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Council Withdraws \$10,000 Bid For Old Post Office Building

Acton council Tuesday evening withdrew its offer to Crown Assets Disposal Corporation for purchase of the old post office at a bid of \$10,000 during a stormy three and a half hour session.

A letter from Crown Assets sparked the heated debate when it was learned Acton's offer of \$10,000 was appreciated, but fell short of the appraised value of the building by \$18,000. The corporation stated in the letter it was willing to whittle its suggested price of \$28,000 down to \$25,475 if the town was interested. The letter requested council's intentions since information on file indicated others were interested in obtaining the property.

During the lengthy discussion on the subject tempers flared and a procedural hassle involving Mayor Les Doby, reeve H. H. Hinton and councillor Hugh Lowe took place.

Mayor Doby spoke first on the subject and said council had urged other boards to be conservative in their expenditures. He suggested that council had against their better judgment, submitted an almost prohibitive offer. "Now I guess we will have to forget it," he stated. He told council members it would be better to clear the air in view of the Bank of Nova Scotia's policy not to bid against the

town. He recalled council's main aim in bidding \$10,000 was for a certain amount of control. "We have no guarantee there will be a fine bank building erected there. Now I guess we will have to join the rest of the citizens and sweat it out until we find out who gets it" he concluded.

Councillor Alec Johnson asked administrator Jack McGeachie to clarify the town's position if they bowed out of the picture. "Is our position clear? Will we have an opportunity to match the highest bidder?" he enquired. The clerk explained if the town refused the written offer, the building would be put up for public bid and if the best was higher than council's \$10,000 offer, the town would have a second chance to match the highest bidder. He stated he did not have this in writing but was of the opinion it was the procedure.

As Far As Can Go Councillor Eric Johnston termed the \$24,475 figure a most undesirable offer and said "We have gone as far as we can go. To put it mildly public reaction is most unfavorable." Councillor Alec Johnson stated the public might take a different view if aware of remarks made at the committee meeting when the recommendation to put in a bid was made. "We still have an

interest until the last ditch," remarked councillor Lowe.

Refers to Letters Councillor J. Bert Wood referred to critical letters in the previous week's paper and wondered what the public's reaction would be if council decided to spend \$100,000 on a new building. "That's what it would amount to. The choice between spending \$25,475 plus \$15,000 for repairs or twice as much for a new building," he stated.

"There are a lot of things the public are not aware of which happened at committee level," stressed councillor Alec Johnson.

"We are being called a bunch of knotheads by the public. I don't figure we should be influenced too much by anonymous writers, especially those who haven't the gumption to sign their names," stated Mr. Wood. In continuing he said, "I feel there has been a definite lack of information given the public regarding why we intend to spend \$10,000. If we listened to everyone who said 'we are out of our ever-loving heads' there wouldn't be anything done."

Mayor Doby hoped that council would be given some credit and intelligence for long hours spent in policy making. "We try to do

what we think best for the community," he remarked.

The debate reached a climax when a double-barrelled resolution was sponsored by councillors Hugh Lowe and Albert Irwin to withdraw the \$10,000 bid on the post office and notify Crown Assets Corporation the town would still consider matching the highest offer during public bidding. The two sponsors and a councillor Alec Johnson voted in the affirmative. When the mayor called for a negative vote and counted hands he declared the motion lost.

Councillor Lowe argued strong-ly (Continued on Page Three)



PHOTO UNAVAILABLE driver of this Inter City transport truck escaped injury Wednesday afternoon when his vehicle was involved in an accident with a gravel truck from Georgetown. The transport struck a ditch at the end of the driveway to the Cedar Springs Motel and the front dual wheels were smashed off and extensive damage done to the rest of the truck. A large tow truck from Kitchener hauled the tractor away. Another tractor from Kitchener branch hooked on to the trailer.

Decorate Graves Sunday Following Parade, Service

This Sunday, June 2nd, is Decoration Day in Acton. Hundreds of citizens are expected to join in the outdoor service at Fairview Cemetery and decorate the graves of their loved ones. Acton Citizens' Band will head the parade again this year, followed by Guelph Sea Cadets Band and Guelph Pipe Band. Those in the parade, including Acton council, Royal Canadian Legion members, Firefighters, L.O.J. members, representatives from the Duke of Devonshire and Lakeside I.O.G.E. chapters, Legion Ladies' Auxiliary, W.I. members, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Brownies and Cubs, as well as many others, will form up at the C.N.R. station and parade to Fairview Cemetery at 2:30 p.m.

