

The Corporation of the Township of Brock
Special Council Meeting Minutes - Streetlights
Electronically

Session Nineteen

Monday, October 26, 2020

The Nineteenth Special Council meeting of the Township of Brock, in the Regional Municipality of Durham, was held on Monday, October 26, 2020, electronically.

Members present:	Regional Councillor:	W.E. Ted Smith
	Councillors:	Mike Jubb
		Claire Doble
		Walter Schummer
		Cria Pettingill
		Lynn Campbell

Members absent:	Mayor:	Debbie Bath-Hadden (regrets – illness)
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Staff Members present:	Deputy Clerk Deena Hunt (recording the minutes) Clerks Assistant Lesley Donnelly Receptionist Stefanie Stickwood Treasurer Laura Barta Tax Collector Crystal Doucette Acting CAO Ralph Walton Director of Public Works Paul Lagrandeur Fire Chief Rick Harrison Chief Building Official Richard Ferguson
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1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Presentations

To hold a public informational meeting and gather input with respect to streetlight charges.

(1) Laura Barta, Treasurer – Presentation on Streetlight Charges

The Treasurer provided a presentation which included the history of streetlighting in Brock, the beneficiaries of streetlight installation, the current billing structure and the proposed billing structure options for streetlights.

Councillors requested clarification of the rural and urban streetlight charges and were advised that the rural maintenance and hydro costs are calculated at a flat rate while the urban maintenance and hydro costs are applied as a percentage based on each tax assessment and each is billed to residents as a special area charge on their property tax bill.

Councillors enquired as to charging rural properties based on those with a residence to which the Treasurer advised that rural properties with residences were reviewed/inventoried at a point in time and that inventory would require an update should the current special area charges be maintained. There was discussion with respect to not billing farmland properties that have no residence.

Councillors requested clarification of the proposed method to charge for streetlight maintenance/hydro costs and were advised that the presentation was provided for information purposes with no recommendations. The Treasurer advised that a single tax rate, including all municipal services, would be preferable, however, if a flat rate were to be supported, it would be calculated based on the total number of properties within Brock and the charge would appear separately on the tax bill as a special rate charge.

Councillors enquired as to other municipal costs which are not shared by all property owners and were advised that streetlighting is the only special area charge.

The Treasurer advised that a public online survey would be posted to the Township website until November 15, 2020, as an alternate form of public input.

Councillors enquired whether the cost to maintain the streetlights, as shared by all properties, would be \$34 and were advised in the affirmative based on the number of municipal properties in 2021 and the 2020 maintenance costs.

Councillors enquired whether urban residents, who do not travel on rural roads, are permitted to opt out of paying toward the gravel and dust suppressant programs and were advised not.

3. Public Questions and Clarification

Ms. Bernice Allison advised that she supports a flat rate option as opposed to the current billing method.

Ms. Wendy Clark enquired as to how streetlight placement is determined to which the Deputy Mayor advised that safety standards are adhered to and staff could provide further information to Council.

Ms. Elaine Buckstein enquired whether the beach road residents are charged for streetlight maintenance costs split between them as opposed to being charged as a percentage of their tax assessment and was advised in the affirmative.

Ms. Therese Miller enquired whether staff are recommending that streetlight maintenance costs be based on rural and urban residences versus roll numbers to which the Treasurer advised that each property within the municipality would be billed including commercial, residential, rural and industrial properties.

Ms. Miller enquired as to how the rural area residences would benefit and how rural intersection safety would be addressed and was advised that streetlights benefit all residents as they travel through the municipality, and the process to request a streetlight remains unchanged. She advised that assessments values have significantly increased since 2010 and a more current assessment should be used.

4. Adjournment

Resolution Number 1-19

MOVED by Lynn Campbell and seconded by Walter Schummer that we do now adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIR

SECRETARY