



March 5, 2014

*Minutes of the Area Rating Open House of the Corporation of the Municipality of Port Hope held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Canton Municipal Office, 5325 County Rd 10, Port Hope, Ontario.*

Present: Mayor L. Thompson, Deputy Mayor J. Gilmer, Councillor R. Austin, Councillor G. Burns, Councillor D. Turck, Councillor M. Ellis

Staff: C. Cannon, Chief Administrative Officer  
D. Baxter, Director of Finance  
D. Sherwood, Tax and Revenue Coordinator  
D. Kripp, Finance Clerk

Members of the Public: There were 86 members in attendance.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Mayor Linda Thompson welcomed citizens to the open house and introduced the facilitator Nigel Bellchamber.

Mr. Bellchamber introduced himself providing an overview of credentials and how the process works, explaining that David Baxter, Director of Finance, would provide a presentation and afterwards the floor would be opened up to the audience to ask questions or provide comments.

## **2. STAFF PRESENTATION**

David Baxter provided an overview of his presentation.

## **3. QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS**

Mark Probert – 3864 Hwy 2

Mark inquired about the emergency response time with regards to closing the Welcome Fire Station. Further, noted the LLRW interest money is

supposed to be used to reduce the Ward 2 taxes and inquired why this has not been completed.

Anna Parussini – 22 White Drive

Anna commented that she moved to Port Hope from Uxbridge in hopes that taxes would be lower in a retirement community. Anna also indicated that she has never had to pay directly for garbage before.

Kathy Dennis – 2761 Oak Hill Road

Kathy thanked David Baxter for the presentation as it was easy to understand and appreciated that Council has looked at areas to be a special service. Kathy commented that there is better library service now and she would be willing to pay for that on her taxes however, Kathy doesn't believe that Ward 2 should pay higher for Parks, Recreation and Culture because the services are different. Kathy indicated she is willing to pay a higher user fee to use these facilities but so should Cobourg residents.

Bob DeMatteo – 8158 Gilmer Road

Bob commented that when the focus group met, they had identified 29 potential services that should be reviewed and now Council is reviewing 12 services. Bob inquired if the numbers are based on the 2013 budget and when the detailed, line by line breakdown of the 2013 budget will be made available. Bob commented that it is easy to say something is accessible but there is a need to look at accessibility in a reasonable way.

David White – 5647 Heaslip Lane

David inquired about the Municipality's debt.

Al MacKenzie – 164 Hope St North

Al inquired about other comparator communities and if their tax rates are high. Al inquired the timeline regarding audited financial statements and the usage of LLRW document that are to be posted on the Municipal website.

Sandy Spencer – Dodd's Road

Sandy inquired if the reserves included LLRW monies.

Jackie Hill Bower – Ward 2

Jackie inquired why Fire and Emergency Services was not being considered a potential special service. Jackie commented on the various levels of

service that residents receive. Jackie inquired if the services were equally allocated.

Mary Condon – 3863 LaRose Crescent

Mary inquired about the next steps to the process and expressed her concerns regarding rushing the process.

Al MacKenzie – 164 Hope Street North

Al indicated that the discussion should only begin when all the information was provided.

Geoff Thompson – 5605 County Road 10

Geoff inquired about the services and what has changed in the past 15 years that warrants a change in taxes.

Pat Monteith – 3701 Slyvin Glen Road

Pat commented that she does not appreciate being put against Ward 1 and as a community we need to work together to create a solution.

Allan Richter – 3863 LaRose Crescent

Allan indicates that the services they are receiving are the same if not worse than the past 15 years. He commented about the process beginning 2 years ago; however he had only recently learned about the proposed changes. Allan commented on compliance with the Municipal Act and that the previously circulated survey was confusing and unhelpful.

Pat Monteith – 3701 Slyvin Glen Road

Pat inquired about the cost of garbage tags and how much money is generated from this incentive.

Bill Bickle – Canton

Bill inquired about the need to shift the tax burden between the Wards. Bill commented that he was on the Area Rating Citizen's Working Group and the group had agreed on services that should be common and should be special services. He stated Ward 2 has the lowest tax rate because of the impact of the LLRW interest, however Ward 2 taxes has increased similar as Ward 1.

Dale DeMatteo – 8158 Gilmer Road

Dale commented that residents are as upset as they are because of the promises agreed to at the time of amalgamation and the lack of knowledge

on how the Municipality's money has been spent. Dale further commented that as a Municipality, we should be putting more pressure on the Federal Government and their funding/lack of funding.

Marilyn Curson – 2 Clifton Road

Marilyn commented that amount owing for taxes is not all Municipal and indicated that this needs to be explained to residents.

Ken Swales – 3925 LaRose Crescent

Ken indicated he has been a volunteer firefighter for several years and was surprised that Fire and Emergency Services will be considered common. He noted that there is a difference in the level of service.

Nigel Bellchamber closed the session, thanking the audience for participating and encouraged participants to complete and submit the comment sheets.

Adjourn 9:00 p.m.