

The regular meeting of the Finance & Administration Committee was held this evening with Deputy Mayor Scott in the Chair and all members in attendance. Staff member present was Terry Lapierre, CAO.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Severin seconded by Councillor O'Neill THAT the minutes of the meeting of May 2, 2006 be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

### **2006 MUNICIPAL ELECTION – VOTE BY MAIL**

Mr. Lapierre presented a report to the Committee on voting by mail for the fall municipal election.

Mr. Lapierre explained that the voting by mail would eliminate the need for numerous polling stations, advance polls and proxy voting. It is designed to be as simple as mailing a letter. Voter kits are to be mailed out no later than October 20 and ballots can then be returned anytime after that date.

Mr. Lapierre added that when vote by mail is done typically all polling stations are discontinued. If Council would like to be able to analyze the polls, the City's election team has suggested having 3 polling stations, one in each area of the municipality – east, west and central. If Council should decide to go with the vote by mail, the City would see a projected savings of 26 to 33% from the last election in 2003.

Mr. Lapierre asked for direction from the Committee since an immediate decision will be required as MPAC is waiting for direction.

Councillor Henderson said he strongly opposes the idea of vote by mail. He felt that candidates could easily persuade voters to sign their papers when campaigning, no chance for "sober second thoughts" and if the voters should send in their papers early they would lose the ability to change their mind.

Councillor White commented that stats show that the vote by mail helped to increase voter turn out by 10%. This is a good sign to show that voters did take advantage of the new voting system in other municipalities.

Councillor Levasseur said the same debate was held last election and it is time for the City to move on with new technology.

Mayor Jacyno asked Mr. Lapierre if other municipalities had chosen to vote by mail. Mr. Lapierre said that the Town of Petawawa, Town of Arnprior and Laurentian Valley have decided to vote by mail but the Town of Renfrew had chosen not to.

Councillor Henderson expressed his concerns with the postal system and that voting kits would not be returned on time for the votes to count.

Councillor O'Neill felt that voting is a privilege and it's everyone's responsibility to get out and vote on Election Day.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Levasseur, seconded by Councillor White THAT the City of Pembroke accept the recommendation of the City's election team and Implement Vote by Mail for the municipality's 2006 election. The City will be divided into four areas for analysis purposes only - 2 east, 1 west and 1 centrally.

RECORDED VOTE: Yeas: Mayor Jacyno, Councillor White, Levasseur, Lafreniere, Severin, Lowe and Deputy Mayor Scott.

Neas: Councillor Henderson and O'Neill

MOTION CARRIED

### **PEMBROKE & AREA FIDDLING AND STEP DANCING**

Councillor Levasseur declared a conflict of interest on this subject.

Councillor Levasseur vacated his chair at this time.

Deputy Mayor Scott said a letter had been received from the Fiddling and Step Dancing Association asking what their 2006 fee will be for Riverside Park and the PMC.

Staff recommended a \$500.00 increase to cover the 3% increase for staff wages and increased student minimum wages

MOTION: Moved by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor O'Neill THAT the Fiddling and Step Dancing Association be charged \$13,750.00 for the use of Riverside Park and PMC. CARRIED

Councillor Levasseur returned to his seat.

The meeting adjourned on motion of Councillor Lafreniere and seconded by Councillor Lowe.