

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon held a hybrid meeting on the 17th day of October, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Darren White, Deputy Mayor James McLean, Councillor Ralph Moore (5:14 p.m. virtual), Councillor Bill Neilson and Councillor Ruth Plowright were present. Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk and Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk were also present. Mayor White presided and called the meeting to order.

Mayor White advised that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted to the Township's website under Council Agendas and Minutes.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor White shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Announcements

Deputy Mayor McLean advised that there will be a Town Hall meeting next Thursday (October 24th) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with the Mennonite Community to talk about road safety. This meeting will be held at the Horning's Mills Community Hall. There will be representatives from the OPP, County of Dufferin Public Works, Ministry of Transportation and the Township in attendance and the meeting is open to the Public.

Councillor Plowright advised that there will be a Halloween Trail and Dinner at the Horning's Mills Hall on Halloween night – start time is 5:00 p.m.

Additions

CAO/Clerk – Addition – Resignation of Blaise Meunier from the Horning's Mills Community Hall Board

Deletions

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean

That Council approve the Agenda as amended. Carried.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

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.

Minutes

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by Neilson

That Council approve the minutes of the October 3, 2024 Council meeting as circulated. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Point of Privilege or Personal Privilege

None

Public Question Period

Harvey Lyon asked about the Provincial Policy Statement 2024 and if it was available. It was advised that it would be in effect on October 21, 2024.

Public Works

1. Recommendations from Roads Sub-Committee Meeting Held October 7th, 2024

Deputy Mayor McLean spoke to the recommendation.

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson

That Council accept the recommendation from the Roads Sub-Committee and direct the Treasurer to include the road and bridge projects identified in the Recommendation Report in the 2025 Budget. Carried.

2. Staff Recommendation for Tender 03-2024 – Closes October 15th, 2024

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Plowright

That Council award Tender 03-2024 for the purchase of a 2025 Ford F150 XLT Pick-up Truck to Trillium Ford Lincoln Ltd. in the amount of \$65,526.24 (taxes incl.). Delivery date is no later than February 1, 2025. This purchase complies with the Procurement By-law of the Township of Melancthon. Carried.

3. Other

Nothing for this matter.

Planning

1. Applications to Permit

There were no questions or concerns on the spreadsheet.

2. Other

There was nothing for this matter.

Climate Change Initiatives

Nothing for this matter.

Police Services Board

Mayor White noted that Al Blundell, Chair of the Dufferin OPP Detachment Board – Township of Melancthon, Town of Mono, Mulmur Township was not able to attend this meeting, but he did provide some statistics to Council on the Thanksgiving weekend.

County Council Update

Mayor White, as well as Deputy Mayor McLean, updated Council on the items discussed at the County Council meeting held on October 10, 2024.

Correspondence

Board, Committee & Working Group Minutes

1. Roads Sub-Committee – September 16th, 2024
2. Shelburne Public Library Board – June 18, 2024

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Plowright

That the Board, Committee & Working Group minutes items 1-2 be received as information. Carried.

Items for Information Purposes

1. Grand River Conservation Authority Summary of General Membership Meeting – September 27, 2024
2. Letter from the Honorable Robert J. Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
3. Dufferin County – Notice of Decision Township of Melancthon Official Plan Amendment No. 4
4. Town of Grand Valley Official Plan and Zoning By-law Review Statutory Open House
5. AMO 2023 Annual Report – The Canada Community-Building Fund
<https://www.buildingcommunities.ca/sites/default/files/assets/Documents/Annual%20Reports/2023%20Annual%20Report%20-%20Part%20I.pdf>
6. Public Consultation for NVCA’s Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy
7. Public Consultation for NVCA Regulation Mapping Update
8. Media Release - NVCA Seeks Feedback on Resource Management Strategy
9. Email from OGRA - Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program
10. North Dufferin Community Centre 2023 Financial Information

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by McLean

That correspondence items 1-10, for information purposes be received as information, except for items 9 & 10, pulled for further discussion. Carried.

Councillor Neilson spoke to # 9 and requested that Council support the motion.

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean

WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario’s already strained rural health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Melancthon requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario’s rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads. Carried.

Councillor Plowright pulled Item No. 10 and spoke to the information that was on Page 4 of the Financial Statements regarding the 2017 Agreement, which has now been replaced with the 2023 Agreement. Staff will reach out to Mulmur Township about this.

Items for Council Action

1. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority 2025 Program Overview and Draft

Budget

Discussion ensued on the draft budget which shows a 12% increase in Melancthon's levy. Mayor White advised that he will be voting against the draft budget at the December NVCA meeting. Staff were directed to forward this to Treasury Staff for inclusion in the Township's 2025 draft budget, and further discussion will take place during budget deliberations.

2. Township of Mulmur Resolution regarding Fire Service Delivery Meeting

Discussion ensued on the motion and Staff were directed to respond to the Township of Mulmur that Council feels it is too early to have a conversation about exploring the creation of a North Dufferin Fire Service Area. Further that Council would like to move forward with the recommendations contained in the Plan and see what the outcome of that is before they are willing to participate in any discussions.

General Business

Notice of Intent to Pass By-law

There were no By-laws for this meeting.

New/Other Business/Additions

1. Ontario Provincial Police 2025 Annual Billing Statement Package

Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer spoke to this item of correspondence. She noted that the Township will face a significant increase in Policing next year and the increase will add approximately 4 percent to our levy. The large increases are being felt by municipalities across the Province and is a result of Bill 124 and the cap on wages.

2. Draft Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan

The deadline for comments is October 23, 2024. There is not a lot of information in the Development Strategy and Action Plan pertaining to Melancthon. Council was asked to forward any comments to the CAO/Clerk, and directed that they be forwarded on to the County.

3. New/Other/Addition

Addition – Resignation of Blaise Meunier from the Horning's Mills Community Hall Board

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by Neilson

That Council accept, with regret, the resignation of Blaise Meunier from the Horning's Mills Community Hall Board and thank her for her contributions to the Board. Carried.

4. Unfinished Business

County of Dufferin Multi-Jurisdictional Fire Protection and Prevention Modernization Plan

Staff were directed to take this item off the Agenda and put it back on for the December meeting for further discussion.

Council meetings – Going to one meeting per month – Further Discussion (Mayor White)

Discussion ensued regarding having only one meeting per month and both Deputy Mayor McLean and Councillor Plowright expressed their concerns with only having one meeting per month, and therefore the meetings will remain status quo. There will be

further discussion at the December meeting when Staff bring a Report about the 2025 Council meetings.

Tabled Motion from the April 18, 2024 Council Meeting – Dissolving the Horning’s Mills Park Board and the Corbetton Park Bord to Establish a Melancthon Park Board

This item was deferred and Staff will help coordinate a joint meeting.

Delegations

The following Delegations took place during the meeting.

5:15 p.m. - David Germain, Thomson Rogers attended the meeting at the invitation of Council to speak on the Aggregate Approvals Process. Mr. Germain explained that there are two layers of approval, and they are planning, and the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA) and they run in parallel to each other. Under the Planning approval process, the Township Council is the approval authority and under the ARA, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is the approval authority and he clarified the two processes for Council and explained what the Ministry is looking for when an ARA application is filed, i.e.- hours of operation, tonnage limits, specific controls around noise and dust, managing and monitoring ground water, post quarry rehabilitation process and sequencing of extraction and this is all set out in site plans. He explained the consultation process under the ARA and advised that if a person, or municipality wishes to participate in the process, they must send in an objection letter to the applicant, otherwise they are out of the process. He spoke briefly to an Interim Control By-law and municipalities do have this tool under the Planning Act to freeze the use for a certain period while reviewing policies, but he noted this is only temporary for a year and could possibly be extended to another year. Mr. Germain then answered questions from Council and the public.

6:00 p.m. - Chris Johnston, By-law Enforcement Officer, Johnston Consulting Enforcement Services attended Council to provide updates on By-law Complaints and Enforcement.

Moved by Neilson Seconded by Plowright

That Council move into a Closed Session Meeting at 6:04 p.m. pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees and (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunal affecting the local board – Updates on Bylaw Complaints and Enforcement and (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees Horning’s Mills Hall Board Vacancy Applications. Carried.

Rise With or Without Report from Closed Session

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by McLean

That Council rise from Closed Session at 6:40 p.m. with report. Carried.

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson

That Council appoint Jack Polonsky and Kaitlin DeVore to the Horning’s Mills Community Hall Board, effective immediately, until November 14, 2026 and that Staff be directed to prepare an amending By-law for adoption at the next Council meeting. Carried.

6:30 p.m. – Committee of the Whole

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Plowright

That we adjourn Council to move into Committee of the Whole at 6:42 p.m. and reconvene to Council. Carried.

6:53 p.m. – Council reconvened.

Third Reading of By-laws

None.

Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion for this meeting.

Mayor White provided an update on the Notice of Motion from the last County meeting regarding asking the County of Dufferin to pay for additional policing resources on County Roads.

Deputy McLean asked for an update on Notices of Motion that have been passed with regards to County Road 17 and Highway 10, as well as the study on Highway 10. Mayor White provided an update to Council on his dealings with Sylvia Jones, MPP and discussions that the Mayor has had with the Minister of Transportation, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria at the AMO Conference in August.

Confirmation By-law

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Moore

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 Council meeting held on October 17, 2024 and it be given the required number of readings and numbered 40-2024. Carried.

Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Plowright

That Council adjourn this meeting at 7:20 p.m., to meet again on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor. Carried.

MAYOR

CLERK