

Ask neighbors settle problem

Council ends horse barn controversy

Continuing controversy over a horse barn on 25 Sideroad came to a sudden halt Wednesday evening when members of Nassagaweya Council decided to leave the squabble up to the neighbors involved and take no further action on the dispute.

During the meeting Reeve Mrs. A. MacArthur threatened to have Councillor Allan Ackman removed from the meeting for arguing with her and interrupting her and other members of council; at several points in the meeting she banged the gavel fiercely and pleaded for order; the township's planning board was soundly criticized by Councillor Jim Watson for what he called an "irresponsible" and "idiotic"; and charges of a "conspiracy" floated around the table.

Fly complaint

The centre of controversy is a pony barn built by John Ottaway at the corner of his one acre lot on 25 Sideroad. It sits 69 feet from the front of a new home built on a 60-acre parcel of land by Paul Saeglitz. Mr. Saeglitz had earlier complained to council the barn was ruining his view and causing hordes of flies to invade his home, the council had ordered the clerk and building inspector to look into the problem.

At a meeting the previous Friday evening, members of the township planning board had approved a resolution suggesting the barn is a violation of specific sections of the township's zoning by-law and said it should be removed to a suitable location at the expense of the township.

The board's motion exploded like a bombshell when it was read at Wednesday's council meeting. Councillor Watson said he went over the by-law and "any grade school child" could read the by-law and see the barn is quite legal. He said planning board was attempting to waste taxpayers' dollars as Mr. Saeglitz had already agreed to paying half the cost of moving the barn.

Not at fault

Councillor Art Gibson felt the barn was legal and if it was moved it would have to be an agreement between the two neighbors. Councillor Watson added the Saeglitz home really fronts on Sixth Line, not 25 Sideroad, so the barn is not in front of the home after all.

Councillor Ackman charged there were moves "behind the scenes" to remove the planning board and hire a professional

planner at a cost of \$15,000 a year. At this point the reeve interrupted, banged the gavel and cautioned Councillor Ackman that such a subject did not form part of the discussion.

Continuing, Councillor Ackman said the board reviewed the by-law and found one section which states no accessory building can be built in front of a main building. During his remarks Councillor Watson interrupted, causing Councillor Ackman to

suggest there was "a conspiracy here to prevent me from completing my statements."

Threats removed

"The planning board felt both these people have been harmed," he continued. Again Councillor Watson interrupted and a shouting match ensued. Reeve MacArthur banged the gavel again and, glaring at Councillor Ackman, said "I would hate to have you removed." "I challenge you to remove me," replied the

councillor. "I don't like this kind of arrogance."

Reeve MacArthur asked Deputy Reeve Gordon Agnew, also a member of planning board, if he wanted to comment on the motion. "I think I'll pass this time," he replied, and shouts of "chicken" came from the audience. "You are not letting Allan (Councillor Ackman) complete his statement, you will probably do the same to me," he opined.

Councillor Watson spoke again, suggesting it was "easy to interpret the by-law the way you want it interpreted."

Planner's opinion

Reeve MacArthur said she agreed with Councillor Watson's interpretation and called on Clerk Campbell Thompson who had been in touch with Mr. Dagg of Project Planning Associates, the firm which drew the township by-law. Mr. Dagg said the part of the by-law dealing with accessory buildings was meant to have no relationship with adjoining parcels of land, only the same parcel of land. Therefore the barn would be legal.

"I am not impressed with their interpretation," answered Councillor Ackman. He recalled the same firm had predicted the township's population for 20 years in the future and the population had already reached that figure. Then he added, "are they going to send us a bill for this information?"

"We are being asked to remove

a building which does not contravene our by-law," retorted Councillor Watson. "It is an idiotic recommendation. I'd like to get my barn moved too—let's all run down there."

No more room

At this point Mrs. John Ottaway came forward and under questioning from councillors, indicated if the barn was to be removed the children's pony "has to go". There is no other space on their one acre of land for the building to be placed, she said, as there is a pool at one side of the house and a well behind it. The pony was there before the house was built, she told council, and Mr. Saeglitz had agreed with them the pony needed some shelter.

Councillor Gibson said he agreed with Councillor Watson. "I am at a loss to know why he (Saeglitz) built the house there." Mrs. MacArthur said moving the barn, as planning board had indicated, was "interfering in the civil liberties of the people."

