THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

MINUTES

Special Council Meeting
For the purpose of discussion on COVID-19, Absences, Working from Home, Southwold Scholarship and a Closed Session
Thursday April 2, 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
Jeff Carswell, Treasurer
Drainage Superintendent, Brent Clutterbuck
Fife Chief, Jeff McArthur
Corey Pemberton, Chief Building Official
June McLarty, Administrative Assistant

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA:

REPORT:

COVID-19 Update April 2, 2020

CAO/Clerk Katherine Thompson provided the latest number of cases of COVID-19 in the area and province. Southwestern Public Health has provided a link so you can monitor cases. An app for your phone is now available from the federal government.

The provincial government has announced that students will not return to school until May 4, but this may be extended.

O Reg 73/20 made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act has suspended any Planning Act, Drainage Act or Building Code activities that require a period of notification. There will be no public meetings for planning. Site Plan Agreements can move forward as they do not require a public meeting. The Township Planner is still answering inquiries and is working with the consultants on the Official Plan Update.

Drainage Superintendent Brent Clutterbuck reported that we can still receive Section 78 under the Drainage Act and on-site meetings can be held as they usually only involve a few people. Our projects need to be kept moving along.
Chief Building Official Corey Pemberton reported that he is now doing video inspections and he is still meeting deadlines under the Building Code.

CAO/Clerk Katherine Thompson reported that City of St. Thomas has informed her that any further testing and the valve replacement on the primary waterline will not be going forward and are put on hold until further notice.

2020-107 **Councillor Emons – Councillor Pennings**

**COVID-19 Update and O Reg 73/20**

THAT Council receive this report for information; and,

THAT in accordance with O.Reg 73/20 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, Council suspend all statues, regulations, rules, by-laws or orders establishing any limitation period or establishing any period of time within which any step must be taken in any proceeding in Ontario, including any intended proceeding, for the duration of the COVID-19 emergency.

CARRIED

Absences Related to COVID-19 and Remote Working Procedures
CAO/Clerk Katherine Thompson outlined the new policy for absences related to COVID-19 for the administrative staff and public works department. Township firefighters are covered under the VFIS program.

2020-108 **Councillor North – Councillor Pennings**

**Absences Policy and Remote Working Procedures**

THAT Council adopt a policy to govern absences related to COVID-19; and

THAT Council approve procedure for Remote Working Arrangements.

CARRIED

Southwold Scholarships
Deputy Mayor Monteith requested that we include trades as one of the accepted fields of studies for applicants applying for the scholarships. Councillor North has also requesting that we include the health sector as well.

**STAFF DIRECTION**
Staff was directed by Council to report back on post – secondary programs that would be a benefit a rural community.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

2020-109 **Deputy Mayor Monteith – Councillor Emons**

**Closed Session**

THAT Council of the Township of Southwold now moves into a session of the meeting that shall be closed to the public at 1:42 p.m. in accordance with Section 239 (2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25 for discussion of the following matters:

- A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (section 239 (k))- Subdivision Agreement.

CARRIED
STAFF DIRECTION
Staff was given direction by Council to the item that was discussed in the Closed Session.

AJOURNMENT:

2020-110 Councillor North – Councillor Emons

THAT Council for the Township of Southwold adjourns this Special meeting of Council 2:14 p.m.

CARRIED

Katherine Thompson
CAO/Clerk

Grant Jones
Mayor

Minutes of Council – April 2, 2020