



**THE PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL
OF THE TOWN OF ESPAÑOLA**

**Council Chambers
Municipal Office**

**April 11, 2017
7:30pm**

His Worship Mayor Piche presided over the meeting.

Present:

Councillor R. Dufour, K. Duplessis, R. Duplessis, B. Foster, S. Meikleham, R. Yocom

Staff: P. Roque, Clerk, C. Townsend, CAO/Treasurer, T. Denault-Roque, Recording Secretary, D. Parker, Assistant Manager of Public Works

The Mayor advised that this meeting is being live streamed.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.

Public Hearing

A public meeting is being held for the purpose to receive comments on amendments to the Vacancy Rebate and Vacant/Excess Land Subclasses as follows:

1. The vacancy rebate for 2017 will be 15% for vacant commercial and industrial space; the rebate for 2018 and thereafter will be nil;
2. The vacant & excess land property tax subclasses discount factor is 15% for commercial and/or industrial for 2017; with no reduction factor in 2018 and thereafter.

1 written comment was received prior to the meeting. No one came forward to make comment on the issue, no verbal comments were made.

This portion of the meeting closed at 7:31 pm.

Delegations/Petitions None

Question Period None

Mayor Piche announced that he would like to go over the Procedural Bylaw, Article 9 regarding the presiding officer. He further stated the duties of the presiding officer and how he has been remiss in his duties in providing order during meetings. He then advised that this will be his focus moving forward.

Mayor Piche reminded Council of Article 10 of the Procedural Bylaw and of their duties and asked for order, decorum and respect for each other, including staff. He stated that should there be any questions regarding this, he will be deal with them in his office.

CONSENT AGENDA

CA-006-17R. Duplessis – R. Dufour

Be It Resolved That: Items A1 to F2, contained in Part 1 Consent Agenda be adopted.

Carried

**Items A1-A3
Minutes**

17-066 R. Dufour – R. Yocom

Be It Resolved That: The following Minutes are hereby accepted; Special Meeting of Council of March 23, 2017; Regular Meeting of Council of March 28, 2017; Special Meeting of Council of March 28, 2017.

Carried

Board and Committee Reports

**Item B1
Board and
Committee Reports**

17-067 R. Yocom – R. Dufour

Be It Resolved That: The following reports are hereby received; Espanola Public Library Board Meeting Minutes of February 13, 2017.

Carried

Matters arising from the "In Camera Session"

None

Bylaws and Resolutions

**Item E1
Confirmatory Bylaw**

17-068 S. Meikleham – R. Dufour

Be It Resolved That: Bylaw No 2777/17 be adopted, being a Bylaw of the Town of Espanola to confirm the proceedings of Council at its Meeting of March 28, 2017.

Carried

**Reports
Items F1 –F2**

17-069R. Dufour – R. Duplessis

Be It Resolved That: The following reports are hereby received; Espanola Non Profit Housing Corporation Meeting Minutes of September 12th& November 10th, 2016; Joint Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2017.

Carried

**PART II
REGULAR AGENDA
Bylaws and Resolutions**

Item G1

17-070 S. Meikleham – R. Duplessis

**Tax Policy – Vacancy
Rebate and Reduction
Programs**

Be It Resolved That: The Vacancy Rebate and Vacant/Excess Land Subclasses are hereby amended as follows:

1. The vacancy rebate for 2017 will be 15% for vacant commercial and industrial space; the rebate for 2018 and thereafter will be nil;
2. The vacant & excess land property tax subclasses discount factor is 15% for commercial and/or industrial for 2017; with no reduction factor in 2018 and thereafter.

Carried

A discussion ensued.

Councillor R. Duplessis advised that he was disappointed that there was no representation for the public hearing at the meeting as he had received a few phone calls prior to the meeting. Mayor Piche advised he too received phone calls. Councillor Foster pointed out that Ontario is the only province where commercial and industrial rate payers are eligible for a vacant rebate and just recently the Province has passed legislation to allow Council to eliminate it. He further stated that many communities are taking advantage of this. The rationale for Espanola to do this is due to the fact that the municipality is losing revenue from commercial and other areas and Council is trying to protect the average homeowner. Councillor Yocom agreed with Councillor Foster and added that it is unfair for the residents to subsidize these losses; he further stated it was almost a form of double dipping. Councillor Dufour did not agree, he stated that there was something not entirely right about this and that it was almost a penalization towards the commercial property owners. He stated that if commercial property owners were already burdened with the fact that they are unable to rent their property and if the municipality is taking as much from them as possible, perhaps we are doing them more harm. Councillor Dufour requested a recorded vote.

RECORDED VOTE

	For	Against
Mayor R. Piche	✓	
R. Dufour		✓
K. Duplessis	✓	
R. Duplessis	✓	
B. Foster	✓	
S. Meikleham	✓	
B. Yocom	✓	

Carried

Item G2
**Appointment to the
Hydro Steering
Committee**

17-071

Be It Resolved That: Council for the Town of Espanola hereby appoints the Chairman of Holdco to the Hydro Steering Committee.

Carried

A discussion ensued.

Councillor R. Duplessis stated that he was happy this gentleman put his name forward during the Hydro Board meeting. He further stated that following the meeting, members of the Board met with hydro staff to explain what was happening. Councillor Duplessis stated that the Chairman at that time told the workers that he would keep them apprised as to what was going on within the scope of what he is allowed to say. He further stated that he would be unbiased and would not pick one side over the other.

