# REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

Township of South-West Oxford <u>Council Chambers</u>

Present: Chair Jim Pickard; Mayor David Mayberry; Councillor Valerie Durston;

Cathy Reeves (community representative); and George Klosler

(community representative).

Regrets: David Schell (community representative)

Staff: Works Superintendent Adam Prouse, Chief Building Official Howard

Leaver, Clerk Julie Middleton

#### Call to Order

Chair Jim Pickard called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and a quorum was present.

# Motion to Accept the Agenda

Resolution No. 1 Moved by Howard Leaver

Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved.

**DISPOSITON: Motion Carried** 

#### <u>Minutes</u>

Resolution No. 2 Moved by Valerie Durston

Seconded by George Klosler

RESOLVED that the minutes of the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be

reviewed and approved.

**DISPOSITON: Motion Carried** 

# **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Mount Elgin EV Charging Station

The Committee discussed the cost of the installation of the charging station in Mount Elgin (\$25,000) a grant in the amount of \$10,000 was received. The Township paid approximately \$15,000 for the charging station. Council agreed that 50% of the revenue generated from the charging station would be provided to the Mount Elgin Hall Board on an annual basis.

# <u>Garbage and Recycling Bin – Mount Elgin Hall</u>

A new collection bin has been purchased and installed. 50% of the cost will be funded from the Waste Management Reserve.

#### 2025 to 2030 Energy Management Plan - Objectives

Continuation of discussion of 2025-2030 Energy Management Plan objectives. Julie explained that the updated plan had to be submitted to the Province in July, 2024. Committee input is required to incorporate any changes into the plan itself so that the amended and approved plan may be submitted.

- Suggest that historical data be left in the energy management plan to show the progress made.
- Discussion regarding hot water tanks at the fire halls these could be removed and replaced with hot water on demand tanks. Currently three hot water tanks are on and using energy even when the water is not being used. Howard will a quote to find out the cost to replace them.
- Consider development of implementation and action plan to support the Energy Management Plan going forward – this will identify specific action items that the committee considers and moves forward with. Darryl will follow up with quotes for the on-demand water heaters.

# Resolution No. 3 Moved by David Mayberry Seconded by Valerie Durston

RESOLVED that the 2025 to 2030 Energy Management Plan be brought forward to Council for final consideration and approval.

**DISPOSITON: Motion Carried** 

Further discussion will take place at the next Committee meeting.

#### Continuation of Electrical Audits in 2024?

Staff are requesting direction from the Committee regarding if we are continuing to proceed with electrical audits in 2024. Foldens Hall, Salford Hall and Derham Hall (if not already done) will be completed.

Resolution No. 4 Moved by David Mayberry Seconded by Adam Prouse

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Committee provide direction to staff to proceed with the electrical audits for Foldens (West Oxford) Hall, Salford Community Centre and the Dereham Centre Hall.

**DISPOSITON: Motion Carried** 

## <u>Heat Pump at the Municipal Office (Council Chamber)</u>

Discussion took place regarding the use of infrared heaters in the basement. Cathy Reeves dropped two off for staff to try. Howard will follow up on the installation of one heat pump for Council Chamber only. There is concern that the cost may be too high.

#### <u>Solar Panels – Works Shop and Municipal Office</u>

Additional modules were purchase for the Beachville Fire Station. They have not been installed yet – Howard will follow up on this. Mayor David Mayberry is going to contact HydroOne regarding net metering and solar panels at the municipal office and public works shop.

#### Correspondence

#### Low Impact Development (LIDs) Presentation

Committee reviewed correspondence from Imtiaz Shah regarding a presentation for Low Impact Developments (LIDs). Interested to know if Zorra did any low impact development when they built their new office. The Township may consider this if/when they build a new municipal office. May be more cost-effective way to manage stormwater moving forward in new development. Mayor David Mayberry will follow up with representatives from Huron County and Bayfield to find out more details regarding what changes they implemented and why.

# New SWPH Vital Perspectives Installment

Southwestern Public Health has launched their latest Vital Perspectives series which sheds light on, and builds understanding around, some of the most pressing public health issues of our time. Their new story focuses on climate change and its impact on health. The Township will share this information across our communication channels to amplify these important messages.

#### Standing Items

# **Discussion Items**

# <u>Lifecycle Cost and Impact of Solar Panels & Electric Vehicles</u>

At the July 9, 2024 regular meeting of Council, Councillor Ypma questioned the lifecycle cost and impact of the solar panel project and electric vehicles. He asked that this be added to the next Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting agenda to report back to Council. ERTH is interested in looking at this topic as well. Mayor David Mayberry suggested that as a committee, we take this on to consider the lifecycle cost of these initiatives – return on investment? Environmentally, is it a good decision? It was suggested that the Committee look into this in more detail in relation to solar panels first. Mayor David Mayberry agreed to follow up on this and do some research on the topic.

It was discussed at Council that the salvage value of a wind tower at the end of life is approximately \$43,000. The blades are not yet recyclable and are made of fibreglass – some companies have grided the material and put it into asphalt. Council and the Committee have been invited to visit the Gunn's Hill Wind Farm – Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The Committee was also invited to attend the Boralex (Oxford Battery Storage Project) open house on Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Goff Hall in Woodstock.

#### **New Business**

- Solar Light in Zenda (Norwich Township) it was put up privately.
- Mount Elgin Fire Hall lights are often on day and night. Inside lights are motion lights. Howard and Darryl will ask Tim Smith about the lights.
- Discussion regarding the replacement of Council Chamber lights with LEDs.
  Howard and Darryl will look into options available.

## **Adjournment**

Resolution No. 5 Moved by Adam Prouse Seconded by George Klosler

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee adjourn at 6:00 p.m. to meet again on **October 2**<sup>nd</sup>, **2024 at 4:30 p.m.** 

**DISPOSITON: Motion Carried**