Offer turned down

The barn was not erected to cause Mr. Saeglitz any grief, said Mrs. Ottaway. Asked if she would be willing to make a deal with the neighbor, she replied there was a limit to how much she and her husband could spend "for his view". The Ottaways did offer to buy some land from Mr. Saeglitz but he turned them down, she added.

Councillor Ackman said if civil rights were to be considered, the council should now hear from Mr. Saeglitz. He and Reeve MacArthur argued again of the constant interruptions.

"This has to be settled between the Ottaways and the Saeglitz; this is not the place," ruled the reeve. "This is not our job, never has been and never will be." She hoped the groundwork had been laid for the two families to resolve their differences.

"Secret meetings" "Are we going to have the planning board to any planning?" Councillor Ackman demanded to

know. He made reference to earlier "secret meetings" and "other incidents where the planning board has been bypassed."

"The planning board was asked to be a rubber stamp... this is a slap in the face to all our people and our planning board... are we going to have a planning board in this township?" he asked.

Raps attitude

Councillor Gibson concluded the discussion with the suggestion there "seems to be an attitude by the planning board to run the council—the board doesn't run the council."

Finally a motion, that the issue be resolved between the two parties concerned and that "no further action be taken by the council," was passed on a 3-2 vote. Councillors Watson and Gibson voted in favor, Deputy Reeve Agnew and Councillor Ackman against; and Reeve MacArthur cast the deciding vote.



Council supports ratepayers in sideroad widening problem

Ratepayers along 15 Sideroad in Esqueuing and Nassagaweya Townships who are upset about a county proposal to widen and straighten their sideroad received both verbal and written support from members of Nassagaweya Council Wednesday.

One of the ratepayers William A. Johnson appeared before council and scolded them for a seeming lack of concern for the ratepayers' feelings. He said he was under the impression at the last council meeting that Deputy Reeve Gordon Agnew was going to press the county roads committee for a public hearing on the road widening proposal, but said he read in the press there wasn't to be a hearing.

Petition too

Meanwhile he had approached Esqueuing Council and received

immediate support for his hearing request. He has also collected a petition with 42 names on it.

Deputy Reeve Agnew said he asked for a hearing but the roads committee was hesitant to set a date. In the intervening weeks the public pressure, including the petition and Esqueuing's request have convinced the committee a hearing should be held—it was just a matter of setting a convenient date, he said. Mr. Johnson strongly urged the meeting be held in the evening so ratepayers could attend without missing time off work.

"That road needs repairing," Mr. Johnson said, "there hasn't been a fatality, but if they widen it and get gravel trucks there will be a fatality."

Study this year

Deputy Reeve Agnew said money has been set aside to study the feasibility of repairing the section from the Town Line to Highway 25, but it would only be a study. He agreed the trees should be preserved and hoped the county would not destroy the scenery. The road needs repairs but would not become "a highway" he hoped.

Reeve Mrs. A. MacArthur said she hoped the county would not "widen it out and destroy all the trees and make a super-duper road at great expense to the ratepayers."

Council approved a resolution calling on the county's roads committee to hold an evening meeting with the ratepayers "at the earliest possible time."

Building permit committee idea shelved until new year

A building committee of township planning board should issue all building permits, Nassagaweya Planning Board recommended to township council at their meeting Wednesday.

The suggestion was vetoed on a 3-2 vote, but council left the door open for such a resolution to be brought in and discussed again at the first of the new year when the 1971 council takes office. Right now, on the eve of an election, was the wrong time for such decisions they agreed.

Non-confidence

"That's a vote of no confidence in one of our personnel," said Councillor Art Gibson when the motion was read.

Many municipalities do operate in this manner said Councillor Allan Ackman, also a member of the planning board. It was not an attempt to downgrade the function of the building inspector or take any work away from council, but it would help avoid future hassles, he added.

Deputy Reeve Gordon Agnew said he thought it was a worthwhile suggestion.

Clerk Campbell Thompson said such a set-up would alleviate the "public criticism and pressure and discussion" that has evolved around staff employees. The present program, where the building inspector works under the direction of the council, was not working efficiently "or we would not be party to the present problems," he said.

Board's burden

Councillor Ackman agreed, saying building problems should be a burden of a board responsible to the council.

Reeve Mrs. Anne MacArthur wondered about the cost of having such a committee meet regularly, but Councillor Ackman felt they would save the township the cost of their fees if there were less disputes.

The planners' motion was rejected but it was suggested it be re-submitted at the first of the new year.

Nassagaweya Council Briefs

During their meeting on Wednesday evening, members of Nassagaweya Council:

—Agreed to lift the stop work order on a house under construction by Karl Reichert. During a recent OMB hearing Mr. Reichert was given permission to purchase a piece of land to make a legal entrance to his home.

—Received word from the Ontario Department of Mines that Campbellville Sand and Gravel has been given a permit to continue mining, providing rehabilitation continues to be carried on, until Nov. 30.

—Approved plans of Halton Region Conservation Authority to provide gravel to widen the Base Line Rd. entrance to Crawford Lake Conservation Area, provided the work is done at no cost to the township and a right-of-way is left for a farm owner to reach his property at the end of the short stretch of road east of Guelph Line. The Authority wants to widen the road to allow school buses to park there.

—Noted the township works department and road committee had beaten the Department of Highways in one aspect. A letter from the Minister asked all municipalities to strictly control the amount of salt used on roads this winter; Councillor Allan Ackman reported the township had earlier decided to do this.

—Approved a resolution supporting the Town of Timmins' resolution seeking approval for the continued use of studded car tires in Northern Ontario.

—Cancelled a calculator maintenance agreement with Smith-Corona that would have cost \$143.10. Clerk Campbell Thompson said the machines were so old that "neither machine is worth the price of the maintenance contract" — he promised to repair them himself at half the cost.

—Received notice of two land separation hearings being held

this week, and reviewed three recent decisions of the township's Committee of Adjustment.

—Learned the clerks of Nassagaweya, Milton and Esqueuing were attempting to coordinate information on a garbage disposal site at Milton Brick Co. property in the south end of the township.

—Set Monday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. as the date for the inaugural meeting of the 1971 council.

—Learned new speed limit signs at Haltonville on the Guelph Line are still awaiting government approval.

—Approved a by-law allowing one-third of councillor's remuneration and mileage expenses to be counted as untaxable expenses. The reeve receives \$1,500, deputy reeve \$1,200 and councillors \$1,000 and all are paid 14 cents a mile for travelling on township business.

—Heard a financial report from the clerk which indicated there would be no large reserve at the year end. The township made gains in collecting back taxes this year, he said.

Waste trucks are under fire

During a meeting of Nassagaweya Council last week Councillor Allan Ackman outlined some "positive steps" he feels the government should be taking on water pollution.

He called for government legislation to control industrial waste trucks, force truckers to keep complete records and provide penalties for indiscriminate dumping of pollutants. The suggestion came up as councillors complained the Ontario Department of Health has still not made a promised inspection of the township's dump site, where seepage, Councillor Ackman claims, is polluting the headwaters of the Blue Springs Creek.

Councillor Jim Watson said some farmers would be glad to have septic tank wastes dumped on their lands. But Councillor Ackman said that was alright in the proper places but not on farms where watercourses run. He said he heard of one farm on the Blue Springs Creek where septic tanks are being dumped.

Seminar "enlightening but a year late—Gibson

Although most members of Nassagaweya Council were impressed and enlightened at a recent municipal seminar held by Halton County Board of Education, Councillor Allan Ackman still has some complaints about Halton's education system.

At Wednesday's council meeting, Councillor Art Gibson reported the seminar was "rather enlightening" although it should have been held a year earlier. (The Halton board has been in office almost two years and Nassagaweya was one of the councils which rebelled at higher education levies during 1969). Councillor Gibson felt the board had made a sincere effort to communicate with the various councils which support it.

DIFFERENT TRACK

But Councillor Ackman wondered why the board spoke in terms of costs per pupil-teacher yet they were "on an entirely different railway track" when it came to levying costs on the municipalities. He also felt the board was placing a tremendous amount of emphasis on "bricks and mortar and structural considerations" and "far less concern about the product that was being turned out."

Councillor Gibson felt the board has done a good job of budgeting.

Winding up the brief discussion, Deputy Reeve Gordon Agnew opined the differences between education in Nassagaweya and places like Oakville and Burlington were being narrowed. He noted the township should not get a boost in education levies next year like the big one experienced earlier this year.

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