

Council Notes February 10th, 2009

Pay Increase

Council approved a cost-of-living increase for staff of 3%. CAO Shannon Hunter explained that this was identical to that of the county and keeps North Kawartha wages at competitive rates.

Parking By-Law

CAO Shannon Hunter provided an update to council on enforcing the parking by-laws. She explained that she will be signing a confidentiality agreement with the MTO to allow unpaid fines to be applied whenever a driver renews their license. The confidentiality agreement is required because the process involves the transfer of sensitive personal information such as shown on drivers' licenses.

New Facility Update

Parks and Recreation Director, Gary Geraldi, showed council the latest revisions to the Multi-Use Facility. He explained that, due to anticipated increases in construction costs, the building was altered. (The new layout is on the township's website at <http://www.northkawartha.on.ca/> under Parks and Recreation). Council agreed that the new layout, though smaller, had even more advantages over the previous version.

New "Bag-tag" Program

Council approved replacing most of the current bag-tag system for trash with a punch card approach for customers who take their trash to the transfer sites themselves. Tags will still be used for extra bags on curbside pickups and for water-access only customers. The system will not take effect until the current tags are depleted. North Kawartha is expected to save \$4,300 per year using the new system.

2009 Winter Carnival

Paul Tucker reported that plans for the 2009 Winter Carnival are well underway. It will be held Feb 28- Mar 1 from 9:00 to 4:00. Admission is free. 10,000 flyers will be distributed soon. Mr. Tucker explained that the issue of insurance is a problem. Unlike last year, the old sand dome property is now classified as a construction zone. Because the dog sled teams are passing across the property, there are different liability issues. He has been informed that insurance may be as much as \$3000 for the event. CAO, Shannon Hunter said that she will check with the township's insurance company to see if anything can be done to minimize the costs.

County Report

Reeve, Jim Whelan, stated that an agreement is about to be signed to permit other internet suppliers to rent space on township towers. There are a number of interested parties. Mr. Whelan also said that there is a government grant that will enable satellite-based internet suppliers to serve the area too. The goal is to provide high-speed internet to 95% of the population, not 95% of the geographic area. There are currently too many locations that are within the service area, but cannot get a line-of-sight connection to the towers.

Mr. Whelan mentioned that the latest statistics show the need for elder-care facilities in North Kawartha. According to the 2006 Census data, North Kawartha has the highest population over 65 at 23.7% compared with the other townships in the county. He stated that for the general population, some data forecasts show that, with the extension of Hwy 407, improvements to Hwy 115, and go train service, Peterborough County could see significant future growth.