

**April 22, 2008**

**Special Meeting**

**2:30 PM**

The Council for the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards met on the above date with Councillors Ernie Cybulski, Isabel O'Reilly, Stanley Pecoskie, Carl Kuehl and Debbie Peplinskie present.

In the absence of Mayor Visneskie, the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer opened the meeting and called the members to order.

Moved by Carl Kuehl  
Seconded by Stanley Pecoskie

Motion for Debbie Peplinskie to chair the Special Meeting. Carried.

Mayor Visneskie arrived at this time.

**Pecuniary/Financial Interest:**

No pecuniary/financial interest was declared by any council member present.

**Purpose of Meeting:** To receive information from SkyPower regarding their wind park project and to receive information from Renfrew Hydro, MNR re: flooding issues on Round Lake.

**Delegations:** SkyPower representatives Dan Babcock and Joe Reid were present and were invited to address council. They presented information relating to the Killaloe Wind Park Project, which is located on the south side of Rochefort Road, on privately owned land. Mr. Babcock advised that SkyPower is in the process of completing their environmental assessment. Councillor Marion arrived at this time. Mr. Babcock advised that cooperation from the municipality will be required to ensure that they can maneuver around a sharp corner on Rochefort Road with the components for the turbines, and that they will also be asking for a right-of-way over a portion of Stone Church Road so that they can install a power distribution line. Mr. Babcock also advised that Skypower will be requesting a zoning amendment to allow the installation of the wind turbines. He also noted that Skypower wants to be a good corporate citizen and that they would like suggestions as to how they can be of assistance in the community. Councillor Cybulski inquired as to what the process is when the 25 year life span of the project is over, and was told by Mr. Reid that the agreements that they have with the land owners include a provision that the landowners are paid a fee for an additional 24 months, that Skypower will take the turbines down and bury the foundations, and take out the access roads that they have built. He assured council that, because of the extensive groundwork studies that are completed before the projects start, that there is no chance that the projects will fail. Councillor Kuehl questioned Mr. Babcock as to what happens to the transmission lines that would be on the right of way after the project has been commissioned and was told that this would be dependent on what Hydro One wants to do with them. Council thanked Mr. Reid and Mr. Babcock for their presentation, at which time they left the meeting.

Moved by Isabel O'Reilly  
Seconded by Kathy Marion

That Mayor Visneskie chair the meeting. Carried.

Council took a short recess, then reconvened with the same members present.

**Delegations:** Jeff Featherston from Renfrew Power Generation was present and was invited to address council. Philippe Geoffrion from Emergency Management Ontario, Mayor Weckworth, Clerk-Treasurer Marilyn Schruder, Councillor Lorenz Kelo and Works Superintendent Frank Weckworth from North Algona Wilberforce Township, Jerry Lavally of the Algonquins of Pikwagnahgan, representatives from the Golden Lake Property Owners' Association, Mike Radford and Tom Giesler from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Sergeant Mark Mackisoc, Public Information Officer Don Wrigglesworth, Works Superintendent Clifford Yantha, CEMC Sue Sheridan, and several residents from the Round Lake area were also in attendance.

Mr. Featherston explained the Bonnechere watershed system and pointed out the locations of the dams that control the water. He explained that a limited amount of water can go through the dam at Tramore, and that the system is somewhat choked in its ability to handle large volumes of water. He explained the process of monitoring water on Round Lake and the upper and lower levels that have been established in the Bonnechere River Watershed Plan. He also explained that RPG has been trying draw the water down in Golden Lake to a level that would make it possible to allow more water from Round Lake to flow into it, but have not been successful in doing so. He advised that RPG had pulled another log out of the Tramore Dam to try to alleviate the water level on Round Lake, but that the water levels are still rising. Mr. Featherston also presented a slide show of pictures of the flooding on Round Lake and Golden Lake this year. Mayor Visneskie advised that council and works management personnel had conducted a road tour earlier today, and had observed the flooding situation on Round Lake.

Mayor Weckworth asked if there any dams in the park, and was told by Mike Radford that there are some dams, but that the water flows into the Madawaska River. Tom Giesler also advised that there were some old logging dams located in the park, but that they are no longer in operation. Several of the property owners speculated that keeping the Round Lake levels high earlier in the year has exacerbated the current situation and has created a man-made flood on Round Lake.

Mayor Weckworth questioned whether the Ministry of Natural Resources intends to make revisions to the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan to correct flaws in it that lead to this type of situation. Mr. Radford explained the amendment process and advised that there are four minor amendments to the plan pending at the present time.

Mayor Visneskie questioned Mr. Featherston as to why he had told a property owner on Round Lake that if the township declared a State of Emergency he would be forced to remove the water from Round Lake by taking steps to adjust the flow at the Tramore Dam. She also questioned him as to the liability that could result to the municipality by damage caused to downstream properties. Mr. Featherston responded that under the provisions of the water management plan, RPG would be forced to co-operate with the action plan that is formulated under the municipality's Emergency Measures Plan, and that RPG was not prepared to remove any more logs from Tramore Dam unless instructed to do so by the municipality.

Councillor Cybulski asked if a dam could be installed further upstream so that the pressure is taken off of the Tramore Dam, or if something could be done to alter the restrictions on the area below the dam at Tramore to allow more water to safely flow through it. A ratepayer from the Golden Lake Property Owners' Association advised that RPG had applied to have dams on the headwaters of the Bonnechere River, but that they were rejected by Parks Ontario. Mayor Visneskie asked if RPG had exceeded the provisions of their licence with MNR in regard to the water levels, and was told by Mr. Featherston that this had occurred.

Mayor Visneskie thanked everyone for attending and advised that the public would be notified as to what decision is made in regard to a declaration of a State of Local Emergency. She also advised that she would notify the heads of council of the townships of Bonnechere Valley and North/Algona Wilberforce, as well as the Chief of the Algonquins of Pikwagnahgan so that they would have an opportunity to notify their residents if a log was going to be removed from Tramore Dam.

Mr. Geoffrion briefly explained the ODRAP program, advising that this program would apply only under certain conditions. He advised that the funding does not apply to secondary properties and that only essentials and properties used as a principle residence may be covered. Council took a short recess, then reconvened with the same members present. Council discussed the various issues relating to the declaration of a state of emergency, and their concerns about damages and liability issues if the township asks Renfrew Power Generation to remove a log from Tramore Dam. Council unanimously supported the declaration of a state of emergency, when polled by Mayor Visneskie. Council agreed to have Mayor Visneskie contact Mayor Weckworth, Mayor Mintha and Chief Kirby Whiteduck, to tell them that Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards will be declaring a state of emergency tonight and that she would be asking Renfrew Power Generation to remove one log from Tramore Dam tomorrow, but not before 6:00 PM.

Council instructed the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer to follow up with a letter to Mayor Weckworth, Mayor Mintha and Chief Whiteduck advising them of the action that is being taken.

Moved by Isabel O'Reilly  
Seconded by Kathy Marion

That this meeting adjourn. Carried.

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Mayor

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CAO/Clerk-Treasurer