



## **TOWN OF AURORA GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

Council Chambers  
Aurora Town Hall  
Tuesday, December 9, 2014

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### ***ATTENDANCE***

<b>COUNCIL MEMBERS</b>	Councillor Abel in the Chair; Councillors, Gaertner, Humfryes, Kim, Mrakas, Pirri, Thom, Thompson, and Mayor Dawe
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	None
<b>OTHER ATTENDEES</b>	Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Building and By-law Services, Director of Corporate and Financial Services/Treasurer, Director of Infrastructure and Environmental Services, Director of Legal and Legislative Services/Town Solicitor, Director of Parks and Recreation Services, Director of Planning and Development Services, Town Clerk, and Council/Committee Secretary

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

### **1. *DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF***

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

### **2. *APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA***

General Committee approved the agenda as circulated by Legal and Legislative Services with the following additional item:

- 17. Memorandum from the Director of Corporate and Financial Services/Treasurer  
Re: Item 5 – Report CFS14-034 – Replacement Fee Schedule E

**3. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION**

Items 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 were identified for discussion.

**4. ADOPTION OF ITEMS NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION**

Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 17 were identified as items not requiring separate discussion.

**General Committee recommends:**

THAT the following recommendations respecting the matters listed as "Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion" be adopted as submitted to the General Committee and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same:

**1. BBS14-015 – Accessibility Devices**

THAT report BBS14-015 be received for information.

**2. CFS14-018 – WSIB Reserve Fund**

THAT report CFS14-018 be received; and

THAT the transfer of \$734,241 from the WSIB Reserve Fund to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund be approved.

**3. CFS14-026 – 2014 Operating Surplus/Deficit Control By-law**

THAT report CFS14-026 be received; and

THAT By-law 5637-14 be adopted to authorize the Treasurer and the Chief Administrative Officer to make any necessary year-end financial adjustments and to allocate any 2014 Operating Fund surplus in the following order of priority:

- i. That any unspent funds from various reserve funds allocated in the 2014 Budget for specific expenditures be returned to the respective original reserve fund sources from which they came; and
- ii. That any net Building Permit revenue surplus/deficit be allocated to/funded from the Building Permit Fees Reserve; and
- iii. That any Election 2014 surplus/deficit be allocated to/funded from the Election Reserve; and
- iv. That the remainder of any surplus be allocated to budget carry-forward items, being Council approved special projects or initiatives funded in the Operating Fund in the subject year, but not started by year end; and

- v. That up to a maximum of \$348,000.00 of any then remaining surplus be allocated to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund to assist with the stabilization of tax rates in future years which may be subject to fluctuations due to significant changes in service levels or municipal costs, or changes in expected revenues; and
- vi. That the remainder of any surplus be allocated proportionately to the tax rate funded Repair & Replacement reserves; and

Or, alternatively, in the event of a year-end operating deficit, that adjustments i, and ii above are authorized, with the remaining net shortfall being funded from the Tax Rate Stabilization reserve; and

THAT the provisions made within By-law 5637-14 be adopted to authorize the Treasurer and the Chief Administrative Officer to allocate any 2014 surplus or alternatively fund any deficit in the Water, Wastewater, or Stormwater budgets to or from the appropriate related reserve accounts; and

THAT the adjustments authorized herein are to occur with an effective date of December 31, 2014, and which may be made prior to or after December 31, 2014; and

THAT the Treasurer and Chief Administrative Officer report to Council through General Committee after the year end surplus/deficit control adjustments and allocations have been performed.

#### **4. CFS14-033 – Results of Tax Sale Held May 8, 2014**

THAT report CFS14-033 be received; and

THAT the Town write off the outstanding tax balances as uncollectible, and vest the parcel of land Property Roll number 1946-000-113-47786-0000 that was not sold in the Tax Sale of May 8, 2014, and this parcel of land be offered for sale to the abutting landowner; and

THAT the Town write off the outstanding tax balances as uncollectible, and vest the parcel of land Property Roll number 1946-000-021-73600-0000 that was not sold in the Tax Sale of May 8, 2014, and this parcel of land be offered for sale to the abutting landowners; and

THAT staff be authorized to enter negotiations for sale or transfer of the two above-noted properties as detailed in this report, and report back to Council prior to transfer; and

THAT the Town not vest at this time the parcel of land Property Roll number 1946-000-045-10800-0000 that was not sold in the Tax Sale of March 8, 2014 pending a report back to Council regarding the outcome of the ongoing site investigations being conducted by the Town.

