

November 7, 2006

A meeting of the Finance & Administration Committee of Council was held this evening with Chair Deputy-Mayor Scott presiding and all members of the Committee in attendance with the exception of Councillor Levasseur. Staff members present were L. Eckford, Treasurer/Deputy-Clerk and D. Noffke, Recording Secretary.

MINUTES:

On motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor O'Neill, the minutes of the meetings of the Committee of October 3, 2006 were approved, as circulated. CARRIED.

1. PRESENTATIONS

(a) Rotary Club Project/Trillium Grant

Marcel Mantha and John Escott were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Mantha advised that he was seeking Council's support for an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant application to obtain for a project they wish to undertake at Rotary Park. The City, he said, has graciously agreed to be the lead applicant in their plan to build a splash pad and shade pergola at the park. He noted the Park is centrally located and very well used by the neighbourhood residents and the Club felt these apparatuses would greatly enhance the park. The project will cost in the area of \$145,000. he stated. If the grant application is approved, he said, there would be a balance of \$100,000. required to complete the project. Mr. Mantha noted the Pembroke Rotary Club will completely fund the project, however, they will need to have the money advanced to them so that the project can be undertaken in 2007. He advised that the Rotary Club is quite prepared to enter into a repayment agreement with the City.

Mr. Mantha pointed out that the City will assume all fiscal responsibilities for the management of the programs at the park when the project is completed. All invoices will need to be paid by the City and the final report on the project, which will be required by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, must be done by the City.

In conclusion Mr. Mantha noted that the Pembroke Rotary Club has always met its financial commitments made to the City and he again asked for the City's support.

Councillor Levasseur noted that City would have to

pre-approve this project for 2007 budget purposes.

In response to Councillor Severin and Councillor Lafreniere's question about where the dollars would come from, Councillor O'Neill pointed out that there are reserve dollars that could be used for this project and, subsequently, there would be no interest charges. Councillor O'Neill noted that he had the greatest confidence in the Rotary Club's statement that they would be paying the money back. They have always repaid their commitments made to the City.

In response to a question from Councillor Henderson, Mr. Mantha advised that the splash pad and shade pergola would be located to the right of the building located on the park limits on James Street.

Councillor Henderson confirmed his support for the project, noting that the City would be getting a \$145,000. addition to the park for nothing.

**MOTION:** Moved by Councillor Henderson,  
Seconded by Councillor Lowe,  
THAT Council support the Pembroke Rotary Club's  
application for funding of their project proposed for  
Rotary Park in 2007. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mayor Jacyno noted his support for this very viable project. He noted the park is located in a school zone and would be well used by the neighbourhood children to enhance their physical fitness.

## 2. MONTHLY FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT-October

Chief Chaput noted that Council had asked to meet the newest addition to the Fire Department and introduced Fire Fighter Jason McInnis. Deputy-Mayor Scott welcomed him to the City and noted that his many and varied skills will benefit the Fire Department.

Chief Chaput advised that Fire Prevention Week had been a resounding success and advised that Destiny Deroche had been the winner of the Fire Prevention Week Coloring Contest. Destiny's entire class were treated to a pizza and drinks day. Destiny also had the privilege of dropping the puck at the Lumber Kings game that week and her parents were treated to a dinner out at Eastside Marios. He advised that the program had been well received by the community and it was his and the

Department's hope that this kind of program will go national next year.

Chief Chaput also pointed out that all of the past due false fire alarm charges had been paid except for those issued in October.

The Chief reported on the fire that occurred in downtown Pembroke on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. He noted that there was approximately 2 million dollars in damages. Both building had to be torn down as the shell that was left was very unstable. He noted he wanted to publicly thank his staff for their efforts as it was a very challenging fire to fight. The winds were very high that night, he noted, and the fire travelled across the buildings between the drop-down ceiling and the roof. They managed to hold the line and keep the fire from spreading to other buildings in the area. He also commented that it was his opinion that, with this fire, the new fire truck had already paid for itself.

