

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – BRANT COUNTY COUNCIL

BURFORD URBAN AREA FIREFIGHTING WATER SUPPLY

Council Chambers, Paris
April 18, 2006
4:30 p.m.

Present : Mayor Eddy, Councillors Wheat, Mulligan, Emmott, Peirce, Haggart, Moore, Atfield, Miller, Chambers (4:40 p.m.), Maertens, Gatward, Coleman and Carver.

Regrets: Councillor Garn

Staff: Fiebig, Brenneman, Collings, Hayman, Balfour, Gravelle, Gallagher and Carman.

Mayor Eddy in the Chair.

Moved by – Councillor Gatward
Seconded by – Councillor Moore

That Council now go into Committee of the Whole to discuss the water supply for firefighting purposes in the Burford Urban Area.

. Carried

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was agreed that that agenda for this meeting would be approved as circulated.

BURFORD URBAN AREA FIREFIGHTING WATER SUPPLY

David Brenneman, Director of Community and Development Services, advised that Fire and Building staff would be presenting information to Council on the requirements and processes involved in building applications for new and existing construction and the proposed site for a water supply for firefighting purposes in the urban area of Burford. He noted that Council had previously agreed to proceed with the provision of a water supply in rural Burford at the Hunt Gravel Pit on Maple Avenue North. Council has also approved the development of a policy whereby developers will be required to make a financial contribution towards the implementation of a water supply for fire protection, based on pro-rated cost between benefiting properties, for future consent applications.

Council viewed a video showing how quickly a residential fire can spread, with the house fully engulfed by fire within three minutes.

Lynn Balfour, Chief Building Official, advised that the Ontario Building Code requires that an adequate water supply shall be supplied for every new construction building under Part 3 of the Ontario Building Code, which includes large buildings such as restaurants, churches, schools, libraries, assembly buildings, large industrial, commercial and mercantile. Building staff consult with Fire staff to review the sources of water supply available on site and determine the capacity and flow rate required for each large building (fire flow analysis). The analysis also takes into consideration the size of the building, type of occupancy, hazards involved, and the requirement for additional fire safety systems. Ms. Balfour listed various instances throughout

the County where an on-site water supply has been installed to provide an adequate water supply for firefighting purposes. She reinforced that the Building Code requirement for an on-site water supply for firefighting purposes for new construction buildings under Part 3 is Province-wide. Part 9 buildings, being small buildings, do not have specific requirements for on-site supply of water for firefighting, and as such other guidelines such as NFPA documents are utilized to determine adequate water supply requirements.

Fire Chief Dave Collings presented information on fire protection for existing structures, including residential, commercial, industrial, assembly and institutional. He noted that when a preliminary report was presented to Council on a County-wide water supply for firefighting purposes in July 2004, staff was directed to prepare a report specifically for the Burford Fire Protection area., which was subsequently received by Council in September 2005. Further reports for other areas of the County are in the preliminary stages. The Fire Chief reiterated that the recommendations in these reports do not alleviate the requirements for adequate water supply as required by the Ontario Building Code for all new construction.

An adequate water supply for firefighting purposes is necessary for the following reasons:

- Evacuation of endangered occupants
- Search and rescue protection
- Fire suppression
- Exposure protection of nearby buildings
- Environmental protection
- Health and safety of the volunteer firefighters

Fire Chief Collings provided examples of urban water reservoirs, as well as examples of fires where adequate water supply may have reduced damages. In response to a question, the Fire Chief advised that the County's certified tanker shuttle is effective, but an on-site water supply provides water much quicker.

