

Council Notes June 10th, 2009

Government Funds Major Projects in North Kawartha

The federal and provincial governments have approved the funding for four major projects in North Kawartha under the Infrastructure Funding Program. The projects and the government portions of the funding are;

1. A new library and Community Policing building in Apsley; \$586,000
2. A new addition to the fire station at Wilson Park; \$266,666
3. A reconstruction of Anstruther Lake road; \$2,266,430
4. A new public works garage facility; \$ 633,334

Under the Infrastructure Funding Program, the federal and provincial governments contribute 2/3 of the cost of the projects; the remaining amounts have to come from the township. At a special meeting on June 10, 2009, council dealt with moving forward with these projects. All of the projects have been in the planning stage for quite a while and are in a “ready to go” status, but council has to deal with the logistics of moving ahead rapidly and with its part of the funding. Reeve, Jim Whelan, does not want any of the funds to come from taxes. CAO, Shannon Hunter was instructed to look at Municipal Partnership Funding resources as well at the low-interest financing from the government if necessary. Deputy Reeve, Barry Rand stated that even if necessary, the low-interest borrowing costs are insignificant on the projects compared with the costs of having to fund the entire costs if the Infrastructure Funding wasn't available. As a condition of approval, the projects have to start immediately and the funds can only be used for the specific projects. Some of the project details under consideration are;

- ◆ The new library will replace the Community Care building, the Food Bank / Community Policing building and the current library building. There will be every attempt made to keep the current library open during construction. Council instructed staff to consider making some minor renovations to the old fire hall beside the community centre to temporarily house the Food Bank and Community Care operations. Long term, these functions will probably be moved into the current Community Centre when the new Multi-Purpose Facility is completed.
- ◆ The addition to the fire hall at Wilson Park contains six dorm rooms. Under a partnership agreement with Fleming College, apprentice students in the Fire Prevention Program, will pay rent to North Kawartha stay in residence and get hands-on training in fire fighting. The new addition will also have two additional vehicle bays.
- ◆ Traffic studies have shown that Anstruther Lake road is the most-traveled township road in North Kawartha. Plans to improve the road have been completed for some time but funding was not available. Part of the project includes some road resurfacing but most of the work involves improving the roadbed and drainage. Council is also expecting additional funding for road maintenance through government funding for the North Kawartha Signature Site Park, but that issue is still under discussion.
- ◆ The new Public Works Building is a larger replacement for the existing building. (9,000 square feet versus 5,600 square feet). It will have 7 truck bays which will be wider and deeper than the current ones.