

Report on Anmore Council Meeting Tuesday, December 1, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Weinberg at 7:00 pm. All Councillors were present, as were Administrator, Howard Carley and Karen-Ann Cobb, Manager of Corporate Services. Over 45 residents were also in attendance.

The Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on November 24, 2009 was tabled until Staff transcribes a verbatim of the following four items:

- Under Section 1, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda. "that the regular council agenda for November 24, 2009 be approved". Councillor Piamonte pointed out that, first, he had asked Council at this meeting to defer the item of 7 (B) under Council Committee Reports regarding the Daycare Working Groups and its Draft Terms of Reference until the next Council Meeting as Councillor Sedergreen was unable to attend this meeting due to his having had back surgery just four days prior. Both Councillors McEwen and Isaak had refused to defer the discussion. Then, Councillor Piamonte made a motion to table the issue until Councillor Sedergreen was able to attend the meeting. Since there had not been a seconder to his motion, it was not carried.
- Under Section 7(b) (i), the Daycare Working Group Draft Terms of Reference. Councillor Piamonte pointed out that several residents had expressed their concerns over the proposed building of the Daycare Centre and none of these had been noted in the minutes.
- Under Section 12, Anmore Highway Regulation Amendment Bylaw. Councillor Piamonte pointed out the error that the bylaw was not approved but tabled until "staff approach Translink to see if the Village can get an exemption from the weight limit restrictions".
- Under New Business. Councillor Piamonte pointed out that Mayor Weinberg had, indeed, stated that he would provide a package of information to Council at the next Council meeting on the status of the Anmore Renewable Energy Foundation and what potential liabilities there are for the Village and the Foundation. However, the minutes failed to include that he would send a copy of the information to the Anmore Times and the Anmore Alternative News to publish on their websites.

Under Petitions and Delegations, Mayor Weinberg excused himself from the meeting at 7:20, so that Tracy Green could speak to the decision made by the Finance Committee to change the name of the Dr. Hal Weinberg Scholarship. She expressed concern over the following two items:

- She feels that little concern had been given as to the original intent of the scholarship.
- She believes that it was improper for the Finance Committee to have made this decision as it was Council's decision to make - not the Finance Committee's.

Discussion evolved around the fact that the motion had been carried five to one in the Finance Committee and that all Councillors had been present and voted on the Motion. Councillor Isaak wanted to reverse the motion; however, it was pointed out that this was a recommendation from the Finance Committee only. It would be up to Council to make a final decision on this matter.

Mayor Weinberg returned to the Council meeting at 7:20 pm.

Next, Jody Cooke read a letter to Council on the of the Stop Signs on East and Strong Roads. She made the following points:

- Translink expressed their concern over speed bumps, not the stop signs.
- Residents had been assured by Council that there would be a four-week trial period on the stop sign. Nothing has still been done and it is approaching six months.
- 322 residents had signed a petition to have the stop signs removed.
- Council paid in excess of \$6000.00 to have a professional study done on the stop signs and this report stated that the stop signs should be removed as they are unsafe.
- The stop signs create not only a safety, but also a health issue due to exhaust fumes.
- The RCMP had issued 67 tickets at \$250.00 each in the past six weeks to speeders in front of Anmore Elementary School.
- What will be the legal implications if an accident occurs due to the stop signs?

- People are not stopping at the stop signs making the road dangerous.
- Anmore Fire Chief, Larry Scott, does not approve of the stop signs.
- Council unanimously voted two months ago to remove the stop signs when it was "safe" to do so, but this has not happened.
- With winter coming, the stop signs can prove more dangerous.

Editor's Note: A copy of Bill and Jody Cooke's Letter is attached at the end of this Report. It can also be found under the Headings of Current News and Local Government in the Anmore Alternative News website.

Discussion ensued about the issue of the stop signs. There were at least 20-residents in the audience to support the Cooke's. Some spoke to the issue. Councillor McEwen continued to speak in favour of maintaining the stop signs. After listening to resident, Elaine Willis and her win-win compromise solution, Councillor Piamonte put forward a motion to remove the contentious stop signs by January 15, 2010. However, no Councillor would second the motion; therefore, it was not carried and no solution has been reached on this issue.

The tabled items of Mayor Trasolini's Letter to extend services to the Village of Anmore and the East Road truck restrictions remained tabled.

Under Council Committee Reports, the Minutes of the Meetings of the Joint Advisory Planning Commission and Environment Committee Meeting, of the Emergency Preparedness Working Group, of the Finance Committee and of the Public Works were passed unanimously. Councillor Sedergreen also asked the motion of the Public Works, Parks and Transportation Committee to have Ravenswood remain a no parking zone with no permits be passed. He stated that it was a safety issue. Carried unanimously.

