

UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE
GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 8, 2009

The Governance and Finance Committee met on January 8, 2009 at 9:05 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 25 Central Avenue West, Brockville

Members Present: Mel Campbell, Warden
Jim Pickard, Larry Dishaw
John Conley, Bill Gooch, Roger Haley,
Ron Holman, Frank Kinsella, Bill Thake

Staff Present: Steve Silver, Chief Administrative Officer
Nigel White, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer
Dorothy Theobald, Director of Community and Social Services
Ann Weir, Economic Development Coordinator
Lorraine Crotty, Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator
Jane Patterson, Administrative Assistant (Recording Secretary)

Also Present: Deputy Chief Chris Dwyer, Lorne Dougherty, Ron Barber and Rob Bowman from Fire Services

Election of 2009 Committee Chair and Vice-Chair for the Governance and Finance Committee

Mr. Silver called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Mr. Silver called for nominations for the position of the Chair of the Governance and Finance Committee for 2009.

Mr. Gooch nominated Mr. Kinsella. Mr. Thake seconded the nomination.

Mr. Silver called for nominations a second and third time.

Mr. Pickard nominated Mr. Struthers. The committee agreed that this nomination could not be considered as Mr. Struthers was absent and could not accept. Mr. Pickard withdrew the nomination.

Motion

Moved by Mr. Thake and seconded by Mr. Pickard

That the nominations be closed. Carried.

Mr. Kinsella accepted the nomination.

Mr. Kinsella took the Chair and asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the Governance and Finance Committee.

Mr. Thake nominated Mr. Dishaw. Mr. Pickard seconded the nomination.

Mr. Kinsella called for nominations a second and third time.

No other nominations were received.

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Thake and seconded by Mr. Pickard
That the nominations be closed. Carried.**

Mr. Dishaw accepted the nomination.

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Gooch and seconded by Mr. Thake
THAT Frank Kinsella be appointed Chair of the Governance and Finance
Committee for the year 2009; and**

**THAT Larry Dishaw be appointed Vice Chair of the Governance and Finance
Committee for the year 2009. Carried.**

1.0 Opening Remarks

Mr. Kinsella thanked the committee for the nomination.

2.0 Disclosure of Interest – Nil

3.0 Adoption of Committee Minutes – December 4th, 2008

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Pickard and seconded by Mr. Holman
THAT the minutes of the Governance and Finance Committee meetings
held on December 4, 2008 be approved, as distributed. Carried.**

Mr. Struthers arrived at the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

4.0 Delegations/Presentations

4.0.1 Fire Services Hazmat Committee – Mr. Chris Dwyer

Mr. Kinsella welcomed Deputy Chief Chris Dwyer and associates to the meeting. Deputy Chief Dwyer introduced Lorne Dougherty, and Rob Bowman from the Augusta Fire Department and Ron Barber from the Merrickville Fire Department. Mr. Dwyer gave a presentation on the Hazmat vehicle. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.

Chief Dwyer advised that a joint operating policy including standard qualifications for Fire Department needs to be developed and suggested the Fire Services Hazmat Committee work with the Counties to develop this policy. Chief Dwyer noted that the Counties is not expected to supply any of the equipment pertaining to the vehicle. He also advised the fire service which uses the vehicle is expected to replace any supplies used including gas, etc. Chief Dougherty reported the truck is a 1999 with 7,023 kilometers, is expected to last another 20 years and has approximately \$100,000 worth of equipment left on it. The vehicle will be used for initial response only, with all clean up to be contracted out. It was suggested that all firefighters be trained at “Awareness Level”, Level 1 and a select few be trained in “Rescue and Decontamination”, level 2.

Mr. White advised the Counties will be able to have the vehicle insured and he will provide details of costs when he receives all the particulars on the vehicle.

The committee agreed the next step will be a meeting between the Fire Services representatives and Counties’ staff to obtain details for insurance requirements and develop a business plan and a budget.

Mr. Kinsella thanked the Fire Services representatives for attending and they left the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

5.0 Correspondence, Communications and Petitions

5.0.1 Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit to United Counties of Leeds & Grenville Re: Ontario Works Administration Fee (17-Dec-08)

Responding to an inquiry Mrs Theobald reported that the Health Unit cannot arbitrarily set increases to the Ontario Works administration fee. The increase must be approved by the Joint Services Committee and Mrs. Theobald noted there has been no increase since 1998. Mr. Gooch

suggested staff investigate other alternatives. Mrs. Theobald will bring a report to the Community and Social Services Sub-Committee.

