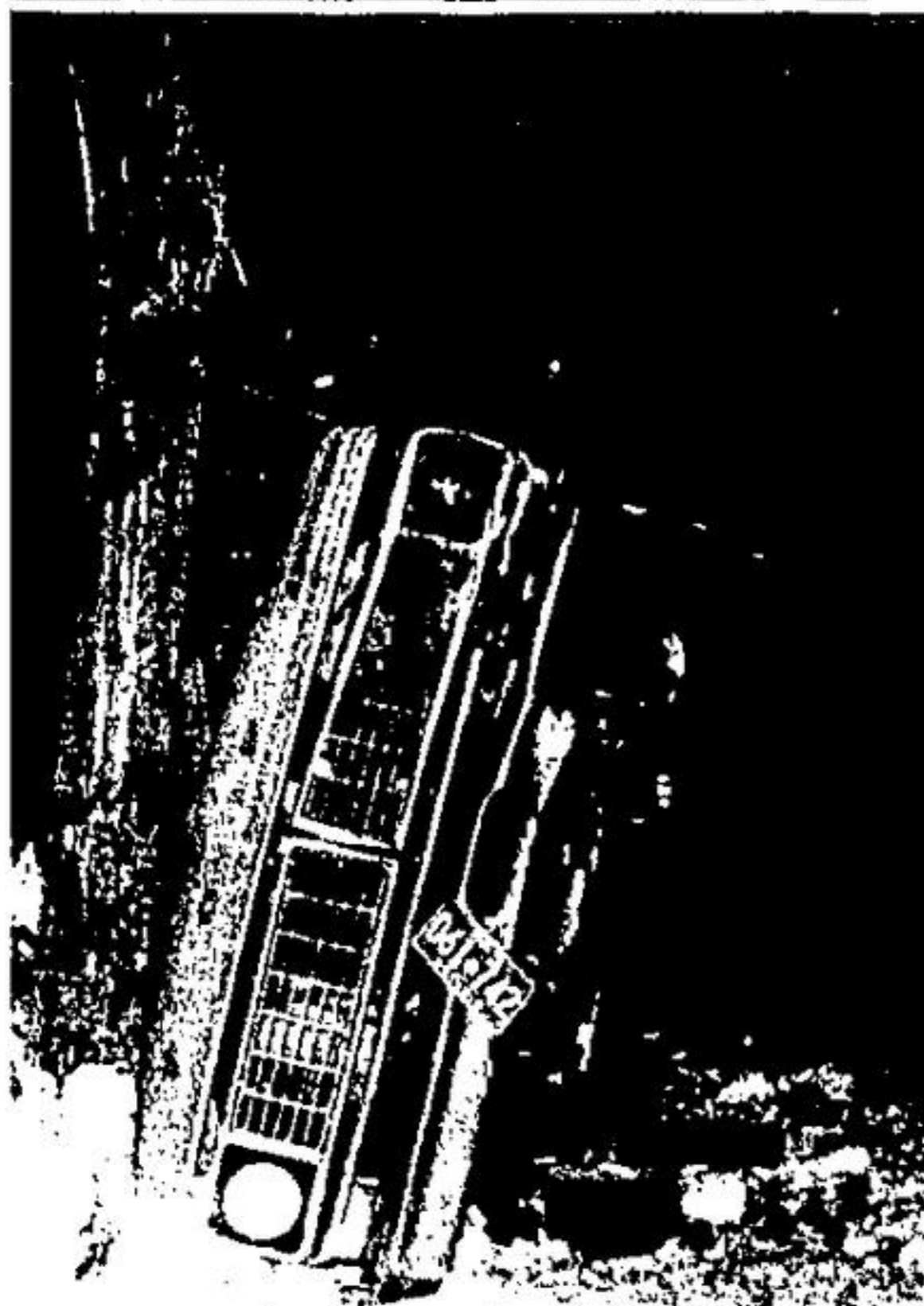


Consulting firm to help town Milton man hurt hire new clerk-administrator



HALTON REGIONAL POLICE estimate \$1,200 in total damage to the truck and hydro pole during a collision involving a Milton man in Acton Friday night. Police say David Turple of 5761 First Line was slightly hurt in the mishap.

Faced with 37 applications for the clerk-administrator's job the town has decided to hire a consulting firm to help narrow the list of candidates down to three or four people. Despite objections from several councillors Monday it was decided \$3,000 will be paid the firm of Stevenson and Kellogg to sift through the applications and recommend the best people for the job.

Councillor Peter Marks said the finance-administration felt nobody on council really is knowledgeable enough about the clerk-administrator's job to pick the best candidates. He noted other municipalities hire consultants to help them hire senior staff.

At least 25 of the candidates could be eliminated just by reading their applications. Councillor Pat McKenzie declared. He said he was able to whittle the 37 people down to seven possible so the town should get on with interviews so the spot can be filled promptly.

Mayor Tom Hill warned everyone on the selection committee would favor different finalists for the job and

it would take a long time to get agreement.

