



REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

The following are the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held at 7:00 p.m. in the Regional Council Chamber, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario, with the following members present: Chair K. Seiling, J. Brewer, T. Cowan, D. Craig, R. Deutschmann, T. Galloway, J. Haalboom, B. Halloran*, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, C. Millar, J. Mitchell, S. Strickland, J. Wideman, and C. Zehr.

Members Absent: L. Armstrong

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED by T. Cowan

SECONDED by R. Deutschmann

THAT a closed meeting of Council be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 6:45 pm. in the Waterloo County Room in accordance with Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

- a) proposed or pending acquisition of land in the City of Kitchener

CARRIED

MOVED by G. Lorentz

SECONDED by S. Strickland

THAT Council reconvene in Open Session.

CARRIED

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence in memory of former Regional Councillor Christina Weylie's husband who passed away this week.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER *THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT*

R. Deutschmann declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Item #4 on the Planning and Works Summary of Recommendations dealing with the King/Victoria Multi-Modal Transit Hub Project and the King Street Grade Separation Project (Part of Phase 1 of the Rapid Transit Project), in the City Of Kitchener, and the closed Council minutes from March 7, 2012 which he was not in attendance at, since he and his spouse are shareholders of corporations that have an interest in a property at 10 Duke Street West, Kitchener.

D. Craig declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Item #4 on the Planning and Works Summary of Recommendations dealing with the King/Victoria Multi-Modal Transit Hub Project and the King Street Grade Separation Project (Part of Phase 1 of the Rapid Transit Project), in the City Of Kitchener, due to his son owning property within the area of a proposed station on the rapid transit system.

K. Seiling declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Item #4 on the Planning and Works Summary of Recommendations dealing with the King/Victoria Multi-Modal Transit Hub Project and the King Street Grade Separation Project (Part of Phase 1 of the Rapid Transit Project), in the City Of Kitchener, and the closed Council minutes from March 7, 2012 which he was not in attendance for the discussion due to two of his adult children who own residential properties within the proposed corridor.

T. Galloway declared a pecuniary interest with respect to Item #9 on the Planning and Works Summary of Recommendations dealing with the Renewal of U-Pass Agreements with Post Secondary Students, due to his employment at the University of Waterloo.

G. Lorentz disclosed a pecuniary interest with respect to the delegation regarding the use of farm buildings as his employer is part owner of the property located at 2791 Bleams Road.

PRESENTATIONS

Chair Seiling acknowledged the thank you received from Waterloo 4H for the grant, an award from the University of Waterloo for Co-op students and a congratulations on the nomination for the Chamber of Commerce Awards from Peter Braid, M.P.

T. Cowan invited everyone to the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival on Saturday, March 31st.

DELEGATIONS

- a) Kathie and John Jordan, New Hamburg, appeared before Council to request support from the Region and the seven area municipalities for the Central Huron resolution regarding use of farm buildings for private/personal events. K. Jordan provided an overview of the types of activities that have been held in barns and the adverse directive from the Ontario Fire Marshall's office. A [copy of the presentation](#) is appended to the original minutes.

*B. Halloran entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Chair Seiling noted L. Armstrong was not able to attend the meeting this evening and has advised a proceeding is taking place between the Township of Wilmot, Fire Marshall's Office and the delegation. The Region has taken the position of not moving into the jurisdiction of the area municipalities and does not deal with either the Fire Code or the Building Code. He advised any motion brought forward on this issue will be ruled out of order as it is out of the jurisdiction of Regional Council. It was recommended to the delegation to request the support of the seven area municipalities by appearing before each Council.

A question was raised if venues have been used for commercial purposes. K. Jordan responded that there is no commercial part of it and is strictly private events.

J. Mitchell noted this Council has passed motions out of its jurisdiction in the past. D. Craig noted a point of order and suggested a vote be taken on whether or not to allow a motion on this matter.

MOVED by J. Mitchell
SECONDED by D. Craig

Conflict:
G. Lorentz

THAT the Council allow a motion to be tabled dealing with the request to support the Central Huron resolution regarding use of farm buildings.

MOTION LOST

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MOVED by C. Zehr

SECONDED by B. Halloran

THAT the following Minutes be approved:

- a) Audit Closed – February 28, 2012
- b) Closed Council – March 7, 2012
- b) Council – March 7, 2012
- b) Closed Committee – March 20, 2012
- b) Community Services – March 20, 2012
- c) Administration & Finance – March 20, 2012
- d) Planning & Works – March 20, 2012
- e) Library – March 20, 2012

CARRIED

MOVED by T. Cowan

SECONDED by J. Brewer

THAT Council go into Committee of the Whole to consider reports.

