



**Township of Amaranth  
Council Minutes  
Thursday, April 2, 2020  
10:00 a.m.**

**Community Hall - 374028 6<sup>th</sup> Line, Amaranth ON**

The Township of Amaranth Council met in the Community Hall of the municipal office, Laurel, Ontario on Thursday, April 2, 2020, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

**Present:**

Mayor	B. Currie
Deputy Mayor	C. Gerrits
Councillor	G. Little
Councillor	H. Foster
Councillor	M. Tijssen
CAO/Clerk	C. Hickey

**1. Opening of Meeting**

Mayor Currie called the Meeting to Order at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Currie advised that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Clerk would be recoding all motions directly to ensure that social distancing was maintained.

**2. Added Items (Late Submissions) - To be in the office prior to the meeting**

Discussion ensued on the request to have the 2019 Budget Summary Report and details regarding Short Term Disability on the Agenda. Staff advised that due to the Emergency Declaration and efforts to minimize the number of staff and Council in the room the Budget summary was not included on the April 2, 2020 Agenda. Furthermore, Staff did not have all of the details regarding Short Term Disability changes to provide an update.

**Resolution #1**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by G. Little**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The following items be hereby added/deleted to the agenda.

**Added:**

**9.1 COVID-19 Matters**  
Electronic Meeting Options

**15.3 Treasury/Accounts - Other**  
Minister's Letter to Head of Council dated March 25, 2020

**CARRIED**

3. **Approval of Agenda**

**Resolution #2**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council do hereby approve the agenda as amended.

**CARRIED**

4. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest with Reasons - None**

5. **Approval of Minutes**

5.1. Regular Meeting Minutes held March 18, 2020

Discussion ensued on amending the draft minutes to include the request of the Mayor to be involved in the interview process for the Administrative Assistant Role.

The following motion was introduced due to the amendment not being minor in nature.

**A recorded vote was requested:**

**Resolution #3**

**Moved by: M. Tijssen – Seconded by H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

THAT under Item 17 – New Business the following be added:

Mayor Currie requested to be involved in the interview process for the Administrative Assistant Position, Councillor Little loudly and persistently objected until requested to stop by Council. The reason for Councillor Little's objection is that it is not the role of the Mayor to be involved in this position, in her opinion.

**CARRIED**

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Deputy Mayor Chris Gerrits</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Councillor Heather Foster</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Councillor Gail Little</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Councillor Mark Tijssen</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mayor Bob Currie</b>	<b>X</b>		

**Resolution #4**

**Moved by: M. Tijssen – Seconded by H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council do hereby adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 18, 2020 as amended.

**CARRIED**

A recorded vote was requested:

	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Deputy Mayor Chris Gerrits</b>			<b>X</b>
<b>Councillor Heather Foster</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Councillor Gail Little</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Councillor Mark Tijssen</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mayor Bob Currie</b>	<b>X</b>		

**6. Public Question Period**

\*Please note that due to the Current COVID-19 Pandemic, there will be no Public Question Period at the April 2, 2020 Council Meeting.

Discussion ensued on the recording of the Council Meeting and the ability to post the audio to the website. It was noted that the Council Meeting is being recorded although the program used to record may not allow for the posting of the audio recording.

**Resolution #5**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council do hereby remove Heading 27.1 (6) Public Question Period from By-law 61-2018 for the April 2, 2020 meeting due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

**CARRIED**

**7. Delegations/Presentations – None scheduled**

**8. Public Meetings – None**

**9. General Business and Correspondence**

The following were received and/or dealt with:

- 9.1. **COVID-19 Matters – Staff Report to follow**
  - Administration Update
  - Consideration of extension of Dates and waiving of penalty and interest
  - Public Meetings
  - Water Rate Study Date

Staff provided an overview of Clerk's Report 2020-05 – COVID 19 matters. Discussion ensued on the measures in place during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that there was a written policy and record of procedures.

Further discussion occurred regarding the burn permit process. Staff were directed to include a banner on the website regarding this matter.

Discussion ensued on options for property tax relief to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff advised that in the Letter from the Minister's to Heads of Council dated March 25, 2020, it indicates that the Education Levy will have a 90-day extension for both the June and September instalments.

**Resolution #6**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by M. Tijssen**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council of the Township of Amaranth will suspend the assessment of penalties for late payment of the first instalment of taxes until May 21, 2020.

AND FURTHER THAT Council will reconsider at the May 6, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council.

**CARRIED**

Council confirmed that they will consider water instalment dates at future Council meetings as the water notices are not provided until June.