At the cemetery, Mayor Les Doby will welcome the crowd and a brief service will be held under the sponsorship of the Acton Ministerial Association. At the conclusion of the ceremony, graves will be decorated by the sponsoring organizations at Fairview, Dublin and Pioneer cemeteries.

The committee in charge hopes many will take part in placing flowers on graves, either prior to or following the outdoor service at the cemetery.

Chairman of the Decoration Day committee is Albert Irwin and he is assisted by secretary Mrs. Alex Orr and treasurer Mrs. George Hargrave, as well as

a number of other members. Decoration Day services are sponsored by the Mayor and members of council, Acton Branch 197 Royal Canadian Legion, the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Legion, Lakeside and Duke of Devonshire Chapters of the I.O.G.E., the Women's Institutes of Bannockburn, Dublin and Acton, Acton Firefighters, Acton Citizens' Band and the Loyal Orange Lodge No. 467.

Order of the parade will be: Group No. 1—Acton Citizens' Band, Town Council, Royal Canadian Legion, Orange Lodge, Cubs.

Group No. 2—Guelph Pipe Band, Ladies' Auxiliary, to the Legion, Women's Institute, I.O.G.E., Girl Guides, Brownies.

Group No. 3—Guelph Sea Cadet Band; Acton Firefighters, Boy Scouts.

Study Provisional By-Law At Planning Board Meet

A provisional draft for a revised zoning by-law was studied on Thursday evening, May 23 by members of the planning board. At the meeting were two representatives of the newly-engaged firm of consultants, Project Planning Associates, Toronto, Mr. Percival and Mr. Flood, who discussed the tentative by-law carefully with members.

Mr. Percival said in preparing the by-law he had not even studied the previous one in order to avoid any confusion. The town had been carefully studied in order to determine the proper zones for each area.

Each member was handed a copy and studied the proposed by-law page by page.

Outlined during the evening were the definitions of the various classifications of housing and terms referred to, a schedule of residential zone requirements, the various zones depicted on the map, general provisions to all zones and land uses.

Each member was instructed to review the draft copy for questioning at the next meeting.

List New Zones Proposed classifications include in the residential area: R1, R2, (Continued on Page Three)

Retarded Returns Slow In Acton Area Appeal

Financial returns in the 1963 campaign of the North Halton Association for Retarded Children are coming in very slowly in Acton, president G. C. Addison noted this week. To date Acton and district residents have contributed only \$49 of the \$7,897 donated by the entire North Halton area, including Georgetown, Milton, Esquesing and Nantawaga townships.

The Association's school at Hornby has two students from Acton among the 15 enrolled, and an active ladies' auxiliary in Acton.

Association has actively promoted the work here for several years. No door-to-door canvass is being conducted this year, but all residents received brochures, blank cheques and return envelopes in the mail two weeks ago.

Donations can still be accepted, and will be needed to realize the \$9,000 goal of the Association for this year's school operating expenses and to wipe out a \$5,000 mortgage on the school. Donations or service club cheques should be sent to Box 386, Acton.

Demonstration Blast at Limestone Quarry Claimed Well Within All Safety Factors

In an attempt to dispel fears that quarry blasts might damage homes and buildings, Acton Limestone Quarry officials Friday afternoon raised 23,000 tons of limestone rock with a 7,500 pound charge of dynamite for the benefit of about 20 council members, industrialists and private citizens.

Since blasts first began at the new quarry, council members have received complaints from residents their homes were literally shaking from the vibrations. A letter was sent to quarry officials two weeks ago registering the complaints. Consequently on Friday "open house" was held for visitors to see a film, view a detonation and ask questions.

Similar U.S. Town

Prior to the blast, visitors saw a film shown in the large garage by C.P.E. officials of a small town in the United States where a similar quarry operation had been established. As in Acton, residents in this area complained about their homes shaking.

Seismographs (similar to the ones used in Acton) were set up to determine the extent of vibration in private homes. In all cases, tests showed the vibration from passing trucks, slamming of doors or even wind blowing through the open window raised the seismograph indicator higher than quarry blasts.

No Danger

Laure M. Anuff, consulting engineer from the firm of Hoen, McAnuff and Hastings, Ltd., told the visitors there isn't any danger from the blasting at Acton quarry as each charge is within the law. The safety factor for a blast is considered No. 3 on the seismograph but the quarry is attempting to operate at No. 1. To date there has not been a blast over 104, he claimed.

John Moore, quarry manager, explained the Friday blast consisted of seven 56-foot holes drilled in the rock which were filled with 7,500 pounds of dynamite to be detonated. As visitors watched, the earth trembled, huge puffs of dust rose in the

air, and tons of rock began to crumble.

Mr. Moore said Wednesday that the blast heard by many residents Tuesday evening consisted of 16 holes drilled to a depth of 59 feet and filled with 17,000 pounds of dynamite. The reason for the variance in the

size of the charge, according to Mr. Moore, is the difference in the rock structure at the point of detonation.

Individuals had an opportunity of questioning the consulting engineer, representatives from C.P.E., one of the two suppliers of dynamite, and quarry officials

at the conclusion of the demonstration.

At the request of Beardmore president W. J. Beatty, Mr. McAnuff had attached a seismograph to the highest brick stack at the tannery before the blast. Vibrations well within the safety factor were registered.

(For the Tuesday blast the seismograph was attached to the large granary at Lindsay's flour mill at the request of D. H. Lindsay. Jan Moore of the quarry staff, who was there watching, said the indicator only moved very little and he felt just a slight vibration.)



REPORTING COMPLAINTS—BLASTING would damage homes or buildings in Acton, officials at Acton Limestone Quarries staged a demonstration blast for the benefit of council members, industrialists and citizens Friday afternoon. When 7,500 pounds of dynamite were detonated, 23,000 tons of rock soared in the air as visitors watched intently. Company officials and consulting engineers claimed the company is operating well within the law as far as blasts are concerned. A film was shown which indicated the vibration from the blasts is not as great as from trucks driving past or even doors slamming in the homes.

Churchill Rd. Heavy Traffic By-Law Temporarily Shelved

After receiving two readings last week, a proposed by-law to curtail the flow of heavy traffic on Churchill Road S. was shelved temporarily Tuesday for further study by No. 2 committee of council.

This action was taken following complaints to councillors from trucker Jack Ridley, who claimed cutting off access to Acton Limestone Quarries by means of Churchill Road S. would mean an additional 80 miles per day drive for his 10 trucks, en-gaged at the quarry.

The proposed by-law is designed to prohibit empty trucks with a three-ton or over weight and loaded trucks five tons or over from using Churchill Road S. Councilors fear for the safety of children and pedestrians in the area as well as the paved road breaking up under the weight.

Return For Gas

Mayor Les Doby told council the local trucker was not concerned with his trucks not being able to operate on the road when he loaded but the 10 drivers returning to his office for a refill of gas only a day would have to drive a total of 80 miles extra.

Councillor Hamilton Pearl argued tandem trucks operating on the road empty were not as hard on the road as single axle trucks weighing less as they had more tires for weight distribution. He favored making some concession for the local taxpayer in this case.

Councillor Hugh Lowe, a Glenlea resident himself, contended an empty truck could travel at a greater speed than a loaded one and he was conscious of the danger to people's lives. Councillor Eric Johnston, also a resident in Glenlea, stated the problem is not only with the road breaking up. With no sidewalks in the area children have to walk on the road. "Unfortunately the toddlers play in the deep ditch at the side of the road and have a habit of peeping out at all times," he stressed.

Reeve H. H. Hinton stated there isn't a more dangerous area than near the high school where no sidewalks exist and students accept the fact as they are aware of the traffic.

"If people are used to express trains, does that mean we want an express train running down our main street?" queried councillor Lowe.

Consider Majority

When the suggestion was made perhaps council could make an allowance for Mr. Ridley who is a taxpayer, Mr. Lowe stated "not just one taxpayer should be considered but a possible 25 who live on Churchill Road S. It is unfortunate but we have to consider the majority."

Councillor Alec Johnson questioned the additional 80 miles per day the trucks would drive and wondered, if the trucks used the fourth line access to gas up, the mileage wouldn't be less. He was told that was the route the

80 additional miles was based on. Councillor J. Bert Wood wondered what the weight of trucks using Elgin St. to the quarry more plant is and when told by Mr. Pearl approximately 70,000 pounds gross weight, he wondered why council was not alarmed, no by-law being considered to protect the road there.

Not Speeders

One councillor stated a used car dealer used Churchill Road as a testing ground for traders and suggested perhaps the police should use a plan car with radar set-up to catch speeders. "Saturday a car went so fast down the road children scattered like chickens," the councillor stated.

Reeve Hinton suggested the by-law, if approved, would allow loaded trucks to circle around through Glenlea and return to the highway again via Longfield Road if drivers wished to do so. "That's a most ridiculous statement. Next thing you will tell us we're going to have a truck race in Glenlea," suggested Mr. Lowe.

Stop Garbage?

Councillor Eric Johnston wondered if the by-law would curtail town trucks from taking garbage to the dump by not being able to travel down Churchill Road as well as truckers servicing industry for garbage collection.

Members agreed to withhold the third reading of the by-law for further study in order not to create a hardship for taxpayers or industrial garbage collection.