Councillor Yocom stated that giving the nature of this, he would like to propose a motion to move into camera for discussion to be held at the end of tonight's Regular Meeting. Councillor Foster advised he would second that motion. Mayor Piche called for a vote and the motion was defeated. Further discussions ensued on the motion that was on the table.

Councillor Yocom stated he was not opposed to the Chairman sitting on the Steering Committee, due to his experience and the fact that he does know the Chairman personally, however there will be a lot of confidential information forth coming and the Chairman has made the statement of keeping the Staff informed, therefore Council must tread very carefully. He then reminded Council that there were already 2 members of HOLDCO sitting on the Steering Committee. He then stated that perhaps there was another way to utilize the Chairman's knowledge throughout this process.

Councillor R. Duplessis stated that he would like to remind everyone that the Chairman would be a resource only.

Councillor Meikleham stated that as the former Chair of the Hydro Board, he has had plenty of experience working with the current Chair, he has full trust and belief in his integrity.

Item G3
**2018 Municipal
Elections**

17-072 S. Meikleham – B. Foster

Be It Resolved That: 1. A Tabulation System be used for counting ballots in the 2018 Municipal Elections;
2. Vote by Mail alternative voting method be used in the 2018 Municipal Election; and
3. A bylaw to authorize the method and procedures for Vote by Mail and tabulators for counting the ballots in the 2018 Municipal Elections be prepared.

Carried

A discussion ensued.

Councillor Foster stated that during the last election Espanola had the highest voter turnout in many years; he advised that he would like to keep the method the same as before, Council agreed.

Item G4
Bill 132 –
Amendment to the
Occupational Health
and Safety Act

17-073 B. Foster – S. Meikleham

Be It Resolved That: As Recommended by the Joint Health and Safety Committee That: The revisions to Policy H04-01645, Respect in the Workplace (Harassment and Violence) reflecting Bill 132 be adopted.

Carried

Item G5
Safety Recognition
for 2016

17-074 S. Meikleham – K. Duplessis

Be It Resolved That: As Recommended by the Joint Health and Safety Committee That: Council approve a recognition award budget of \$15/employee for the 49 employees of the 3 departments that achieved zero recordable injuries in 2016, which include the Library, Fire and Administration departments.

Carried

A discussion ensued.

Councillor R. Duplessis stated that he didn't always agree with a safety award, it makes it look like safety is being bought and also felt it was unfair to certain Departments that may never achieve the award because they work in a higher risk area. Councillor Meikleham stated that the cost of the awards would equal to approximately \$750, a promotion of health and safety is valuable due to the savings on insurance premiums. Councillor Dufour read information that he took from the internet and advised that he didn't feel safety should be rewarded.

Item G6
Changes to the
Building Code, B-08-
09-03

17-075 K Duplessis – S. Meikleham

Be It Resolved That: Council for the Town of Espanola hereby supports the resolution adopted by Council for the Municipality of East Ferris regarding changes to the Building Code, B-08-09-03, requesting mandatory five year septic tank pump out and records retention.

Carried

Item G7
Fair Hydro Plan for
Ontario

17-076 B. Foster – K. Duplessis

Be It Resolved That: WHEREAS **ALL** Ontario Hydro customers are paying exorbitant delivery fees charged by Ontario Hydro;
AND WHEREAS these exorbitant delivery fees have left many families in all of Ontario to struggle with their financial commitments;
AND WHEREAS the Premier announced Ontario's Fair Hydro Plan, in which Ontario Hydro will be waiving delivery fees for

customers who reside on First Nations reserves and settlements in Ontario;
AND WHEREAS if this was truly a Fair Hydro Plan for Ontario; the Province of Ontario would treat all Ontario Hydro customers equally and provide a common relief to all Ontarians who are burdened with the cost of hydro delivery fees;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Espanola calls upon the Province to ensure a fairness and equality to all Ontario hydro customers through a truly Fair Hydro Plan for Ontario;
AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT: in the interest of transparency, Ontario Hydro explain to the municipalities which costing measures or alternative revenue sources will be put in place to replace the revenue losses it experiences from the elimination of the delivery charge to its customers.
AND FURTHER that a copy of this resolution be sent to Premier Wynne, Minister Thibeault and all municipalities in the Province of Ontario for their support.

Carried

Correspondence For Information Only

None

Information

This information was previously circulated to Council. If required a copy of the information is available at the Municipal Office.

Premier Wynne Correspondence re: AED
Stewardship Ontario Correspondence re: Industry Funding for Blue Box Recycling
Municipality of Port Hope resolution re: incineration

Conference and Conventions

FONOM, Wednesday May 10th – Friday May 12th, 2017
North Bay, Ontario

Mayor and Councillors Reports and Announcements

- 100th Anniversary of Vimy Ridge** Councillor Yocom stated that the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge was well attended. He further complimented the cadets and stated they are a valued asset to our community.
- Firehall information** Councillor R. Duplessis inquired as to when Council can expect to receive information that was asked of the Firehall regarding equipment and trucks.

**Fundraiser
Breakfast**

A fundraiser breakfast will be held for the Pollard family on April 23rd at the Regional Recreation Complex.

Future Council Meetings

Community Services Committee Meeting of April 18th @ 4:00 pm
Regular Meeting of Council of April 18th @ 7:30 pm

Adjournment

K. Duplessis – B. Foster

Be It Resolved That: The Regular Meeting of Council is hereby adjourned. Time: 8:06pm

Carried



Ron Piche
Mayor



Paula Roque
Clerk