

Council Notes November 16, 2010

Anstruther Lake Road Construction Overrun

Craig Watson, Road Superintendent, explained the reasons for the cost overrun of \$36,864. He said that there were a number of major contributing issues namely: (1) Some muskeg and rock areas that were discovered to be more numerous than the original studies had indicated. (2) The cost of relocating utility poles was more than expected partially due to a change in Hydro standards requiring shorter conductor spans and (3) Some guide rail installation was necessary to improve the safety of the road. Council members stated that they were "extremely pleased" that the overrun was so low on the \$3.5 Million project. Mr. Watson credited the co-operation of the engineering firm, the contractor and Ontario Parks working together to effectively deal with the problems that arose. Deputy Reeve, Barry Rand stated that it was clear that, besides the co-operation, the decisions were made quickly and decisively without the delays caused by the bureaucracy apparent in some other townships. Reeve, Jim Whelan wanted the record to show that he was delighted with the "great job" done by Ontario Parks in dealing with the excess rock situation.

Snowmobile Route Modification

Council approved the proposal from Ian Church, President of the Stoney Lake Sno Riders Snowmobile Club, to re-route the trail in front of the Wilson Park Community Centre to a location south of the property beyond the septic bed. Mr. Church said that this will be safer because it avoids conflicts with traffic to and from the centre.

Township Decides to Keep Old Community Centre Property

After a lengthy discussion regarding the fate of the old Apsley Community Centre, council decided to keep the property. The aging buildings will be torn down leaving only the old ice surface and its surrounding boards. These may be used for summer ball hockey, tennis or some other summer sports yet to be determined. The legion, a possible buyer, considered the expensive renovations that would be required and decided that the purchase would not be in their best interest.

The decision to keep the property was based on several factors, but overall, council felt that the site will have more value in the future as the demand for the new community centre increases. Although specific plans were not identified, the property is in an ideal location for a hotel to meet the accommodation needs of sports tournaments, weddings and trade shows. Council will consider any future proposals as they arise to optimize the use of the property.