Under Councillor's Reports, Councillor McEwen and Isaak read prepared letters in response to Councillor Piamonte's Open Letter to Mayor Weinberg and Other Council Members, dated November 23, 2009. Reference: Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Community Daycare in Anmore.

Councillor Isaak also asked that the issue of those members to be chosen for the Daycare Working Group be discussed prior to the Finance Committee meeting of December 17th. Councillor Piamonte reminded Councillor Isaak that, when the members for the Emergency

Preparedness Working Group were being chosen, both she and Councillor McEwen expressed concern that all those who applied should be chosen. Councillor Piamonte, then, said that the same rule should be adhered to in picking the members for the Daycare Working Group to include a wide spectrum of views and expertise.

There was no Correspondence to be discussed.

Seven bylaw amendments were read and passed unanimously. They dealt with the Anmore Financial Plan, Anmore Capital Reserve Fund Expenditure, Anmore Roads Development Cost Charges Reserve Fund Expenditure, Anmore Drainage Development Cost Charges Reserve Fund, Anmore Water Utility Reserve Fund Expenditure, Anmore Water Development Cost Charges Reserve Fund Expenditure and Anmore Highway Regulation. Councillor Sedergreen asked Administrator, Howard Carley when the last time the Development Cost Charges had been reviewed. Mr. Carley stated three years ago. Mr. Carley was asked to review the process again.

Under New Business, the resolution for Council to hold an in-camera council meeting following the regular meeting for the purpose of the Advisory Planning Commission was passed unanimously. As well, it was agreed to have a Special Council Meeting on January 4, 1010 to appoint the Chief Election Officer and the Deputy Chief Election Officer.

Under Mayor's Report, Mayor Weinberg gave a presentation to Council on the status of the Anmore Renewable Energy Foundation and stated that this information would be posted on the Village website. Mayor Weinberg also requested that a motion be passed "that Council invites Western Economic Diversification to meet with Council for the purpose of discussing how the matter between Anmore and Western Diversification can be resolved". He also stated that he would like to see the Village would take over the Foundation.

Questions, then, ensued as to why Council was not informed that the Foundation had lost its charitable status as early as July 2008, the issue of liability to the Village. etc. Councillor McEwen made a motion to receive the Mayor's report only. Passed unanimously.

Mayor Weinberg, then, spoke on his decision to retire. He stated that it had absolutely nothing to do with the Anmore Renewable Energy Foundation. His farewell speech became, understandably, very emotional. He stated that he would be on vacation for the next two weeks and, then, left the meeting. Many residents followed him outdoors to extend their well wishes.

During Public Discussion Period, in honour of the Mayor and his contributions to the Village, the following residents spoke and gave glowing tribute:

- Leah Weinberg
- Michelle Obedzinski
- Pam Blackman
- Heather Anderson
- Denny Arsene

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:00 pm.

Written By: Camille Tribe, Editor

December 2, 2009

LETTER PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 1, 2009

I ORIGINALLY ASKED TO BE A DELEGATION TONIGHT TO ASK COUNCIL FOR A DATE THAT THE STOP SIGNS WERE GOING TO BE REMOVED ON EAST ROAD. I WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED WHEN I READ THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 19TH PUBLIC WORKS/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE STATING THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS NOW VOTED TO LEAVE THE STOP SIGNS IN PLACE.

ONE OF THE REASONS CITED FOR THIS DECISION WAS THAT TRANSLINK DOES NOT WANT SPEED BUMPS ON EAST ROAD BECAUSE IT IS CLASSIFIED AS A MAJOR ROAD NETWORK. I NOTICED IN THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10TH THAT THE COUNCIL TABLED THE CORRESPONDENCE FROM TRANSLINK IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPEED BUMPS. IN THE NOVEMBER 24TH MINUTES THE LETTER IS AGAIN TABLED. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK COUNCIL IF THEY HAVE FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO OR FROM TRANSLINK THAT IS NOT ALREADY DOCUMENTED.

I HAVE READ THE CORRESPONDENCE IN QUESTION FROM TRANSLINK AND IN THE CLOSING PARAGRAPH THEY STATE AND I QUOTE: "PLEASE REMOVE ALL THE SPEED BUMPS ON EAST ROAD OR SUBMIT TO ME A LETTER FORMALLY REQUESTING THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED BUMPS ON EAST ROAD AND THE REASONS WHY SPEED BUMPS ARE REQUIRED. "

HAVING READ THIS CORRESPONDENCE I AM LEAD TO BELIEVE THAT TRANSLINK IS NOT SAYING DEFINITELY NO TO THE SPEED BUMPS.

