

Roads Committee Meeting

Minutes

February 18, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Attendees: Nancy Carrol, Glenn Hagerman, Bob Clarke, Councillor Roy Reeds, Gord Schad

Absent: Joan Donaldson

Meeting Chaired by Councillor Roy Reeds

1. Motion to adopt minutes of January 14th meeting; Motion; Glenn Hagerman, Seconded; Robert Clarke carried.

2. **No conflict of interest declared.**

3. **Roads updates:**

- De-icing Roads
- Sanding and Plowing Operation as required

Equipment Updates:

- Back Hoe (sensor issues)
- Grader Issues continue, Township staff have been introduced to a new technician from the states
- Two Plow trucks were down at time of meeting but were expected to be back on the road by end of day.

4. **Old Business**

- Minimum Maintenance Bylaw draft with level of service information included for review and comment at March Council Meeting
- Mawson Pit – Waiting for feedback from owners
- Budget Review – draft budget to be shared with Treasurer

5. **New Business**

- Asset Management Plan – the committee would like to see the asset management plan be drafted into a more useful tool for staff.
- Roads Grant is tabled to an undefined later date. With information needing to be provided with regards to Municipal Act and Road Maintenance.
- Local Improvement Charges – discussed that this may be a viable arrangement for the management of Roads that continue to be brought to council attention. It would have the upgrades required to provide services to the roads borne by those that would be directly benefited.

See attached document from Councillor Reeds.

- LAS purchasing group has expanded the companies that are included. The committee recommends that this be investigated and review our procurement bylaw to see what amendments may need to be made.

Next meeting March 10 @ 9:00am

ONTARIO REG 586/06

Over the past year and recently, many property owners have been asking, and in some cases demanding this council provide services to roads that “at their time of development” had never foreseen the use of the roads and adjoining properties as they are being used today. I am talking about seasonally maintained roads.

Councils, and committees have an obligation to the community as a whole, not just particular sectors. However along with that statement, all property owners need to have their issues heard. All owners of land want their councils to keep property taxes low as possible yet still provide a high level of service. However, some land owners are asking their council to provide new services to their roads, such as winter maintenance.

If a new subdivision was being developed today, development charges would be applied to each proposed new lot and all road work such as surface, ditching, drainage, sightlines would have to be designed by engineers and have Municipal approval before the municipality brings that road into their system.

With that in mind Ontario Reg 586/06 is titled “Local Improvement Charges”, this may be a direction council may want to consider when property owners demand services such as winter maintenance. This regulation allows municipalities or property owners to petition to have local improvements to specific roads completed and ALL COSTS including items such as, administration costs, engineer fees, long term interest on loans, etc. associated with the project to be borne by the abutting land owners only.

By using this Ontario Regulation as a tool, roads can be brought up to an engineer’s standard and the municipality can then provide the services that those rate payers have been asking for, without burdening the costs to the rest of the township and rate payers who will likely never use those particular roads.

There may be a legal interpretation of the Regulation 586/06 required, however with my limited knowledge and how I have read the act, this may be a way to direct the municipality to help the land owners get the services they are seeking without burdening the overall township budget.

I’m looking for comments from this committee—as too whether this option has merit, and if so can this group endorse and move this onto Council for their consideration.

Roy Reeds, Roads Committee Chair