

MAYOR HILL - OPENING REMARKS - MARCH 26, 2011 PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

HELD AT HONEYWOOD ARENA

GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. I'D LIKE TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER. FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT DON'T KNOW ME, MY NAME IS BILL HILL AND I HAVE THE HONOUR TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON AS MAYOR. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE OUR COUNCIL STARTING WITH DEPUTY MAYOR DARREN WHITE, COUNCILLOR JOHN CROWE, COUNCILLOR JANICE ELLIOTT AND COUNCILLOR NANCY MALEK. IN ADDITION I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE DENISE HOLMES, MELANCTHON'S C A O. ALSO JOINING US TODAY ARE JERRY JORDEN THE TOWNSHIP'S PLANNER AND ANDREW OSYANY THE TOWNSHIP'S SOLICITOR. MR. IAN ROWE IS LEAD COUNCIL ON THE HIGHLAND FILE AND HE IS NOT ABLE TO BE HERE TODAY AS HIS SON IS GETTING MARRIED. WHILE I SUGGESTED WE COULD ALL GO TO THE RECEPTION, HE FELT THAT WAS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF HIS DAY. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING TODAY IS TO BRING THE RESIDENTS UP TO DATE WITH WHAT COUNCIL HAS DONE, OUTLINE WHAT COUCIL WILL BE DOING AND IN GENERAL REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CITIZENS THAT YOUR COUNCIL WILL BE EXTREMELY OPEN AND TRANSPARENT AND CONTINUE TO HAVE THESE TYPES OF INFORMATION SESSIONS IN ADDITION TO ANY STATUTORY MEETINGS THAT ARE REQUIRED UNDER THE PLANNING ACT. DEPUTY MAYOR WHITE WILL PROVIDE AN UPDATE ABOUT OUR ATTENDENCE AT THE ROMA/OGRA CONFERENCE. MR. JORDEN WILL OUTLINE THE PROCESS AND VARIOUS TIMELINES TO HANDLE THE APPLICATION. WE WILL THEN HAVE A HALF HOUR QUESTION PERIOD AND HOPEFULLY WE HAVE ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS. IF NOT WE WILL GET THEM FOR YOU. PLEASE NOTE WE WILL NOT BE DEALING WITH THE MERITS OF THE APPLICATION, THERE WILL BE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO DO THAT, THIS MEETING IS ABOUT THE PROCESS. IN KEEPING WITH THE CONCEPT OF OPENESS AND TRANSPARENCY ONCE THE PLANNING APPLICATION IS DEEMED COMPLETE WE WILL BE POSTING THE LIST OF PEER REVIEWERS ON OUR WEBSISTE. I WILL CAUTION YOU HOWEVER THEY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO RESPOND TO ANY INDIVIDUAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION BY PHONE, E-MAIL OR PERSONAL CONTACT. ALL REQUESTS MUST BE MADE THROUGH OUR CAO. THEIR REPORTS AND INFORMATION WILL BE MADE PUBLIC AND THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC OR ANY PARTICULAR GROUP TO MAKE THEIR POSITION KNOWN AND BE CONSIDERED THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS. WHEN THE PLANNING APPLICATION WAS FIRST SUBMITTED BY THE HIGHLAND COMPANIES ON MARCH 4, 2011 THEY HAD AMENDED THE TOWNSHIP'S APPLICATION FORM. THAT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND THE FORMS WERE RETURNED TO THE HIGHLAND GROUP SUGGESTING WE WOULD NOT BE DEALING WITH THE APPLICATION UNTIL THEY SUBMITTED AN UNALTERED APPLICATION FORM. AS OF ABOUT 11 A.M. FRIDAY MARCH

