

REGULAR MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 4:30 p.m.

Township of South-West Oxford

Council Chambers

Present: Chair Jim Pickard (4:52 p.m.); Mayor David Mayberry; Cathy Reeves (community representative); George Klosler (community representative) and David Schell (community representative)

Regrets: Councillor Valerie Durston

Staff: Works Superintendent Adam Prouse, Chief Building Official Howard Leaver, Clerk’s Assistant/Records Management Co-ordinator Nicole Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor David Mayberry 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 Adam Prouse

RESOLVED that the agenda for the meeting of the June 12th, 2024 Environment and Energy Innovation Committee be approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Minutes

Resolution No. 2 Moved by Howard Leaver
Seconded by Adam Prouse

RESOLVED that the minutes of the May 8th, 2024 meeting Environment and Energy Innovation Committee meeting be reviewed and approved.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes

EV Charging Station in Mount Elgin

Committee considered the revenue and usage charts for hydro at the EV charging Station in Mount Elgin provided by Charge Point to the end of May. Nicole Chambers will inquire with Treasurer Brooke Crane to obtain more details on how a credit will be applied, and will provide an update to George Klosler by email.

Mount Elgin Hall Recycling Storage Container Bin

At their previous meeting, the Committee passed a motion with regard to providing \$300 towards a new recycling storage container. Discussion took place regarding shift to new producer responsibility collection system, and what type of storage container would be needed at the Mount Elgin Hall. There will be no collection of ICI (Industrial, Commercial or Institutional) after the end of next year (2025). George Klosler noted that bringing recycling home is not a feasible long-term solution for rentals. He requested obtaining a smaller, heavy-duty version of the bin that is already there. Howard Leaver will obtain quotes for a new bin (size of bin requested: five recycling boxes wide x two high).

**Jim Pickard joined the meeting at 4:52 p.m.*

Heat Pump at the Municipal Office (Council Chamber)

Mr. Leaver inquired with Tim Smith (Electrician, Smith Services) regarding heat pump options at the Municipal Office, and noted the following:

- Municipal Office has 10-year-old high efficiency furnace, which is in good shape;
- Installing heat pumps in the basement will not be as affective due to layout;
- Heat pump in Council Chamber would prevent furnace from being used except for in extreme temperatures (hot or cold);
- Wiring to heat pump in Council Chamber could be run through attic;
- Not enough hydro for two split units, but could have one;
- Return on investment unknown, may take a few years; and
- Cost will be around \$6,000 to \$6,500.

Mr. Leaver to follow up with Siderius Heating and Cooling regarding heat pump installation options.

Cathy Reeves highlighted the ongoing heating issue in the basement at the Municipal Office. She noted that infrared space options or in-floor heating could provide an alternate solution. Staff will borrow an infrared heater unit from Ms. Reeves and will meter the energy usage. Mr. Leaver will obtain a quote for an infrared heater.

Solar Panels – Works Shop and Municipal Office

Consideration was given to the quote provided by Arntjen Clean Energy Solutions for installing eight additional solar modules – this would enable the solar output to be maximized on cloudier days. It was noted that the inverter will prevent the modules from producing more than the 10kw permitted. Mr. Leaver will inquire with EARTH to determine if they have completed their time-of-use study for the Beachville Fire Station – this will help determine the return on investment for adding the additional modules.

Resolution No. 3 Moved by Howard Leaver
 Seconded by Adam Prouse

RESOLVED that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee recommend that Council approve the purchase of eight (8) additional solar modules for the Beachville Fire Station at an approximately cost of \$7,000, plus HST, to be funded from the Climate Change Reserve.

DISPOSITION: Motion Carried

Mr. Leaver will follow up with Arntjen regarding the quote for solar at the Public Works Shop. It was noted that the total roof size is approximately 15,000 ft², and just the south-facing side is 10,100 ft². In 2023, the Shop used 38,955 kWh, for a total of \$6,058.

Adam Prouse noted that the Township of Zorra paid to have a grid study done for their new Public Works Building – might be worth it in the long run. David Mayberry added that their building is net-zero, they have a higher demand for electricity to run the heat pumps. The Municipal Office is still utilizing natural gas, so our hydro demand is much lower. We could consider this if constructing a new building.

Foldens Trail Alternatives

Ms. Reeves has not yet received an update from Peters Paving regarding the eco roster. Mayor Mayberry expressed his concerns regarding paving the trail but the Committee has decided to proceed.

Correspondence – None

Standing Items

Hydro Usage – Township Facilities

Discussion took place regarding the hydro usage at the Township's facilities. The data presented was provided in kWh, with last year's usage for comparison. It was noted that the hydro usage for community halls is impacted by rentals, which may fluctuate.

Further discussion took place regarding the hydro usage at the Public Works Shop and a cost-benefit analysis of the purchase of solar panels. Mr. Klosler expressed his concerns regarding the installation cost and return on investment. This will be added to the next meeting agenda for further discussion and consideration.

Discussion Items

2025 to 2030 Energy Management Plan – Objectives

The Committee discussed the following:

- Question regarding environmental sustainability as it relates to energy – seems to be a bit of overlap (a few things aren't actually energy and need to be put in another segment of work).

**David Mayberry left the meeting at 5:28 p.m.*

- Mr. Prouse will pull the gas and diesel usage and provide to Mrs. Chambers.
- Mrs. Chambers to adjust data in the spreadsheets.
- Discussion regarding fuel options for fleet (e.g., E-10 Diesel).
- Change to 1.5% per year decrease – will be hard to achieve more than this as low-hanging fruit have been picked, and increase in population and service levels will require additional fleet vehicles and street lights.
- Discussion regarding different ways to measure conservation and energy savings (e.g., GHG per resident decrease, or other measurables).
- Potential grant offerings – encourage purchase of electric fleet, school busses, etc.

Staff will compare the Township's Energy Management Plan with municipalities of a similar size to determine their measurements and what objectives we could implement. This will be added to the September meeting agenda for further discussion.

It was noted that the Energy Audits at Foldens and Salford Halls have not yet been completed – we do not yet have recommendations for all facilities. We should have a

better idea regarding the impact of the ceiling insulation installation at the Mount Elgin Hall by the end of the year – will need to compare hydro and natural gas bills to the previous year.

New Business

Roadside Garbage Collection

The Engage and Inform Committee requested that the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee discuss if there are any no-cost options to the collection of soiled waste/recycling that residents may pick up along roadside ditches. Mr. Prouse noted that Public Works budgets this under litter and debris. Residents are encouraged to call the Municipal Office with the location, and the Works Department will pick it up.

Adjournment

Resolution No. 4 Moved by Howard Leaver
 Seconded by David Schell

RESOLVED that there being no further business, the Environment and Energy Innovation Committee adjourn at 5:54 p.m. to meet again on **September 4th, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.**

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried