

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council of the  
Corporation of the Township of Pelee  
held at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall  
on March 19, 2015

**Present:**

Mayor: Richard Masse  
Deputy Mayor: Absent  
Councillors: Darlene Wiper  
Dayne Malloch  
Peter Letkeman

Staff: Wayne Miller – CAO/Clerk/Treasurer  
Katrina DiGiovanni-Deputy Clerk  
Kyle Davis-Environmental Services Manager  
Michelle Feltz-Deputy Treasurer

Public: Janice Hensel-Sr. Financial Advisor, Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Julia Zeeman, Aaron Barter & Scott Baker-Advanced Energy and Studio Y

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor presented the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council for March 19, 2015 for adoption

*Moved by:* *Darlene Wiper*

*Seconded by:* *Pete Letkeman*

Carried.

**2.) Minutes**

a.) The minutes for the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 11, 2015 were presented and adopted.

*Moved by:* *Dayne Malloch*

*Seconded by:* *Darlene Wiper*

Carried.

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### **3.) Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

### **4.) Petitions and Delegations**

#### **a.) Advanced Energy Centre and Studio Y**

Aaron Barter from the Advanced Energy Centre introduced himself and his colleagues, and stated that their intent was to talk about energy issues on the Island and residents' perspective on energy needs. He stated that Advanced Energy Centre focuses on bridging the gap between communities, the government and industry. Mr. Barter stated that their mission was to bring forward new opportunities for energy.

Julia Zeeman stated that Studio Y was a government funded program to develop skills in youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to facilitate community development through community owned energy. Ms. Zeeman stated their goal was to listen to the community to assess the level of interest in adopting clean energy sources and to encourage interest in the community.

Ms. Zeeman further stated that the two organizations were working together to determine opportunities and barriers. Mr. Barter further commented that they had spoken to Island residents and wanted to engage with more residents and business owners. He also stated that what was extracted from conversations and interviews would be relayed to the government and Hydro One.

Mayor Masse asked if a report was to be written that the community could be supplied with a copy. Mr. Barter replied that a report can be provided and that they intended to come back to the Island to present their findings.

Councillor Letkeman asked what interest these two organizations had in providing alternative energy sources. Mr. Barter replied that it was a public-private partnership and there was no profit for them from any green energy initiatives.

Kyle Davis, Environmental Services Manager, asked about remote areas using their waste creation for power generation. Ms. Zeeman said if it was an economical resource to use it could be further examined but that she currently did not know about the feasibility or demand. Mr. Davis also asked if there was information available about alternative energy sources to gain knowledge about what other communities are using. Mr. Barter responded that they can look into sharing the information they had to create a knowledge base.

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A member of the community asked why Pelee was chosen. Mr. Barter responded that Pelee was chosen because of the Islands unique geography and electrical set up, as well as the 2014 cable failures.

Mayor Masse thanked Mr. Barter, Ms. Zeeman and Mr. Baker for their interest and coming into the community. Mr. Barter thanked the community for assisting in their research. Mr. Baker stated that any stories, examples or community experiences that could be shared after they left would also be appreciated.

### **5.) Old Business**

None.

### **6.) New Business**

#### **a.) Applications for the Environmental Advisory Committee**

The CAO stated that two appointments were needed for the Committee by the end of March. There were two applications submitted.

The following resolution was passed:

Resolution 2015-33:

*Moved by:*

*Dayne Malloch*

*Seconded by:*

*Darlene Wiper*

“Be it Resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Pelee hereby supports the resident applications for the Environmental Advisory Committee and further that John Ambrose and Marlene Peirce be appointed to the Committee”.

Carried.

### **7.) Correspondence**

#### **a.) Pheasants Forever; Pheasant Hunt Donation Request**

Mayor Masse presented a pheasant hunt license donation request. Councillor Malloch stated that he was concerned that at every council meeting there seemed to be a request for a donation,

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Councillor Malloch suggested that two licences be donated instead of the four. He further suggested that in the future a limit be set on the amount of licenses to be donated and a deadline for requests be set.

The following resolution was passed:

Resolution 2015-34:

*Moved by:*

*Dayne Malloch*

*Seconded by:*

*Pete Letkeman*

“Be it Resolved that the Corporation of the Township of Pelee hereby supports the request from Pheasants Forever for one licence for Hunt 1 and one licence for Hunt 2 and further that a maximum number of yearly licenses be made and that a deadline be set to receive donation requests”.

Carried.

#### **b.) Letter from Municipal Affairs and Housing**

Mayor Masse addressed a letter that was sent from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), Ted McMeekin, regarding a transfer payment and introduced Janice Hensel, Senior Financial Advisor, from MMAH. Ms. Hensel stated that she was attending the meeting on behalf of the Minister to present a onetime transfer payment of \$1.4 million to pay off the existing water plant debt, which will help reduce annual operating costs. Ms. Hensel stated that by paying off this debt it would provide some financial flexibility and allow focus on other infrastructure needs.

Ms. Hensel stated that a condition of the transfer was that the money that would have gone towards the loan in 2015 had to be put in a reserve fund for future projects. Councillor Letkeman brought up an item in the agreement relating to consulting with the Ministry on future grant applications. Ms. Hensel responded that the previous plea for assistance was made in 2012 specifically relating to the sustainability of the Water Plant. She stated that MMAH had been working to bring together other Ministries through an inter-ministry committee that meets every three months. She noted that this committee was developed specifically for Pelee to ensure coordinated initiatives in regards to future grant applications and needs. She further clarified that consulting on grant applications referred to all Ministries having an interest in Pelee and that all Ministries would have the ability to view applications to facilitate discussion. Councillor Letkeman asked Ms. Hensel if she would be continuing to work with Pelee. She responded that she would continue making visits through 2016.