25 (YESTERDAY) THE UNAMENDED APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED. IT WILL BE REVIEWED BY OUR CAO AND PLANNER AND IF DEEMED COMPLETE THE PROCESS BEGINS. THIS WILL BE COVERED MORE BY MR. JORDEN. THE LETTER THAT ACCOMPANIED THE APPLICATION WAS QUITE ABRUPT IN MY OPINION WAS NOT NECESSARY. IT ALSO CONTAINED AN ABSOLUTELY INACCURATE CONCLUSION AND I QUOTE "COUNCIL HAS IN THE PAST PUBLICLY DECLARED ITS UNANIMOUS OPPOSITION TO THE APPLICATIONS, EVEN BEFORE THEY HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED." THE POSITION OF COUNCIL WAS CLEARLY OUTLINED IN AN OCTOBER 5, 2009 MOTION THAT IS ON OUR WEBSITE. AS DISTASTEFUL AS IT MAY BE TO SOME, COUNCIL HAS AN OBLIGATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO TO OBJECTIVELY DEAL WITH ANY AND I REPEAT ANY APPLICATION FOR AN OFFICIAL PLAN AMENDMENT OR ZONING CHANGE. WE ARE COMMITTED TO DO THAT. UNDER THE MUNICIPAL ACT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE SAFETY HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF THE CITIZENS THAT ELECTED US. THERE IS A FINE LINE THERE AND I KNOW I CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE YOUR COUNCIL HAS THE ABILITY TO FULFILL ITS' OBLIGATIONS ON BOTH FRONTS. IT IS OUR DESIRE TO WORK IN A COOPERATIVE MANNER WITH ALL PARTIES BUT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE IS BULLYING FROM ANYONE. I HAVE REQUESTED THAT OUR CAO INSTRUCT OUR SOLICITOR TO SEND A LETTER AND A COPY OF THE OCTOBER 5 2009 MOTION TO THE HIGHLAND GROUPS SOLICITOR EXPLAINING THAT A DECISION HAS NOT BEEN MADE AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS COUNCIL UNDERSTANDS IT OBLIGATIONS. FURTHER TO THAT, COUNCIL IS CONSIDERING THE MERITS OF HAVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO COSTS. WHILE THAT IS OUTLINED IN OUR APPLICATION AND A BY LAW PASSED BY THE TOWNSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES HAVE BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE HIGHLAND GROUP THERE COULD BE MERIT IN FURTHER CLARIFYING THE ISSUE IN VIEW OF THE SIZE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND ZONING CHANGE AND THE TIME LINES THAT COULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. A FINAL DECISION ON THAT ISSUE SHOULD BE FINALIZED IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. THE PUBLIC WILL BE INFORMED OF THE DECISION. AT OUR MARCH 24TH MEETING COUNCIL PASSED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION *** READ IT OUT** WE FEEL THE TIME LINES ALTHOUGH OUTLINED IN THE REGULATIONS ARE UNREALISTIC IN VIEW OF THE SIZE OF THIS PARTICULAR APPLICATION. DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED WITH ALL COUNCILS IN DUFFERIN COUNTY AS WELL AS SOUTHGATE TOWNSHIP AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF GREY HIGHLANDS. OTHER DELEGATIONS WILL BE MADE AS DEEMED NECESSARY. THE FINAL POINT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IS A COMMENT ABOUT THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF THE RAIL LINE. I WANT TO BE PERFECTLY CLEAR MY OPPOSITION TO THE SALE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THE HIGHLANDS GROUP IS THE PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER. MY POINT OF VIEW IS THAT THIS PROPERTY WAS GIFTED TO THE CITIZENS OF DUFFERIN COUNTY. IT HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AS A MAJOR PART OF THE DUFFERIN COUNTY'S MASTER TRAIL PLAN THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNTY AND ALL LOWER TIER MUNICIPALITIES. THIS PROPERTY WILL NEVER BE AMASSED AGAIN. THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ISSUES THAT QUITE FRANKLY COULD

BE THE SUBJECT OF ANOTHER MEETING. HOWEVER, ON MARCH 21 AT A MEETING OF THE RAIL LINE SUB COMMITTEE, ONE OF TWO THAT WERE SET UP UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE, WE DISCUSSED THE OUTCOMES OF ANOTHER MEETING THAT WAS HELD WITH THE HIGHLANDS COMPANY BY THE SECOND SUB COMMITTEE. ALL DISCUSSIONS WERE IN CLOSED SESSION SO I CANNOT GIVE YOU DETAILS. AS WE ROSE FROM CLOSED SESSION THE FOLLOWING MOTION WAS PASSED I REPEAT PASSED BY THE COMMITTEE .MOVED BY BILL HILL SECONDED BY BRIAN BESLEY " WHEREAS THE HIGHLAND COMPANIES PROPOSED THE PURCHASE OF THE FORMER RAIL LINE FROM THE COUNTY OF DUFFERIN; AND WHEREAS THE HIGHLAND COMPANIES HAVE ADVISED THAT THE TRACK WILL NOT BE REINSTALLED ON THE FORMER RAIL LINE UNTIL THEY DEEM IT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE SALE OF THE FORMER RAIL LINE IN DUFFERIN COUNTY WITH THE HIGHLANDS COMPANY BE DISCONTINUED".LATER THAT DAY THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE MET AND FOR WHATEVER REASON IGNORED THE WORK DONE BY TWO OF THEIR OWN SUBCOMMITTEES AND REQUESTED THAT THE RAIL LINE SUB COMMITTEE RECONVENE TO EXPLORE OTHER OPTIONS FOR THE SALE OF THE RAIL LINE. THIS ISSUE WILL BE DEALT WITH AT THE APRIL 14TH COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING. FOR NOW THAT CONCLUDES MY PORTION OF THE AGENDA AND I WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON DEPUTY MAYOR WHITE TO PROVIDE THE UPDATE OF OUR ATTENDANCE AT THE ROMA/OGRA CONFERENCE.