McKenzie noted there was unanimous agreement when Treasurer Ray King was hired and noted he has worked out quite well. He said with a little work on the part of councillors a good selection could be made again.

Members of finance-administration committee along with the chairman of works committee will sit on the hiring committee.

Councillor Roy Booth noted it will cost a minimum of \$3,000 for the consulting firm just to recommend a few prospects. He said the firm doesn't know the town or council so can't pick a person who will work well with council. If the town wanted things like psychological testing of the finalists for the job the

consulting firm would charge another \$2,000.

Noting he has probably hired more people than any other member of council, hiring a consulting firm was a good idea Councillor Pat Patterson declared.

He said for \$3,000 the town might even get a staff member the whole council won't be throwing barbs at as has happened in the past.

Council must still make the final decision on who is hired so it might as well do the whole job Councillor Walter Biehn said.

"We don't have the brains or ability to weed out three or four good people from among 37. After the firm narrows it down then we can look at the situation logically," Councillor Mike Armstrong suggested.

Hill noted the town's last clerk-administrator, Doug Pritchard, was recommended for his new job in British Columbia by the same consulting firm. Councillors found this to be an interesting fact.

Marks said there wasn't a member of council who knows 25 per cent of the clerk-administrator's job so a consultant is needed. He noted the region hired its chief administrative officer with the help of the same firm and any business in Ontario with as big a budget as the town's would hire a management consulting firm to help hire senior staff.

Councillors Les Dudy, Booth, Russ Miller, McKenzie and Biehn all voted against the hiring of the consulting firm.

A Milton man was hurt in a traffic mishap with a hydro pole in Acton Friday night.

Halton Regional Police state David Turple of 5761 First Line was slightly hurt in the collision involving his pick-up truck and the pole.

Damage to the truck is about \$700, and to the pole \$500.

A Georgetown ambulance crew was called to the scene but Turple did not go with them. Acton firefighters were also called to the scene.

Police state the Turple truck was southbound on Main Street North. The truck rolled over and then struck the hydro pole. There is damage to the vehicle's entire right side and cab.

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Morrow says

Decision costly to North Halton

According to Halton Regional Chairman Ric Morrow, North Halton residents could have saved between \$95 and \$318 over the next three years if council had accepted his proposal to move towards uniform water rates and a sewer surcharge.

On Wednesday council voted against Morrow's proposal. Two days later Morrow sent a letter to the three Milton representatives urging them to support his proposal—if and when an opportunity to reconsider became available.

His letter included an analysis of what it would cost homeowners in Milton, Acton and Georgetown for sewer and water in 1979, 1980 and 1981.

According to his figures, Acton would have been the

big winner with a reduction on the average home of \$318 over those three years. In Georgetown the reduction would have been \$128 and in Milton the reduction is estimated at \$95.

In his letter to Milton Mayor Don Gordon and councillors Jim Kerr and Jim Watson, Morrow said:

"Last Wednesday, during the course of the morning meeting, I became very concerned that by a slim one vote majority Council indicated it did not wish to receive any further information on the matter. There was no doubt in my mind when the reports were prepared that there would be a need for further information. On such a serious policy decision, with so much at stake, we certainly owe it to our citizens to

investigate the whole question, very thoroughly. "I hereby enclose a report which I believe is very important as it concerns the people of Milton. I have taken the liberty of sending copies to both Councillors Watson and Kerr."

"If in the future there is any opportunity to move a reconsideration and obtain further information, I hope you will agree that it would be a responsible action. "I would be most pleased to have Mr. Farmer discuss the report and any related matters, at your convenience."

Mayor Gordon said he doubted Milton councillors were interested in reconsideration. "Council opposed the change. It was unanimous."

Monday council decided to allow the mayor \$2,500 a year for expenses and public relations but it will all be covered in the books under the heading of public relations. Expense vouchers will have to be submitted monthly, council also decided.

The recommendation from finance-administration committee read the mayor's expenses be paid from his public relations fund which would total \$1,500.

Councillor Roy Booth said this was ridiculous since his public relations fund currently stood at \$1,000 and his expenses at \$1,500. He explained the committee plan would see

Mayor to get \$2,500 a year expenses, public relations

After weeks of haggling the mayor's expenses and public relations costs have finally been straightened out by Halton Hills council.

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Councillor Roy Booth said this was ridiculous since his public relations fund currently stood at \$1,000 and his expenses at \$1,500. He explained the committee plan would see

public relations upped \$500 and expenses cut of nothing. According to councillor Peter Marks expenses would be paid through vouchers and the current system of giving the mayor \$125 for expenses on top of his salary wasn't appropriate.

Booth suggested money would be saved for the taxpayers if the mayor's salary was simply upped by \$500 and vouchers and extra book-keeping were eliminated.

Marks said the mayor's expenses might only be \$300 a year so by running a voucher system money could be saved.

Booth countered anyone thinking the mayor's job incurred only \$300 in expenses annually should try doing the job for a few weeks.

