

**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR  
CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF BURK'S FALLS  
CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON**

**Monday September 26, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.  
TRI COUNCIL MEETING**

**NOTES OF MEETING**

A meeting of the Councils, hosted by the Township of Armour at the Young at Heart Seniors Centre, was held on Monday September 26, 2016. An attendance list is attached.

Reeve MacPhail, Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Minutes**

Moved by: Rod Blakelock, Seconded by: Lisa Morrison,  
That the minutes of meeting of the June 27, 2016 Tri Council meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** None

**New Business:**

TRI Council discussed how the shared services would be dismantled for January 1, 2018. The Reeve of the Township of Armour thanked the Almaguin News for their reporting of the shared services events. He gave a history of the negotiations over the past 8 years and how the shared services could change in the future. He went through the list of five items that Armour would to see included in the negotiations:

1. New formula for shared costs.
2. New administrative structure to be legal.
3. Reviewing budgets to find savings.
4. Have a formal asset agreement on who owns what.
5. All encompassing legal agreement between the municipalities.

These items have not been addressed, but were to be included in a new negotiated agreement. The Reeve also went through the rationale for Armour's position regarding shared services.

The Reeve from Ryerson spoke on two levels from the heart and from the facts. He gave a history of the connection between the three municipalities and how they worked together for the good of the community. He provided the clerk with a copy of his presentation, which is attached.

The Reeve from Burk's Falls read from a written presentation, which supported reviewing core costs with consideration to population, assessment and households. She discussed other formula options from other agencies as well and that assessment is important. She also spoke of services that benefit the entire area that are completely absorbed by Burk's Falls. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Reeve from Armour agreed with Burk's Falls that assessment is used in some shared services. However, he indicted most of the time they are imposed on us by the province and Armour does not support this. The Reeve made the point that new services being added are added on an equal shared basis, the Planning Board, the new fire training program, etc. Staff did a study on how much of the shared services cost were user pay for the fire department. The result showed that approximately 90% of the costs were core costs and 10% were user costs. Armour believes the core cost for services should be shared equally.

The Reeve from Ryerson challenged the numbers put forward by Armour and argued that we should all work for the whole community and the ability to pay has to be included in the formula.

The Reeve from Burk's Falls stated that seasonal residents have to be included in the formula. Burk's Falls is willing to go with core services and wants to work towards a solution.

The Chair closed by telling the audience that he hopes they have an idea on how complicated this problem is and that it is not easy to solve.

### **Shared Services Reports**

- A. Arena – Mitch Matson, Manager, presented a written report and financial update. The arena is on budget and on target with the work plans. A question was asked about the rates we charge for the ice. It is more logical to compare our rates to South River instead of Huntsville. The arena manager has been looking at a rate for residents and a rate for non-residents, but it is hard to enforce. The arena manager will be getting an update on the new hockey team next week.
- B. Economic Development - BACED – Dave Gray presented a written report and financial update. Development opportunities and inquiries are continuing. There is a grant opportunity for an accommodation review. Dave is requesting the three municipalities support a grant application for this and that it be discussed at the council level. Dave highlighted the focus for the next 18 months which include job creation, strategy for funding economic development after the grant program, website development, implement new signage program and marketing plan. He would like to create a long term economic development strategic plan.
- C. Fire –Chief Dave McNay presented a written report and financial update. MTO revenues are up this year. The Fire Chief was asked about the years of service of his firefighters and he responded that the average experience level of his firefighters is approximately 10 years. Legislative changes continue to impact investment in fire equipment and budgets.
- D. Fire Prevention – Martyn Payge, Fire Prevention Officer, presented a written report. He was asked how many other municipalities he is presently helping. He responded that he was helping other municipalities when asked and with permission from the Fire Chief. John Stark is continuing to act as FPO for other municipalities in our area.
- E. Fire Training – A written report was presented. Councils were advised that the fire training officer would be available to attend Council meetings if they would like to have more information on the program. The Reeve from Ryerson corrected the Reeve from Armour that the training cost are split between five departments not seven municipalities.
- F. Waste Management – Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator, presented her written report and financial update. Amy gave an update on the expansion of the landfill site. We have been refunded the emergency certificate application fee. The Administrator advised we need to purchase four wheels for the compactor. We have an opportunity to purchase four used wheels now for a substantial savings. This purchase will result in an over expenditure for 2016.

Moved by: Pat Hayes, Seconded by: Lewis Hodgson,

That the Councils of the Township of Ryerson, Village of Burk's Falls and the Township of Armour have read the report submitted by the Waste Management Administrator and support the purchase of 4 used landfill compactor wheels, including tips and installation, for a budgeted cost of \$29,270.00. This purchase will result in the 2016 budget being overspent, but will realize a savings of approximately \$52,000 if wheels were purchased new in 2017. Carried

## **Old Business**

The Reeve of Armour advised the TRI Council that Armour confirms their position they wants to end our old funding model and rebuild a new one.

## **New Business**

For the next meeting Armour would like to see the following items on the agenda:

1. Shared assets, what does Burk's Falls believe it owns.
2. Landfill, the plan to keep it running.
3. Fire, where do we go from here.
4. Arena, how do we cover the deficit.

The Reeve of Ryerson is concerned about losing our infrastructure if the shared services come to an end. Armour asked to look at reducing the budgets, but when Armour was asked to look into reducing the hours at the landfill they did not agree to do it. He is not interested in adding the items listed above on the agenda because they are premature.

The Reeve from Ryerson is asking to get an independent consultant to help with the dissolution of the shared services. It would be less expensive than having to pay lawyers for a court action. This cost would be shared equally by the three municipalities. Burk's Falls is also investigating ownership of shared facilities and will report at the next meeting.

At the next TRI Council meeting a consultant will be brought in to explain how the shared assets can be distributed and the 2017 draft budgets will be presented.

2017 shared budgets should be held to the same level as last year, with no unnecessary capital expenses included.

**Next Meeting** will be October 24, 2016 hosted by the Township of Ryerson at the Young at Heart Senior Centre.

Moved by Rex Smith, Seconded by Pat Hayes,  
That the TRI Council meeting now adjourn at 10:21 p.m. Carried.

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Robert MacPhail, Chair