

December 4, 2018

Inaugural Meeting

11:00 AM

The Inaugural meeting for the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards was held on the above date with Councillors elect Janice Visneskie Moore, Ted Browne, John Jeffrey, Brian Pecoskie, Stanley Pecoskie, Carl Kuehl and Debbie Peplinskie present.

The Deputy CAO/Clerk-Treasurer opened and called the meeting to order.

The Deputy CAO/Clerk-Treasurer administered the Declaration of Elected Office and Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to the Councillors Elect.

Mayor's address:

"Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to our inaugural meeting of 2018. I first want to thank the people of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards who once again gave me the honor and privilege and mandate of being the mayor of this beautiful township. I want to thank my campaign team for their help, dedication and support throughout the election. I want to give a special thanks to Don & Margrit Bohart for leading the team.

Congratulations to the four councillors on being acclaimed, John Jeffrey, Brian Pecoskie, Stanley Pecoskie, Debbie Peplinskie. Also congratulations to Ted Brown and Carl Kuehl on their success of being re-elected. A thank you to all the other candidates who put their name forward in the election. Best wishes to all of them.

So to the six of you, I look forward to working with you for the next four years as we continue to work for our taxpayers. Throughout the election campaign many issues were brought forward to me and other members of council, that taxpayers had and they asked that we address them. At this time I would like to bring forward some of the issues that I will be asking Council to look into and address.

I have prepared the new committee structure and will be presenting it later on, making some minor changes. I have created two new committees. One is "Review of the Ward System & Council numbers". The other committee will be the "property standards review committee". I have appointed one member from each ward on almost all committees. This is to ensure that every ward and every area of the township is represented on each and every issue before council.

The public has asked questions regarding the ward system and the number of members of council. The new committee's mandate will be to look at the history and look at all the options, consulting with many different stakeholders. Getting public input and looking at all options available they will be making recommendations for full council to consider and make a decision. I anticipate that the committee will make a well researched and developed recommendation to council on this issue.

We heard about property standards and the public's concerns. We must focus on health and safety. I will be asking the new committee to develop ways of promoting being respectful to everyone's neighbour and their property rights. It is so important that we have the public's help in making our communities look great. The committee will review the standards and may make recommendations for review. I am going to recommend to council that we hold two free waste days a year. This will help our public to properly dispose of items that cannot normally be placed out for pickup, or that the public might have to hire someone to transport it for them. We will be asking the public and the communities to step-up and be proactive.

We are presently working on expanding our defibulator program throughout Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Township. Round Lake Property Owners Association (RLPOA) members brought a recommendation that we review and better distribute the defibulators, making them more accessible year round and having them in many more locations. I want to thank Dr. Rob Duggan and Rob Norris for partnering with the township and the County of Renfrew paramedics to develop a new approach. I also want to thank Mike Nolan, Chief of Paramedics and Rob Blackwell, Paramedic for working with us on this initiative.

I hope that council will continue to support the creation of bike trails which will hopefully connect to the trail systems across the County of Renfrew. This will be a great economic, recreational, and healthy advantage for our residents and will encourage more visitors to enjoy the beauty of our township on a bike.

Council is always willing to look at any new waste management initiatives that could be coming forward in the County of Renfrew. We are always looking for a better way of disposing of our waste and we are open to new ideas and technology that will allow us to do that.

Another issue that we are facing is the Province's view of the new official plan for the County of Renfrew. If it goes through, as is, KHR development will come to a halt. The County has had initial meetings asking for change. Council must lobby regarding these changes that the Province is asking for. The County of Renfrew submitted the Official Plan that the public had input into, but the Province came back with these changes. This lobbying must be a priority for this Council to address.

The Township continues to work as part of a group of Township's on recruiting more doctors to this area to replace those doctors that have retired. We have been successful in recruiting several doctors and we continue to work towards recruiting more.

We will continue to push and work towards getting an amendment to the Bonnechere River Water Management Plan. As the lead, we will work with all stakeholders, we will be seeking public input and in a collaborative way hopefully we can move forward to resolve some of our flooding issues.

Council needs to be supportive of continuing to develop and retain strong community partnerships with all community groups. We are all working for the betterment of our communities and by working together we can accomplish much more than working in separate silos. We can accomplish much more than going alone.

The committee that was formed prior to the election regarding the downtown revitalization grant, will be making recommendations to full council regarding this grant. A lot of great ideas have been brought forward and the committee will be making recommendations to council on how best to spend the grant money in the Village of Killaloe.

We need to be supportive to the rebuilding of the Wilno Rink as many of the users are residents of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards Township. They have a wonderful group of volunteers who have been busy obtaining funding and making donations to make this happen.

The Township will also be looking at what we will be doing regarding the fire hall in Killaloe. A staff review is underway regarding the existing building and recommendations will be in front of council in the near future.

As always, council will continue to be supportive of the Library and our recreational volunteer group. They are vital to the ongoing success of our community and our special events and we look forward to working with them. We want to thank them all for their dedication and hard work.

The Township has supported Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre to ensure the public has continued access to this valuable and unique site. Council feels that it is very important that the education programs can continue, and that residents and visitors can use all of the amenities that the site has to offer.

We will be soon starting the process of budget review for 2019. Council and staff are committed as always to reviewing each budget line by line to determine priorities for the upcoming year. As I mentioned earlier, we will be working towards a solution for our fire hall in Killaloe, and we also have some road projects that we will be looking at.

With council's support, I will be continuing to work with our MP Cheryl Gallant and our MPP the Honorable John Yakabuskie regarding both federal and provincial issues. I feel that we have a strong and healthy working relationship with both members as we move forward with our new mandate. We must consider these working relationships as an opportunity and work towards lobbying on our taxpayers behalf regarding different issues that impact our municipality.

Council will be reviewing our road system and our five year road and asset management plan. Staff is currently working on the updates and our Asset Management Plan. We will be doing a road tour and determining what road projects to move forward with in 2019 and upcoming years.

Council believes in transparency and listening to our public. Making decisions that are for the betterment of the whole township. Council continues to believe in an open door policy and we will welcome and encourage the public to attend our meetings or please call members of council if you have any questions or concerns.

Council, I have touched on only a few of the many, many issues that we will be facing on our taxpayers behalf. I assure you that I will be a busy four years.

It is important that we acknowledge and thank our staff. They work hard to provide an excellent service to our public. Thank you to each and every one of you for what you do for the Township. To the media, we want to thank you for being here and reporting what occurs here. It is important for the public to be aware of the issues that are before us. Thank you for your honest and accurate reporting.

Thank you to all the volunteers, who work hard and volunteer their time and expertise for the betterment of our communities. For those who volunteer for the township and for the volunteers throughout the township working for community groups, thank you.

Council thank you for putting your names forward and for your commitment, for your time and efforts for the next four years. It is a huge commitment and I look forward to working with all of you.

Lastly and most importantly, I want to thank the public for your continued support. Please feel free to call any one of us or attend our meetings we will continue to work on your behalf, and we look forward to a progressive and successful term of council. Thank you”.

Other Business: Mayor Visneskie Moore named the committees and distributed list of same to council members.

Adjournment:

Moved by Debbie Peplinskie
Seconded by Carl Kuehl

Motion to adjourn Inaugural Meeting for the Council of the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards held on December 4, 2018. Carried.

Mayor

Deputy CAO/Clerk-Treasurer