

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BROCK**  
**MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**  
**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**SESSION TWO**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010**

**A G E N D A**

- I. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Randy Skinner
- II. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 1st meeting – January 18/10
- III. COMMUNICATIONS REFERRED OR SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEE
  - 179 Mark Warvill – Report 2010-PW-01 – Hanging Flower Baskets – Downtown Areas
- IV. REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES – N I L
- V. GENERAL ITEMS & ENQUIRIES
  - (1) Other?
  - (2) Public Questions and Clarification
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

179/10

TOWNSHIP OF BROCK  
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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BROCK

Public Works Department

Facilities Coordinator to the Public Works Committee

Report: 2010-PW-01

Date: Monday, February 8, 2010

File: \_\_\_\_\_

Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

ACTION TAKEN:

RESOL. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CLERK'S DEPT.

Copies to:

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Refer to:

Council \_\_\_\_\_

Comm. PW

Meeting Date:

Feb 8

SUBJECT

Hanging Flower Baskets - Downtown Areas

RECOMMENDATION

That the placement of hanging baskets, maintained by the municipality, be continued and that the installation of banner arms and flags not be implemented.

REPORT

**Background**

Resolution 4-9, adopted at the October 19, 2009 Public Works Committee meeting, requested staff to investigate the costs and practicality of erecting Canadian flags on lampposts in the downtown urban areas rather than hanging baskets of flowers.

Over the past several years the municipality has provided monetary assistance to the Beaverton Horticultural Society, the Cannington Horticultural Society, the Sunderland Merchants and the Georgina-Brock Garden Club for the purchase of plants. The municipality has also contributed through the maintenance of flowers and plants by implementing a plant watering program which typically commences the first week of June and ends mid September. An average weekday of plant watering for all three urban areas includes 2 hours for hanging baskets, 1 hour for half barrels, 1 hour for planters and 2 hours for beds. The total cost for 2009 was approximately \$20,000 inclusive of machine time. The estimated cost for watering the hanging baskets was approximately one third of this amount.

**Consultation**

Staff contacted the Beaverton Horticultural Society, the Cannington Horticultural Society, the Beaverton Chamber of Commerce, the Cannington Business Association and Sunderland Merchants requesting their input pertaining to this matter. Staff received responses from the Beaverton Horticultural Society, Beaverton Chamber of Commerce, Cannington Business Association and Cannington Horticultural Society.

The Horticultural Societies' both stated they have had great success with the beautification projects they have implemented over the past several years. Both groups have emphasized they would like to continue with the many areas they plant and maintain. They will continue to research drought resistant plants and customized soil types which can retain moisture for extended periods. It is also noted that the Beaverton and Cannington Horticultural Societies have placed their orders for 2010.

Many of the merchants of Beaverton have become Associate Members of the Horticultural Society to assist in fundraising. One of the reasons they joined was to assist with the hanging basket program. In Sunderland many of the merchants have financed the purchase of hanging baskets for placement in the main business core. All groups have stated that, without the assistance from the municipality to continue the watering program, it is unlikely that the plantings and hanging baskets could continue.

The Beaverton and Cannington Horticultural Societies expressed their preference of hanging baskets to Canadian flag banners. Local community groups and organizations have displayed their own banners on lamp posts in two of the urban areas to promote public awareness and their involvement in community and special events. The Beaverton Chamber of Commerce reported that Canadian flag banners, although a good idea, would not compare to flower baskets.

The Cannington Business Association commented that filling the banner spots with Canadian flags would only be a default due to lack of self image and branding for local groups and organizations. They would like to see additional banners displayed promoting local organizations.

### **Financial Implications**

The cost to implement banner arms with Canadian banner flags is approximately \$150 and it is recommended that the banners be replaced twice on an annual basis. The cost of the banner arms required would be \$5,720 plus labour; the initial cost of the banner flags would be \$4080 plus labour for a total cost of \$9,800. Thereafter the annual cost to replace the banner flags would be in the order of \$4,080 plus labour. It should also be noted that the labour to install the additional banner arms and banner flag replacements would most likely have to be contracted to obtain the required equipment (i.e. bucket truck).

### **Summary**

Staff acknowledge that there may be a cost savings associated with banner flags; however the objective of the various groups to beautify the downtown core areas would be sacrificed. In addition, each of the respective groups has expressed their desire to continue flower planting with the assistance of the municipality. It is further noted that the existing banner flags provide the opportunity to promote local events. On this basis it is recommended that the existing plant watering program be continued and that its replacement with banner flags not be pursued.

Respectfully submitted,



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Mark Warvill, Facilities Coordinator  
Public Works Department

Reviewed by:



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Thomas G. Gettinby, MA, MCIP, RPP, CMO  
Acting CAO & Municipal Clerk