

Village of Chester
Regular Monthly Meeting – Mar 11, 2009

Minutes

Present:

Tony Howlett, Mike Heisler, Bill Zinck Jr. and Iris Tolliver

Regrets: Phil Ellwood

There were 3 members of the public present.

The meeting was called to order by Tony Howlett at 7:30. Tony mentioned this was the first meeting held in 2009 due to snow storms and lack of quorum.

Additions to the agenda.

None

Minutes from the previous meeting:

Bill Zinck Jr moved the adoption of the minutes from Dec 10, 2008, seconded by Mike Heisler. All in favor.

Old Business:

A) Update on Lease for Lido Pool

Iris Tolliver mentioned a meeting with a representative from Natural Resources in connection with land at the pool. Tony Howlett gave a brief overview on the history of the lease and confirmed that the Commission is going forward with whatever is necessary to keep the pool operating. There is some specific concrete work to be done this year and the commission is also looking at long term renovation plans to the buildings and perhaps incorporating the plans for a public washrooms as well as working on the wharf. The Commission is going to be operating the pool long term and is looking at options to purchase the land although is presently leaning towards continuing with the lease. Bill Zinck Jr. motioned for an RFP to complete the necessary concrete and plumbing repairs to be done prior to the June opening. Mike Heisler seconded the motion. The Clerk Treasurer was instructed to advertise in the Chester Clipper.

B) 1986 International Pumper Sale Update.

The proceeds from the sale of the Pumper have been applied to the outstanding balance of the new truck loan.

C) Fence at Fireman's Memorial

The fence is past due for repairs. Years past there has been talk of repairing various sections, but now the commission is going to look at replacing it entirely. Some additional funds will be budgeted in the new fiscal year, and there will be a request for tenders or RFP's later this spring.

D) Commissioner vacancy

Mr. Howlett declared that there would be a two year and a three year term opening for Commissioners at the Annual General Meeting in June. The current opening will not be filled until the AGM.

E) 2009 Flower Basket Tenders

For this year we have one tender received from Downey's Pitcher Plant Nursery. Total value of the tender is \$10,260.40. Bill Zinck Jr. motioned to accept the tender as submitted. Mike Heisler seconded and the tender was awarded to Downey's Nursery. Mr. Downey was present in the audience. A letter of regret was also submitted by Levy's Property Maintenance and was deferred to the question period at the end of the meeting.

F) Public Washrooms

A proposal from John Pece of Voctada has been received by the Commission outlining preliminary costs for the proposed public washrooms, to be located by the Lido Pool. The composting type as recommended is something favorable to the Commission with an estimated cost of \$56,000.00. Compared to the costs to neighboring communities, the proposal was very well received and appreciated by the Commission. Mr. Howlett explains the benefits of this proposal as opposed to the existing washrooms at the Lido Pool and the obvious "money savings" of incorporating two major projects into one. Mr. Howlett commented that everything looks very promising. The general outlook is that the major cement work be scheduled and completed this spring and then to start looking for quotes and estimates to begin the remaining renovations this fall, for completion in the spring of 2010.

New Business:**A) Chester Municipal Heritage Society (request for finding and "In Kind" value of 2000 parking agreement)**

The Commission has been approached on numerous occasions concerning a letter from the Clerk Treasurer of the Village Commissioners of Chester to grant the Society's request to use 10 parking spots on the lot adjacent to the fire hall. Mr. Howlett said giving up 10 parking spots would not be favorable to the fire fighters, who struggle now to accommodate their members in the parking lot during a fire call. Mr. Howlett said it would be good the help the Heritage Society financially, but their request is not in the best interest of the Fire Hall. The parking lots were granted prior to the EMC building construction, and this further added to the decision to not grant the request. There may also be legal issues which would need to be addressed. Mr. Howlett said he hoped that someday they may be able to work something out, but as of today they would be denying their request on the parking spots.

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting was presented by Iris Tolliver. Mr. Howlett asked that a letter requesting funding from the 250th Anniversary Committee be considered in next year's budget. He also questioned a notice of decline for a Recreation Facility Development Grant which missed the deadline for this year. We will be eligible to re-apply next year. Bill Zinck Jr motioned to accept the list as presented, seconded by Mike Heisler. All were in favor.

4) Fire Chief's Report

No report

5) Truck Report:

No report

6) Ladies Auxiliary Report:

No report.

7) **Fire Advisory Report:**

No report.

8) **Financial Report:**

Bill Zinck Jr. motioned for the report to be approved as presented by the Clerk Treasurer, seconded by Mike Heisler. All were in favor.

9) **Questions:**

Mr. Howlett addressed the letter presented from Levy Property Maintenance concerning the timing of the tender for the hanging flower baskets. Because of the late date, her supplier could not provide her with the number required, and so she could not offer a tender this year. Mr. Howlett apologized for this, citing the problems encountered with the two cancelled meetings as being part of the problem. He asked her when she would like the tender advertised. As expressed in her letter, she would like the matter placed on the agenda in early fall. Mr. Howlett asked Walter Downey if this was a problem for him and he indicated it was not. After some discussion with the concerned parties, it was decided to advertise the tender for the hanging flower baskets in December and award the tender in January in the future. Mr. Howlett apologized to Ms. Levy again for her inconvenience.

Mr. Downey asked a question on the tender policy with the Village Commission. Mr. Howlett explained that we do have guidelines to follow as set out in the Commission policy manual. These were briefly explained.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00

Tony Howlett

Chairperson

Iris Tolliver

Clerk/Treasurer