

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon held a special electronic meeting on the 1st day of February, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. to retain Interim/Special Legal Counsel. Mayor Darren White, Deputy Mayor Dave Besley, Councillor Wayne Hannon, Councillor Margaret Mercer and Councillor James McLean were present. Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk and Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk were also present. Mayor White presided and called the meeting to order.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor White shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Mercer, Seconded by Hannon that we approve the Agenda as circulated. Discussion on the motion and it was felt by some members that this meeting could have waited until the regular meeting of Council on February 3, 2022.

Mayor White requested a recorded vote:

Mayor White – Nay

Deputy Besley – Yea

Councillor Hannon – Yea

Councillor Mercer – Yea

Councillor McLean – Nay

Carried.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Mayor White advised that disclosure of pecuniary interest can be declared at this time or anytime throughout the meeting by giving the general nature thereof and that declarations must be submitted to the Clerk in writing.

General Business

To Retain Interim/Special Counsel

Moved by Mercer, Seconded by Hannon that Council retain Interim/Special Legal Counsel.

Mayor White opened the floor to discussion on the motion. Discussion ensued from all Members of Council regarding the turmoil and chaos surrounding the community recently as a result of Facebook posts, the division of the community, and questions on how Council can move forward as there are eight months left in the term of Council. There was further discussion on getting an independent person to provide independent advice to Council as there are several items that need to be brought forward but are closed session discussions. There were members not in favour of the motion as the Township already has retained lawyers that are capable of giving advice. Further discussion ensued on separating personal business from Township business on Facebook, disclaimers on Facebook posts, etc. There were suggestions of various platforms that the Public /Council could go to if it was thought there was wrongdoing i.e. – Township Integrity Commissioner, Provincial Ombudsman, Freedom of Information requests. When there was no further discussion on this motion, Mayor White called for a recorded vote on the motion:

Mayor White – Nay

Deputy Mayor Besley – Nay

Councillor Hannon – Yea

Councillor Mercer – Yea

Councillor McLean – Nay

Lost.

Moved by Besley, Seconded by McLean that the Township of Melancthon contact the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to make them aware of the breakdown in communication at our Council and request immediate assistance to restore respectful and non-abusive communication among Councillors. Discussion ensued regarding the Ministry coming in to provide training and the types of training required and Staff were directed to reach out to its MMAH Rep.

Mayor White requested a recorded vote:

Mayor White - Yea

Deputy Mayor Besley – Yea

Councillor Hannon – Yea

Councillor Mercer – Yea

Councillor McLean – Yea

Carried.

Confirmation By-law

Moved by Besley, Seconded by McLean 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 meeting held on February 1, 2022 and it be given the required number of readings and numbered 6-2022. Carried.

Adjournment

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Besley that we adjourn this Special Meeting of Council at 2:49 p.m. Carried.

MAYOR

CLERK