5.0.2 Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit to United Counties of Leeds & Grenville (12-Dec-08)
Re: 2009 Monthly Levy Payments

5.0.3 AMO, Office of the President to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (23-Dec-08)
Re: Extension of the Federal Gas Tax Fund Schedule of Payments

Items 5.0.2 and 5.0.3 were received and filed.

5.0.4 South Nation Conservation Authority to United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (12-Dec-08)
Re: Request for Letter of Support for Additional Funding

Members agreed that the Committee should continue to support the South Nation Conservation Authority and by a show of hands, agreed to send a letter of support to Richard Pilon, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection Program.

Addition

5.0.5 MPAC to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (12-Dec-08)
Re: Current Value Interpretation

Mr. White referred to the letter from MPAC and reported that if the Assessment Review Board (ARB)'s interpretation of the term "current value" in the *Assessment Act* is upheld, it changes the way MPAC would value tenanted commercial properties, such as shopping malls and office buildings in the future. Assessments of affected properties would be reduced by 25% which would impact not only the Counties, it could be significant dollars in North Grenville, Brockville and Gananoque. Mr. Gooch noted the benefit of the ARB's interpretation in terms of Economic Development, but this decision would result in the loss of tax dollars which would end up being passed on to the ratepayers.

By a show of hands, the committee agreed that a resolution supporting MPAC's position be taken to the next Counties Council session.

6.0 Information Items Available Upon Request News Articles, Press Releases, Periodicals & Miscellaneous Items

News Articles, Press Releases, Periodicals & Miscellaneous Items

- 6.0.1** Resolutions – Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley (22-Dec-08)
Village of Westport (08-Dec-08)
Township of Front of Yonge (15-Dec-08)
Re: Acceptance of Counties' Consent Granting Proposal
- Resolution - Township of Edwardsburg/Cardinal (15-Dec-08)
Re: Counties Consent Granting Proposal - Defeated
- 6.0.2** Resolution – Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley (22-Dec-08)
Re: Authorization for the Participation of the Director of Planning and Development, Barbara Kalivas in the Committee of Planners
- 6.0.3** Resolution – Village of Westport (08-Dec-08)
Re: MPAC – Revised Market Value Assessments
- 6.0.4** Resolution – United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (15-Dec-08)
Re: Review recommended rates for Indigent Funerals
- 6.0.5** Resolution – Corporation of the Municipality of Clarington
Re: Lottery Licensing – Request for Process Streamlining
- 6.0.6** Resolution – Township of South Stormont (12-Nov-08)
Re: Request for Government to review and amend the powers granted to Inspectors through Bill 50 the *Provincial Animal Welfare Act, 2008*
- 6.0.7** Resolution – The Corporation of the City of Oshawa (24-Nov-08)
Re: Annual funding for recreation, parks and sport infrastructure
- 6.0.8** Corporation of the Township of Athens to Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Agriculture (03-Dec-08)
Re: Control of the Coyote Population
- 6.0.9** Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (13-Dec-08)
Re: Update December 2008
- 6.0.10** Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (26-Nov-08)
Re: Requirements for 2008 Municipal Performance Measurement Program (MPMP)
- 6.0.11** Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Member Communications
“Federal Gas Tax – Four Year Extension Funding Announced” (23-Dec-08)
“Request of Support of the AMO position on the Waste Diversion Act and the Blue Box Program Plan Review” (19-Dec-08)
“Public Review Period for Draft Information and Communications Standard Extended to February 6, 2009” (10-Dec-08)

“AMO Releases “Putting Out the Welcome Mat: Why Immigration Matters to Ontario’s Municipalities” (10-Dec-08)
“Government Lays Ground Work for Reducing Poverty by Committing to 25% Reduction in Child Poverty by 2013” (05-Dec-08)
“AMO Requests Extension on the Public Review Period for the Information and Communications Standard” (27-Nov-08)

