

TOWNSHIP OF ADMASTON/BROMLEY

Special Public Meeting

Council held a public meeting at the Municipal Council Chambers on Thursday, April 6th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Council members present were Mayor Michael Donohue, Deputy Mayor Robert Dick, Councillors Bob Hall, Kevin LeGris and Mike Quilty. Staff members present were Clerk-Treasurer Annette Gilchrist and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Bill Piasetzki. Members of the Public present were Robert Afelskie, Donna Burns and Gary Burns.

Mayor Donohue called the public meeting to order.

Mayor Donohue reported that the public meeting was being held to consider changes to By-Law 2012-24 being a by-law to establish a schedule of fees for municipal services.

Clerk-Treasurer Annette Gilchrist presented the justification report on the proposed changes to the Fees By-Law.

It was reported that notice was posted in two local newspapers as required and the following written comments/questions received and answered were read by the Clerk-Treasurer.

My first question to the municipality is what do I receive in the form of a service when say, I purchase anyone of your permits for the fee requested in accordance with the Township Tariff of Fees By-Law and Section 391 (1) of the Municipal Act 2001 and as set out in the Building Code Act and the Ontario Building Code?

The fees charged for building permits are to cover the costs of the Building Inspection and Administration of the applications and permits which is mandated by the Ontario Building Code and the Municipal Act so that the person receiving the benefit or the use of the building being built is the one paying for the cost and to ensure that it is not billed as part of the regular tax levy requirements paid by the population as a whole. The fees are based on a cost per square foot so that the larger building you build the bigger portion of the cost you will be allocated according to the use/benefit received from the larger buildings. The service is mandatory and the cost is being allocated to those who use it.

Second question is, why are we paying the County of Renfrew Planning Application Fees for The Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-Law Amendment, Minor Variance and The Consent Application as per the County of Renfrew Tariff of Fees By-Law? Is the Municipality of Admaston/Bromley using the Official Plan of Renfrew County as their own Official Plan? And if so, why? Again as in my first question asked what services are we as residents of Admaston/Bromley receiving for paying the Renfrew County Planning Application Fees under their revised Tariff of By-Law and why are we required to do so? Plus, are all these fees not covered in our municipal taxes anyway?

The County of Renfrew Official Plan is the Township of Admaston/Bromley's Official Plan. As a small Township it would be fiscally challenging to hire the planning staff required to review the Planning Applications and to develop our own official plan. 12 out of the 17 lower tier municipalities in Renfrew County are or will be using the County Official Plan as their own. The remaining 5 (Renfrew, Arnprior, Deep River, Petawawa, Laurentian Valley) do or will tie their local Official Plans to the County Official Plan. The fees are to recoup the cost of the application process which includes mandatory notice and advertising costs as well as planning advice which the County provides for a fee. The cost is allocated to those benefitting from the applications to sever and sell property or change use or allow development. These fees are not covered in the municipal tax levy and are paid for by the applicant who will receive some benefit from the process. The increase to these fees will ensure this cost recovery continues.

Third question is, how do the County of Renfrew Tariff of Fees By-Law and the Admaston/Bromley Tariff of Fees By-Law apply to me as resident and property owner of Admaston/Bromley?

The municipal taxes pay for services available to all residents such as roads, waste management, protection, administration, etc. The Tariff of Fees apply to you as a property owner in Admaston/Bromley where you require certain services that may only benefit yourself as the end user and provide a particular service above and beyond the normal use of our ratepayers. Building, Development, Severances, large Waste items that use up the capacity at our landfill are all special circumstances where the individual pays an additional fee when they require these services so that those who do not receive the benefit do not share in the cost of the service.

Mayor Donohue then asked if there were any further comments from the public.

Seeing none Mayor Donohue then asked if Council had any questions or comments.

Seeing none the Mayor requested that anyone wishing to receive notice of Council's decision on the proposed Fee By-Law being considered at the April 20th, 2017 regular Council meeting must advise the Clerk Treasurer prior to leaving this public meeting.

Hearing no further concerns or objections the Thursday April 6th, 2017 public meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer