

Council Chambers
Pembroke, Ontario

September 19, 2006

A meeting of the Operations Committee was held this evening with Councillor White presiding and all members of the Committee in attendance. Staff members present were T. Lapierre, Chief Administrative Officer, and D. Sitland, Manager of Operations.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

Councillor Levasseur declared a pecuniary interest regarding the Facilities item - Damage done to Fiddle Park, as he is a members of the Fiddling and Step Dancing Association.

PRESENTATIONS:

Algonquin College Dean, Karen Davis, and Jamie Bramburger came forward to present the results of their Economic Impact Study undertaken in 2005.

Mr. Bramburger pointed out that the economic benefit to this community is immense. He noted that funding for the study had been received from the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation. An American firm, CC Benefits, had been hired to do the study, he said, noting they have done over 500 similar studies for other colleges in Canada and the United States.

In 2005, when the study was done, Algonquin College had some 1,797 full-time, part-time and continuing education students. As a result, students are contributing over 1.5 million dollars annually into the economy. Some 84% of full-time students end up remaining in the Pembroke area helping to improve the economy even more in their years following graduation. Statistics show that people with a higher education put less strain on social programs. They get jobs or become entrepreneurs and spend money on purchasing homes, vehicles, etc. The Provincial Government contributes money annually to the school's budget and the study concluded that the Government gets a good rate of return for their financial contribution to the College.

In conclusion Mr. Bramburger stated this report shows that the community is benefiting tremendously from the presence of the College and he urged Council Members to use the

information to the City's advantage when trying to attract new businesses and ventures to the area.

Responding to Deputy-Mayor Scott's question, Mr. Bramburger stated that the Economic Impact Study was undertaken so that the school can move forward from here. Several things are being considered, he noted, from reviewing present courses offered to determine their compatibility with industries and businesses in the area, to the expansion of the school, perhaps even to an entirely new site.

Mayor Jacyno advised Mr. Bramburger that following their last meeting, he had put a small task force together with the idea that perhaps they could be of assistance to Algonquin College in their future endeavours.

Councillor Levasseur noted his belief that Pembroke is the centre of education in Renfrew County and the College is, indeed, the anchor.

Councillor Lafreniere thanked the College for their assistance over the years with the many community programs they have been involved in, from help building the walkway, to communities-in-bloom, to assistance from their arborists and the collegial work done at the hospital.

Councillor Lowe agreed, noting that Council was well aware of the assistance the College had given On Line Support Inc. when they were establishing themselves in the community. On-Line Support was very thankful for the assistance.

MINUTES:

On motion of Councillor , seconded by Lowe, the minutes of the meeting of June 20, 2006 were approved, as presented. CARRIED.

1. GENERAL

(a) Monthly Report

Responding to Deputy-Mayor Scott's question regarding staff and dollar cost for works undertaken due to flooding, Mr. Sitland, noting he is not an expert on climate change, did tend to agree that the climate is changing. It appears that there is

more and more severe weather events each year and it does seem that it will only get worse. He stated, that at this time, the Department is not tracking climate change costs, but rather charging it to individual projects.

2. ENGINEERING

(a) Mary Street Bridge Rehabilitation COMRIF Application

Mr. Sitland advised that supporting materials for the City's 3rd application to COMRIF (Canada/Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund) for funding of the necessary repairs to Mary Street bridge had been forwarded to the Ministry last week. He reminded Council that should the application be approved in this round of projects, funding is on a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 basis. As the project value will be approximately 2.4 million dollars, each level of government will be responsible for around \$800,000.

(b) Nelson Street/Elizabeth Street Storm Sewer

Councillor White advised that she had asked the C.A.O. to arrange a meeting between the City and County as the housing on the north side of Nelson Street belongs to the County of Renfrew. It was this Committee's opinion that as the housing was built below the grade level of the road the County shares some of the responsibility in fixing the problem.

The C.A.O. advised that he had had an opportunity to speak with the Director of Community Services at the County who had stated that he would review the matter in preparation for a joint meeting.

3. FACILITIES

(a) Fiddle Park - Damages Report

At this point Councillor Levasseur declared a pecuniary interest in the matter and left his chair.

Mr. Sitland advised that, unfortunately, the day the trailers were leaving the park there was a significant amount of rainfall and some damage was done to the soccer fields. There has always been an agreement in place with the Fiddling

Association, he said, that, should there be damage, they will cover the costs of repairing them to their original state. In that regard the City has been in touch with the group who have been involved in all decisions regarding their repair.

4. ROADS & FLEET

(a) Purchase of Hoist

Mr. Sitland advised that the current hoist is only a two-post hoist. A four-post hoist is necessary to allow heavier items to be lifted. He noted that as there have been several problems with equipment this year, the capital budget for equipment is currently in a deficit. He felt confident, though, that funding for the hoist can be identified under the various departmental lines within the general budget this year.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Severin,
Seconded by Councillor Levasseur,
THAT the contract for the purchase of a four-post rotary hoist be awarded to RAE Automotive Equipment at a cost of \$23,500. plus G.S.T. CARRIED.

(b) Purchase of Backhoe #60

Mr. Sitland advised the 1990 Backhoe (Equipment Item #60) is old and has very serious problems with both the engine and its safety features. It is not economically wise, he said, to spend dollars on the repair of the backhoe. Again, as there is no money in the capital budget for its purchase this year, he suggested that a 'lease to purchase' agreement be arranged with Ontrac. Ontrac Equipment has agreed to apply lease payments to the value of the unit, quoted at \$106,616.50 and the balance of the funds will come from the 2007 budget.