6.0.12 AMO Office of the President to United Counties of Leeds & Grenville (19-Dec-08)
Re: Promotion of multi-prong approach to infrastructure investment

6.0.13 AMCTO to United Counties of Leeds & Grenville (19-Dec-08)
Re: Thank you letter for participation in Local Government Week

6.0.14 Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville (22-Dec-08)
Re: O. Reg. 437/08 – Eligible Increase for Assessment Phase-In

6.0.15 Local Authority Services Ltd. (LAS)
Re: Municipal Staff Group Benefits Plan

6.0.16 The Public Sector Group of Funds
Re: 3rd Quarter 2008 Performance Report

6.0.17 Corporations of the Township of Canton-Bonfield and the Township of East Ferris
Re: Request for Financial Assistance with respect to effects of the Severe Rainstorm on August 5th, 2008

6.0.18 Ontario Association of Landmarks to the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville (18-Dec-08)
Re: Invitation to submit a building to compete in the Ontario Association of Architect’s 2009 Landmark Award

6.0.19 Egg Farmers Ontario to United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (22-Dec-08)
Re: Locally produced eggs

6.0.20 Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit to Minister of Health (17-Dec-08)
Re: Endorsement of alcohol resolutions passed at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies annual meeting in October 2008

6.0.21 AMO/LAS - 2009 Town Hall Sessions
Municipal Energy Workshops 2009

6.0.22 AMO – 2009 AGM/Conference – August 16-19, 2009
Re: Implementation of non-fundable cancellation fee

7.0 Staff Reports

7.0.1 Maple View Lodge

7.0.1.1 Maple View Lodge Monthly Activity and Statistical Report

Mrs. Theobald reported verbally on staff's plans for MVL going forward into the new year. She noted that seven high care patient deaths at the lodge in 2008 will effect funding in the new year as the newly admitted patients require less care. Funding for 2009 will be received from the Province starting in April based on the current patient mix index (CMI) and any changes in the CMI will not be undertaken until next year when the yearly assessment is completed and the numbers are reflected in the 2010 budget. Responding to an inquiry Mrs. Theobald advised staffing will not be adjusted due to a reduction in funding as patient care levels could change over the course of the year. Mrs. Theobald will report in more detail on the numbers when the budget is discussed.

7.0.1.2

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Pickard
THAT the Maple View Lodge Monthly Activity and Statistical report
presented on January 8, 2009 be accepted. Carried.**

7.0.1.2 Maple View Lodge Roof – Oral Report

Mrs. Theobald reported that an assessment has been completed on the flat roof area. The cost will be approximately \$16,000 and will have to be reflected in the 2009 budget. A report will be brought forward with all the details on what must be repaired together with a request to tender. Mrs. Theobald noted the work needs to be completed prior to the air conditioning system being utilized.

7.0.2 St. Lawrence Lodge

7.0.2.1 Administration Report – 30-Oct-08

7.0.2.2 The Committee of Management Minutes – 30-Oct-08

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Gooch and seconded by Mr. Holman
THAT the Governance and Finance Committee accept the St. Lawrence
Lodge Administration Report dated October 30, 2008, and the minutes of**

the meeting of the St. Lawrence Lodge Committee of Management held on October 30, 2008. Carried.

7.0.3 Dorothy Theobald, Director of Community and Social Services

7.0.3.1 Tender – Painting Contract

Motion

THAT the Governance and Finance Committee recommends that the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville award the painting contract for the public housing portfolio within the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville to Expressions Painting Ltd. for a total quote price of \$77,912 excluding GST. Carried.

7.0.4 Economic Development – No Report

7.0.5 Nigel White, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer

7.0.5.1 Ratify Payment of Accounts

Mr. Gooch requested an explanation on a cheque. Mr. White offered to respond to the inquiry following the meeting.

Motion

Moved by Mr. Conley and seconded by Mr. Haley

THAT the Governance and Finance Committee ratify the payment of accounts listed on Expenditure Report # 2008 – 12 for the period November 22, 2008 to December 23, 2008, cheque numbers 033039 to 033913 (Great Plains) in the total amount of \$6,606,032.09 and November 26, 2008 to December 23, 2008, cheque numbers 10992 to 11206 in the total amount of \$279,488.63 (Yardi – Social Housing). Carried.

