Rights Activist Trespassing on Farmer's Properties

Deputy Mayor Besley spoke to this and said the farmer's are incredibly upset with Animal Rights Activists trespassing on farm properties. Some of those entering were charged but

then Crown dropped the charges.

Ms. Jones advised that this matter falls within her Ministry. She advised that they are going to be tightening up the Trespass to Property Act and correct the oversight issue. There will be a new Animal Protection Act before 2020 which will include controls over trespassing. She could not speak to the Attorney General's decision in the London case.

Township Truck Licensing and Township Public Works Equipment Annual Safety of Vehicles

Councillor Thwaites advised that these were his two topics and he would follow up by email as we were running low on time.

CLTIP Taxation - Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program

Ms. Jones advised there were no changes to this program. Councillor Mercer noted that she feels the program is not being handled well.

Mayor White had one final comment of the meeting and advised that Melancthon is taking steps to address efficiencies and will be setting up a meeting with Mulmur Township to hire a consultant to study the matter. He went on to say that there is a feeling of collaboration all around Dufferin County.

Mayor White, as well as Council and Staff, thanked Ms. Jones for taking time out of her busy schedule to meet with us today.

Moved by Thwaites, Seconded by Hannon that leave be given to introduce a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon at its special meeting held on May 22, 2109 and it be hereby read a first and second time. Carried. By-law numbered 29-2019 and given the required number of readings.

10:32 a.m. - Moved by Besley and Mercer that we adjourn this Special meeting of Council.

MAYOR

CLERK