

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

June 21, 2019

A special, public meeting of Council was called for Friday June 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Township of Armour and the Village of Burks Falls. The purpose of the meeting was to follow up after the spring flooding event – mitigation and preparation for the future.

Members of Council were notified of the special meeting at the regular meeting of Council on June 18, 2019. Notice of the meeting was posted on the website calendar.

Ryerson Council members present: Deputy Mayor Barbara Marlow and Councillors Penny Brandt, Celia Finley and Delynne Patterson.
Regrets: George Sterling.

Reeve Bob MacPhail from Township of Armour and Mayor Cathy Still from the Village of Burks Falls were also present.

Staff in attendance: Nancy Field, Judy Kosowan, Fire Chief Dave McNay and Deputy Chief/FPO Joe Readman.

Members of municipal councils and staff from Burks Falls and Armour and members of the public from all three municipalities were in attendance.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (none declared)

DISCUSSION

Amy Tilley, Community Emergency Management Coordinator from Armour Township introduced the speakers and provided information received from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Water Management Department. The Code Red notification system was also outlined.

Reeve Bob MacPhail from Armour Township outlined that the purpose of the meeting was to review what went well and what improvements are needed and what can be done on an annual basis to mitigate flood damage. Reeve MacPhail indicated that he and Mayor Sterling and Mayor Still have had several meetings with the Minister and staff from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Norm Miller M.P.P. Parry Sound Muskoka. The province is looking at what can be done, as spring flooding is a province wide issue. Suggestions discussed included regulations on the placement of fill and the ability to obtain building permits and possibilities for provincial funding for more permanent solutions to mitigate flood damage.

Mayor Cathy Still from the Village of Burks Falls stated that we need to work with the province to find realistic solutions to the problem of annual flooding. The Code Red program will be implemented soon in the Village. Funding and/or loans are available from the Province for residences and business for disaster recovery. Minister Clark from Ministry of Municipal Affairs seemed interested in our area and wants to work together with the municipalities.

Deputy Mayor Marlow noted that approximately forty properties were affected by flooding from the Magnetawan River and that the Township is working on collection of flood related waste with the property owners affected. It was suggested that property owners secure their outdoor belongings in the fall and move anything out of basements that are susceptible to flooding. The Code Red notification system will also be available for Ryerson Township in the near future.

John Stothers, Field Officer from Emergency Management Field Operations, Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management attended to provide information on personal emergency plans and establishing a risk base plan for flooding.

Fire Chief Dave McNay and Deputy Chief/Fire Prevention Officer Joe Readman were incident command for the flooding event. They noted hazards they encountered included propane and oil tanks floating in the water and the danger of live hydro wires in the area. It is important for residents to shut down electrical panels. The public was urged to contact their propane suppliers to have tanks secured and to make sure that electricity to outbuildings is shut off as part of emergency planning.

Crystal Barnes from North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority provided information on precautions to take with septic systems during flooding events. It is important to limit use or to stop using the septic systems in order to avoid it backing up into the house and to plug floor drains. For future planning: septic beds can be raised and tanks can be anchored. Once the ground dries up the system should be checked over to ensure it is working properly and the tank can be pumped.

Be aware that wells can be contaminated and it is important to have water tested with the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.

Karrie Lepoudre, Disaster Management Coordinator from the North Bay/Parry Sound Canadian Red Cross provided information on lessons learned from flooding in Mattawa and Nipissing First Nation. Ms. Lepoudre noted that construction of a berm has been used in other areas, as a more permanent solution.

Questions were raised and comments were made from several people in attendance. The issues raised were concerning the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and how and why the Magnetawan River Watershed is managed. The public and members of Council would like answers as to what is the Ministry's and the Province's approach to managing the dams and the flow of water.

It was suggested that a working group be formed to meet with the Ministry and our M.P.P. Norm Miller. All municipalities along the Magnetawan River Watershed should be invited to be part of this group to review the issues of flooding and find realistic, pro-active solutions to mitigate damage from future flooding.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK