



Minutes

The Blue Mountains Special Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: January 21, 2019
Meeting Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Town Hall, Council Chambers
32 Mill Street, Thornbury, ON
Prepared by Corrina Giles, Town Clerk

A. Call to Order

Mayor Soever called the meeting to order with all members of Council present, save Councillor Uram absent due to a personal matter.

Also present Interim Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt, Director of Finance and IT Services Ruth Prince, Director of Infrastructure and Public Works Reg Russwurm, Director of Human Resources Jenn Moreau, Director of Planning and Development Services Nathan Westendorp, Manager of Water and Wastewater Services Allision Kershaw, Compliance and Efficiency Coordinator Meg Boyd, Water Supervisor Scott Hill, Backflow Prevention and Water Meter Coordinator Brian O'Reilly, Senior Water Operator Stephanie Cole, Water Operator Kevin McGuire, Water Operator Scott Marritt, Water Operator Allan Scott and Water and Wastewater Services Administrative Assistant Amy Wilson.

Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Rob Potter

Seconded by: Andrea Matrosovs

THAT the Agenda of January 21, 2019 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

▪ Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20, Council Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

None

B. Public Comment Period

B.1 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2018-20 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Council Meeting to receive public comments regarding Town matters. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters, or regarding matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

None

C. Council Orientation / Training

C.1 Walkerton Clean Water Centre, Standard of Care – Safe Drinking Water Act Course

Brigitte Roth, Principal Consultant Acclaims Environmental on behalf of Walkerton Clean Water Centre, provided training to Council regarding Council's responsibilities under the Statutory Standard of Care – Safe Drinking Water Act

Ms. Roth reviewed *Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils*, noting that the document can be accessed digitally as well.

Ms. Roth reviewed the course outline, noting three things municipal Councils must remember: their duty to ensure safe drinking water, their duty to be informed and their duty to be vigilant. Ms. Roth provided an overview of the Duties of Owners and Operating Authorities as outlined in Section 11 and Section 19 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act*. Ms. Roth noted that the Statutory Standard of Care (SSC) applies to the owner of the municipal drinking water system, including if the drinking water system is owned by a corporation or if the municipality uses an operating authority.

Ms. Roth noted the SSC is enforced by provincial officers, further noting the SSC is upheld through a multi-barrier approach. The multi-barrier approach includes Source Water Protection, upheld through Source Water Protection Plans, adequate treatment, distribution, monitoring and management. Deputy Mayor Bartnicki spoke, questioning the status of risk management assessment on the Town's systems. Mayor Soever further questioned whether the Town implements a tap-sampling program. Manager of Water and Wastewater Services Allison Kershaw confirmed there is no tap-sampling program, advising that the Town performs sampling at the end of the treatment process, at various points in the Town's water distribution system, in addition to raw water sampling. Allison further noted that lead and alkalinity are the only sampling that could be conducted by the Town on private plumbing.

Councillor Potter spoke, questioning whether the requirement to notify the owner includes notifying Councillors of adverse includes a requirement to notify Councillors. Manager of Water and Wastewater Services Allison Kershaw confirmed that staff report adverse samples to the Town's Senior Management Team who in turn notifies members of Council. Allison confirmed there have been no health-related adverse samples in the past year, further noting there was one (1) adverse sample related to trending which was reported.

Ms. Roth provided an overview of the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS), noting it is a requirement of all Ontario municipal drinking water systems with written commitment from top management and the system owner. Along with written commitment, the DWQMS system requires evidence of the commitment which includes ensuring the quality management system meets the requirements of the standard, ensuring the operating authority is aware of requirements, communicating details of the quality management system and providing resources to maintain and continually improve the system.

Ms. Roth reviewed Risk Management and Risk Assessment, noting the Operational Plan which forms an integral part of the DWQMS. Further, Ms. Roth spoke regarding hazards, hazardous events, guiding principles in reducing risk and provided a pathogen summary.

Mayor Soever spoke, questioning whether municipalities have a “whistleblower line”; Ms. Roth advised she is not aware of this practice. However, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks allows for public report which would prompt district inspectors to investigate. Manager of Water and Wastewater Services Allison Kershaw added that a quarterly report is prepared on the drinking water system and provided to Council for information.

Ms. Roth provided an overview of case studies which included disease outbreak in Walkerton, ON, disease outbreak in North Battleford, SK, lead contamination in Flint, MI and distribution system contamination in Stratford, ON.

Councillor Matrosovs spoke, requesting staff to confirm the oldest infrastructure in the Town. Manager of Water and Wastewater Services Allison Kershaw confirmed some infrastructure is from the 1960s/1970s with some infrastructure older than that.

Councillor Potter questioned whether Town staff have conducted investigation over the material of older, private systems in the Town. Allison confirmed there are some older systems throughout the Town that the Town has inherited, including a small section in Delphi and the Swiss Meadows distribution system, further noting allowance will be made through budgeting and asset management to replace the systems. Further, Allison confirmed the Town has a backflow prevention by-law in place which is enforced, noting that regular testing of backflow prevention devices forms part of the backflow program.

Ms. Roth spoke regarding achieving a culture of prevention and the role of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki questioned whether staff are aware of any existing or emerging concerns Council should be aware of. Allison confirmed that the water treatment and distribution systems in the Town are in good form, noting the use of pall membrane system, Ultra-Violet Disinfection, zebra mussel controls at the raw water intake and the use of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Allison further noted staff perform regular maintenance on the system and advised that the asset management program is an important tool for determining which infrastructure requires upgrades and replacement. Finally, Allison commended the water services team for the work they do.

Water Supervisor Scott Hill advised Council that water operators have stringent training requirements on an annual basis and thanked Council for providing the resources necessary to fill the requirements.

Allison advised Council that private wells are the responsibility of home owners, not the municipality. Councillor Potter questioned whether the Town has obligations if an area of the Town not on municipal water experiences adverse water quality. Director of Infrastructure and Public Works Reg Russwurm confirmed the Town would not have a responsibility in that case, unless Public Health and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks provided an order for the Town to intervene in some way.

Deputy Mayor Bartnicki asked Ms. Roth to comment on whether the Walkerton Clean Water Centre (WCWC) has any concerns with suspension of legislation that is proposed or implied by Bill 66 Ms. Roth advised that no official statement has been provided by WCWC although submissions were made by other water industries including Ontario Municipal Water Association.

Interim Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt thanked staff for their work, noting the commitment of water services staff is appreciated. Shawn further noted

the water staff have great attention to detail and commended Reg and Allison for the support they provide to water services.

Council completed the quiz.

Mayor Soever thanked Ms. Roth for the presentation.

Moved by: Alar Soever

Seconded by: Peter Bordignon

THAT Council of the Town of the Town of The Blue Mountains acknowledges receipt of the training session from the Walkerton Clean Water Centre regarding Council's responsibilities under the Statutory Standard of Care - Safe Drinking Water Act ("Act");

AND THAT Council direct staff to provide a report addressing Council's responsibilities under the Act, including answers to questions that Council should be able to answer;

AND THAT staff arrange for a tour of the Town of The Blue Mountains water and wastewater plants, Carried.

D. Adjournment

Moved by: Rob Sampson

Seconded by: Odette Bartnicki

THAT this Special Meeting of Council does now adjourn at 3:27 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair, Carried.

Alar Soever, Mayor

Corrina Giles, Town Clerk