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Council rejects pay raise request

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Councillor Coombs felt that some councillors on previous councils had not merited the pay they had received for attendance at meetings. He accepts the pay he is receiving and understands he knew what he would be paid going into the last election.

That seemed to be the feeling of Councillor Tim Post, too. He has never submitted a claim for mileage.

Councillor Van Egmond's argument was more or less borne out in analysis of the amount of money received by the elected officials in the bordering municipalities of Brighton and Alnwick/Haldimand.

Mayor Finley's base pay in Alnwick/Haldimand is \$5,500. Added to that is a flat mileage pay of \$2,000 and his per diem for meetings at \$60 per four-hour session. His total pay, including \$521.22 for conferences, was \$10,481.18 in 2005.

Brighton Mayor Chris Herrington received a base pay in 2005 of \$11,166 which included \$1,166 from 2004. Added to her base was another \$9,360 for attendance at meetings, \$2,232 mileage and \$3,381 for conferences. Her gross pay (without deducting the costs she paid for conferences) was \$27,940.47.

Cramahe Mayor Lee Dekeyser's base pay in 2005 was \$15,000. He spent another

\$1,969.77 on conferences and submitted a bill for \$302.84 in mileage. His grand total was \$17,272.61.

Alnwick/Haldimand Deputy mayor Rosemarie Robins collected \$14,160.42 to Cramahe. Deputy mayor Ray Kelly's base pay of \$9,500 last year.

The base pay for councillors in Cramahe, at \$8,000, is significantly higher than in Alnwick/Haldimand or Brighton where they are paid \$5,000 each. But, when additional benefits are added, the Brighton councillors have the highest pay. Councillor Mike Vandertoorn was the lowest paid in Brighton, getting \$13,454 last year. Of that, \$7,260 came for attending meetings. At the top of the scale for the six Brighton councillors was Dave Dorland at \$18,967.57.

In Alnwick/Haldimand, Councillor Bill Holmes led the way with a total pay of \$11,414.03. Councillor the late Gord Harnden attended far fewer meetings and received \$7,859.92.

Cramahe Councillor Marc Coombs was the highest paid Cramahe councillor, receiving \$10,735.78. He submitted bills for \$100.28 for mileage and attended conferences with costs of \$2,635.50.

Cramahe Township Councillors Post and Van Egmond collected their base pay of \$8,000 and did not submit bills for mileage.

No Cramahe farm tax break this year

COLBORNE CHRONICLE
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There will be no deferral of taxes for farmers in Cramahe Township this year. But, they may get one in 2007.

Cramahe Township council decided September 19 to defer any decision about forgiving interest to farmers for taxes not paid. It will look at the idea in 2007.

The idea was brought forward at the September 5 council meeting in a letter from the National Farmers Union. The letter requested all municipalities forgive interest that would otherwise be owed for unpaid taxes for three years.

That concept never flew with council, but township Treasurer Mora Chatterson was instructed to look into the cost of interest forgiveness for 2006. Her September 19 report stated that, if every farmer in the township took advantage of a program to withhold their taxes until the fall, the interest charges would be \$10,747.

Farmers in Cramahe Township pay about \$122,000 in township taxes on land valued at \$31,223,290. This does not include the portion paid to the County of Northumberland.

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