

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.



Board Meeting via Zoom Video Conference

Board Members Present:

Rick Zanussi
Joseph Vella
Peter McIsaac
Jamie McGarvey
Teresa Hunt
Lyle Hall

Gail Finnson
Steve Crookshank
Roger Burden
Teri Brandt
Jerry Brandt

Board Members Absent:

Ted Knight
Joel Constable

Ted Collins
Linda Alkins

Staff:

Tammy MacKenzie, CAO
Shannon Johnson, CFO
Jennifer Harris, Administrative Officer

Guests:

Teresa Young
Karen Walker
Bonnie Ramsay
Charlene Payerl

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Rick Zanussi at 6:30 PM.

2. TRADITIONAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

4.1 September 8, 2022

Resolution 22 10 01

CARRIED

Moved by Joseph Vella

Seconded by Teresa Hunt

“THAT the Board meeting minutes of Thursday, September 8, 2022 be approved as presented.

5. DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. Crookshank joined the meeting at 6:35 PM.

5.1 Bonnie Ramsay re: 66 Waubeek Street

Ms. Ramsay spoke to the Board in opposition to the Official Plan Amendment of 66 Waubeek Street. Her full deputation is attached to these minutes.

Ms. Ramsay is willing to set up a housing working group to work in consultation with the DSSAB.

6. REPORTS:

6.1 Chair

Thanked all the staff involved in submitting the information needed for the DSSAB's monthly CAO reports. The report shows how busy our staff are and that we've had a great month of hiring. We lead Northern Ontario in the delivery of child care and our staff do an excellent job, despite the child care worker shortage.

Mr. Zanussi encouraged all members to attend our November Board meeting as it will be our last before municipal elections.

6.2 Chief Administrative Officer

Quarterly report was presented and reviewed by Ms. MacKenzie.

6.3 Chief Financial Officer

Financial statement was presented and reviewed by Ms. Johnson.

7. OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

8.1 Social Assistance Restructuring (SAR) Fund: 2023 Planning

A written report was provided and reviewed by Ms. MacKenzie.

The Board was reminded that the DSSAB is not obligated to fund food banks. Discussion ensued around the funding for both the Burk's Falls and the Sundridge food banks. Staff will connect with both food banks to determine if funding is needed. The Board agreed to increase the amount of Food Security Program funding to accommodate Burk's Falls and Sundridge food banks should funding be needed. However, if they don't need the funding, the funds will be held and not redistributed amongst the other food banks.

Resolution 22 10 02

CARRIED

Moved by Roger Burden

Seconded by Teri Brandt

"THAT the Board approves the Social Assistance Restructuring Fund: 2023 Planning as per the amended report."

Mr. McGarvey left the meeting at 7:17 PM.

8.2 LHC Insurance Renewal

A written report was provided and reviewed by Ms. Johnson.

Resolution 22 10 03

CARRIED

Moved by Lyle Hall

Seconded by Gail Finnsion

"THAT the Board approves the DSSAB housing insurance renewal for \$87,769.28 plus applicable taxes with HSC Insurance Inc. (SoHo Insurance)."

9. IN-CAMERA.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned to the next regular meeting to be held Thursday, November 10, 2022 via Zoom Video Conference.

Resolution 22 10 04

CARRIED

Moved by Jerry Brandt

Seconded by Peter McIsaac

“THAT the Board meeting now be adjourned to the next regular meeting to be held Thursday, November 10, 2022 at the hour of 6:30 PM via Zoom Video Conference.”

Ms. Ramsay's Deputation as provided by her on October 17, 2022:

THANK YOU MR. ZANUSSI AND DSAAB BOARD MEMBERS FOR ALLOWING ME TO COME TO SPEAK TO YOU THIS EVENING.

ON SEPTEMBER 20TH I ATTENDED A PUBLIC MEETING BEING CALLED BY THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND TO DISCUSS THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY YOUR BOARD FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE TOWN'S OFFICIAL PLAN. THIS AMENDMENT RELATED TO PROPERTY AT 66 WAUBEEK STREET, PARRY SOUND, ONTARIO.

I AM A HOME OWNER AT 10 BAYCREST DRIVE PARRY SOUND. WHEN I RECEIVED THIS NOTICE IN THE MAIL I IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED THE TOWN PLANNER MR. JEREMY RAND FOR SOME CONFIRMATION ON SOME ITEMS. TO THIS DATE MR. RAND AN EMPLOYEE OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND HAS NOT RESPONDED.

PERHAPS HE LIKE MANY INCLUDING I BELIEVE COUNCILLORS OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND THEY DID NOT HAVE THE INFORMATION TO PROVIDE THE ANSWERS. I CAN APPRECIATE THAT THIS ALSO LEAVES OUR TOWN LEADERS IN A PRECARIOUS SITUATION,

SO I AM HERE TO HOPEFULLY GET SOME ANSWERS FROM THE BOARD. WHEN IN DOUBT MY PARENTS ALWAYS SAID GO TO THE SOURCE. YOUR THE SOURCE.

I AM ONE OF MANY OF THE RESIDENTS SURROUNDING THE PROPERTY AT 66 WAUBEEK STREET WHO HAVE CONCERNS. HOW DO YOU EXPECT THE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO SUPPORT YOUR APPLICATION TO REZONE IF YOU DO NOT SHARE WHAT YOUR PLAN IS FOR THIS PROPERTY.

IN NOVEMBER 2021 IT WAS TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING UP TO 180 UNITS. THAT WOULD DESTROY EVERY TREE AND TURN THE PROPERTY INTO A CONCRETE JUNGLE.

WE ALSO WERE PROVIDED WITH OUTDATED TRAFFIC STUDIES, ONE BEING DONE IN THE MIDST OF A PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN DUE TO COVID. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT ORGANIZATION PROVIDED YOU WITH THE TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES?

I SUSPECT BUT AM ONLY SURMISING THAT PERHAPS THE TOWN LEADERSHIP FROWNED ON THIS DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT WOULD DESTROY A BEAUTIFUL PARK THAT MANY OF THE CHILDREN OF THE DAY CARE USE. THE TOWN WOULD GAIN NOTHING IN PROPERTY TAXES AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS EXEMPT FROM PAYING PROPERTY TAXES AND THE TOWN WOULD ALSO NOT PROVIDE ANY GARBAGE PICK UP SERVICES.

THE TOWN COUNCIL MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER THAT THEY WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANY NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY WERE NOT RECEIVING ANY TAX DOLLARS. YOUR ORGANIZATION ALSO MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT YOU ALSO WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE ANY DOLLARS TO THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND FOR THESE LOST TAX REVENUES.

WHAT DID HAPPEN TO THOSE TAX DOLLARS THAT YOU RECEIVED FROM MUNICIPALITIES AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT? DID YOU RETURN THEM BACK TO THE MUNICIPALITIES AND GOVERNMENT?

OTHER HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE APPROACHED YOUR OFFICE TO SUPPORT HOUSING INITIATIVES AND THEY HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THIS BOARD. THESE HOUSING INITIATIVES WOULD HAVE PROVIDED HOUSING WITH 40 PLUS APARTMENTS AND THE LOCATION WAS PERFECT, PERHAPS I SUSPECT THOSE REQUESTS NEVER EVEN GOT TO THE BOARD. WHO REALLY DOES RUN THE DSSAB?

SO LETS MOVE TO THE NEXT SURMISE. THIS IS NICE PIECE OF PROPERTY THAT THE DSSAB COULD SELL TO A DEVELOPER AND ONCE IT IS ZONED HIGH DENSITY OF COURSE THAT MAKES IT EVEN MORE VALUABLE.

MAY I REMIND YOU OF SOMETHING. I OWN THAT PROPERTY NOT THE DSSAB. YOU ARE SUPPORTED BY A 6+ MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES. THEY ARE FUNDED BY THE LOCAL TAX PAYERS. OUR DOLLARS BOUGHT THE PROPERTY AND YOU ARE IN TRUST HOLDERS, SHOULD YOU BE APPROVED FOR THIS REZONING I WOULD HOPE YOU WOULD BE REPAYING THE TAX PAYERS WITH THE DOLLARS YOU SELL IT FOR AND NOT TRYING TO COVER OTHER HOUSING INITIATIVES THAT HAVE GONE OVER BUDGET.