Mayor Tom Hill said a year wouldn't even cover

mileage and noted since no vouchers were turned in he had to declare the \$1,500 expense money on his income tax without the one-third tax free exemption he and other councillors get. Hill said it cost him \$1,669 last year to collect his \$1,500 expense allowance and couldn't use his gas or car as a deduction.

Both councillors Pat McKenzie and Pat Patterson said the voucher system would become "nit-picking."

Councillor Mike Armstrong said business uses vouchers to handle expenses and the town should too. "It keeps everyone happy, honest and it's tax free."

Council agreed to set the limit on public relations and expense at \$2,500 a year. It was noted the mayor often must buy flowers and gifts for people in connection with his job.

Brief land ownership downs separation bid

'Land Division Committee (LDC) denied a separation bid to Herman Kappert of RR 2 Acton during its meeting in the 7th Line town office February 14.

Kappert's land fronts on Highway 7's north side on the 4th Line. The 20,000 square feet of land, on the south-west half of lot 28, was to have had a home built on it, if Kappert got his severance.

The LDC denied the bid because it felt another home in the area would, with its access, create a traffic hazard on the highway and also because the committee felt the home would be another intrusion into the rural area.

LDC member Bill Coats, of Acton, disagreed with the traffic hazard argument, in discussion leading to the decision. However, he said his main concern was that the lot was bought simply with a separation in mind.

"I'd say he's (Kappert) taken advantage of the rules

to get an infilling situation", Coats said.

The land was bought ten months ago.

Kappert's lawyer, Ron Henry, also of Acton, told the LDC his client needs property to build on. Kappert thinks he should not be penalized because of the brief ownership, Henry said. "There's a scarcity of lots," Henry said.

Henry argued the Kappert proposal should be granted on the basis of infilling. There are possibly 25 homes in the area, Henry said. He added the proposal wasn't to extend the cluster of homes there, rather it would complete the cluster's internal growth.

Kappert lives on part of the lot, Henry said.

Coats said the proposal had some redeeming features: for example it is the last empty lot to be built in the area.

Tom Marshall, another committee member, also pointed out the brief term of ownership.

Parking at church

An agreement between the town of Halton Hills and Trinity United church is still under discussion. The agreement concerns the parking lot and its rental.

The matter was on the agenda at the works committee meeting of council on Monday, but is being held over.

The agreement must be approved by the Dufferin-Peel Presbytery of the United church.

Council kills proposal . . .

Continued from Page 1 where I want, than take a free ride and go where he wants to take me."

Milton Councillor Jim Kerr said he feared the province was trying to buy direct control for the region. "Are we going to lose control locally?" he asked.

Acton Councillor Pat McKenzie said he favored the system proposed and couldn't understand opposition to it. He agreed his area could benefit from it, but noted Acton continues to pay hospital costs that residents will not benefit from.

Opponents of the scheme hurled personal criticism at Morrow and staffers for promoting the abolition of the

chargeback, while those sympathetic to the move blasted Morrow and Farmer for making what they felt was a poor sales pitch.

"You know and I know that if this carries, that'll be the end of the chargeback system. You should have come out with a more honest and factual report. The two of you are to blame. The way you've prepared this reflects a lack of trust in the people here."

"If you had been more honest, I think you would have received more support," Burlington Councillor Jack Raffis said.

Raffis said the whole essence of regional government was at stake. "It requires a certain amount of faith," he said.

Oakville Councillor Gordon Reade said. "This has been bungled. It is situations like these that tend to make me critical."

Mayor Munro said the vote to receive and file it was an indication of a lack of confidence in the chairman and staff.

The vote to file it carried 14-9. Voting in favor of the

motion to receive and file recommendations on water and sewer rates were: Mary Munro, Jack Raffis, Tom Sutherland, David Coons, Ben Ciprietti, Russ Miller, Don Gordon, James Watson, Harry Barrett, McLean Anderson, Carl Eriksen, Gordon Reade, Ron Planche and Jim Kerr.

Voting against the motion to file were: Vern Connell, Pat McLaughlin, Walter Mulkevic, Don Carter, Tom Hill, Pat McKenzie, Roy Booth, Archie Donaghey and Laurie Mannell.

Halton Hills Councillor Mike Armstrong was not in attendance at the meeting.

Following the vote Morrow said it appeared councillors came into the meeting with their minds closed. "I'm disappointed that they didn't see fit to pursue the matter."

Asked after the meeting about the criticism concerning incomplete reports, the chairman suggested any report put before council would have left some questions unanswered.

He said a strong anti-region undercurrent was partially responsible for the vote.

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Region levy.

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Halton Region will raise \$7,161,098 in interim taxes to the four area municipalities. Halton's Administration Committee is recommending that half of the levy come due Feb. 28 and half April 28.

The region will collect \$3,334,610 from Burlington, \$2,588,858 from Oakville, \$607,716 from Milton and \$629,814 from Halton Hills. The interim levy is based on 50 per cent of the final levy for the previous year. The levy is used to reduce the amount of borrowing that is required.

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