

## **CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON**

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon held a special electronic meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. regarding the Corbetton Park/parking issues. 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 McLean that we approve the Agenda as circulated. 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**

#### **Corbetton Park/Parking Issue**

Councillor McLean spoke to this matter and advised that he had received feedback from the Community, and from Hydro One employees, regarding a Facebook post from Mayor White (from his personal account) regarding the removal of a large piece of Hydro One equipment that was parked on an asphalt pad in the Corbetton Park. He expressed his concerns about the post and the impact that it may have on the Township's relationship with Hydro One. The other members of Council were given an opportunity to express their concerns on the matter, which included the post being a bad reflection on the Township and that it was seen as conducting Township business on Facebook as well as concurrence with the concerns that were expressed by Councillor McLean.

There was a brief discussion on the expansion of the Township's Social media policy, which doesn't address Council members posts, as the policy only deals with the Township's Facebook and Twitter page, and what is posted on it.

Mayor White spoke to the post and advised that phone calls were made last week to Hydro One for the removal but were not returned until today. The piece of equipment has since been removed. Mayor White advised that he did not identify himself as the Mayor and it was not from his Mayor's account and that his intent was not to bash Hydro One. He then apologized for the post and to the people who thought he went too far and that it won't happen again. Mayor White offered to speak to anyone who had an issue in regard to the post.

Discussion ensued on next steps which include new signage at the park to state something to the effect of "no motor vehicles of any kind permitted in the Park" and Staff will look into this, as well as a public statement to be made about the post. The statement to include an apology to Hydro One, to speak of the Township's support for Hydro One, to thank them for their hard work and to acknowledge that this post was not the position of Council/Township. Mayor White offered to draft the statement and it will be circulated to Council before it is sent out.

**Confirmation By-law**

Moved by Mercer, 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 January 18, 2022 and it be given the required number of readings and numbered 5-2022. Carried.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mercer, Seconded by McLean that we adjourn this Special Meeting of Council at 6:07 p.m. Carried.

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MAYOR

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CLERK