CARRIED

FINANCE REPORTS

- a) F-12-023, T2012-003 George Street Reconstruction, St. Andrews Street to Park Hill Road, City of Cambridge

MOVED by S. Strickland

SECONDED by R. Kelterborn

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the tender of Bel-Air Excavating & Grading Ltd. for George Street Reconstruction, St. Andrews Street to Park Hill Road, City of Cambridge, in the amount of \$2,385,982.57 including all applicable taxes;

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve an increase in project costs of \$1,443,516.66 including all applicable taxes gross and \$0 net to facilitate the sanitary sewers and watermains undertaken for the City of Cambridge.

CARRIED

- b) F-12-024, P2012-08 Tow Behind Airport Sweeper

MOVED by S. Strickland

SECONDED by R. Kelterborn

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the proposal of Team Eagle Ltd. for the supply of a Tow Behind Airport Sweeper in the amount of \$325,101.00 including all applicable taxes.

CARRIED

- c) F-12-025, T2012-006 Regional Road 5 (Nafziger Road) Bridge Rehabilitation, Township of Wilmot

MOVED by S. Strickland
SECONDED by R. Kelterborn

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the tender of Weathertech Restoration Services Inc. for Regional Road 5 (Nafziger Road) Bridge Rehabilitation, Township of Wilmot in the amount of \$864,494.13 including all applicable taxes;

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve an increase in project costs of \$46,784.50 including all applicable taxes gross and \$0.00 net to facilitate the work undertaken on behalf of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

AND FURTHER THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve an increase in project funds of \$28,458.03 including applicable taxes gross and net for the required contract work.

CARRIED

C. Zehr noted the prices for some of these contracts and the benefit of taking projects out to tender early.

- d) F-12-026, Regional Council and Council Appointee Remuneration and Expenses for the Year Ended December 31, 2011

Received for information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Services

The Summary of Recommendations of the Community Services Committee was presented by Sean Strickland, Chair of the Committee.

MOVED by S. Strickland
SECONDED by J. Mitchell

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Community Services Committee dated March 20, 2012, Items 1 to 7, and 1 report from closed session, Item 8, be adopted as follows:

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo:
 - (a) enter into a further agreement with the Government of Canada for the continuation of the C-EnterNet program subject to terms and conditions that are agreeable to the Medical Officer of Health and Regional Solicitor; and
 - (b) direct staff to report back, as needed on a regular basis, in relation to pertinent developments or other updates concerning the C-EnterNet program;

AND THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Chief Medical Officer of Health for the Province of Ontario and the provincial scientific agency Public Health Ontario, to inform them of the results of these C-EnterNet initiatives. [PH-12-007]

2. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept 100% funding in the amount of \$32,951 from the Province to offset costs associated with the Public Health Department's preparation for Phase 1 of Panorama;

AND THAT the 2012 Operating Budget for Public Health be increased by \$32,951 gross and \$0 net Regional levy, as outlined in Report PH-12-011, dated March 20, 2012.

3. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo endorse the Policy Framework for *All Roads Lead to Home: The Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy for Waterloo Region* (2012);

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo forward a copy of the Policy Framework for *All Roads Lead to Home: The Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy for Waterloo Region* to Federal and Provincial Ministers responsible for housing, health, corrections and social services, local Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament and Area Municipalities, as outlined in report SS-12-013, dated March 20, 2012.

4. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve entering into an agreement with Kitchener Waterloo Urban Native Wigwam Project, up to a maximum amount of \$33,900 for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014, subject to receipt of Federal Government funding, as outlined in Report SS-12-012, dated March 20, 2012.
5. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the attached "Provincial Homelessness Business Case to Support Additional 2012 Funding" as part of the 2012 budget submission to the Province's Ministry of Community and Social Services, as outlined in Report SS-12-014, dated March 20, 2012.
6. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Employment & Income Support Community Advisory Committee (EISCAC) as described and provided in Report SS-12-015, dated March 20, 2012.
7. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve additional funding for Community Outreach Program sites through the enhancement summary outlined in report SS-12-016 and detailed in Appendix B;

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve entering into a Purchase of Service Agreement with the Kitchener-Waterloo Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA Kitchener-Waterloo) as the sponsoring agency for the proposed Community Outreach Program site at the Downtown Community Centre, Kitchener, in the amount of \$33,264 to be funded through the Social Development Program budget in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor and the Commissioner of Social Services as outlined in report SS-12-016, dated March 20, 2012.

8. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo appoint the following persons to the Employment and Income Support Community Advisory Committee:
 - Ferdouse Miah (Client) for a four-year term ending December 31, 2015;

- Eltag Elkhalifa (Employment Placement Broker) for a four-year term ending December 31, 2015;
- Sally Michener-Potts (Mental Health) for a three-year term ending December 31, 2014; and
- Karen Lipski (Funder) as per position with the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

CARRIED

Planning and Works

The Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee was presented by Jim Wideman, Chair of the Committee. Items #1 and 6 were taken separately. Items # 4 and 9 were taken separately due to the declared conflicts of interest.

Memorandum regarding Homer Watson Boulevard/Blockline Road Roundabout Southbound Lane Configuration (Item #6) was received for information.

With respect to Item #1, J. Mitchell proposed an amendment “to exclude enhancements that include a rusty appearance.” Chair Seiling suggested the original motion would need to be defeated and a new one with this amendment come forward for approval. J. Haalboom stated she is not interested in changing the architectural design but had concerns with the type of material being proposed. She provided research she has completed on the Cor-ten material, including the weathering of steel and the provision of drainage that is required. She displayed [pictures of material](#) that has stained due to rust and requested that a different type of material be considered. She also expressed concern with the difficulty in cleaning graffiti from this material.

It was suggested to refer this matter back to the Project Team for further review related specifically to aging impacts, rusting and staining. The matter will either be brought back to Planning & Works Committee or directly to Council. T. Galloway noted as a member of the Project Team this has been explored with the architect and Cor-ten is a new generation material that does not rust but does turn a rusty colour. He noted that this steel is a structural beam for the railway tracks and needs to be approved by the railway companies so he was not sure how much latitude there is for alternate forms.

MOVED by J. Mitchell
SECONDED by J. Haalboom

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo incorporate the architectural enhancements described in Report E-12-034 into the design of the proposed grade separation structure included in the Weber Street Reconstruction and Widening project between College Street and Union Street.

MOVED by J. Brewer
SECONDED by D. Craig

THAT Item #1 of the Planning and Works Summary of Recommendations dated March 20, 2012 related to the design of the proposed grade separation structure for the Weber Street Reconstruction and Widening project between College Street and Union Street be referred back to the Weber Street Project Team to deal specifically with aging impacts of the proposed materials.

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by G. Lorentz

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee, dated March 20, 2012, Items 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8, and 1 report from closed session, Item 10, be adopted as follows:

2. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Consulting Services Agreement with AECOM of Kitchener, Ontario to provide engineering services for detailed design and services during construction for the decommissioning of the biosolids storage lagoons and upgrading of the biosolids pumping system at the Kitchener Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in the City of Kitchener at an upset fee limit of \$1,913,422 plus applicable taxes. [E-12-035]
3. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Consultant Services Agreement with the MMM Group Limited for Contract Administration and Inspection Services on a time basis for Rehabilitation of Runway 08-26 and Runway Guard Lights at the Region of Waterloo International Airport. [E-12-037]
5. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the Mobility*PLUS* Business Plan for the period 2012 to 2016 as described in Report E-12-018 with the implementation of the business plan subject to Regional Council's annual budget deliberations.
7. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept P-12-035, Monthly Report of Development Activity for February 2012, dated March 20, 2012.
8. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo receive Report P-12-038, Workplace Count - Report on Places of Employment in Waterloo Region, dated March 20, 2012, for information;

AND THAT this report and the Workplace Count summary data be made available to all Area Municipalities in the Region of Waterloo, Canada's Technology Triangle (CTT), the Chambers of Commerce, and other interested parties, to provide a summary of the findings of the 2011 Workplace Count project, and to request support in participating in future surveys.

10. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve, enter into an Agreement for, and execute all documentation related to, the acquisition of land for road improvements to Weber Street West described as Part Lots 8 and 9, Plan 389 as in Instrument Number A115620, being 100 Weber Street West, City of Kitchener, Regional Municipality of Waterloo from the Estate of Rita Schiebel for the sum of \$404,880.00, plus associated acquisition costs, subject to documentation satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.

CARRIED

The memo with respect to the Homer Watson/Blockline roundabout prepared by Thomas Schmidt was highlighted. Councillors thanked staff for looking at this issue further and appreciated the less costly alternative. There were questions as to what the delineators actually are and if they can cause damage to vehicles. T. Schmidt replied they are designed to bend if hit but he was not sure what type of damage they may cause. A member of council raised a

concern for safety being the number one priority and stated five times as many conflicts are occurring in the southbound three lane area.