THE DECISION TO LEAVE THE STOP SIGNS UP SHOULD NOT BASED ON WHETHER OR NOT WE ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE SPEED BUMPS ON EAST ROAD. THE STOP SIGNS WERE INSTALLED ON JUNE 8TH AND COUNCIL ASSURED US THAT THEY WERE THERE FOR A FOUR WEEK TRIAL PERIOD, WE ARE NOW APPROACHING 6 MONTHS.

WE PRESENTED A PETITION WITH 322 SIGNATURES ASKING FOR THE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE STOP SIGNS AT STRONG AND EAST ROAD DUE TO INEFFECTIVENESS AND LACK OF SAFETY.

AT THAT POINT, COUNCIL MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A PROFESSIONAL TRAFFIC STUDY DONE. THIS STUDY WAS COMPLETED AT A COST OF APPROX \$6,000 TO THE VILLAGE. THE STUDY CLEARLY STATES THAT STOP SIGNS ARE NOT MEANT FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL. THE STUDY ALSO SAYS AND I QUOTE, "THE CONSEQUENSES OF INSTALING UN-WARRANTED STOP SIGNS WERE OBSERVED BY BUNT STAFF IN THE FIELD. A MAJOR PORTION OF DRIVERS BEING NON-COMPLIANT, INCREASED DRIVER FRUSTRATION FOR HAVING TO STOP FOR NO REASON AND SAFETY ISSUES WHEN DRIVERS, PEDESTRIANS OR CYCLISTS ARE NOT CERTAIN OF WHETHER SOME VEHICLES WILL STOP.BASED ON THE ABOVE AS WELL AS OUR OBSERVATIONS, IT IS BUNT'S OPINION THAT THE STOP SIGNS ON EAST ROAD SHOULD BE REMOVED." (IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT 40 -43% OF THE DRIVERS OBSERVED BY BUNT DID NOT STOP AT ALL AND THESE STOP SIGNS. THIS IS IN THEIR VIEW OF PRIMARY CONCERN IN TERMS OF SAFETY.

THE STOP SIGNS HAVE NOT ONLY RAISED A SAFETY ISSUE BUT ALSO A HEALTH ISSUE. RESIDENTS ALONG THE STRETCH OF EAST ROAD ARE SUBJECT TO EXHAUST FUMES FROM MOTORISTS WHO EXCEL THROUGH THE STOP SIGNS TO PICK UP SPEED THEY FEEL THEY HAVE LOST DUE TO HAVING TO STOP.

THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE SITES ANOTHER REASON FOR THEIR DECISION ON THE RCMP NOT WANTING TO POLICE EAST ROAD BECAUSE THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE STOP SIGNS WERE BEING REMOVED. WE FEEL THAT WE CAN OBTAIN THE SAME POSITIVE OUTCOME WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE STOP SIGNS AND HAVING THE RCMP SET UP SPEED TRAPS ON EAST ROAD AS THEY ARE CURRENTLY DOING ON SUNNYSIDE ROAD.

AS TO THE ISSUE OF THE COMMITTEE EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE POTENTIAL OF LEGAL IMPLICATIONS THAT COULD ARISE SHOULD A SERIOUS ACCIDENT OCCUR IF THE STOP SIGNS WERE REMOVED, I WOULD THINK THAT THEY WOULD WANT TO THINK MORE ABOUT THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS THAT COULD ARISE IF A SERIOUS ACCIDENT SHOULD OCCUR WITH THE STOP SIGNS LEFT IN PLACE AFTER A PROFESSIONAL TRAFFIC STUDY HAS RECOMMENDED REMOVAL OF THE STOP SIGNS BECAUSE THEY ARE UNWARRANTED AND DEEMED UNSAFE.

MAX COPELAND WAS ASKED THE PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW TO REMOVE THE STOP SIGNS AND IT IS THE SAME PROCEDURE COUNCIL FOLLOWED IN ERRECTING THESE STOP SIGNS. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION THAT THE ANMORE FIRE CHIEF LARRY SCOTT DOES NOT APPROVE OF THE STOP SIGNS DUE TO DECREASED RESPONSE TIME TO AN EMERGENCY.

COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY VOTED APPROX. TWO MONTHS AGO TO REMOVE THE STOP SIGNS ON EAST ROAD AS SOON AS SAFE TO DO SO. I DO NOT SEE ANY CHANGE WHICH SHOULD CHANGE THIS DECISION. I URGE COUNCIL TO REMOVE THE STOP SIGNS ESPECIALLY THE ONE IN QUESTION AT STRONG AND EAST ROAD BY JANUARY 15, 2010 AND LET THE RESIDENTS OF ANMORE HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

BILL AND JODY COOKE
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