**8. CFS14-039 – Annual Cancellation, Reduction or Refund of Property Taxes Under Sections 357 and 358 of the *Municipal Act***

THAT report CFS14-039 be received; and

THAT a meeting be held in accordance with Sections 357 and 358 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 as amended (the “Act”) in respect of the applications filed with the Treasurer by the owners of property listed in this report at which applicants may make representations; and

THAT property taxes in the amount \$66,273.58 be adjusted pursuant to Section 357 of the Act; and

THAT property taxes in the amount of \$6,679.14 be adjusted pursuant to Section 358 of the Act; and

THAT the associated interest applicable be cancelled in proportion to the property taxes adjusted; and

THAT the Director of Corporate & Financial Services, Treasurer be directed to remove said property taxes for the Collector’s Roll to reflect these property tax adjustments.

**9. CFS14-040 – 2015 Interim Property Tax Levy**

THAT report CFS14-040 be received; and

THAT By-law 5674-14 be adopted to authorize the levying of interim tax amounts on all rateable properties and to establish installment due dates.

**11. LLS14-034 – Amendment to Subdivision Agreement – Whitwell Developments Limited and State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company**

THAT report LLS14-034 be received; and

THAT staff be directed to prepare an amendment to the existing subdivision agreement for the State Farm/Whitwell subdivision as outlined in report LLS14-034; and

THAT the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorized to execute the amendment to the subdivision agreement for the State Farm/Whitwell subdivision, including any and all documents and ancillary agreements required to give effect to same.

**17. Memorandum from the Director of Corporate and Financial Services/Treasurer  
Re: Item 5 – Report CFS14-034 – Replacement Fee Schedule E**

THAT the memorandum regarding Item 5 – Report CFS14-034 – Replacement Fee Schedule E be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**5. DELEGATIONS**

None

**6. PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIR**

None

**7. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION**

**5. CFS14-034 – 2015 Fees and Charges Update**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT report CFS14-034 be received; and

THAT the 2015 Fees and Charges for applications, permits, use of Town property, the sale of Town publications and for the prescribed service charges for administrative matters as itemized on the attached schedules be approved:

Schedule A – General Fees and Charges  
Schedule B – Building and Bylaw Services  
Schedule C – Legal and Legislative Services  
Schedule D – Planning and Development Services  
Schedule E – Infrastructure and Environmental Services  
Schedule F – Corporate and Financial Services  
Schedule G – Parks and Recreation Services; and

THAT the necessary bylaw be enacted at the January 20, 2015 Council meeting in accordance with the Town's Notice Provision Policy.

**CARRIED**

**6. CFS14-035 – Interim Operating Budget Forecast – as at October 31, 2014**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT report CFS14-035 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**7. CFS14-038 – Authorization to Execute Agreement: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund – Formula-Based Component Funding Agreement**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT report CFS14-038 be received; and

THAT the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorized to execute the standardized grant agreements, subject to the satisfaction of the Town Solicitor, for the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund – Formula-Based Component; and

THAT the Treasurer be authorized to execute on behalf of the Town any progress reports or other submissions required in compliance with the terms of the funding agreements during the course of the funding and approved projects.

**CARRIED**

**10. IES14-057 – Facility Projects Status Report**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT report IES14-057 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**12. LLS14-037 – 2015 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT report LLS14-037 be received; and

THAT the requirements of sections 2.3 and 2.6 of the Procedural By-law be waived to permit the adoption of the 2015 Council and Committee meeting schedule attached to this report as Attachment #1; and

THAT the 2015 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar, attached to this report as Attachment #1, be approved **with the following amendments:**

***THAT additional regular Council meetings be scheduled for July 28, 2015 and August 25, 2015; and***

***THAT the November 9, 2015 Special General Committee Capital Budget meeting be moved to November 7, 2015; and***

THAT the Town Clerk be authorized to make amendments to the Council and Committee Meeting Calendar as required.

