



GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT

Held Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 2:30 p.m.
Classroom, Town Hall

PRESENT:

R. Anderson	Councillor/Chair
M. Bercovitch	Councillor
D. Foster	Deputy Mayor
G. Watson	Councillor
S. Wells	Councillor
G. Vadeboncoeur	Chief Administrative Officer
T. Nicholson	Clerk
P. Archdekin	Deputy Clerk
D. Vincent	Sr. MLEO
M. Quinlan	Treasurer
J. Legget	EDCCO
D. Henry	HR Coordinator
D. Bowers	CITO

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Anderson called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST – None

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

a) Wasaga Beach Artists – Request for Charitable Donation

Mr. Vincent Miller was welcomed to the table. Mr. Miller advised that the Wasaga Artists promote arts for the community and in 2013 celebrated their 40th anniversary. The group is open to anyone and presently they have 32 members who work in a variety of mediums. The group meets at the RecPlex and participates in workshops and demonstrations. The Wasaga Artists provide an accessible affordable recreational activity to residents. They contribute culturally by hosting three major Art Shows that bring in residents and visitors being advertised through the local newspaper and TV. They have also provided art to be used in fundraising by charitable groups. The Wasaga Artists have engaged the young people by having a fundraising BBQ at the summer Art Show and have given many art books to the Youth Centre. They also invited the schools to participate and provide art work for the May show. As well, they work with the Wasaga Film Festival. Mr. Miller advised that their funding comes from membership, bake sales, fees for workshops and demonstration. Half of their budget goes to the Town for room rental. Depending on the Artist, a demonstration or workshop costs \$150.00 - \$300.00.

The Artists Group is requesting Council's consideration for a grant of \$2,000.00 that will help the Club grow and host activities and incorporate non-retired people into the Club by offering an evening group so they can come out. The Club will incur additional rental fees for night use.

Mr. Miller noted that they have not had a studio tour in the past two or three years as they are very expensive. In closing, he noted the Artists Group is also searching for a permanent location to exhibit their art work as there are many talented artists within our community.

Councillor Anderson thanked Mr. Miller for his presentation and inquired if Committee members had a question or comment.

Deputy Mayor Foster inquired if there was a fee for public attendance at shows and if any funds are received from the Blue Mountain Foundation of the Arts. Mr. Miller responded there is no fee to the public to attend shows and no funding from the Foundation. Mr. Miller noted that when they host workshops or demonstration, those from their group are offered spots first and if there is additional space others are invited to attend and all pay the same registration fee.

With Committee's permission, the motion with respect to the Wasaga Artists was tabled.

Councillor Wells questioned the wording that "Council approve" and suggested it be amended to read that "Council consider, subject to review of all other requests". He expressed difficulty approving one when Council has not considered requests of other groups. He felt it limited the ability to make a grant before it is known which group is requesting and how much has been requested.

Councillor Anderson noted that Committee is not going to see all the groups requesting funding; only a few will make a presentation.

Councillor Wells indicated he could not support the motion at this time, clarifying he fully supports Wasaga Artists, just not the process that the motion speaks to.

Deputy Mayor Foster inquired how many requests had been received. Mrs. Quinlan advised that Wasaga Artists were a little late in submitting due to an illness; however, they have received a grant in past years and have been "included" in the \$55,000.00 budget for grants. To date Council has received requests for about \$70,000 in grants with a budget of \$55,000.

The Treasurer suggested that Committee review the list of requests, receive the requested delegations and then staff will bring a final report for Committee to review all requests to direct approval within the budget of \$55,000, or as amended. Committee agreed and it was then;

MOVED BY S. WELLS
SECONDED BY D. FOSTER

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-01

RESOLVED THAT Motion pertaining to the grant request from the Wasaga Artists Club be amended by deleting the word "approve" and replacing it with the word "consider" and by adding the words "subject with all grant requests being considered at once" at the end of the motion.

CARRIED

MOVED BY D. FOSTER
 SECONDED BY G. WATSON

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-02

RESOLVED THAT the General Government Committee does hereby recommend to Council that it consider the charitable donation in the amount of \$2,000 for the Wasaga Artists Club subject with all grant requests being considered at once.

CARRIED

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Sign By-Law (reviewed) – March 12, 2009
- b) Business Licensing – Schedule 'A20a' (broaden mixed uses) – 15 April 2009

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Municipal Law Enforcement

a) Monthly Report – December 2013

Councillor Bercovitch advised he has received calls about cars in a driveway, a trailer on the road and comments by By-Law staff.

Mr. Vincent responded that he can't speak to a situation without knowledge or facts. Mr. Vincent advised that staff do by-pass things on the road or they would never get from one side of Town to the other to deal with the priorities Council has set and the complaints that are received. As an example, there are hundreds of illegal rentals advertised on the internet and while there just isn't the time or manpower to deal with all of them, some are dealt with; there was a conviction last week through the Courts.

Mr. Vincent advised that the goal of the department is to gain compliance; we may be getting more compliance; therefore, using the time for other priorities. The Department is receiving fewer complaints, but the Department's "plate" is full every day.

Deputy Mayor Foster inquired if there is an ad in the newspaper for dog tag renewal. Mr. Vincent advised that at least three ads are put in the paper.

Councillor Watson noted that compliance with winter parking on streets has greatly improved. Mr. Vincent advised that staff provide a warning the first month, if no previous warnings have been given. There has been significant improvement and attempted follow up during the day to speak with offenders. It was then;

MOVED BY G. WATSON
 SECONDED BY S. WELLS

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-03

RESOLVED THAT the General Government Committee does hereby receives the December 2013 Municipal Law Enforcement Department's Report, for information.

CARRIED

b) Municipal Law Enforcement Accounts – December 2013**Economic Development and Communications****a) Monthly Report – December 2013**

Councillor Wells inquired of the candidate orientation for the Special Events Coordinators maternity leave to which Ms. Legget responded.

Deputy Mayor Foster requested a Report on the process of “twinning” and if there could be an economic spin off for Wasaga Beach.

Deputy Mayor Foster also inquired of OLG updates. Ms. Legget responded that about once a month she is in contact with the OLG and if there is an update to be provided, Council will be advised.

Councillor Wells inquired if we could brighten up Mosley/Main Streets with the nice lights as are in the Town Hall parking lot for the 2014 Christmas season. He did not feel the banners were reflective of the season and they have been in use for quite a while. Ms. Legget responded that she will have a discussion with Mr. Reinders, review budget and report to Committee on what is feasible.

Councillor Watson noted in the past there were lights along Mosley and the Hydro put them up. The local businesses were also involved.

Councillor Bercovitch agreed lights along Mosley/Main Streets would be quite nice.

Councillor Watson recalled that in the past “twinning” came from Clair Robertson when he travelled to Montego Bay, Jamaica and met with the Mayor of Montego Bay. He believes a couple of Councillors also went and they were picked up at Airport and a civic reception was held for them.

Councilor Bercovitch noted that Fort Myers is similar to Wasaga Beach with nine (9) miles of beach and a business section in one area. There being no further discussion, it was then;

MOVED BY D. FOSTER
SECONDED BY S. WELLS

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-04

RESOLVED THAT the General Government Committee does hereby receive the December 2013 Economic Development and Corporate Communication Officer’s Report, for information.

CARRIED

b) Economic Development & Communications Accounts – December 2013**Administration****a) Treasurer - Wasaga Beach Artists**

Dealt with earlier on the Agenda.

b) Treasurer – Year End Adjustments 2013

Councillor Bercovitch questioned some of the year-end adjustments. The Treasurer provided an explanation that the Auditors require to know that Council approves the saving of unspent money into the next year. Councillor Bercovitch felt that if money is not spent it should be used to lower taxes not put in reserves.

Councillor Wells noted there has been similar discussion in the past with Council and it was the beginning of tax rate stabilization fund so if a sudden unexpended expense came up, the Town could use those funds to buffer for the tax payers tax rate. It does go back to the tax payer but maybe not in the current year. It is the same principal as putting the funds aside so not having to observe a large tax hike due to OPP costing. It was then;

MOVED BY S. WELLS

SECONDED BY D. FOSTER

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-05

RESOLVED THAT the General Government Committee does hereby recommend to Council that any remaining surplus monies be transferred to the applicable reserve or reserve fund for that department; and,

FURTHER THAT any surplus operating funds for Policing be transferred to the Policing reserve to assist in offsetting future policing increases; and,

FURTHER THAT any surplus operating funds for Information Technology – computer software be transferred to the Information Technology Reserve to be re-budgeted for use in a subsequent year; and;

FURTHER THAT \$8,000 of the surplus operating funds related to the Libraries staffing expenses be reserved for use in 2014 as included in the 2014 budget; and,