March 10 2011

To members of Council

Subject: Report on ROMA/OGRA conference

Executive Summary

Mayor Hill and I attended the ROMA/OGRA Conference from February 27 to March 2 2011 in Toronto. There were several reasons we wanted to attend but by far the most important was to meet with as many Ministers as possible. We did have an opportunity to meet with The Parliamentary Assistant Maria Van Bommell for OMAFRA, Minister John Wilkinson, Minister of the Environment, Minister Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. We requested a meeting with Minister Brad Duguid, Minister of Energy, although we did not get to speak with him, we did submit a set of documents to his Ministry representative.

We were able to attend the plenary sessions and found them interesting for the most part. The breakout sessions conflicted with meeting times with the various ministers so we “picked up part” of them either getting there late or leaving early.

There was the “bear pit” session where 18 Ministers were available to answer questions. The questions were to be of a “general nature” that could apply “anywhere in Ontario”. One question was allowed per person and no follow-up question allowed. By the responses (more specifically non responses) it was clear that this is an election year.

We attended the Ontario PC Caucus reception giving us the opportunity to network with others. I was able to have a brief chat with Tim Hudak during which I expressed our concerns regarding wind turbines, aggregate and the associated planning issues. Contacts were made with other Municipalities involved in aggregate during this reception and at other occasions during the conference. We also attended the Liberal reception during which few if any ministers were in attendance.

The program as well as the delegation material will be “on file at the clerk’s office”. It should be pointed out that the “majority” of the information given

out is the same for each Minister. Parts were changed /added/deleted in some cases to deal with specific Ministry issues.

OMAFRA – Parliamentary Assistant Maria Van Bommell

The focus with OMAFRA was dealing with specialty crops, PPS recommendations and of course the (at that time) pending quarry application. The reception was cordial and assurances were given that follow up would be done to “find out” where the specialty crop issue was. They agreed to look into this more and suggested they would set up a meeting with us to pursue this issue.

It appears they understood the issue with the quarry and while they were “supportive of our position” they did not offer any concrete suggestions. We were assured that the information would be forwarded to the Minister. They were prepared to be available if future issues need to be discussed

MOE – Minister Wilkinson

The focus was setbacks for wind turbines, the return of planning to the local municipality, health issues, and a reminder of our request for a Moratorium. We also mentioned the quarry as part of the discussion.

The Minister was adamant about his Ministries position in not returning planning control to the local Municipalities. His position was that there need to be consistency and if each Municipality set the rules it would be very unorganized and confusing.

When we discussed health issues he said that the rules and regulations were based on science and “he would be willing to look at new science “as it becomes available.

He was set in his view and made it clear that he was the only one that had the authority to stop the wind turbines. It is our view he has no intention of doing that anytime soon.

MNR- Minister Jeffrey

The focus of this delegation was to discuss the quarry application. The Minister noted very early in our delegation that she had no intention of interfering with an application that had been deemed complete by the Ministry.

Our delegation here concentrated on some of the potential effects of the application on the township and its neighbours using quite a bit of research and published papers and reports in reference.

We feel that much of what we were trying to portray was brushed aside and there didn't seem to be much interest in what we were saying. This feeling was reinforced when we were told "it is your job as municipal politicians to get your people together, to get them thinking long term about rehabilitation because this will not be returned to agriculture, and perhaps you could get a nice golf course" She then promised to get us a list of these nice golf courses in old gravel pits so we could go take a look. We were a little surprised by these comments as the proponent's proposal has stated that there will be rehab back to agriculture.

Subsequent to this delegation we have sent a letter to the Premiers office in protest.

MMAH – Minister Bartolucci

The reception here was very good and quite frankly very informal. We focussed on his Ministry being the "final approval authority" and expressed our concerns about the PPS in particular rehabilitation and the pending quarry application. He was provided with a copy of our recommendations on the review of the PPS. We also touched on the health issues of turbines, but that was not the "main" focus.

We were assured that the review process for any approval for a quarry would be "detailed, complete, based on science and involve the public". The conversation focused on the "big picture" and the potential impact regarding water issues with an application of the size proposed. The impression was that his Ministry was "open" for more discussion if required/desired.

While much of this may seem negative, I believe it was certainly worthwhile attending this conference. We made a number of contacts on a number of different issues. For myself, I believe it may have been more fruitful had it not been an election year, and if there had been less posturing and campaigning.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Hill

Darren White