Chief Chaput noted that at the last meeting Councillor Henderson had asked if he could get statistics on what other Fire Departments were spending on fire prevention. Unfortunately, he stated, he was unable to do that. However, he was able to determine that Pembroke has some 6,207 dwellings in it and in 2006 their average response time to fires was 4.03 minutes. That is a very good average, he pointed out. He also pointed out that Pembroke has been much more effective with their Fire Alarm program than other municipalities in Ontario.

Deputy-Mayor Scott asked the Chief to pass on Council's commendations to the Fire Department for their good work.

### 3. AMO/OMERS SUPPORT FUND

The Treasurer advised that she had been asked at the last meeting to obtain more information on the AMO invoice they had received for the OMERS Support Fund.

In talking with AMO representatives, she stated, it had become apparent to her that it would be money, well spent. OMERS has been mandated, through legislation, to make additional pension benefits available to both the Fire Department Police Department employees. OMERS is required to appoint members to an Advisory Board. These members will represent all different levels of participants in the OMERS plan. With the new benefits available to Fire Fighters and Police, advice will be needed

from AMO on how to handle these negotiations. In conclusion she stated that it was her opinion that the City will get good value for their dollar.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councillor White,  
Seconded by Councillor Lowe,  
THAT the AMO 'OMERS Support Fund invoice of \$916.65  
be paid. CARRIED.

OTHER BUSINESS

AMO MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Henderson questioned whether other members of Council still felt that AMO was representing the smaller municipalities well enough. He questioned whether the City could opt out of AMO any time it wished. Deputy-Mayor Scott stated that the City receives an annual invoice from AMO, based on population, and if it wished to opt out it would just not pay the invoice. It was the general concensus that the City is still receiving good value for the dollar and with the additional caucuses now in existence, it was their belief that the smaller municipalities are finally being heard.

HYDRO MARKETERS

Mayor Jacyno expressed his concern with some of the Energy Marketers out it the community right now trying to sell their product. He has received several complaints from seniors in the area who feel they have been harassed and victimized. He noted that he had contacted Mr. Yakabuski's office to discuss the matter and had asked him to arrange a meeting with the Energy Minister. No one should be able to enter a persons home lat at night and coerce seniors into signing a contract they really do not want. He pointed out that Pembroke Hydro's rates are the lowest and Pembroke residents are getting good value for their dollar. Where an average month's electricity would cost about \$111.00 in Pembroke, Hydro One's rate for the same number of kwh would be \$131. and various other Regulators average around \$155.

Councillor Severin pointed out that he had even had a telemarketer call him at home trying to sell their hydro that way. He pointed out to the public that there is now a law that gives consumers a 10-day window to change your mind on any contract they might have signed. Consumers should keep this in mind and remember that they need to be able to show 'due

diligence' in their efforts to get out of the contract. Put your request to get out of the contract ***in writing***. If you have any kind of difficulty perhaps they should be contacting the Ontario Ombudsman's Office and/or the Ministry of Energy. Keep good records on when and how many times you tried to contact the office regarding the cancellation of the contract.

WAIVING OF SIGN BY-LAW REQUIREMENTS

The C.A.O. advised he had received a request from the business owner whose building had been damaged by the recent fire asking for the waiving of the size regulations in the Sign By-law. He has asked for permission to make the sign larger than the regulated size (4' x 8') and to be allowed to locate it on the lot in downtown Pembroke for a temporary period of up to 1 year.

**MOTION:** On motion of Councillor Lafreniere,  
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,  
THAT permission be granted to the owner of Balloons of the Valley to locate a 4' x 8' sign on their property in downtown Pembroke and that staff be given the latitude to determine the exact length of time it will be allowed. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CAUCUS MEETING:

On motion of Councillor Lafreniere, seconded by Councillor Lowe, the Committee agreed to move to a Finance Meeting, in Caucus, following the regular Council Meeting to discuss litigation, potential litigation, the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, labour relations or the security of the property of the municipality. CARRIED.

The meeting then adjourned on motion of Councillor Lowe, seconded by Councillor White.