

# BURK'S FALLS ARMOUR RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

December 21, 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 Monday, December 21, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. in the Armour Township Council Chambers. Those in attendance were: Armour; Reeve Bob MacPhail; Councillors, Jerry Brandt, Rod Blakelock, Pat Hayes; Burk's Falls, Councillors Reeve Cathy Still; Councillors Lisa Morrison, Rex Smith, Jarvis Osborne.

Staff present included Wendy Whitwell, Clerk-Administrator and John Theriault, Treasurer and Allan Holder, Treasurer.

Guests: Doug & Pat Weddel, Marie Stitt, Jenny Thomas, Dona Crawford, Rebecca Zanussi, Judy Ransome, Bev Norrence, Bill Edwards, Paul Dunnett

No pecuniary interest was declared by any council member.

### RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Jerry Brandt, Seconded by Jarvis Osborne, That the minutes of the Restructuring Committee meeting of September 9 and October 7, 2015 be approved as presented. Carried

### ITEMS FOR DISUCSSION/ACTION ITEMS

David King and Kathy Horgan from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing attended the meeting to discuss financial information and processes to move forward. Information received included:

1. Municipal Act states one tax rate but allows for area rating for user pay items such as garbage collection. There was discussion on the fact that merging the two budgets creates a much higher tax rate for Armour without the benefit of additional money for economic development. Discussion centred on how to create a fairer tax system.
2. Tax ratios can be implemented over time.
3. Recommendation to review the service levels one department at a time. Council to give direction to staff in order to determine financial needs.
4. Recommendation to review the asset management plans of both municipalities to determine long term financial needs and assist with service level discussions. When determining financial information also consider assessment and impacts to grants.
5. Reeve MacPhail indicated that Armour is open to investing in Burk's Falls water system and commented on permanent population vs seasonal population and impact on taxes.
6. Comment made regarding decisions on Planning Board and Official Plans. They will need to be updated but not immediately. Economic Development initiatives may require an update to the Official Plans.

### DELEGATIONS

There were comments and questions from those attending. The questions were regarding structure of Council, exclusion of Ryerson Township, future of shared services and alternatives to amalgamation. The Committee confirmed it is too early to decide on the makeup of Council. The Committee believes shared services will remain the same unless Ryerson would like to make changes. The Ministry and Committee agreed there may be other options to amalgamation but this process is still being considered as well.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. in the Township of Armour Council Chambers to discuss Public Works Department service levels.

Moved by: Lisa Morrison Seconded by: Rod Blakelock that the meeting adjourn at 1:52 pm.

  
REEVE, ARMOUR

  
CLERK ADMINISTRATOR, ARMOUR

  
REEVE, BURK'S FALLS

  
CLERK ADMINISTRATOR, BURK'S FALLS