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The Liberal.

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RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 1929

No. 19

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DR. CHARLES S. DUNNING
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Electors of Markham Twp. May Be Asked To Vote on Debenture By-Law in January

Faced By Large Deficit Reeve Gohn Willing To Submit By-Law To The People-Padget and Smith Say Rate Need Not Have Been Raised - Reeve Says No Resolution For Debentures Ever Introduced.

It now appears probable that next January the electors of Markham township will be asked to vote on a by-law authorizing the issuing of debentures for an amount somewhere in the neighborhood of \$25,000. This was indicated during a somewhat heated discussion of financial matters at the regular meeting of Markham township council held on Monday afternoon at the township hall, Unionville. The township has had some heavy financing to do this year due mainly to the excessive damage of the spring flood to roads and bridges. In addition the municipality has had to finance the construction of the new union school section at Milliken as well as the construction of local improvement roadways at Langstaff. In the latter cases however it is merely a matter of financing until the debentures are issued. The expenditure on bridges alone this year has been in the neighborhood of \$30,000 which is a high-water mark for bridge construction in the municipality.

Earlier in the year when the tax rate was under discussion the issuing of debentures was mooted and was at that time favored by Deputy-Reeve G. B. Padgett and councillor R. A. Smith. In opposition to the debenture suggestion it was argued that the expenditure could be handled by an increase of one mill and the carrying of the balance as an overdraft to be met in 1930. Accordingly the township rate was raised one mill and everything was going along smoothly until Monday's meeting when it was apparent that further borrowing must be done to finance the work which had been done.

Deputy-Reeve Padgett questioned the possibility of carrying-as an overdraft an amount of such proportions. Reeve Gohn said he was willing now to have a by-law prepared to provide for the issuing of debentures and have it submitted to the people in January. Councillor Smith—Why wasn't it done long ago, before the rate was raised?

Reeve Gohn—There was no resolution ever introduced in council asking for debentures.

Councillor Smith—It was discussed here and you know as well as you're sitting there that we favored issuing debentures.

Reeve Gohn—No resolution was ever introduced.

Mr. Smith—It was no use. We were out voted three to two. I was not in favor of raising the rate at all. Deputy-Reeve Stiver—I think we were justified under the unusual circumstances to increase the rate this year. Why Whitechurch raised theirs to a ten mill rate.

Mr. Smith—How about Scarborough?

Mr. Stiver—We were up against it this year.

Mr. Padgett—Well couldn't you see it coming. I foresaw this difficulty and that was why I favored the issuing of debentures which could have been done without any necessity for a rate increase.

Reeve Gohn—Well there was never a resolution presented about debentures.

Mr. Padgett—Oh that's only a way of getting under it. I heard Reeve Gohn say once from a nomination platform that as long as he was Reeve of Markham it would be a pay-as-you-go policy and that there would be no more overdrafts.

Reeve Gohn—Oh well, apart from the exceptional circumstances of the flood this year, conditions change. But let's be fair, put it to the people. Mr. Padgett—Well if it will help things go smoothly I will certainly favor asking the people to authorize the issuing of debentures for some \$30,000 overdraft.

Reeve Gohn said it would not be \$30,000. He did not see how debentures could have been issued before the council knew how much would be needed.

With it more or less an accomplished fact that the overdraft of the year would be covered by a debenture by-law Deputy-Reeve Padgett sponsored a resolution authorizing the Reeve and Clerk to negotiate loans to meet

the current expenditure and it carried. The council was assured by clerk Davison that the township was still well within its borrowing power and that the resolution was quite legal.

Engineer Babcock reported that the total cost of bridge construction for the year had been \$24,381.47. This amount was made up as follows: con. 5 at lot 16—\$2,435.00; con. 5, lots 25 and 26 (McKinnon) bridge \$2263.00; Stiver bridge \$6,334.51; Con. 6 lot 29, and con. 7, lot 28 grouped in one cost \$2,312.21; con. 8, lot 15 and 16 \$2,196.00; Rigfoot bridge \$2,638.00; Hamm bridge \$4,850.00; con. 10, lot 20 and 21 \$1,352.50. In addition there was repair work to bridges totalling about \$3000.

Charles Hooper claimed reward of five dollars for killing dog which was worrying sheep.

There was considerable discussion concerning police matters. There has apparently been some misunderstanding on the part of the public. During the illness and following the passing of former Constable Clayton the work was carried on when necessary by Constable Walker, of Markham village.

At the last meeting Mr. Cowan was appointed but some people unaware of the appointment still called Mr. Walker.

The council members made it clear that Mr. Cowan was the constable for Markham township and that he should be called by any ratepayers desiring his services. If he needed assistance at any time he could call Constable Walker and the township would bear the cost.

On motion it was decided to notify the Banks that the municipality would not be responsible for any charges

made by the bank for the collection of taxes, as taxes are payable to the tax-collector. Some time ago the banks notified the council that there would be a charge of a five and ten cents on all payments of taxes taken in by the Bank. According to the resolution of the council, ratepayers who pay their taxes to the bank will be responsible for this charge. If they want to avoid the charge they can pay the money to the tax-collector.

Reeve Gohn reported that he had made arrangements with A. E. Jupp Company to scarify John Street in Thornhill and to place some gravel. The expenditure of the street was limited to \$200.

The following accounts were ordered to be paid: general accounts: D. J. McDonald, County Treasurer, township's share of relief \$161.87; C.N.R. freight \$6.55; Muston & Sons, wreath \$12.00; W. C. Gohn, 2-days and mileage selecting jurors \$12.00; J. A. Thompson \$13.40; Lewis A. Stiver \$11.20; G. A. M. Davison \$10.00; Willow Lake Garage, repairs to fire engine \$2.50; Scarborough Township, half cost work on townline \$368.20; F. R. Hamilton \$4.12; J. Clayton estate 9.10 A. F. White, insurance premium on treasurer bon \$40.00; Jas. Walker, duties as constable \$22.70; Chas. Hooper for killing dog \$5.00; J. Cowan, salary as constable \$25.00; Marjison & Babcock, engineering fees \$219.05; E. J. Hinchcliff, inspection fees, 13 days \$65.00; E. Hawstrawser, inspection fees, 7 days \$35.00; Inspector's travelling expenses \$179.00; H. A. Babcock, engineering fees re local improvement \$310.83; C. H. Hamilton cutting weeds \$16.05. Road accounts: A. Agar, Gormley

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