

VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

6:00 p.m. in Village of Point Edward Council Chambers
Point Edward Municipal Office, 135 Kendall Street

MINUTES

Council Members Present:

Mayor Kirkland
Councillor Bourrie

Deputy Mayor Robson

Councillor MacKenzie

Staff Present:

CAO Cramp

1. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

2. DELEGATION:

Presentation by URS re: Hwy. 402 Planning and Preliminary Design Study

Michael Swim, MTO; and Len Kozachuk and Patrick Puccini, URS were present to make a presentation regarding the Hwy. 402 Planning and Preliminary Design Study, a copy of which is available in the office.

It was noted that the Public Information Centre is scheduled for April 26, 2005 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Point Edward Optimist Hall.

Councillor Bourrie commented that it seems that most of the recommended improvements are to accommodate the Bridge Authority and MDOT. It does not deal with the affect that the trucks have on the residents, particularly in the summer, with the horns blaring and the fuel in the air. We are using our funds to alleviate a problem that is taking place in the United States.

M. Swim advised that the enforcement would be very difficult in a holding area. When there is a time penalty associated to a stop, particularly for one hour or more, the truckers will try to avoid the marshalling yard. The real solution is to eliminate the queues. The solution being proposed here is Plan "B". The U.S. Plaza should be resolved in 8 to 10 years. Pre-notification has helped the situation at the border resulting in the reduction of truck queuing. There is also a 25% challenge, where both the U.S. and Canadian borders are trying to accommodate 25% more traffic in the very near future. These construction projects are already underway.

Deputy Mayor Robson noted that the 4 -lane traffic with the U.S. bound cars in the far left lane will result in the reduction of tourism to the area. Travelers will not be able to get off at the Point Edward exits if they haven't made the choice far in advance.

Mr. Kozachuk advised that they have tried to address this situation. They do have a turnaround at the Plaza. They must balance this recommendation with the safety along the corridor. There will also be increased signage. Trade-offs must be made to determine the best method that is least problematic.

M. Swim also commented that it would be hopeful that truck queues are not significant for a large portion of each day. During those times, car traffic will be able to move from one lane to another.

Mr. Kozachuk advised that he has contacted the Ontario Trucking Association. They do not want to stop at a marshalling yard. They want the border problem fixed. They are on board with the pre-notification requirements which are helping to reduce the line-ups.

Deputy Mayor Robson noted that the trucks are not slowing down.

Mr. Kozachuk advised that there is a need for OPP presence and that is an enforcement issue.

Councillor MacKenzie could not believe their comments that the air quality is no different with the line-ups and without.

Mr. Kozachuk advised that there is no significant difference in the air quality between the Point Edward truck queues and the marshalling yard. An Air Quality Scientist has indicated that the air quality is well below standards. When the traffic is moving, the trucks are kicking up dust, which causes greater problems with air quality due to the dust particulates. Emissions are required to be kept at a better standard with cleaner engines and fuel.

Councillor MacKenzie stated that it would be impossible to sell that position to people living on St. Clair Street – 200 diesel fuel trucks vs. movement through without queuing.

Mr. Kozachuk indicated that this will be a big perception to overcome.

Councillor MacKenzie noted that changes at the Windsor bridge/tunnel could also reduce traffic, which may assist with the problem at the Bridge.

Mayor Kirkland identified the Christina Street overpass as a problem, that must be corrected prior to any of the other proposed construction.

M. Swim advised that it will have to be replaced whether or not anything else goes ahead.

Robert Swift was present and asked three questions:

1. With scarce resources in the Province, is this project necessary when the need has not been proven. There has been almost a complete elimination of queues and there have been no accidents. The Bridge Authorities and the trucking associations have also been helping.
2. Was the information contained in the MOE study that was carried out last summer regarding truck queues used as background information for this study.
3. What approvals are required to proceed and does it have to go to Cabinet.

M. Swim advised that they are presently in the planning and preliminary design stage of the project. The border crossing can quickly change and if it does, there is no chance to react. By having the planning complete and the environmental assessment finalized as well as detailed engineering, they are in a position to react to changes. The main reason is to ensure safety on the highways.

When the final engineering and environmental assessment is complete, they will decide what needs to proceed. For instance, Christina Street Bridge needs to be replaced under any circumstance.

M. Swim advised that the MOE information will not be available until June. Consideration of their work has been made.

The funding for the program is included as an MTO Capital Program.

Mr. George Freeman commented that the truckers could use transponders for the marshalling yards and if they had large fines, the enforcement issue could be dealt with more satisfactorily. With respect to air quality, he noted that the blue siding on his home is now black and he believes it is from the trucks.

Councillor Bourrie commented that the plan should be in place by September. Mr. Kozachuk noted that the environmental clearance may require more time. However, once it is finalized, detailed design will begin.

Mr. Dave Posliff was present and did not have any comments at this time.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- Village Green Sidewalk – Updated plan

Resolution #1

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Robson

THAT the interlocking brick be removed along Village Green and that the sidewalks be replaced in the same location as the bricks are located at present; and further that a sealer or inhibitor be used to try to lengthen the life expectancy of the sidewalk, particularly given its closeness to the road.

CARRIED.

- Sponsorship request from OFSAA Wrestling Championships –Mr. Leeson is willing to make a presentation at next meeting to provide further information subject to Council approval

Resolution #2

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded by Councillor Bourrie

THAT the request for a donation towards the OFSAA Wrestling Championships, be referred to the Finance Committee for recommendation.

CARRIED.

- Canadian Cancer Society Walk – April 24 – 10:30 a.m.

Resolution #3

Moved by Deputy Mayor Robson

Seconded by Councillor MacKenzie

THAT the Canadian Cancer Society Walk scheduled for April 24, 2005 beginning at 10:30 a.m., be approved.

CARRIED.

- Appointment of Mrs. Buchanan to Sarnia-Lambton Taskforce of Health Care Taskforce

Resolution #4

Moved by Deputy Mayor Robson

Seconded by Councillor Bourrie

THAT Marianne Buchanan be appointed to the Sarnia-Lambton Taskforce on Health Care.
CARRIED.

4. BY-LAWS:

By-law Number 12 of 2005, being a By-law to Confirm the Resolutions of Point Edward Council which were adopted up to and including April 12, 2005

Resolution #5

Moved by Councillor Bourrie

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Robson

THAT By-law Number 12 of 2005, being a By-law to Confirm the Resolutions of Point Edward Council which were adopted up to and including April 12, 2005, be given a FIRST, SECOND and THIRD READING and FINALLY PASSED this 12th day of April, 2005.

CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLORS:

Councillor MacKenzie brought forward a proposal from the Point Edward Scouts to place two purple marten houses in the Waterfront Park. They will be about 20 ft. in the air.

Resolution #6

Moved by Councillor MacKenzie

Seconded by Councillor Bourrie

THAT the Point Edward Scouts be permitted to place two purple marten houses in the Waterfront Park in a location to be mutually agreed; and the poles are to be installed in a manner that they can be taken out if they are not maintained properly.

CARRIED.

Mayor Kirkland asked that a letter be sent to Bryan Chappell to congratulate him on the Women's Hockey Tournament that he organized.

Councillor Bourrie noted that there may be a delay in the WPCP projects because it is recommended that nothing begins including tendering and C of A until after notification is received regarding the COMRIF funding.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Deputy Mayor Robson

Seconded by Councillor Bourrie

THAT the Special Council Meeting be adjourned at 7:15 p.m. until the April 26, 2005 call of the Chair or at such time as a Special Committee meeting is held to discuss legal matters, property matters or personnel matters.

CARRIED.