The following information was provided in response to questions from Council regarding the Fire and Building Departments recommendation that an on-site water supply be installed at 26 Park Avenue:

- there is no projected date for the installation of municipal water in the Burford area that could offset the need for on-site water supplies
- it is important to protect the downtown Burford core, as there is the potential for a large loss in this area
- the size of a water supply may be reduced by including in the calculations other water sources, but this does not eliminate the need for an adequate water supply
- it was suggested that a test be done utilizing the impounded water source at Jeff Bryan Transport for the tanker shuttle
- the new Burford United Church building will require an impounded water supply because this is new construction
- the Fire Department has the right to enter anywhere to access water for fire protection
- timing to get tanker shuttle in effect – 2.5 – 4 minutes for first tanker to leave the Fire Hall – average 8 minutes to arrive at the scene, and then be spraying water within one minute - at the rate of 100 gallons/minute the pumper supply is gone in 4 -5 minutes

- response times were provided for the tankers that arrived from other fire halls for the Burford United Church fire as part of the tanker shuttle service – it took approximately one-half hour from the call out for the tanker shuttle service to be fully operational
- use of the tanker shuttle service results in fire vehicles being outside of their respective communities in the event there is a second fire, which may create difficulties
- without an impounded water supply, the firefighters cannot be as aggressive fighting the fire
- suggestion that the fish farm south of Burford be contacted for their ponds to be used as a possible water source to fill the tankers – it was noted that there would need to be agreements with the property owners to utilize their water sources, since they are located on private property
- Burford previously had fire cisterns, but they were removed after amalgamation because the firefighters did not like them and they had not been maintained
- the cost of installation and maintenance of the impounded water sources must be taken into consideration
- the costs to purchase, house and move a mobile tank make this water supply method not feasible
- \$65,000 has been included in the 2006 budget to develop a rural impounded water at the Hunt gravel pit, and for a water source in the Burford urban area
- suggestion that where the OBC requires on site supply of water, the municipality partner with building owners to build larger reservoirs to serve a larger area than the property itself
- the impounded water sources would be placed in strategic locations throughout the community
- suggestion that the County partner with the Burford United Church and build a larger reservoir at this location that could serve the downtown area
- suggestion that the municipal parking lot at Park Avenue and King Street be used as the site of an impounded water source, rather than 26 Park Avenue, as this would serve a greater portion of the downtown area

Moved by – Councillor Wheat

Seconded by – Councillor Maertens

That the first site selected for impounded water for firefighting purposes in the Burford urban area be located at the municipal building on Park Avenue;

And further that the second site be located at the new Burford United Church and that the County partner with the United Church to install this water source.

. No Vote – Motion Withdrawn

Moved by – Councillor Wheat

Seconded by – Councillor Peirce

That the first site selected for impounded water for firefighting purposes in the Burford urban area be located at the municipal building on Park Avenue.

. Defeated

Moved by – Councillor Maertens
Seconded by – Councillor Peirce

That the first site selected for impounded water for firefighting purposes in the Burford urban area be located at the Burford United Church property by combining the church requirements and the municipal requirement for the downtown area into a large impounded water source;

And that the County of Brant enter into an agreement with Burford United Church to implement the impounded water supply on their property.

. Defeated

Moved by – Councillor Coleman
Seconded by – Councillor Peirce

That the first site selected for impounded water for firefighting purposes in the Burford urban area be the municipal parking lot at Park Avenue and King Street.

. No Vote – Motion to Table Follows

Moved by – Councillor Chambers
Seconded by – Councillor Miller

That the motion to locate the first impounded water site for the Burford urban area in the municipal parking lot at Park Avenue and King Street be tabled to allow Fire Department staff to make the necessary calculations to determine if this is a suitable site.

. Carried

Moved by – Councillor Coleman
Seconded by – Councillor Emmott

That the Committee of the Whole rise and report in Open Session of Council.

. Carried

Mayor Eddy reported that the Committee of the Whole had agreed to table a motion to locate the first impounded water site for the Burford urban area in the municipal parking lot at Park Avenue and King Street in order to allow Fire Department staff to make the necessary calculations to determine if this is a suitable site. There was consensus of Council to support this recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m., on motion of Councillors Atfield and Emmott.

Secretary