MAY I ALSO REMIND THE STAFF AND BOARD THAT WE THE TAX PAYERS ALSO PAY THE SALARIES OF THE DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES. SHOULD WE AGAIN NOT EXPECT TO BE HEARD?

FIVE YEARS AGO THE PARRY SOUND AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ACQUIRED THE WILLIAM BEATTY SCHOOL. THEY HELD AN OPEN PUBLIC MEETING AND MET THE PUBLIC HEAD ON. THEY DID NOT HIDE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND TRUST ALL WOULD WORK OUT, NO THEY MET THE PUBLIC AND ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS HEAD ON. YOU CAN SEE THE RESULTS OF THIS HOUSING INITIATIVE BY DRIVING DOWN GIBSON STREET.

DO YOU KNOW THAT THIS INITIATIVE HAS ALSO PRODUCED ANOTHER MIRROR IMAGE OF THE SAME TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.

GOOD THINGS CAN HAPPEN WITH HONEST AND OPEN DIALOGUE.

MY NEIGHBOURS AND I HAVE ENJOYED THE WILDLIFE AND NATURE OF THIS GREEN SPACE. AS NOTED TO THE TOWN WE OF COURSE WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY IT FOR MANY YEARS TO COME. SOME OF MY NEIGHBOURS HAVE ALREADY ADVISED THE TOWN THAT SHOULD THIS RE-ZONING TAKE PLACE THEY WILL BE MOVING OUT OF THE AREA.

IS THIS WHAT YOUR ORGANIZATION WANTS? TO ALIENATE MORE PEOPLE.

LETS HAVE SOME OPEN AND HONEST CONVERSATIONS. I SENSE THAT SINCE NOT ONE OF THE BOARD ATTENDED THIS PUBLIC MEETING, YOU EITHER WANT TO KEEP YOUR HEADS IN THE SAND AND JUST HOPE THIS WILL WORK OUT. IF THAT IS THE CASE EACH ONE OF YOU ON THIS BOARD SHOULD BE ASHAMED AND RESIGN.

YOUR ORGANIZATION HAS CAUSED MANY PEOPLE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOODS OF WAUBEEK, WOOD, BAYCREST, GEORGINA, VICTORIA AND PROSPECT STREET A LOT OF FRUSTRATION FOR OVER A YEAR. IT IS TIME FOR IT TO COME TO AN END.

I AS WELL AS MANY ALONG PROSPECT WERE HIGHLY INSULTED AT RECEIVING A REGISTERED LETTER SIGNED BY MR. RICK ZANUSSI, BOARD CHAIR STATING THAT YOU ARE MOVING FORWARD TO HAVE THE LANDS DEVELOPMENT READY. MR. ZANUSSI DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING THAT YOU ARE NOT SHARING WITH THE REST OF YOUR BOARD, BECAUSE I HAVE ASKED THEM ABOUT THIS LETTER AND SOME DID

NOT EVEN KNOW THE LETTER HAD BEEN SENT. DO THESE ITEMS NOT COME TO YOUR BOARD FOR APPROVAL FIRST?

WE ARE PREPARED AS TAX PAYERS TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD WITH OUR OBJECTIONS THROUGH THE TOWN THROUGH LEGAL PROCESSES, HOWEVER I FOR ONE WAS HOPING THAT PERHAPS BY INFORMING THE BOARD OF WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING WITHIN THESE WALLS MAY OPEN YOUR EYES TO HOW PEOPLE ARE REALLY FEELING.

I AM ONLY ONE PERSON WHO IS SPEAKING AT YOUR MEETING TONIGHT, BUT BE ASSURED THAT I REPRESENT MANY OTHERS WHO WILL BE SPEAKING AT FUTURE MEETINGS. I SUSPECT YOU HAVE ALSO RECEIVED SOME WRITTEN DEPUTATIONS SURROUNDING THIS AGENDA ITEM.

PEOPLE HAVE TO KNOW WHAT REALLY IS GOING ON HERE AND YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT YOU ALSO ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE MUNICIPAL TAX PAYERS.

