

**INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF HILTON BEACH  
CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILTON**

**MINUTES**

**Joint Council Meeting – April 29, 2015**

**7:00 p.m. – Hilton Beach Community Hall**

3050 Hilton Road, Hilton Beach, Ontario

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The meeting was called to order by Reeve Wood at 7:00 p.m.

Present were:

Township of Hilton: Reeve Wood, Councillors Holt, Garside, Leask, Jerrard and Clerk Obarymskyj

Village of Hilton Beach: Mayor Hope, Councillors Davey, Duma, Moore, Wells and Clerk Cramp.

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Fire Department

- Limiting delivery of some services

The Township of Hilton would like consideration to be given to the elimination of interior rescues for fires within the Village of Hilton Beach or the Township of Hilton. Their concerns include that there are a low number of firefighters, they change every few years, some are not comfortable to do an interior rescue and there are not sufficient firefighters trained for interior firefighting. It was noted that there is a need for six firefighters – two to go into the building; two outside to be prepared to rescue, if needed; and two to work the pump. At present, the gear that is available to the firefighters is acceptable but not in an open flame situation.

The Village of Hilton Beach noted that there is automatic aid so firefighters from other municipalities are able to assist the Village/Township firefighters. It was also noted that the Village has hydrants which may provide a greater chance of a rescue. No firefighter is required to go into an interior fire if they are not trained to that extent and if they do not feel comfortable in doing so. If the by-law is changed, firefighters would not be permitted to enter the interior of a building even if the circumstances were acceptable. The Village does not want to preclude the firefighters from doing this if they feel that they are trained properly and that they feel safe under the circumstances that exist. It was also mentioned if interior rescues were eliminated, firefighters would not be able to enter a house if there was a chimney fire or stove fire. This could prevent an individual from being saved or the house from burning down.

The wording of the By-law was discussed as it was thought that a change in wording may assist coming to a decision on this matter. The By-law does indicate that it is at the discretion of the Fire Chief. It was noted that insufficient information regarding training is included in the firefighter files.

The following was agreed:

- The firefighters are to be canvassed to determine how they feel about interior rescue providing they have adequate training;
- The Fire Board is to approach the firefighters to obtain their ideas and input;
- Determine what the Fire Chief would prefer;
- Consider the level of service the taxpayers would expect and if the level of service should be similar to the other two departments on the Island;
- Discussion regarding training together with the other two departments.

- Ice Rescue

Ice Rescue was discussed, particularly relating to the training and number of firefighters needed to do it safely. They presently have 4 sets of gear. Four to six firefighters are needed. Another Department could assist through Automatic Aid. Ice rescue is done based on the discretion of the on-site commander. It is to be considered whether or not a core group of ice rescue firefighters could be available on the Island.

The Township of Hilton stated that they have been told that a Coast Guard helicopter could be here in under 15 minutes.

It was agreed that the Fire Board would discuss ice rescue with the firefighters.

- Satellite Fire Hall

The Township of Hilton indicated that the Insurance Underwriters indicate that there could be a discount on insurance if your house is within a certain radius of the Fire Hall (8 km.). It was noted that approx. one half of the Township of Hilton does not fall within that distance. The Township would like the Fire Board to construct a satellite office to bring everyone in the Township within the acceptable radius.

The Village of Hilton Beach indicated that they trusted that the funding for a satellite department would strictly be within the township. The Township indicated that they felt it should fall within the budget of the Fire Department which is a 50/50 split between Township/Village.

The Township indicated that the building had to be large enough to house a Fire vehicle. Ideally it would be built at the bottom of Base Line. They do not own any property in that area.

The Village of Hilton Beach indicated that they would have to discuss funding outside of the Village that is of no benefit to the Village.

- Renovations of existing Fire Hall to reduce heating costs

At present, the existing Fire Hall has two small 250 v. heaters, 5000 w. each. They are not efficient and it is taking a lot of electricity to heat the building. It was suggested that a propane box heater may be the way to improve this situation. Additional insulation would also help. It was agreed that two or three alternatives should be explored. The costs would come out of the Fire Hall maintenance funds. There will also be steps taken to update the Hall over the next year with a possible small addition at the back. There is presently \$70,000 in the Building Fund. The Township would like to see them back in one Hall.

It was confirmed by the Township that the approximate overall reserves at this time include: Replacement of tanker - \$30,000; Building - \$70,000; Surplus of \$8,000 to go towards gear; and working capital of \$25,000.

It was noted that the existing building is sound but there is a need for office and training space.

## 2. Hilton Union Library Board

- Ownership of books

Discussion took place regarding the ownership of the library books. The Township indicated that at present, the by-law considers books as an asset. If that is the case, should the Village be paying for the entire collection. Otherwise, the by-law should be changed. This will be discussed by the Village and a response will be provided to the Township.

## 3. Landfill

- Deficiencies – improvement costs

Mayor Hope provided the six items which the Ministry of the Environment requires to be addressed. Some of the items discussed were:

- Fencing behind the household garbage to contain blowing materials;
- Proper turnarounds for easier access for road maintenance;
- Control of keys;
- Aesthetic improvements;
- Road Superintendent Lynn Garside is willing to assist, if needed;
- The Village noted that the rates are going to be increased to deal with the improvements that are required. They will be closer to the Sault rates so it will not be as attractive for outsiders to bring their garbage here;
- Controlled entrance;
- Add cost for roofing and siding materials to the building permit. However, the Township does not require building permits for these purposes.
- Establish a permit system for dumping garbage;
- Require better recycling.

The Village indicated that this is a high priority and will be dealt with as soon as possible this year.

## 4. Community Hall

- Use as Emergency Operation Centre

Reeve Wood indicated that they have been using the Legion as their Emergency Operation Centre but would be willing to support the Village one at the Community Hall. Costs are required for the servicing and other costs of the generator.

## 5. Recreational Events

Mayor Hope commented on the Township resident support of the skating event in the Village. It was appreciated and he extended a warm-hearted invitation to all future events. He noted that the Township may also wish to use the Community Hall for events such as their Easter event where they may need more space.

It was noted that a work bee is being organized at the beach. Any assistance would be appreciated.

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- Chimney at Library  
Reeve Wood offered to get a group of volunteers together to dismantle the Library chimney and to complete the skirting around the building.
  
- Hilton Family Yard Sale  
It was noted that the Yard Sale is being coordinated between the Village and Township. The Library may also want to participate at that time.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

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Mayor Robert Hope

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Clerk Peggy Cramp