

Council Notes June 16th, 2009

New Multi Use Cultural and Recreational Centre Contract Approved

Council approved the signing of the contract with Bondfield Construction for the building of the Multi Use Cultural and Recreational Centre for \$8,178,500.

Review of Peterborough Emergency Services

Bob English, Director, and Randy Mellow, Operations Manager of Peterborough Emergency Services provided council with an update on call volumes, deployment and changes in operations. Mr. Mellow explained that the largest change in operations is attempting to have emergency vehicles standby in locations where the probability of need is the highest rather than basing the standby on geography. Call volumes in North Kawartha were lower in 2008 than in 2007, but the weather and the price of gasoline meant the summer population was lower than normal. Average response time for emergency calls in the entire county is under 20 minutes, but was at 32 minutes for North Kawartha in 2008. Mr. English explained that the three factors affecting the statistics are; the rising age of the population, the number of out-of-county calls that have to be completed and the offloading delays at hospitals. Council thanked the presenters for the information.

Civilian Data Entry

Deputy Reeve, Barry Rand reported on the recommendation to have him co-ordinate a County-Wide Project to implement Civilian Data Entry for the Peterborough OPP Detachment. This project estimates a 10% increase in efficiency in the long term. The result of this project will allow officers to spend more time on patrol rather than typing reports. Instead, they will dictate the reports and civilians will perform the typing. Council approved the recommendation. North Kawartha's part of the project cost is \$3,674.

Kawartha Highland Signature Site Park Update

Dave Coulas, Park Superintendent, provided council with an update on park development. The Park Management Plan was released last fall, and the final issue regarding hunting has now been finalized. Mr. Coulas said that the park staffing level is still "not where it should be", but recommendations to the government have been made to increase staff. This summer two ranger camps will clean up the park campsites and signs will be posted at park boundaries. A study of the Eastern red wolf in the park has begun. The study will determine the quantity of wolves and their locations. Wolves are being trapped and radio-collars utilized. Mr. Coulas said the park is scheduled to be fully operational in 2011. He also said that there is a huge informational challenge ahead educating the public.

Lane way Closure behind Apsley Arena

Because of the increased traffic from the temporary relocation of Community Care and the Food Bank to the fire hall beside the Community centre, council approved the closing of the lane way behind the arena. This will minimize the traffic on the lane way to hwy 504, making the area safer for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

County Report

Reeve, Jim Whelan, discussed an application for \$ 170 million by the county to expand DSL high-speed Internet. The project will make satellite-Internet available for residents until DSL is available. The provincial government wants to expand high-speed Internet throughout the province. Mr. Whelan said that Canada has slipped to 38th position (out of 40 countries) in high speed Internet availability.

Crowe Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA)

A meeting will be held with the CVCA on June 18 to discuss the request for review by the CVCA of all planning permits for Chandos Lake. The CVCA does not have any planning staff and council feels that the CVCA does not have any authority for their request. Council is receiving complaints that Chandos Lake residents are experiencing unreasonable delays, and considerable costs to have their applications processed.

Special note: For those of you who would like more background on some of the council's agenda items, go to the new council website at http://www.northkawartha.on.ca/pages/index_e.aspx click on; *Council Board and Committees/ Agenda and Packages for Council and Committees/2009 Council Agendas/ (the date you're interested in)*, and run your cursor over the items. When the "hand" symbol appears, you can click on the item and read the background material. Not everything has background material, but the township has made a considerable effort to provide the information as a result of my request last year.....Doug