

Tax free?

Row develops on Morrow's salary

Halt Regional Council agreed to award Chairman Ric Morrow a salary of \$25,000 a year with one-third considered to be tax free. That decision came about only after a hassle over the

legality of the tax free portion. Burlington Councillor Ben Ciprietti said he had checked with the officials in the income tax office and was advised that all regional chair-

man were considered appointed positions and not eligible for the tax free consideration. He refused to support the resolution of the implementing by-law, but said he could support increasing the salary to make up for the taxable portion.

He claimed council had no legal right to declare one-third of the chairman's salary to be free from taxes.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett and Milton Mayor Don Gordon agreed that council should only be concerned with setting the salary and should let Morrow work out the taxes with the income tax people.

Regional Treasurer Don Farmer said he had felt the chairman wasn't entitled to the exemption, but after checking with some regional chairmen's offices he had found they were declaring the one-third as non taxable.

Chairman Ric Morrow said he would claim two-thirds of his income and let the council

know what reaction he got. Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen had earlier opposed the \$25,000 salary and he also spoke in opposition to the tax exemption.

"We're only playing games if we think that the regional chairman is not an appointment," Eriksen said. He asked what the difference was between Mr. Morrow and Chief Administrative Officer Ernie Reid.

Both are put into office as a result of a vote and in both

cases, by-laws are drawn and passed.

Councillor Jim Watson said he opposed the idea of the regional chairman having a car provided, but agreed that the existing car might as well be used as long as it last. A motion to that effect lost.

Oakville Councillor Archie Donaghey said he couldn't support the \$25,000 salary because he didn't know how much time Morrow would give to the job. "Mr. Chairman, you said you would be

giving three days a week but it seems a coincidence that you can be at it full time this month."

Morrow said he had said it would be at least three days a week and that he had made arrangements with his em-

ployer to be at the job full time with the exception of three Mondays in February.

He said he would be collecting full salary as a captain on a commercial airline in 1976 but might have to accept partial pay in 1977.

Barrett says

Put mayors on commission

Each of the four Halton mayors should have a seat on the Halton Board of Police Commissioners, according to Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett.

Barrett told regional council that the Bill 151 Review Committee would be considering a recommendation to that effect.

Mayor Barrett and Halton Hills Mayor Tom Hill were both reappointed to the Commission by Council at a meeting Wednesday.

During the same meeting Milton Mayor Don Gordon and Councillors Walter Mulkevich of Burlington, Roy Booth of Halton Hills and Laurie Mannell of Oakville were added to the Bill 151-Review Committee.

Members already on the committee include Chairman R. B. Morrow, Burlington

Mayor Mary Munro, Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett, Milton Councillor Jim Watson and Halton Hills Councillor Pat McKenzie.

The council added the new members to the review committee to attract fresh ideas. The committee was set up last year with a view to recommending changes in the Bill that could improve the operation of the region. The committee is being reactivated.



HYDRO WORKERS stop traffic as they install a new line on Highway 7 between Acton and Rockwood.

No drinking water yet for councillors

Halton Hills councillors will have to wait until municipal water starts being piped to the Seventh Line municipal building before getting glasses and pitchers.

Monday Councillors Peter Pomeroy and Peter Marks suggested the town buy one water pitcher to be shared by every two councillors and glasses for each member. Delmar

French pointed out water at the municipal building must be boiled before drinking, so council decided to table the item until fresh water starts going to the municipal building via the water main extension from Maple Avenue.

Pomeroy asked if councillors could bring a thermos and was told by Mayor Tom Hill that was fine "as long as they are checked at the door."

Booth wants Hill to chair committee of the whole

Councillor Roy Booth wants some changes made in committee of the whole council meetings starting next month.

Monday he informed council he will be bringing a motion to council which would make Mayor Tom Hill the permanent chairman of

the committee of the whole and added each of the three chairmen of standing committees would go up to the front of council chambers and join Hill while councillors question items in the minutes of each of the three committees.

Booth chairs planning board while Councillor Mike Armstrong is works chairman and Councillor Russ Miller chairs finance-administration.

Right now councillors take turns in alphabetical order chairing committee of the whole meetings.

Consider Speyside

Halton Police Commission is considering buying some property in the Speyside area where a communications tower could be located.

Thursday, the commission received a report from the region's property agent stating the two acre parcel of land off Highway 25 near 15. Sideroad would cost approximately \$20,000.

A land survey will have to be done and negotiations with the two people who own the land could take up to three months.

Region property agent D. V. Geraghty asked the commission to include the \$20,000 in this year's police budget and give approval for the purchase.

The commission tabled the item pending a report on alternative sites for the tower plus appraisals on all pieces of land being considered.

Chief Ken Skerrett noted that of the new towers going up for the new police communications network the one in the north will be the only one on land. All other will sit atop buildings.

Hinton states

Chairmanships "against law"

"The concept of chairmanships as against department heads is educationally unsound and in my view is against the law," Board of Education member Bert Hinton stated to the press Tuesday.

"I prove this by suggesting that the Education Act gives the Minister the right to make regulations in this case with regard to department heads. From a legal standpoint I suggest the board has gone against the law."

The Minister makes the regulations and they state "the board shall appoint heads of department and also states that they shall hold a high school specialist's certificate." Mr. Hinton claims the chairmanships are an innovative concept that doesn't meet the requirements of the law.

The board will again be debating the question of chairmanships, as opposed to department heads, at their regular meeting tonight (Wednesday). A motion will call for the board to reaffirm its stand on the reorganization policy, to which Halton teachers are opposed.

Mr. Hinton, the Acton-Esqueing representative, feels the new chairmanship concept places heavy emphasis on organization but no emphasis on the quality of education. "How does this

benefit our students?" It has been proven that the quality of education suffers as a result of this, Mr. Hinton says.

He explained the new system began at Lord Elgin high school in Burlington. Evaluations have been done there which Mr. Hinton says are "suspect." He said also that university people have doubts about the graduates of Lord Elgin, yet Halton has made no attempt to evaluate the progress of these students once they left school.

Mr. Hinton continued "I hold no brief for the teachers on their wages, as chairman or department heads. I am only interested in standards and educational value."

He thinks the implementation of chairmanships in Halton "will further reduce the morale of teachers."

If there is a criticism it is that there are too many teachers holding positions as department heads, assistant department heads and minor heads. "I'm all for eliminating minor heads and assistant heads. Schedules show that the total number of department heads is similar to the number of chairmen."

We are the only board in Ontario implementing the chairmanship concept on a mandatory basis, he says. Four or five other boards are experimenting, but are not committed to it.

Accident Saturday

Fiona Gould of 57 Frederick St., Acton and Thomas Berry of 160 Elmore Dr., Acton, were both backing out of driveways when they collided, Saturday, February 5. The accident occurred on Main St. and caused \$200 damage.

Collision

Cars driven by Vijaya Chandra, 145 Mill St. E., Acton, and Vivian Cole, Grand Valley were in collision at the corner of Queen and Churchill last Saturday. The accident caused \$250 damage.

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