

Who hires the lawyer?

Who should be allowed to instruct the town solicitor on behalf of the town of Halton Hills? Council decided Tuesday night to narrow the number down to the engineer, treasurer, the mayor, the planner and the clerk-planner administrator. In each case the clerk-administrator must be notified for record purposes.

The question was asked in a letter from town solicitors Helson, Baines and Langdon, who suggested one or more persons should be designated by the council.

Councillor Ern Hyde said he didn't think he as a councillor should have the right to run to the solicitor, and "run up bills." He said the engineer and head of council, should have the privilege.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said it was not too much to ask department heads to go through the clerk-administrator.

Clerk Administrator Doug Pritchard said the solicitor is sometimes faced with a dilemma if he is instructed by someone, and is not sure if they have been authorized. "In the final analysis the solicitor said he would use his discretion."

After a brief session behind closed doors, council voted to designate the engineer, the treasurer, the planner, the mayor and the clerk-administrator, as the ones empowered to instruct the town solicitor.

Semestering

The semester system is to begin at Georgetown high school next week.



IT'S TAX BILL time. Here Lillian McLennan and Joyce Pickles, of the town office staff, check over the rolls before sending the bad news to the ratepayers.

Problem of injured strays

The town of Halton Hills wants the treatment of injured stray dogs and cats to be authorized by Animal Control Officer George Herrington, before treatment is done by a veterinarian.

The finance committee recommended this procedure, since they felt ratepayers should not subsidize expensive treatment for dogs unlicensed by their owners.

Councillor Roy Booth asked the committee to hold up any firm decision until they had spoken to Drs. Dave McEwan and Brian Buckrell, owners of Georgetown Animal Clinic.

Council received a letter from the Georgetown Animal Clinic asking who was responsible for the fee in treating injured strays.

The committee had suggested the veterinarian involved call the Animal Control Officer before taking action. The Animal Control Officer is responsible for paying for the care, according to the agreement between him and the town.

Councillor Pat McKenzie said the veterinarians should proceed only with the Animal Control Officer's permission. "The town should know the cost, before they are involved."

Councillor Russell Miller said, "The Animal Control Officer wants the veterinarian to call him, he doesn't want to get a bill for \$80 for a dog nobody wants. All any vet has to do is call him, he has a 24 hour a day answering service."

Both claimed doctors only give first aid to help ease the pain of any injured stray, until they receive further instructions. He said council had not answered a letter from Georgetown Animal Clinic.

Mayor Tom Hill said Georgetown Animal Clinic had asked council to make a decision on what to do with injured animals. "That's what the finance committee did. In fairness to Mr. Herrington he should know what they're going to do and what it will cost."

Councillor Harry Levy pointed out the finance committee had spent 50 minutes with Mr. Herrington and thought they had solved the question.

A motion referring the matter back to finance committee, and asking Drs. McEwan and Buckrell to attend to make their position clear, was passed by council.

Grass is "tinder-dry" issue fire warnings

Hot, dry weather this August has left fields and hush across Halton "tinder-dry" and the Halton Fire Prevention Committee today issued a warning to residents about the increasing dangers of grass and bush fires.

"Halton's fire departments have been called out to an unusually large number of grass fires in the past few weeks and unless we get a good rain soon, the fire danger will be worse than ever," said Lt. Jim Coulson of Milton Fire Department, chairman of the Committee. "We urge everyone to be extra careful with any outdoor fires, especially during this critical dry period."

Committee officials blame careless smokers for some of the grass fires—people discarding cigarettes are blamed for several recent fires in the median on Highway 401 in the Milton area, plus others along rural roadsides. A carelessly tossed cigarette could start a fire in a ditch, which would spread to a dry field and perhaps engulf a building.

Outdoor fires such as bonfires and incinerators are not only dangerous in a dry season, they are also illegal under the province's air pollution regulations, the Committee points out.

Who pays for the strays

Halton Hills finance committee suggested at their Monday night meeting that Dr. David McEwan of Georgetown Animal Clinic, and George Herrington, the Town Animal Control Officer, sit down and work out some kind of agreement concerning payment for medical services.

Dr. McEwan is concerned about how the clinic should handle the odd injured stray animal which is brought to them and who will the clinic bill for services rendered. Under a proposed agreement between the Town and Herrington, veterinarians would be required to contact him before rendering services and then he would pay the bill after assessing what type of attention was needed.

"We need to know who will pay for humane treatment to strays which are brought to us. What do we do if we can't contact Herrington? McEwan wondered. He wanted to bill the Town separately in the event he could not get hold of Herrington and could not collect from him.

"Our agreement with Herrington says he will pay veterinary costs," clerk Doug Pritchard pointed out.

"The problem seems to be where does responsibility lie, certainly not with the Town. It's not the responsibility of the taxpayer to take care of strays," Councillor Ernie Sykes said. He said it was Herrington's problem as stated in the agreement.

Committee chairman Pat McKenzie pointed out that Herrington is doing a very good job and all he wants is for veterinarians to give him a call so he may assess the situation and decide if the dog should be put out of its misery or saved and his owner found.

"We don't want the stray animal business. We just want to be able to go ahead and give humane treatment if we can't get hold of Herrington, which you can't always do," McEwan said.

Councillor Russ Miller says he would like to see Herrington and McEwan sit down and try to work out some kind of an arrangement. "I don't want to see us paying twice for pet control services. If a stray isn't owned or cared for Herrington may not want him saved—just done away with. After all, if it is not wanted why save it to run stray. The animals are not the responsibility of the taxpayers." They all suggested that

McEwan try to reach an agreement similar to the one Dr. Frank Oakes and Herrington have concerning strays in Acton. It was agreed by all that the problem is well in hand in Acton and the same can be done in Georgetown.

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OOM-PA-PAH! Janet Allen, tubaist, watches the conductor for the attack during an afternoon O.F.Y. band concert at the Acton Library last Wednesday at 2 p.m. The summer program ends Friday.

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