

6-414,465

BURK'S FALLS ARMOUR RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 7, 2015

A special meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour and the Council of the Village of Burk's Falls was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. in the Armour Township Council Chambers. Those in attendance were: Armour; Reeve Bob MacPhail; Councillors, Jerry Brandt, Pay Hayes and Marina Hammond; Burk's Falls; Reeve Cathy Still; Councillors Jarvis Osborne and Lewis Hodgson Staff present; Nicky Kunkel, Clerk, John Theriault, Treasurer/Deputy-Clerk and Allan Holder, Treasurer; Guests; Doug Weddel, Marie Stitt, Linda Jolly, Dona Crawford, Kathryn Boyle and Judy Ransome.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None

CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from the Village of Burk's Falls responding to the questions raised at the last restructuring meeting was discussed. The Township of Armour was looking for some clarification on what was included in the letter. The representatives from the Village of Burk's Falls advised that the letter was basically saying they needed more information before they could make informed decisions.

INFORMATION PACKAGES

The information packages were not discussed specifically except to say that the numbers included in the packages were not accurate enough to be used as a basis for decisions. Level of services would have to be decided before more accurate numbers could be presented for decisions to be made.

Representatives from Armour believe that the numbers are accurate enough as they represent the 2015 combined budgets for Burk's Falls and Armour. Armour Council wanted answers to the following questions before going further in the restructuring discussions.

QUESTIONS FROM ARMOUR'S COUNCIL TO BURK'S FALLS COUNCIL

1. Why does Burk's Falls want to restructure? What do they want to achieve by the restructuring? Are they willing to keep the spending from each municipality the same? No change to taxes due to restructuring for ratepayers.

Representatives from Burk's Falls explained that they believe that the restructuring would help economic development and help get more grants because we would not be competing against each other. Burk's Falls has nowhere to expand and the restructuring would solve that problem. It would also downsize the number of partners we have for shared services, which would help with the decision making process.

Representatives from Armour explained that they wanted to investigate restructuring hoping that a larger municipality could improve services and facilities and attract more people and families to our area. Economic development is also a big reason for the restructuring.

2. Is Burk's Falls willing to balance the cost of restructuring between the two municipalities? How would they do it?

This is a major concern for Armour Council. Representatives from Burk's Falls advised Armour they were willing to work the restructuring under the premise that taxes in each municipality would remain the same.

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3. If we do not restructure are they still willing to go forward with economic development or any kind of development and invest in it? i.e. bring water and sewer into Armour.

Representatives from Burk's Falls explained that the process would be no different than it is now. If a request was received, Burk's Falls would look at their capacity and if it can be accommodated, an agreement would be drawn up to extend the services.

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY VISIT

A walk around visit was scheduled for Wednesday October 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Armour will send a notice to Burk's Falls with the details.

DISCUSSION FOR NEXT MEETING

How do we make restructuring tax neutral? Options.

How do we address services? What services and levels of services?

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

What can be done to bring in more people?

If we wish to attract more people to our community, we have to have better facilities, (arena, library, gymnasium, outside playing fields, etc.) and better recreational programs.

What can be done for the Burk's Falls downtown?

Burk's Falls is presently discussing this issue and is trying to implement a community improvement program and other programs to help people improve the downtown.

Do you believe that restructuring will help in getting better health care?

Because health care is controlled by the provincial government, the restructuring will change nothing, but Armour, Burk's Falls and our surrounding communities are presently working to get a Community Health Hub, which, if they are successful, will improve the health care in our community.

Where does this restructuring leave Ryerson?

If the restructuring goes forward, Ryerson would not be affected. All the agreements we presently have would continue with two partners instead of three.

One member of the public had concerns that each municipality would not be represented fairly in the restructured municipality. The committee advised that this is something they will need to discuss before the restructuring is finalized.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. in the Township of Armour Council Chambers.

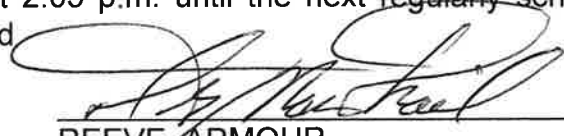
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RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Cathy Still, Seconded by Marina Hammond That the Restructuring Committee meeting hereby adjourn at 2:05 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting of November 18, 2015. Carried



REEVE, ARMOUR



CLERK ADMINISTRATOR, ARMOUR



REEVE, BURK'S FALLS



CLERK, BURK'S FALLS