WE OF COURSE WOULD LOVE TO PROTECT THOSE LANDS. IN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION, WE ARE REMINDED BY OUR INDIGENOUS FRIENDS THAT THE LAND IS SACRED, THE EARTH, THE TREES AND NATURE IS SACRED AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED IF POSSIBLE.

I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOUR BOARD AND STAFF TO REACH OUT TO THE OTHER NON PROFIT HOUSING BOARDS IN PARRY SOUND WHO HAVE DONE IT RIGHT. HAVE A CONVERSATION AROUND LETS WORK TOGETHER AND PARTNER TO MOVE HOUSING FORWARD IN PARRY SOUND BUT ALSO IN THE OUTSIDE MUNICIPALITIES, NOT EVERYTHING HAS TO BE BUILT IN THE SMALL TOWN LIMITS OF PARRY SOUND. PLEASE KNOW THAT I PERSONALLY WOULD LOVE TO SIT ON A COMMITTEE TO PARTNER WITH THE HOUSING PROVIDERS TO HELP MOVE THIS FORWARD. THE PS DISTRICT SOCIAL SERVICES IS NOT AN ISLAND UNTO ITSELF, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS THE WAY THE TOWN LEADERS AND MY NEIGHBOURS PERCEIVE YOU TO BE.

EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR HOUSING, ATTAINABLE HOUSING. EMPLOYERS ARE LOOKING FOR HOUSING TO BE BUILT TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR EMPLOYEES. NEW NURSES, DOCTORS STUDYING AT THE WPSHC DO NOT HAVE A PLACE TO CALL HOME. LETS CONSIDER EVERYONE IN THE EQUATION AND LETS CONSIDER THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE RESOURCES SURROUNDING IT.

WE ARE NOT IN FAVOUR OF DESTROYING THIS BEAUTIFUL PARKLAND, HOWEVER WE ARE ALSO OPEN TO SOME HONEST DIALOGUE THAT WOULD SEE OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD REMAIN TRUE TO ITSELF. IS THERE A PARRY SOUND NEIGHBOURHOOD THAT HAS BEEN ENHANCED BY YOUR BUILDING INITIATIVES? WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PARTNER WITH YOU TO BUILD A UNIQUE NEIGHBOURHOOD IN A SUITABLE AREA.

ALL ACROSS CANADA WITH THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE NEED FOR HOUSING, THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE. THE BOARD MEMBERS HERE TONIGHT REPRESENT MANY MUNICIPALITIES, I WOULD PUT THE QUESTION TO EACH ONE OF YOU WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO BUILD ATTAINABLE HOUSING IN YOUR AREAS? WE DO NEED HOUSING AND WITH SOME OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THE MUNICIPAL LEADERS ENGAGING WITH ALL THE HOUSING NON-PROFIT AGENCIES IN THE AREA TO MOVE THIS FORWARD HAS TO BE THE NUMBER ONE ITEM IN YOUR PLAN. DO YOU HAVE A PLAN THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE WITH THE COMMUNITY?

IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK. I DID REQUEST TO INITIALLY SPEAK AT YOUR NOVEMBER 2021 BOARD MEETING AND WAS ADVISED THAT DEPUTATIONS WERE NOT ALLOWED. I AM GLAD THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY THIS TIME AROUND.

THIS IS NOW A TOWN LEADERSHIP DECISION. THEY HAVE IN THE PAST KEPT THIS PROPERTY AS A PARK AND COULD ALSO AGAIN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL RECREATIONAL PARK FOR ALL TO ENJOY. YOUR OWN BOARD ADVISED AGAINST BUILDING ON THIS PROPERTY, SO I PRAY THAT THE TOWN LEADERS CONSIDER ALL THE AREA NEIGHBOURS AND WILL WORK WITH ALL OF US HERE TONIGHT. WHAT I AM ASKING FOR IS A CONSULTATIVE APPROACH WHICH WE HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED TO DATE IN BUILDING ATTAINABLE HOUSING IN A SUITABLE LOCATION FOR ALL.

THANK YOU.