7.0.5.2 Summary of Investments – November 2008

7.0.5.3 Budget Variance Report

Items 7.0.5.2 and 7.0.5.3 were received and filed.

**7.0.5.4 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund Notices for 2009
- Oral Report**

Mr. White reported the notices were sent to each member municipality. He noted the final OMPF allocations for 2009 will result in a reduction in the amount of

funding received from the Province and staff will have a better idea of the impact on the Counties when budget discussions begin in February.

7.0.5.5 MIS Monthly Report for December 2008

Item 7.0.5.5 was received and filed.

The Committee recessed at 10:45.

Mrs. Theobald left the meeting at 10:45.

The meeting resumed at 11:05.

7.0.6 Steve Silver, Chief Administrative Officer

7.0.6.1 Verbal Update Re: January 6, 2009 Accessibility Consultation Session

Mr. Kinsella read the motion regarding the new communication standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AOFA 2005). Mr. Silver advised most stakeholders at the session on January 6, 2009 did not support the government's initiative as they cannot afford to implement the recommendations in the proposed legislation. Mr. Gooch reported his Council will be passing a resolution similar to this at their next meeting and urged the other Townships to do the same.

Motion

Moved by Mr. Thake and seconded by Mr. Holman

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is in the process of developing new communication standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA 2005);

AND WHEREAS public input regarding the draft proposed standards is being sought at this time;

NOW THEREFORE THE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT COUNCIL FOR THE UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE ADVISE THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO OF COUNCIL'S POSITION AS FOLLOWS;

- 1. THAT this type of proposed, prescriptive legislation cannot be afforded or funded through the municipal property tax system and that any proposed legislation should include permanent and 100% Provincial funding and technical supports;**

2. **THAT the circulated cost impact analysis prepared by KPMG is unrealistic when it refers to a municipality with an annual operating budget of \$140 million as a “small municipality”, and further that the range of cost estimates documented in the report further supports the unaffordability argument;**
3. **THAT the Province of Ontario should not be taking a “one size fits all” approach to the proposed standards but rather take into account local needs, requirements and reasonableness when prescribing the necessity of providing such services;**
4. **THAT the Province of Ontario be strongly encouraged to undertake an enhanced Provincial wide communications effort regarding such proposed legislation in an effort to better inform and engage all stakeholders; and**
5. **THAT this motion be circulated to the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Accessibility Advisory Committee, Bob Runciman M.P.P., the Councils of the City of Brockville and the Towns of Gananoque and Prescott, and the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus (EOWC).
Carried.**

Economic Development Performance Measures:

Mr. Silver requested at least two council volunteers to assist in drafting the economic development performance measures. Mr. Haley, Mr. Gooch, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Struthers and Mr. Kinsella volunteered.

JSC Committee Appointments:

Mr. Kinsella read the motion as amended. The committee agreed that going forward the Agenda packages for all three JSC Sub-committees will be distributed to all council members.

Motion

Moved by Mr. Holman and seconded by Mr. Pickard

THAT the Governance and Finance Committee recommends that Council Resolution No. CC 2, dated December 17, 2008 be amended as follows:

1. **THAT Frank Kinsella be appointed to the JSC – Community and Social Services Subcommittee; and**

2. **THAT John Conley be appointed to the JSC – Land Ambulance Subcommittee and Ron Holman be removed from the JSC – Land Ambulance Subcommittee, as a voting member. Carried.**

32 Wall Street:

Mr. Silver updated the committee members on actions taken as a result of the shingles blowing off the roof at 32 Wall Street during a wind storm that occurred over the holidays. He advised he met with three people who received damage to their cars as they were parked directly across from 32 Wall Street during the storm. Mr. Silver asked them to contact their insurance companies and staff will follow up with our insurance company with respect to our coverage and possible reimbursement for any required repairs.

8.0 Sub-Committee, Special and AdHoc Committee Reports

8.0.1 Service Delivery Review – No Report

8.0.2 JSC Cost Sharing – No Report

8.0.3 Court Security – No Report

9.0 New Business

– Reports from Warden, Committees and Members of Committees - Nil

10.0 Unfinished Business

10.0.1 Updated Action List from December 4, 2009

Item 10.0.1 was received and filed.