Discussion ensued on options for accepting Planning Applications and holding legislated Public Meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Council requested that applications continue to be accepted and that the two existing applications proceed with a Public Meeting. Staff to reschedule these meetings and send notices indicating the meeting format changes. No further Public Meetings to be scheduled at this time.

**Resolution #7**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Clerks Report 2020-05 be received for information and that due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic the Council of the Township of Amaranth direct staff to continue to accept Planning Applications and that no additional public planning meetings be scheduled until further notice.

**CARRIED**

Discussion ensued on the upcoming water rate study information to be provided by Watson and Associates.

**Resolution #8**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by M. Tijssen**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Clerks Report 2020-05 be received for information and that the delegation of Watson and Associates regarding the Water Rate Study proceed electronically at the April 15, 2020 meeting.

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of Amaranth request that Joe Meidema, General Manager of Dufferin Water Company contact the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to request an extension on the License Application of the Waldemar Heights Water Supply System due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

**CARRIED**

Staff provided an update on the options available for electronic Council Meetings. Discussion ensued on the options available and features of the meeting software. Council directed staff to proceed with Zoom Pro as the County uses this package, which may be beneficial from a technology perspective.

10. **Planning Department**

The following were received and/or dealt with:

10.1. **Other**

11. **Public Works Department**

The following were received and/or dealt with:

11.1. **Tender Results Gravel Hauling**

Discussion ensued on the tender amount and the impact that the decrease in fuel costs may have on the total tender price provided. Staff noted that the tonnes requested was 27,000 this year compared to 26,000 last year. Further discussion on the feasibility of reducing the amount of gravel on the roads.

**Resolution #9**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by G. Little**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The 2020 Gravel Hauling Tender be awarded to the lowest bidder Dalton R. Lowe & Sons Construction in the total tender amount of \$115, 830.

Further resolved that staff be directed to notify the bidders of the tender result.

**CARRIED**

## 11.2. Tender Results Gravel Crushing

### **Resolution #10**

**Moved by: H. Foster – Seconded by C. Gerrits**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The 2020 Gravel Crushing Tender be awarded to the lowest bidder Dalton R. Lowe & Sons Construction in the total tender amount of \$52,750.00.

Further resolved that staff be directed to notify the bidders of the tender result.

**CARRIED**

## 11.3. Tender Results Calcium/Dust Control

Discussion on the price increase for 2020, the increase is significant from 2019. This increase may be due to the increases in the product, as well, the cost that Da-Lee Dust Control submitted in 2018 was extended into 2019. Council directed staff to provide additional details on the increase and confirm if the quantity was increased.

Decision on the Tender Results for Calcium/Dust Control was deferred until the April 15, 2020 meeting.

## 11.4. Tender Results Winter Sand

Discussion on the Winter Sand Tender and the decrease in the cost. Clarification on if the required quantity of salt is located at the shop already. Council directed staff to confirm if the required quantity of salt is currently at the shop.

Decision on the Tender Results for Winter Sand was deferred until the April 15, 2020 meeting.

## 11.5. Other

Council requested confirmation on when street sweeping will occur in Waldemar.

Council requested and update on Sideroad 20 Tender. Staff advised that Burnside's will be providing a workplan shortly and that they are reaching out to the County in regards to this. Discussion ensued on the timing of this Tender and working with the County as they are completing road work within the same area. Further concerns on when the application was successful in obtaining grant money and the delay in the tendering process. Want to ensure that all timelines are met and there will be no funding issues.

Deputy Mayor Chris Gerrits left the meeting from approximately 12:10 p.m. to 12:15 p.m.

12. **County Council Business**

The following were received and/or dealt with:

12.1. **County of Dufferin**

12.2. **Other**

13. **Committee Reports**

The following were received and/or dealt with:

13.1. [AMO COVID-19 Update](#)

13.2. **Other**

14. **Unfinished Business**

14.1. **Other**

15. **Treasury/Accounts**

The following were received and/or dealt with:

15.1. **Council Renumeration**

**Resolution #11**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by G. Little**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council do hereby accept the Township of Amaranth 2019 Remuneration and Expense summary.

**CARRIED**

15.2. **Resolution Number 12- March 18, 2020 – Pulled Invoices**

Discussion on the pulled invoices from the March 18, 2020 Council Meeting. Clarification that Macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd invoice was pulled for further discussion prior to releasing payment.

Discussion ensued on Macualy Shiomi Howson Ltd., Clarification that there was no additional work completed after February 9, 2020. Staff confirmed that it was the final invoice and included work completed from November 2019 to February 15, 2020. Further details requested on the work completed as there were no additional reports submitted or additional direction provided in that time frame. Council deferred payment of this invoice and requested copies of Macaulay Shiomi Howson Ltd invoices from May 2019 to February 2020 for further discussion and direction.

Discussion ensued on the details of the invoice from Zabek Law, this invoice included correspondence with individual Council upon which no formal direction was provided.

**Resolution #11**

**Moved by: H. Foster – Seconded by M. Tijssen**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The following Bills and Accounts from the March 18, 2020 Council meeting be approved for payment: Zabek Law in the amount of \$4,055.57

**CARRIED**

A recorded vote was requested:

	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Deputy Mayor Chris Gerrits</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Councillor Heather Foster</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Councillor Gail Little</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Councillor Mark Tijssen</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mayor Bob Currie</b>	<b>X</b>		

Discussion ensued on the invoice from the Township of East Garafraxa for shared services. Staff advised that the invoice was from July to December and was the final shared service invoice. In addition, Amaranth also provided a shared service invoice to the Township of East Garafraxa. Council deferred payment of this invoice and requested a detailed breakdown of services on both invoices for this time frame for further discussion and direction.

**15.3. Other**

Discussion ensued on Committees of Council and how they are handling matters included staffing during the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

Discussion ensued on Camp Amaranth 2020, although at this time there is uncertainty on camps proceeding, Council would like to proceed with planning stages. This will ensure that we are prepared if the opportunity to proceed with summer camp occurs.

**Resolution #12**

**Moved by: C. Gerrits – Seconded by H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council of The Township of Amaranth request that Hannah Francis proceed with the planning stage of Camp Amaranth 2020.

**CARRIED**

**16. Late Submissions**

The following were received and/or dealt with:

**16.1 Treasury/Accounts - Other**

Minister's Letter to Head of Council dated March 25, 2020



## 16.2 COVID-19 Matters

Electronic Meeting Options (Please see 9.1)

## 17. New Business

The following were received and/or dealt with:

### 17.1. Exotic Animals By-law

Question received by Councillor Mark Tijssen on Exotic Animals permitted within the Township

Discussion ensued on by-laws regarding exotic animals. Councillor Foster will review by-laws from neighbouring municipalities.

## 18. Notice of Motions

The following were received and/or dealt with:

### 18.1 Notice of Motion – Councillor Mark Tijssen

Request for reimbursement of fees incurred for recent work on the Official Plan.

Council to defer this notice of Motion until further review of invoices has occurred.

### 18.2 Notice of Motion – Councillor Mark Tijssen

Request to have the period of default prior to taking legal action for tax arrears moved to three years versus the current two-year period.

Discussion ensued on the period of default for taxes, Councillor Tijssen will provide the motion to be considered at the April 15, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council. Council directed staff to send a letter to the premier, Sylvia Jones and all municipalities to have the period of default moved back to three years.

Discussion ensued on the concern for residents due to potential loss of jobs and this impact the current situation will have on the ability to put food on the table.

Councillor Little introduced a motion she would like to bring forward to request that a donation be to the food banks in Grand Valley, Shelburne and Orangeville in order to support our residents and neighbours who may need assistance during this state of emergency.

The following draft motion was presented by Councillor Little and discussed:

Be it resolved that Amaranth immediately donate \$5000.00, which is approximately \$1.00 per resident, to the food banks of Orangeville, Shelburne and Grand Valley, with the split being based on the ratios of households in each area of our fire boards.

Further, that a second equivalent donation be made at the beginning of May 2020 if the fight against COVID-19 virus continues.

Upon further discussion of the donation amount, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Council will make the following donation in 2020 and limit future donation requests for this year, Council also requested that a statement regarding foodbank donations be placed on the website. The following motion was introduced:

**Resolution #13**

**Moved by: G. Little – Seconded by H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Be it resolved that Amaranth immediately donate \$500.00, to each of the food banks of Orangeville, Shelburne and Grand Valley for a total of \$1500.00.

Further, that a second equivalent donation be made at the beginning of May 2020 if the fight against COVID-19 virus continues.

**CARRIED**

Council took a 10 minute recess.

19. **Closed Meeting**

**Resolution #14**

**Moved by C. Gerrits – Seconded by H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council move to a Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason(s):

19.1. Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

19.2. Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose

19.3. Adoption of Closed Meeting Minutes

**CARRIED**

**Resolution #15**

**Moved by C. Gerrits – Seconded by M. Tijssen**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council do now rise and report from Closed Meeting.

**CARRIED.**

Council reviewed the information as presented and gave direction to Staff.

20. **By-Laws - None**

21. **Confirming By-Law**

22. **Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

**Resolution #16**

**Moved by C. Gerrits – Seconded by G. Little**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Council do now adjourn to meet again for the Regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor.

**CARRIED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Original Signed by  
Head of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Original Signed by  
Clerk