**CARRIED (two-thirds vote)**

**13. LLS14-038 – Statutory and Mandatory Advisory Committees/Local Boards for the 2014-2018 Term of Council**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT report LLS14-038 be received; and

THAT Council appoint three Members of Council to sit on the Joint Council Committee, which oversees the operation of the Central York Fire Services, as the Town of Aurora's representatives on the Committee; and

THAT staff be directed to advertise, in accordance with the provisions of the "Policy for Ad Hoc/Advisory Committees and Local Boards", for applications from members of the public for appointment to statutory boards and committees, namely the Aurora Public Library Board, Committee of Adjustment/Property Standards Committee, Aurora Appeal Tribunal, and the Accessibility Advisory Committee; ***and***

***THAT the Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Advisory Committee be amended to change the Committee composition from five (5) Members to seven (7) Members, encompassing such persons as required by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.***

**CARRIED**

**14. LLS14-040 – Discretionary Advisory Committees for the 2014-2018 Term of Council**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT report LLS14-040 be received; and

***THAT the following discretionary advisory committees be reconstituted for the 2014-2018 Term of Office:***

- 1. Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)***
- 2. Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)***
- 3. Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC)***
- 4. Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)***
- 5. Trails and Active Transportation Committee (TATC); and***

THAT the revised "Policy for Ad Hoc/Advisory Committees and Local Boards" (Attachment 2) be approved.

**CARRIED**

**15. PL14-070 – Planning Applications Status List**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT report PL14-070 be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**16. Memorandum from Councillor Wendy Gaertner  
Re: Correspondence received from the Town of Collingwood regarding  
Reconsider Decision to Eliminate Home to Home Postal Delivery**

***General Committee recommends:***

THAT the memorandum regarding Correspondence received from the Town of Collingwood regarding Reconsider Decision to Eliminate Home to Home Postal Delivery be received ***for information.***

**CARRIED**

**8. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**(a) Councillor Abel  
Re: Town Acquisition of Downtown Real Estate Properties**

WHEREAS the Town of Aurora's Strategic Plan Study identifies revitalizing the downtown core; and

WHEREAS acquiring key properties in bulk maximizes the development opportunities for the purpose of revitalization; and



WHEREAS when such a listing occurs Council should consider giving staff direction to negotiate a purchase price and to report back for Council's consideration.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to negotiate a purchase price regarding the McIntyre property (Horton Place) on Yonge Street, in combination with the Spragg property to the north (Readman House), and report back to Council.

**(b) Councillor Abel**  
**Re: Snow Plowing of Machell Park Pathway**

WHEREAS the Town of Aurora clears sidewalks of snow and ice and sands sidewalks during the Winter Maintenance program period; and

WHEREAS the Town of Aurora encourages pedestrian traffic to enhance health and mitigate vehicular traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS certain pathways with significant pedestrian traffic are not assigned to any snow plowing route, thus causing difficulty for walking.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Machell Park pathway, between Orchard Heights Boulevard and Aurora Heights Drive, which is paved and lighted, and is in constant use by walkers, commuters, and shoppers, be added to the Winter Maintenance program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, if there are other pathways that fit the same criteria, they too be brought before Council for consideration for addition to the Winter Maintenance program.

**(c) Councillor Abel**  
**Re: Speed Cushions on Roads Prone to Speeders**

WHEREAS a number of roads within residential areas in the Town of Aurora have certain criteria in common that put pedestrians at risk with vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS the overriding concern is the excessive and dangerous speed of some vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS the York Regional Police do not have adequate resources to patrol all local streets all of the time; and

WHEREAS speed cushions, which are gentler and softer to navigate in all vehicles including buses and fire trucks, but are also highly effective in reducing speed in long, straight roads that are prone to commuters speeding through our neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS residents have identified a number of roads that have long, straight stretches and high volumes of traffic, such as Laurentide Avenue, Conover Avenue, Mavrillac Boulevard, and Kennedy Street West, that could benefit from such an installation to reduce speeders who disregard posted limits and endanger families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to report back to Council on providing for the installation of speed cushions at five (5) locations and to provide a one (1) year follow-up evaluation.