It was agreed that this revised design should be reviewed in four to six months once installation is complete.

MOVED by R. Deutschmann
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee, dated March 20, 2012, Item 6, be adopted as follows:

6. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo implement option 3 as outlined in Report E-12-041, dated March 20, 2012 and reduce the southbound lane configuration from 3 lanes to 2 lanes on Homer Watson Boulevard approaching Block Line Road using permanent curbs, in the City of Kitchener.

MOVED by G. Lorentz
SECONDED by C. Zehr

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo implement Option 4 as outlined in the Memo to Council dated March 28, 2012 and reduce the southbound lane configuration from 3 lanes to 2 lanes on the Homer Watson Boulevard/Block Line Road roundabout using a dedicated right turn lane, appropriate painting and non permanent delineators, in the City of Kitchener;

AND THAT staff review the operation of the roundabout and report back to Council in 2013.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED AS AMENDED

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by G. Lorentz

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee, dated March 20, 2012, Item 4, be adopted as follows:

4. THAT The Regional Municipality of Waterloo direct and authorize the Regional Solicitor to take the following actions with respect to the expropriation of lands for the construction of King/Victoria Multi-Modal Transit Hub and the King Street Grade Separation Project (part of Phase 1 of the Rapid Transit Project), in the City of Kitchener, in the Region of Waterloo
 1. Complete application(s) to the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, as may be required from time to time, for approval to expropriate land, which is required for Multi-Modal Transit Hub Project and the King Street Grade Separation Project (part of Phase 1 of the Rapid Transit Project), and described as follows, Lot 1, 2, and Part Lot 3, Plan 374, part Lot 15, Streets and lanes, part Lot 16, Streets and Lanes as in 290048 City of Kitchener, Region of Waterloo, being the entirety of the property known municipally as 490-520 King Street West, Kitchener, Ontario

Conflicts:
D. Craig
R. Deutschmann
K. Seiling

2. Serve notices of the above application(s) required by the Expropriations Act;
3. Forward to the Chief Inquiry Officer any requests for a hearing that may be received;
4. Attend, with appropriate Regional staff, at any hearing that may be scheduled;
5. Discontinue expropriation proceedings or any part thereof, in respect of the above described lands, or any part thereof, upon the registration on title of the required documentation to complete a transaction whereby the required interests in the lands are conveyed; and
6. Do all things necessary and proper to be done, and report thereon to Regional Council in due course. [CR-RS-12-015]

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by G. Lorentz

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee, dated March 20, 2012, Item 9, be adopted as follows:

9. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into agreements with the University of Waterloo Federation of Students, the University of Waterloo Graduate Students Association, the Wilfrid Laurier University Students Union, and the Wilfrid Laurier University Graduate Students Association to implement universal transit pass programs (U-Pass), in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor, as described in Report No. P-12-040, dated March 20, 2012.

Conflict:
T. Galloway

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo amend the Region's Fees and Charges By-law 12-001 with respect to the U-Pass agreements with full-time students at the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University, as described in Report P-12-040, dated March 20, 2012 to increase U-Pass fees to \$67.50 per school term for eligible students, effective September 1, 2012.

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by T. Galloway

THAT an additional closed item, Item 11, be adopted as follows:

11. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve, enter into an Agreement for, and execute all documentation related to, the acquisition of land for road improvements to Weber Street West described as Part Lot 19 Subdivision of Lot 3 German Company Tract; Part Lot 221, Plan 376, being Part 1 on Reference Plan 58R-11146, PIN Number 22319-0195(LT) being 125 Weber Street West, City of Kitchener, Regional Municipality of Waterloo from Paul Douglas Morrison, Darren Carter Hastings and Gregory Douglas Cabeldu for the sum of \$603,000.00, plus associated acquisition costs, on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.

CARRIED

Administration and Finance

The Summary of Recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee was presented by Tom Galloway, Chair of the Committee.