FURTHER THAT \$20,000 of the surplus operating funds relating to Special Events (Snowman Mania and New Event Sponsorships) be reserved for future use; and,

FURTHER THAT any surplus operating funds relating to Professional Studies initiated in 2013 and to be completed in 2014 to be transferred to the applicable reserve or reserve fund for that department; and,

FURTHER THAT any surplus operating funds relating to the Doctor's Recruitment funds be transferred to the applicable reserve for use in a subsequent year; and,

FURTHER THAT any remaining surplus/deficit operating funds be transferred to/from Working funds Reserve account with 50% of the surplus (if available) being transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve account.

CARRIED

c) HR Coordinator – Group Benefits Program Renewal Information

Ms. Henry was welcomed to the table and there were no questions for Ms. Henry.

MOVED BY S. WELLS

SECONDED BY D. FOSTER

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-01-06

RESOLVED THAT the General Government Committee does hereby receive the update from Mosey and Mosey, the Town's benefit consultants, pertaining to group benefits renewal rates for full time employees and members of Council, and;

FURTHER THAT the \$7,955 surplus generated under the refund accounting method of benefit management be held in reserve.

CARRIED

c) IT – Proposed Public Information WIFI Hot Spots

Mr. Bowers was welcomed to the table.

Deputy Mayor Foster questioned that Bell Mobility customers get free use and everyone else pays. Mr. Bowers confirmed that is just at the beach front. The Town did not pay for the Wi-Fi at the Beach front; it is Bell Mobility infrastructure.

Councillor Wells thought it was good for tourism and would like to see Wi-Fi expanded throughout the Town. It was then;

MOVED BY G. WATSON

SECONDED BY S. WELLS

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-07

RESOLVED THAT the General Government Committee does hereby recommend to Council that it accept the quote from Point-to-Point Broadband in the amount of \$9,000.00 plus HST for the installation of public information Wi-Fi Hot Spots at the Chamber of Commerce Office and Oakview Woods Information Centre as a single source purchasing action.

CARRIED

d) CAO – Town Office Closure Christmas 2014

Deputy Mayor Foster noted he was not opposed and as noted there will be skeleton crew in on Friday, January 2nd, 2014. It was then;

MOVED BY D. FOSTER

SECONDED BY S. WELLS

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-08

RESOLVED THAT the General Government Committee does hereby recommend to Council that it approve the closure of the Municipal Office commencing at noon on December 24th for two and a half days during the 2014 Christmas and New Year's holiday period, reopening on Friday, January 2nd, with staff required to take two and a half vacation days, 20 hours of banked overtime or two and a half days of un-paid leave during this period.

CARRIED

f) Council and Administration Accounts – December 1 – 31, 2013

MOVED BY S. WELLS
 SECONDED BY D. FOSTER

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-09

RESOLVED THAT the December 2013 Accounts as reviewed by General Government Committee, are hereby confirmed.

CARRIED

Councillor Wells noted that with Committee's permission he would like to table a motion with respect to the motion from AWARE Simcoe on the *Navigable Water Protection Act*. While he is not sure if there is a huge negative impact to the Town, he felt Council should take a little deeper look at it. He is asking staff what if any implications or issues there are with respect to the change before Council supports it or not, once the Report is prepared. He further requested that the River Resources Committee have an opportunity to look at the Report and provide comments.

Councillor Watson supports the motion and advised that AWARE has already been before the NVCA making the same presentation.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that the NVCA staff are currently reviewing the implications and will bring a report to the Board in February. It was then;

MOVED BY S. WELLS
 SECONDED BY G. WATSON

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01-10

That General Government Committee requests that staff review the implications of the new Federal Navigation Protection Act on the portion of the Nottawasaga River within the Town of Wasaga Beach taking into account information that may be available on the new Act, including other reviews that are taking place by agencies such as the Nottawasaga River Conservation Authority, and taking into account other legislation and regulations that will continue to be in effect to protect the river's environment, pleasure craft navigation and historical multi-recreational uses once the new Act comes into force;

Further, that once the information has been gathered and staff have established a position on the implications of the new Act, it review the information and its position with the River Resources Committee so that the Committee can also take a position in its advisory role to Council on matters that pertain to the Nottawasaga River.

CARRIED

6. **OTHER AGENCY REPORTS** - None
7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – February 20, 2014
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councillor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.