**(d) Councillor Abel**  
**Re: Strategy to Remove Excessive Road Signage**

WHEREAS road signs are an essential communication tool for vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS road signs identify streets and parking, direct tourists, create pedestrian awareness, identify school zones, and serve many other purposes; and

WHEREAS some signs pose an imposition to property owners; and

WHEREAS signs in some areas tend to clutter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to formulate a strategy to combine signs on posts, and report back to Council with options to mitigate the number of signs posted, to give our neighbourhoods a cleaner look.

**(e) Councillor Mrakas**  
**Re: Amendment(s) to the Temporary Sign By-law**

WHEREAS residents of, and business owners within, the Town of Aurora have expressed significant concerns with regards to the placement, number, sizes, installation and removal dates of municipal election signs and enforcement of regulations which speak to same; and

WHEREAS the current Town of Aurora By-law to regulate Temporary Signs ("Temporary Sign By-law") as it speaks to municipal election signs is silent on and/or is unclear in regards to when, where or how candidates for municipal office may erect municipal election signs and any limits thereto; and

WHEREAS the provisions of the current Town of Aurora Temporary Sign By-law as it speaks to municipal election signs are not in line with those of the "Signs on Regional Roads Bylaw", a by-law regulating signs on Regional roads; and

WHEREAS the provisions of the current Town of Aurora Temporary Sign By-law as it speaks to municipal election signs are not in line with those of other municipalities within York Region; and

WHEREAS the creation and adoption of a municipal election sign by-law is within the purview of a municipal Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to place a By-law to amend By-law number 4897-07.P, being a By-law to regulate Temporary Signs, on a future Council Agenda that:

- (a) Reduces the amount of time for which elections signs can be erected, affixed or otherwise displayed on private property and/or on municipal public property to thirty days immediately preceding an election;
- (b) Prohibits an election sign from being placed on municipal property except for that municipal property that is within 50 meters of a road intersection;
- (c) Prohibits a candidate from placing more than one (1) election sign on any corner of a road intersection; and
- (d) Prohibits a candidate from placing more than one (1) election sign on each private property.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to provide future candidates for municipal office with fact sheets, information sessions and sign pre-placement tours so as to ensure that candidates have the training and resources necessary to facilitate awareness of, and compliance with, the Temporary Sign By-law, as amended.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL INFORMATION**

Mayor Dawe requested that staff provide an update regarding the ice storm disaster relief program and the Director of Corporate and Financial Services/Treasurer indicated that a memorandum would be placed on next week's Council agenda.

Mayor Dawe requested that staff provide an update regarding 14476 Yonge Street and the Director of Building and By-law Services indicated that a memorandum would be placed on next week's Council agenda.

Councillor Humfries remarked on the success of the indoor Aurora Farmers' Market which was held this past weekend in the former Armoury building next to Town Park.

Councillor Pirri requested that staff look at options for changing the format of the electronic version of the Council and Committee agendas.

**10. CLOSED SESSION**

General Committee resolved into a General Committee Closed Session, following adjournment, to consider:

1. Litigation or potential litigation including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the Town or a Local Board; Re: Report PL14-069 – Appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board re Newell Committee of Adjustment Variance Application – D13-(25A-B)-14, 8 Kennedy Street East.
2. Litigation or potential litigation including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the Town or a Local Board; Re: Report LLS14-041 – Litigation Status Update – Bondfield/NORR Settlement.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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**GEOFFREY DAWE, MAYOR**

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**STEPHEN M. A. HUYCKE, TOWN CLERK**

THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 2014 RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL AND COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON DECEMBER 16, 2014 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ITEMS 5, 13, AND 14 WHICH WERE PULLED AND APPROVED AS AMENDED, AND ITEM 12 WHICH WAS PULLED AND APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED.