

MINUTES
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL
SPENCERVILLE MUNICIPAL OFFICE
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017
6:00 PM

PRESENT:

Pat Sayeau, Mayor
Peggy Taylor, Deputy Mayor
Michael Barrett, Councillor
Gerry Morrell, Councillor
Karie Smail, Councillor

STAFF:

Deb McKinstry, CAO/Clerk
Dave Grant, Director of Operations
Melanie Stubbs, Treasurer
Mike Spencer, Manager of Parks, Recreation & Facilities
Rebecca Williams, Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Mayor Sayeau called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and outlined Council's reason for calling the Special Council meeting in order to consider appeal of the closure of Benson Public School.

2. Approval of the Agenda

R2017-125

Decision: Moved by: M. Barrett seconded by: G. Morrell that Municipal Council approves the agenda as presented.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof – None

4. Delegations & Presentations – None

5. Action and Information Items from Committees

a) Appeal of UCDSB Decision – Benson Public School

Council discussed the appeal process to the UCDSB and Minister of Education, remarking on various clauses within the resolution. Members commented on the PAR process and presentations. It was noted that the ministerial letter outlines that the Board was to consider economic and community impact, however the Board had rejected that consideration in the first round of meetings. It was noted that Board staff were instructed not to consider economic and community impacts and as a result did not document the information in their final report to the Board.

Members confirmed that the appeal may result in a facilitated administrative review of the PAR process to confirm that the proper steps were taken before the decision to close Benson Public School was finalized. Members noted that the process is not likely to result in an overturn of the Board decision; however the Minister may review and request that the Board reviews their final decision.

R2017-126

Decision: Moved by: P. Taylor seconded by: M. Barrett

WHEREAS The Upper Canada District School Board has recently conducted a Pupil Accommodation Review Process which culminated at a Special Board Meeting on March 23/2017 with a Board Resolution to close, among others,

Benson Public School (Grades K to six) located in the Village of Cardinal; and
WHEREAS The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal made several presentations to the Board, in support of Benson Public School parents and students at various times during the Review Process while under the distinct impression that the Board was mandated under the 2015 Guidelines to consider only the education of students and the condition of the building and was prohibited from considering the Social and Economic contribution of the school to the community it serves; and

WHEREAS We learn from the Joint Ministerial Letter, dated March 6, 2017, over the signatures of the Minister of Education and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and to the Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) that there are several Ministry Guidelines and expectations which we believe the Board has failed to meet; and

WHEREAS The DoyleTech Report filed with the Board in spite of advice that the Board would not consider the Social and Economic consequences of school closures, documents the devastating effect that the closure of Benson Public School may have on the local community it serves; and

WHEREAS The updates to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines in 2015 were introduced following consultations with school boards, municipalities and other community partners to enable a more effective review process which included a new requirement that impacted municipalities and community partners are consulted regarding the potential accommodation changes; and

WHEREAS The Ministerial Letter indicates that there was a clear expectation that there be a meaningful engagement from both boards and municipalities, and that full input and feedback from the municipalities, including local economic and community impacts where relevant are reflected in the final staff report and advice to trustees; and

WHEREAS The final staff report to the trustees failed to address the DoyleTech report in any manner; and

WHEREAS It was evident from the discussion at the Board table that trustees were not aware that it was within their purview to take these factors into consideration, to examine them fully during the review process, and to take them into account before making their final decisions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal hereby formally appeals to the Minister of Education, within the thirty (30) day legislated appeal period, to reverse the decision of the Upper Canada District School Board to close the Benson Public School effective Sept 2017 and hereby provides the required signatures of 30% of the parents whose children are currently enrolled in, and attending, the school in support of this appeal.

THAT this Notice of Appeal be first directed to the Upper Canada District School Board to provide an opportunity for resolution at the local level; and

THAT the Mayor is hereby authorized to speak on behalf of and lead the Township through the Ministerial Appeal process.

Carried

6. Question Period

Questions/comments were raised with respect to the following:

- Can anyone sign the required petition?

7. Confirmation By-law

R2017-127

Decision: Moved by: P. Taylor seconded by: M. Barrett that the mover be granted leave to introduce a by-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by resolution and this shall constitute first and second reading thereof.

Carried

R2017-128

Decision: Moved by: P. Taylor seconded by: M. Barrett that a by-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by resolution be now read a third time and finally passed, signed, sealed and numbered 2017-21.

Carried

8. Adjournment

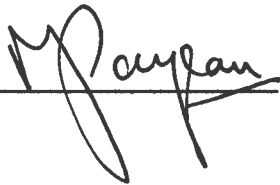
R2017-129

Decision: Moved by: P. Taylor seconded by: K. Smail that Municipal Council does now adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

Carried

These minutes were adopted by Council this 24th day of April, 2017.

Mayor



Deputy Clerk