MOTION: Moved by Deputy-Mayor Scott,
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,
THAT the Operations Manager's recommendation to purchase a new backhoe through a 'lease to purchase' arrangement with Ontrac Equipment Services Inc. at a unit cost of \$106,616.50 be approved and that additionally, the carry-forward budgeting into 2007 be approved. CARRIED.

5. UTILITIES

(a) Bio-Solids

Mr. Sitland advised that bio-solids are the end solid product produced by the Pollution Control Plant process. During the summer months this bio-solid can be applied to farmers' lands but during the winter months (about 240 days) it has to be kept in a storage facility. Presently the City has an agreement in place with the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre to allow storage of its bio-solids at their facility. The cost of storage ranges in the area of \$800. every two to three days.

The City has been looking at various other locations, he stated, and the municipality of Whitewater Region has suggested that they may be interested in allowing a storage location on lands owned by the municipality.

Mr. Sitland noted that many area municipalities are presently hauling their bio-solids to Ottawa and suggested that there some of them may be interested in forming a partnership to develop a bio-solids storage facility in Renfrew County.

Mr. Sitland advised that a conceptual design will have to be development as well as an environmental assessment undertaken. It is estimated that this will cost approximately \$16,000.

Councillor White advised that this funding could come out of reserves.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor O'Neill,
Seconded by Deputy-Mayor Scott,
THAT the Operations Manager be authorized to proceed with the development of a conceptual design for a bio-solids storage facility as well as the necessary Environmental Assessment study undertaken. CARRIED.

(b) Septage Receiving Facility

Mr. Sitland pointed out that septage is not really a problem for the City of Pembroke as it does not have very many septic tanks located within its boundaries. However, for the majority of municipalities in Renfrew County, it is a problem.

Three options are open to the City, he said. The first option is do nothing as it really is not a concern for the City or, two, proceed with the design and construction of a low volume septage receiving facility that could accommodate flows from the Whitewater Region, or, three, proceed with the design and construction of a 'Regional' septage receiving facility.

Option 3, Mr. Sitland said, would be an expensive option with significant work needed to build a high-volume septage facility. He pointed out, though, that if all municipalities in Renfrew County wanted to use the facility, there would be some opportunities for cost recovery.

Councillor Henderson questioned whether there were any private sector businesses in this field of operation? Mr. Sitland stated that there was one farmer in Renfrew County who had his own septage facility and there is one 'pilot' project going on that the Province is involved in. The Province has been endeavouring to have truckers carry lime packets to treat the septage on route, but the Truckers Association has not been receptive to this suggestion.

Deputy-Mayor Scott felt the City should be looking at both Options 2 and 3 and he felt there was an opportunity here to save dollars, not only for Pembroke, but for other willing municipal partners in Renfrew County.

Councillor White agreed that there is an opportunity here for partnerships between area communities, but she would not want to proceed with the development of a facility without having firm commitments in hand from each of the willing partners.

The C.A.O. advised that staff will continue to investigate the matter and keep their eye open for potential opportunities in this area. He stated that he would ask the County for a copy of their bio-solids study that was recently undertaken.

(c) Commercial Water Meters

Mr. Sitland advised that the majority of commercial water meters in the City of Pembroke are over 25 years old. Any water meter that the City reads will be replaced. He noted that there is a cost recovery aspect to this work as many of the present meters are not working properly.

Councillor Lafreniere questioned whether the water meters located at the entrances to the Township of Laurentian Valley will be replaced. The Operations Manager advised that, yes, if those meters are presently being read by the City, they will be replaced.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Severin,
Seconded by Councillor Levasseur,
THAT the Operations Manager be authorized to proceed with the purchase of 165 commercial water meters from Neptune Technology Group at a cost of \$130,000.
CARRIED.

The Operations Manager advised that there are 'reserve' dollars in place for this purchase.

(d) Pollution Control Centre Operations Manual

Mr. Sitland advised that an original costing from J. L. Richards & Associates Limited for the development of an Operations and Maintenance Manual for the Pollution Control Plant had been approved by the P. C. Liaison Committee at a cost of \$90,000. plus G.S.T.

Since that time the Utilities Department has stated that they are quite capable of compiling the Operations Manual on their own and Mr. Sitland expressed his confidence in Mr. Atkinson. He noted that J. L. Richards has expressed some concern with this approach but he felt confident that Mr. Atkinson can do the job.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Levasseur,
Seconded by Deputy-Mayor Scott,
THAT staff be directed to proceed with the in-house development of an Operations and Maintenance Manual for the Pollution Control Plant.
CARRIED.

6. WASTE MANAGEMENT

(a) Waste Management Collection Contract

Mr. Sitland advised that the current Waste Management Collection Contract will expire December 31, 2007. When the original contract was drawn up, J. L. Richards had been hired to complete the tender and contract documents for the City, the

Town of Petawawa and the Township of Laurentian Valley. He recommended that J. L. Richards be hired once again to review the contract and incorporate any changes that might need to be made. Petawawa and Laurentian Valley have already awarded the upcoming documentation preparation to J. L. Richards.

The present contractor, Tomlinson Environmental Services, has agreed to extend the present contract deadline to April 1, 2008 in order to allow the review process more time. They have agreed to the extension of the contract at the present contracted price.

The estimated cost for the review is \$8,400. plus G.S.T., but Mr. Sitland noted that the cost may come in lower because the other municipalities have also hired J. L. Richards.

MOTION: Moved by Councillor Levasseur,
Seconded by Councillor Lowe,
THAT the contract for the reviewing and updating of
the Waste Collection Contract be awarded to J. L.
Richards at a cost of \$8,400. plus G.S.T. CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned on motion of Councillor Severin, seconded by Councillor Henderson.