THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting
For the purpose of discussion on COVID-19
Tuesday March 31, 2020
1:00 p.m. Council Chambers, Fingal

PRESENT: Mayor G. Jones (Via Phone)
Deputy Mayor R. Monteith
Councillors: S. Emons
P. North
J. Pennings (Via Phone)

ALSO PRESENT: Katherine Thompson, CAO/Clerk (Via Phone)
Jeff Carswell, Treasurer
Drainage Superintendent, Brent Clutterbuck
Fife Chief, Jeff McArthur
June McLarty, Administrative Assistant

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA:

REPORT:

CAO/Clerk Katherine Thompson reported on the latest numbers of cases of COVID-19 in Ontario and in our area. Residents who think they have symptoms should self-isolate.

CAO/Clerk Katherine Thompson provided comments on the provincial orders. The Southwestern Public Health is recommending staff work from home. The suggestion was made of having staff work remotely so only one person comes into the office per day.

STAFF DIRECTION
Staff was directed by Council to develop a remote working procedure.

CAO/Clerk Katherine Thompson commented that the enforcement of those who should be self-isolating is a difficult situation. People can be charged under the Quarantine Act, but they can only be charged by the RCMP. The OPP can enforce the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. The Township’s By-law officer can assist the OPP.

All outdoor facilities are closed to the public. Trails are to remain open.

The Minister of Education has announced that schools will remain closed until May 4.

Mayor Jones provided updates from the County on the long-term homes and the Elgin Tourism campaign #ElginStrong. MP Karen Vecchio is working on the issues with Canada Post in Oneida. Councillor Emons reported that they are negotiating bring the mail in and sorting it on Monday.
Fire Chief Jeff McArthur reported that they have received requests for an inventory of their PPE each week. At this time Southwold’s Fire Department is comfortable with its PPE inventory.

Brent Clutterbuck reported that there are a lot of cars parking on the side of the road at the Fingal Wildlife Area. He talked to the Ministry of Natural Resources who oversee the Wildlife Area. It will remain open, but they will continue to monitor it. People should be mindful of physical distancing.

Treasurer Jeff Carswell reported that receiving of the first installments of taxes went smoothly.

Council discussed conducting meetings by video conferencing. Staff should be able to call in as well. Treasurer Carswell will do some research on and send out tests to see if we can implement our meeting this way.

CAO/Clerk Katherine Thompson reported that the County libraries have increased their internet so residents can access it outside of the library.

**Adjournment:**

2020-106  **Councillor North – Councillor Emons**  

THAT Council for the Township of Southwold adjourns this Special meeting of Council 1:47 p.m.  

CARRIED

Katherine Thompson  
CAO/Clerk

Grant Jones  
Mayor

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