11.0 Other Business

11.0.1 Budget – Mr. Gooch

Mr. Gooch suggested that members give staff an idea of an expected target with respect to the 2009 municipal tax increase prior to budget review. By a show of hands, the committee agreed to have a discussion at this time. Mr. Struthers asked that the committee hear from staff prior to commenting on a tax increase. Mr. Kinsella announced that the meeting would recess for 10 minutes.

The meeting recessed at 10:40.

The meeting resumed at 10:55.

Mr. Silver advised that any direction and expectations given by members will be very helpful. He noted that it will be difficult to meet a specific target due to added programs and external influences beyond the Counties' control. Staff meetings are now underway with budget being the top priority.

Mr. Holman suggested the most important question when reviewing the budget is how much are we willing to pass on to the ratepayers. It was agreed that each Councillor would be given the opportunity to provide an estimate on an acceptable percentage increase for 2009. It was noted that budget meetings with staff and council will commence in February.

Mr. Campbell advised the Township of Augusta is aiming for a 0% increase.

Mr. Gooch reported he could justify between 0 and 3% increase for the County to the ratepayers in North Grenville.

Mr. Dishaw stated Edwardsburg/Cardinal has a budget meeting today at 1:00 p.m. He stated he would like figures from the finance department prior to estimating a percentage increase.

Mr. Struthers suggested that staff inform members of results of budget talks to be addressed at the Directors meeting scheduled for today. He suggested the Governance and Finance Committee meet after the Council meeting on January 22nd.

Mr. Thake suggested that the increase be at least the same and not lower than the cost of living increase.

Mr. Holman advised that he will take the same position as last year and request a 0% increase.

Mr. Pickard and Mr. Conley opted to wait until final numbers are received from staff before making any comment.

Mr. Haley advised Front of Yonge will be using operating cost from last year to start. He noted the OPP will have a big impact on their budget and they will have to find savings elsewhere. He stated he would be in favour of a 0% increase and suggested that Council not accept an increase in their remuneration this year.

Mr. Kinsella advised that the Leeds and the Thousand Islands will be looking to set the same amount as last year.

The committee agreed to a Special Governance and Finance Committee meeting immediately following the January 22nd, 2009 Council meeting to discuss the budget.

11.0.2 Ontario Egg Board – Mr. Campbell

Mr. Campbell reported that the Humane Society has generated an application in Pickering to only accept eggs produced by free range birds. The decision could affect the egg supply to both Maple View Lodge and St. Lawrence Lodge. Mr. Campbell advised the Ontario Egg Board has a staff person designated to address this issue who could be invited to attend a Council meeting if needed.

11.0.3 Gord Brown Session – Mr. Gooch

Mr. Gooch suggested that staff invite Mr. Brown to the next Council meeting in order to express the Counties' thoughts and suggestions for the Federal budget meeting as members were not aware of the public session that took place with Mr. Brown recently. The committee agreed Mr. Brown would not have enough time to prepare a report for the Federal budget meeting scheduled for January 27th. The committee decided a letter will be written under the Warden's signature to Mr. Brown requesting that his office notify Counties Council members of future sessions when appropriate.

12.0 **By-Laws (notice of)**

The following By-law will be presented to Council on January 22, 2008

12.0.1 **A By-law for Imposing the Rates Deemed Necessary to Borrow During the Year 2009**

13.0 **Chair's Announcements - Nil**

14.0 **Media Question Period - Nil**

15.0 **In Camera**

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Thake and seconded by Mr. Conley
THAT the Governance and Finance Committee, as provided in Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. 2001. Chapter 25, move "In Camera" at 11:30 a.m. to address matters pertaining to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.
Carried.**

Motion (12:33 p.m.)

**Moved by Mr. Conley and seconded by Mr. Thake
THAT the meeting of the Governance and Finance Committee resume.
Carried.**

By-Laws (Notice of)

By-laws to appoint a Clerk and a Deputy Clerk for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville will be presented to Council.

16.0 Adjournment

Motion

**Moved by Mr. Dishaw and seconded by Mr. Haley
THAT the Governance and Finance Committee of Leeds and Grenville
adjourn its proceedings until the next regular meeting scheduled on
February 5, 2009.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Frank Kinsella, Chair