

January 11, 2005

A Finance & Administration Committee meeting 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 Lafreniere. Staff members present were Terry Lapierre, C.A.O. and R. Spadoni, Treasurer.

MINUTES:

On motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Lowe, the regular minutes of the Finance & Administration Committee meeting of December 14, 2004 were approved with the correction that the motion regarding late payment charges on outstanding taxes should read "That the penalty charge on taxes be adjusted to reflect the Bank of Montreal residential 10 year mortgage rate".

CARRIED.

4. BINGO HALL PROPOSAL

The Treasurer, in circulating a further letter of objection to the proposal, this one being from the operators of Bingo Country in Laurentian Valley, advised that this proposal had been submitted by Cyril Gosse for his property on Julien Street.

He advised that all the necessary steps have been taken by the applicant, including advertising and the receiving of public comments. He pointed out that at this point Council has five options on how it can proceed - those being:  
1) approve the application, 2) do not approve the application, 3) seek further information from Mr. Gosse if it is felt necessary, 4) call for a public meeting on the matter if it is felt more information is required, or - 5) ask that a market study be done. He noted that Mr. Gosse had already had a market study undertaken, a copy of which had been circulated to the members with their agenda packages.

Deputy-Mayor Scott noted his concern that the letter from the Township of Laurentian Valley does not indicate that their Council, via a resolution, objected to the proposal.

Councillor White pointed out that all the letters of objection received were from the direct competition. She indicated her support for the proposal.

Councillor Levasseur concurred, noting that Canada operates under a free enterprise system and anyone wishing to run a business should be able to. It is not our duty or

responsibility to eliminate the competition. He noted that already ten local charities have indicated their interest in being part of the Pembroke bingo hall and he felt that probably additional charities would come on board once the word gets out. He indicated his support for the proposal.

Councillor Levasseur pointed out that Council had previously supported Bingo Country's request to run a bus shuttle within City limits. He noted that Council may wish, under the circumstances, to withdraw their support. Councillor Severin pointed out that the City had passed a resolution approving Bingo Country's request but had added a clause that should a bingo hall open within the City's boundaries the City's approval would become null and void.

Mayor Jacyno expressed his concern with some of the statements in the Township's letter noting there was almost an underlying tone of menace there.

Councillor Levasseur noted he understood that some of the charities operating out of Bingo Country may suffer with another bingo hall being added to the community but noted, at the same time, that there are several charities being supported by Bingo Country that are located quite a piece away from Pembroke.

Responding to Councillor O'Neill's question, the Treasurer pointed out that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario has agreed that Mr. Gosse is a 'suitable' applicant, has covered all requirements necessary and, should Council approve, he can proceed to registering his proposal for a Type "A" bingo hall.

The Treasurer advised that a resolution of support would be prepared for the January 18<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

### 3. PROPOSED SET FINES - NEW ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW

The City's Animal Control Officer, Michael Street, was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Street advised that set fines now needed to be put in place following the recent Council approval of the revised Animal Control By-law 2004-66. He pointed out that some of the proposed fines show a substantial increase, noting that the largest increases were for areas where public safety is an issue such as nuisance animals and prohibited animals.

Responding to Deputy-Mayor Scott's concerns about the increases, Mr. Street emphasized that the set fines are an enforcement tool for him. The Municipal Act allows municipalities to charge fees based on exact costs and fines should reflect the amount of work he has to put into the enforcement which can be months of enforcement follow-up. The fine should be high enough that it will actually correct the problem and deter them from doing it again.

Councillor White questioned what the success rate is for collecting these fines? Mr. Street stated that the Provincial Offenses Court does have a problem collecting the fines. He pointed out that if he is able to obtain the offender's driver's license or date of birth then the charge can be registered with the Ministry of Transportation and the person will be forced to pay it the next time he goes to renew his license.

Councillor Levasseur pointed out that the by-law and set fines have not been updated since 1998 and agreed that the public safety concerns need as many tools as possible in place so that they can be addressed.

Responding to Councillor Levasseur's question, Mr. Street advised that under a Part 1 charge, the set fine the City has suggested is what the offender will pay if convicted. If the offense is repeated, Mr. Street noted, then a charge could be laid under Part 3 of The Provincial Offenses Act and the Judge could lay a charge of up to \$5,000.

Councillor Henderson questioned whether initial warnings were given to offenders and Mr. Street stated that they were, noting that each case is handled on an individual basis. He communicates with each person on a one-to-one basis to be sure that the issues of concern are addressed and understood by the offender. If problems persist then a charge is laid.

Mr. Street confirmed Councillor Lowe's comment that if there are several animals in the dwelling, a charge would be laid for each animal.

Mayor Jacyno noted his concern that snakes need live food and wondered where and how food is obtained for these animals when they are restricted in the City.

**MOTION:** Moved by Councillor O'Neill,  
Seconded by Councillor Levasseur,  
THAT the fines suggested by Mr. Street for the City's  
Animal Control By-law 2004-66 be approved, as  
presented. CARRIED.

The Chief Administrative Officer advised the proposed set fines will now be forwarded to The Ministry of Attorney General for review and approval. He pointed out that the Judge can adjust the proposed fine if it is felt that it is too high.

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT

(a) December Monthly Report

Councillor Levasseur pointed out the low estimated dollar loss for the month of December. He voiced his opinion that perhaps Pembroke is now bearing the fruit of the Department's defensive and pro-active work in the community.

Deputy-Mayor Scott noted that it was indicated in the report that the aerial truck had been to Almonte three times in the month of December for work. He questioned whether there is an on-going problem with the aerial that will take further dollars to fix in 2005. The Chief Administrative Officer stated that he believed the problems had been fixed and there should not be any more problems with it.

(b) Purchase of Portable Radios

The Chief Administrative Officer advised that \$25,000. of the cost for the radios and repeaters will be added to the Fire Department's 2005 Capital Budget.

**MOTION:** Moved by Councillor O'Neill,  
Seconded by Councillor White,  
THAT approval be given to purchase the radios and  
repeaters for the Fire Department for a total cost of  
\$40,000. plus G.S.T. CARRIED.

2. 2005 MEETING SCHEDULE

Responding to Councillor Levasseur's comments that he

did not want to see the 4 p.m. meetings become lengthy and that lengthy meetings are not productive, the Mayor pointed out that the schedule should be able to be adhered to if additions to agendas were eliminated or reduced to only immediate, important issues.

The Chief Administrative Officer noted that the only drawback to this schedule was that the Planning, Economic Development & Recreation Committees would not appear on Cogeco. Upon Committee direction, the C.A.O. was directed to contact Cogeco to see if it would be possible for them to attend the 4 p.m. sessions. It was also agreed that those Committees could be worked into the other evening meetings when it is determined that the regular agendas will be shorter than normal.

It was agreed that the proposed schedule of meetings for 2005 would be implemented as suggested.

**CAUCUS MEETING:**

On motion of Councillor Lowe, seconded by Councillor Severin, the meeting moved to an in-camera session to discuss certain matters pertaining to potential litigation, 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 O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Lowe.