

AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP
MINUTES
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING
January 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Conor Cleary, Jonas Cole, Mayor Doug Malanka, Myron Belej

REGRETS

Adrian Wynands, Councillor Samantha Schapelhouman, Rob Jones

1. Call to Order

Mayor Malanka called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

Committee members in attendance agreed by consensus to bring back key agenda items for discussion at the February meeting, and to use the January meeting for general roundtable discussion on agriculture and rural affairs topics.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Deferred.

4. Disclosure of Interest

5. General Roundtable Discussion

5.1 Meetings

- Not all members are able to easily attend by virtual means. The situation is similar for many in our farming community. In-person meetings are preferred. The Township is looking into phone access via MS Teams.

5.2 Tile Drainage Financing

- The Township should explore opportunities for additional loan financing to enable tile drainage projects.

5.3 Communication with Local Cash Crop Farmers

- The Township should consider a "Farm News" newsletter to engage farmers about key topics including tile drainage. These could be attached to other Township mail-outs (eg., with mailing of tax statements) perhaps. Committee members will build a starter list of local farmers that targeted communications could be sent to. Canada Post may also be able to target a mailout to farm properties.

5.4 Local/Regional Abattoirs

- Members of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Council have had a high-level discussion about the need for additional inspectors, and options for creating or expanding meat processing facilities and mobile

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abattoirs. This Committee discussed the different stages of meat processing and the importance of refrigerated storage. It is important for local farmers to have access to abattoir services with capacity for 1-2 animals on any given visit (e.g., if a cow has broken a leg in the field). A single mobile service with refrigeration and inspection capabilities may require approximately 45 minutes per animal. Travel time will be a factor.

5.5 Speed Limits

- There have been some concerns raised with members of Council recently. It would be helpful to get farmers' viewpoints on speed limits in Augusta Township. Paving roads may lead to higher speeds, compared to travel on gravel roads.

7. Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 3, 2021, at 6:30pm

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:246 p.m.