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Mayor Masse stated that the assistance from the inter-ministry committee with the Environmental Assessment of the Water Plant was very helpful in facing hurdles which could have stalled the project but were quickly remediated due to their involvement.

Further discussion ensued on involvement of different Ministries and past and future goals.

Councillor Letkeman asked about the control of the Ministry over decision making because it was important for the future that the Island could govern itself.

Councillor Malloch stated that the intention was to streamline and assist in the application process. Ms. Hensel commented that the intention was not to influence decisions and that MMAH is in the business of assisting municipalities with financial issues and their efforts were intended to remove barriers to success to become more sustainable and further that MMAH was not an enforcement agency. Ms. Hensel commented that the Township is encouraged to use her services and the Minister has dedicated her services to the Island. She also stated that Council and staff had made tremendous strides and made very difficult decisions but that they were necessary to be on a stable financial footing.

Ms. Hensel stated that the transfer payment would not solve all the problems but will put the Island on a level playing field for the future. She also commented on the Financial Recovery Plan that was created in 2013 and highlighted areas that had been accomplished. She commented that the next step would be to create a reserve fund policy and strategically plan for the future. Ms. Hensel acknowledged that there was still a lot of work to be done but that the Township's cooperation through the process was appreciated and the accomplishments made to date were recognized.

Ms. Hensel suggested that a future goal to work on sustainability was to find ways to diversify the assessment base and promote commercial development, and to support existing businesses in tourism and eco-tourism. Ms. Hensel also addressed the benefits of having a Community Improvement Plan through the Planning Act that focuses on development in areas not previously explored such as providing benefits to developers that don't cost the municipality anything up front.

Ms. Hensel further stated that this was an opportunity for the Island to move past a critical barrier and give some flexibility that has to be supplemented by other programs to continue moving forward.

The CAO commented that the Township had already been consulting with the MMAH on grant applications for the past two years.

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Ms. Hensel stated that it was now time to move forward to the second step of revitalization and to help the economy for Pelee's survival.

Mayor Masse thanked Ms. Hensel on behalf of Council and directed a message to the Minister, Deputy Minister and Regional Director on behalf of Council to let them know how appreciative the Township was for their assistance and that the Township is looking forward to working with them in the future.

### **8.) Disbursements**

The Mayor presented disbursements to Council.

The following resolution was passed:

Resolution 2015-35:

*Moved By:*

*Dayne Malloch*

*Seconded By:*

*Pete Letkeman*

“Resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Pelee hereby resolves to pay disbursements as presented and attached in the amount of \$25,745.93.

Carried.

### **9.) Boards and Committees**

There were no presentations from any boards or committees.

### **10.) Councillor and Miscellaneous Reports**

#### **a.) Ministry of Natural Resources EBR Posting**

Mayor Masse addressed a 30 day Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) posting on the Environmental Registry that addressed strategies on five endangered species on the Island, with a proposal to increase habitat size. Mayor Masse stated that there was already 20% of the Island dedicated to habitat space and that MNR should focus their attention on already designated areas. He further stated that there were studies done in the 1990's and that was the information currently being used to develop strategies. Mayor Masse suggested it was time for MNR to come back and see if their strategies have worked before moving forward. Mayor Masse went on to state that a message should be relayed to the Minister that the current 2015 situation should be looked at and data from 1990 should be updated. Mayor Masse stated that it was critically important to respond

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to this EBR and voice Council and community concerns, as well as have MNR come back into the community before the strategies are put into practice.

Janice Hensel commented that the resources of the inter-ministry committee be used because there is a representative from the Ministry of Natural Resources on the committee.

Mayor Masse stated that the Townships concerns had to be documented first. Dayne Malloch stated concerns that designated habitats and surrounding areas could inhibit farming and future development.

Mayor Masse commented that there is a quickly approaching deadline to voice concerns and there should be more focus on the species instead of increasing habitat space. Janice Hensel suggested a conference call may be beneficial to discuss concerns. Mayor Masse responded that would be helpful but that there was not sufficient time to fully examine the situation and state concerns. Mayor Masse suggested that a discussion with MNR would have to take place before the end of March.

#### **11.) In Camera**

None.

#### **12.) By-Laws**

- a.) Mayor Masse brought forward By-Law 2015-07 being a by-law being a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Ministry of Municipal; Affairs and Housing.

The following resolution was passed:

Resolution 2015-36:

*Moved by:*

*Darlene Wiper*

*Seconded by:*

*Dayne Malloch*

“Be it Resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Pelee hereby supports passing By-Law 2015-07 being a by-law for the Mayor and CAO to enter into an agreement with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing”.

Carried.

- b.) Mayor Masse presented by-law 2015-08 being a by-law to confirm proceedings.

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The following resolution was passed:

Resolution 2015-37:

Moved by:

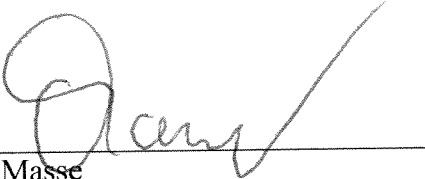
*Dayne Malloch*

Seconded by:


*Pete Letkeman*

“Be it Resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Pelee hereby supports passing By-Law 2015-08 being a by-law to confirm proceedings for this March 19, 2015 meeting of council”.

Carried.



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Rick Masse  
Mayor



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Wayne Miller  
Chief Administrative Officer