MOVED by T. Galloway
 SECONDED by S. Strickland

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee dated March 20, 2012, Items 1 to 4, be adopted as follows:

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo establish the following tax ratios for the 2012 property tax year:

Residential	1.0000
New Multi-residential	1.0000
Multi-residential	1.9500
Commercial	1.9500
Industrial	1.9500
Pipelines	1.1613
Farm	0.2500
Managed Forests	0.2500

AND THAT the necessary tax ratio and tax rate by-laws for 2012 be introduced at the March 28, 2012 Regional Council meeting;

AND FURTHER THAT the Area Municipalities be notified accordingly. [F-12-021]

2. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Consulting Services Agreement with GHD Inc., of Markham, Ontario to provide consulting services for the Asset Management Implementation Project for the Facilities Management & Fleet Services Division at an upset fee limit of \$234,800.00 plus applicable taxes, as described in report CR-FM-12-007, dated March 20, 2012;

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo transfer \$240,000 from the Voice Radio System Upgrade project (90095) to the Facilities Asset Management Program (90146).

3. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve funding allocations of \$99,651 from the Sustainability Grant stream of the Community Environmental Fund to the ten projects listed below and as further described in Appendix A of Report CR-FM-12-006/P-12-034, dated March 20, 2012:

2012-01	rare Charitable Research Reserve - solar modular home: \$15,000
2012-17/20	University of Waterloo Institute for Sustainable Energy – Analysis and promotion of sustainable vehicle technology: \$15,000
2012-21	Woolwich Healthy Communities - Green Living and Technology Fair: \$5,000

2012-22	Sustainable Waterloo Region – Energy/GHG reduction competition: \$15,000
2012-24	REEP Green Solutions - Solar Thermal Demonstration Project: \$15,000
2012-25	CREW - Kids and Community Power Saving Project: \$5,000
2012-30	Foodlink Waterloo Region – Buy Local Buy Fresh mapping application for mobile devices: \$5,000
2012-32	St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School – waste diversion: \$7,676
2012-36	Canadian Organic Growers Perth-Waterloo-Wellington – organic gardening workshops: \$1,975
2012-44	Grand River Carshare – Purchase of an electric vehicle: \$15,000

4. THAT the Administration and Finance Committee approve the minutes of the Audit Committee dated February 28, 2012.

CARRIED

MOVED by T. Galloway
SECONDED by C. Millar

THAT the Summary of Closed Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee dated March 20, 2012, 2 reports from closed session, Items 5 and 6, be adopted as follows:

5. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve, enter into an Agreement for, and execute all documentation related to, the sale of a property known municipally as 168 Benton Street, City of Kitchener and described as Part Lot 5, Plan 397 designated as Part 4, on Reference Plan 58R-16135, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, PIN 22499-0020 (LT) from The Regional Municipality of Waterloo to Polocorp Inc for the sum of \$280,000.00, subject to documentation satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.
6. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo appoint Stephannie Leach and Amanda Moorehead to the Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) for a three-year term from March, 2012 to December 31, 2014.

CARRIED

T. Galloway brought forward an additional closed item related to a personnel matter.

MOVED by T. Galloway
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT an additional closed item, Item 7, be adopted as follows:

7. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo appoint Craig Dyer as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo effective April 23, 2012.

CARRIED

Library

The Summary of Recommendations of the Library Committee was presented by Todd Cowan, Chair of the Committee.

MOVED by T. Cowan
SECONDED by J. Wideman

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Library Committee, dated March 20, 2012, Item 1, be adopted as follows:

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve an increase to Other Branch Furnishings in the Region of Waterloo Library Capital Budget, to include an additional \$38,400 in 2012, to be funded from the Library Capital Reserve Fund, as outlined in Report P-LIB-12-001, dated March 20, 2012.

CARRIED

OTHER MATTERS UNDER COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by J. Mitchell
SECONDED by S. Strickland

THAT Committee of the Whole rise and Council resume.

CARRIED

MOVED by T. Cowan
SECONDED by B. Halloran

THAT Council adopt the proceeding of the Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

D. Craig inquired if the Delta construction in Cambridge will be reviewed and considered for possible enhancements similar to what is proposed for Weber Street in Kitchener at the railway overpass. He requested a staff report back on this matter.

G. Lorentz requested staff to look into being more proactive in dealing with graffiti on traffic boxes and other street facilities owned by the Region.

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS – (FIRST, SECOND & THIRD READINGS)

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by B. Halloran

- a) THAT a By-law to Establish Tax Ratios for Regional Purposes and Area Municipal Purposes for the Year 2012 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 12-006 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.
- b) THAT a By-law to Establish and Levy the Rates of Taxation for Regional Purposes for the Year 2012 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 12-007 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.
- c) THAT a By-law to Authorize the Entering into Agreement(s) for the Provision of Municipal Capital Facilities for Affordable Housing by 1511954 Ontario Inc., in the Township of Wellesley be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 12-008 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.
- d) A By-law to Appoint a Chief Financial Officer and to Repeal By-Law Number 11-040 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 12-009 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.
- e) THAT a By-law to Confirm the Actions of Council of March 28, 2012 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 12-010 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

CARRIED

ADJOURN

MOVED by J. Brewer

SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the meeting adjourn at 8:08 p.m.

CARRIED

REGIONAL CHAIR, *K. Seiling*

REGIONAL CLERK, *K. Fletcher*

Presentation to Regional Council – March 28, 2012

Good evening Chairman Seiling and members of Regional Council. My name is Kathie Jordan and my husband John and I are from rural Wilmot Township and thank you for providing us the opportunity to address you this evening.

In late summer of 2011, the Ontario Fire Marshal's office drafted a proposed directive that would prevent farm owners from having private/personal events in their farm buildings such as weddings, barn dances, birthday parties, auctions, family reunions, 4-H meetings, and Church services.

We have brought to you a resolution dated October 11, 2011 by the municipality of Central Huron and are looking for the support of the Waterloo Regional Council and that Council recommend all 7 municipalities in the region support it. The resolution is as follows:

- Whereas shed parties, barn parties and family functions held in farm buildings are an important part of rural culture;
- And Whereas private buildings or private property should be the responsibility of the owners and as such the owners are responsible for their actions and properties;
- And Whereas the province is infringing on property rights;
- Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Central Huron strongly objects to the direction from the Fire Marshal's Office restricting said use.
- And Further that this resolution be circulated to the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office all MPPs and all municipalities in Ontario.

This resolution now has the support of 54 other Ontario municipalities and MPPs and counting – our MPP, Michael Harris added his name to the list of supporters today. The resolution pertains to all farm buildings including heritage barns.

How often do you read the Ontario Farmer magazine to find an invitation to a new barn recently built? An open house is held so other farmers can view the latest technology and view the new construction.

I understand there are still church services carried out in barns within the Amish and Mennonite communities.

There have been political addresses in driving sheds.

If you have a farming background chances are you have had an opportunity to attend some type of celebration in a barn.

All these types of activities would have to come to a stop if the communiqué from the Fire Marshal's office becomes a directive, making Fire Chiefs responsible for private events held on private property.

Gatherings in barns and farm buildings have been a way of rural life and culture in Canada for the past 2 centuries – since barns have been built. To date, there has not been a case documenting a fatality in Ontario as a result of a fire due to a gathering in a farm building.

In the Region of Waterloo there is a strong presence of the Amish and Mennonite communities where after a barn has been built, a barn raising party follows – in the barn.

Our Governor General and Waterloo Region barn owner, David Johnston, stated in a speech that;

“Mennonite barn raisings are a triumph of community participation and engineering.

The key feature of Waterloo's growth has been what I like to call 'barn building' where neighbours tend to one another's needs and help build a community that is greater than the sum of its parts."

Imagine... ..driving down Road 85 from Elmira to Waterloo, looking left and right, and seeing no bank barns, as they are not completely viable for farming purposes anymore. This COULD be the result if the communiqué becomes a Directive through the Fire Marshall's office.

Fire Chief's will be placed in the awkward position of stopping a family from hosting a family wedding in their own barn. The responsibility will fall on the Fire Chief when made aware of any assemblies of people in farm buildings, private or otherwise, to place an inspection order on the building.

The order states that you cannot hold private events unless you first apply for a "Change of Use" from a farm building to an Assembly Occupancy Building and bring the barn up to the standards to that of a community center. We learned from an MPAC professional that this would raise the taxes \$6 to \$7 thousand dollars per year. All this so you can host a private party for friends and family such as a daughters wedding, a night of music, a son's band practice, or your father's 85th birthday party.

We have to ask ourselves, how many farmers are going to go through this exercise for a personal event and how excited will the municipal fire chiefs be, when they have to shut down these personal events, especially in a rural community where everyone knows everyone!

In closing, we feel this is far too important of an issue to be overlooked and we look to Regional Council to support this resolution and that you recommend to the 7 municipalities in the region to support this resolution.

We graciously thank you for the opportunity to present this issue to Regional Council as this will not only affect the culture, heritage and economic well-being of rural residents of the Region of Waterloo but also the rural residents of the entire Province of Ontario.

Otherwise, the legacy that will be left - a consequence of certain official's actions and non-actions - will be the initiation of the demise of many perfectly good barns in Region of Waterloo and the rest of our province.

Thank you for your time.

Kathie & John Jordan – Wilmot Township







