

MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING
January 14, 2014

PRESENT: Mayor Kevin Holland
Councillor Grant Arnold
Councillor Robert MacMaster
Councillor Robert Rydholm

ALSO PRESENT: Monique Duval-Lavallee, Laurie Lavallee, Sarah VanReenen, Caroline Dryhorub, Randy Boomhower, Madelyn Boomhower, Residents, Ken Malinoski, Road Superintendent, Laura Bruni, Treasurer/Deputy-Clerk

ABSENT: Councillor Mary-Lynne Hunt

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Holland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. **EXPLANATION OF PURPOSE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Mayor Holland advised those in attendance that the purpose of the Public Meeting was to discuss proposed changes to the Fees and Charges By-law. Mayor Holland requested the Clerk to outline the changes.

The Clerk advised that the proposed changes are to ensure cost recovery for various activities that take place in the Township. A review of the Fees and Charges By-law took place, identifying individual changes and the reasons for the change, as well as identifying areas that were not changed.

Changes included fees for severance applications, zoning amendment applications, official plan applications, and minor variance applications. Other changes included some hall rental fees, tablecloth and chair rentals and use of audio visual equipment. It was noted that some categories for hall rental fees needed to include a minimum number of hours to capture the expenses of the Facilities Manager.

Cemetery fees had the most changes with the Clerk explaining the need for increases to lot fees, as well as new fees for proposed cremation lots and a scattering garden. The Township is required by legislation to fund a Care and Maintenance account to ensure future maintenance in the cemetery. Only interest earned on this fund may be withdrawn. Due to the Township's historically low cost for lots, as well as a low number of lot sales, there is currently very little money that is available for any maintenance activity.

There were no changes to office fees, building permits, road department, landfill or emergency services fees.

Mayor Holland then invited those present to speak on these issues. Carolyn Dryhorub noted that since the Township's logo is "Healthy Living Naturally", she would like to see a better rate for physical activities that take place in the hall. Mayor Holland noted that the fees are designed to recover actual costs and that if the costs could be reduced the fees could be reduced. For example, if a member of the Recreation Committee was willing to open, close and monitor the event on a volunteer basis a lower charge could be implemented. Mayor Holland noted that if any set-up of tables and chairs is required, it must be done by our Facilities Manager due to liability and WSIB issues. Council will also not give out a key to renters because of liability issues.

Sarah VanReenen noted that her home-school group has used the hall for a gathering in the past and wondered if this could continue at the current rate. Mayor Holland noted that since the group comes during open office hours, and requires no set-up, the current fee could apply.

Caroline Dryhorub questioned whether Council had considered a two-tier system where residents could have a lower rental rate. Mayor Holland noted that this had been the case in the past but was abused by residents who would rent the hall on behalf of non-residents. The Clerk advised that this system was still in place for funeral luncheons only, where the deceased is or was a resident of the Township and therefore the hall can be used for no charge. Non-residents are charged a fee.

Mayor Holland thanked those in attendance for their interest and comments.

2. **ADJOURNMENT**

Resolution No. 2014-01

Moved by Councillor MacMaster
Seconded by Councillor Rydholm

THAT we do now adjourn this meeting at 6:27 pm.
CARRIED.

Mayor

Clerk