

'Juggling the books'

Committee says budget deceptive

Halton Region's Administration Committee will attempt to have Regional Council reverse a stand the council took on the budget when it dealt with it a few weeks ago.

At that time council agreed to take \$552,000 that would be raised in revenue at landfill sites and use it to offset the increase in the mill rate.

The Administration Committee is now saying the money was earmarked for landfill or resource recovery purposes and that the money should be left to cover those costs, instead of reducing taxes.

The decision followed charges by councillors that the action was "dishonest, misleading and deceitful".

Oakville Councillor Carl Eriksen said the idea of using the funds to lower the impact on taxes was an attempt to hide the true cost of regional government.

"This is dishonest and deceitful," he said.

Burlington Mayor Mary Munro said that Chairman Ric Morrow had convinced council it should take the

money raised to cover landfill costs and use it to reduce the mill rate. "The increased dumping charges were whisked into revenue and now we are spending \$1,000,000 that doesn't show in the budget. This is juggling the books," she said.

She argued that when it came time to pay for a landfill site the money would have to be raised and council would

say taxes are going up to pay for a new landfill site. "But in fact the people have already paid for it."

"I say this is dishonest and deceptive, to approach it in this manner. Council was misled and the public will be misled," she said.

Councillor Mac Anderson said he supported Morrow's proposal at the budget meeting earlier, but had since de-

clined he was wrong. "This had played on my conscience ever since that meeting," he said.

During the meeting Wednesday, Chairman Ric Morrow, who was absent, came in for heavy personal criticism. Several committee members claimed the whole budget procedure was a "hodge podge" this year.

Asked to comment after the meeting, Morrow would say only that he was sorry the committee had taken that approach and acknowledged the matter could be taken up at council.

But later the same day Morrow told the Public Works Committee that the Administration Committee had no legal right to even consider the council action.

"This must be reconsidered by the committee of the whole. It causes me great concern that the process is breaking down because of the action of the Administration Committee," Morrow said.

A number of the members of the Works Committee were provoked at the Administration Committee's action in reviewing the council decision.

Ebenezer

Service Friday

By Mrs. Ron McLean

The World Day of Prayer is to be held on Friday, at 2 o'clock. The speaker is Rev. Mary Farney, of St. David's Church, Campbellville. Everyone Welcome.

Rev. R. Finley's topic was, "As Jesus prays." Many times the disciples noticed Jesus after He prayed. He would go away to some place quiet to pray. Fatigue showed in the lines of the face. They noticed when He came back, the tiredness was gone. They said, "John taught his disciples to pray. Teach us to pray." When Jesus prayed, He began to raise them up. The disciples quarrelled. The measure of the depth of Jesus's prayer, He has to take all that bickering, and lift it up to His Father. Jesus prayed for individuals. The symbol of Peter should be the flower of love. Jesus said, "I

10 minutes

It only takes about 10 minutes to actually give blood. You can do it in your lunch hour. When you go into the local blood clinic, a sample of your blood will be taken and checked for type. After you give your unit of blood, you'll be served a light refreshment, and you're on your way. A total of maybe half an hour.

Mosquito control is rejected

Once again Halton Board of Health turned down a mosquito abatement program for this summer. The decision followed a lengthy debate punctuated by temper outbursts and procedural wrangles.

The issue was reopened by Dr. J. H. Chamberlain, Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for Halton, following his receipt of a memo from the Ministry of Health recom-

mending the 1978 mosquito control program be carried out in areas of greatest risk of St. Louis encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease.

Board of Health members who opposed the control program said a control program could be initiated if evidence showed the presence of the carrier mosquitoes. They maintained monies already allocated in the budget would allow the

health unit to carry out a monitoring program and to buy the necessary materials for spraying.

However, Dr. Chamberlain and Georgetown Councillor Roy Booth argued there was no provision for monitoring.

Councillor Booth, a strong advocate of the program, said after the meeting he hopes to be able to make a motion at Regional Council (which meets today) in support of

abatement. (Board of Health minutes usually go to council for information only.)

Mr. Booth said he was upset by his fellow board members' criticism of the MOH for reviving the issue when, in fact, it was Dr. Chamberlain's responsibility to bring the ministry's recommendation to their attention.

At issue was less than \$5,000, 75 per cent of which

would be subsidized by the province.

Dr. Chamberlain explained the preventive program involved the control of larvae by spreading granular materials on roadside ditches and public ponds.

But a program to control adult mosquitoes would involve aerial or manual spraying, he said, adding these methods brought into question environmental effects and hazards to persons suffering from respiratory diseases. He said the province does not contribute to costs of spraying for control of the adult mosquito.

Milton Councillor Jim Kerr, who voted against the program, said he objected to approving a project without knowing exactly what it would cost. He said should evidence later in the year show the need for spraying, monies would be found.

Epidemics of St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) cannot be predicted. They do not occur in regular cycles but depend on a combination of factors which favor the life cycle of the specific mosquito populations which carry the disease.

The essential features are believed to be winter conditions which permit survival of the mosquitoes, a warm, rainy spring and summer and an abundance of both migratory and domestic birds which are potential hosts of the virus.

In 1975, 67 cases and five deaths due to SLE were reported in Ontario. In 1976 four cases were reported and in 1977 none.

Hamilton-Wentworth and Peel Regions both have approved abatement programs, according to Dr. Chamberlain.

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Town permits to regulate trucks along 17 Sideroad

Halton Hills council has come up with regulations governing trucks on 17 Sideroad but only time will tell if new laws will take heavy gravel trucks off the road or even reduce the number using it.

After years of discussion with residents and in recent months in-depth study of the problem, Monday, Halton Hills works committee authorized drafting of a by-law placing an 11-ton load limit on vehicles using 17 Sideroad.

Committee also authorized a by-law be written which will permit the issuance of permits to truckers wanting to use the road whose loads will exceed the new limit.

Recently the committee learned it couldn't regulate truck traffic based on

destination. Permits couldn't be officially issued to those delivering in Halton Hills and Brampton, and not to those going to Mississauga and Toronto.

Committee had set a deadline of April 10 for a solution to the 17 Sideroad problem to be included in the town's new consolidated traffic by-law but Councillor Peter Pomeroy announced Monday the by-law wouldn't be ready by April.

He said the permit system in Halton Hills will work the same as in Caledon but didn't go into details. Pomeroy admitted he and the engineer had met and drafted recommendations for the meeting which they feel will help reduce the number of trucks on the road.

Engineer Robert Austin

and indicated committee will be given details of the criteria used for permit issuance later.

Councillor George Maltby said the motions passed by committee Monday fulfilled the commitment the town had made to the people to try and regulate the truck traffic but thought guidelines for permit issuances should be nailed down.

Austin said the by-law is hard to set down since it must be stated who enforces it. He said if it says police, only police can enforce it. If it says police, by-law enforcement officer which the town has been considering, and staff, it must be specific with names.

Hill said only police can enforce a traffic by-law but Austin said that wasn't correct.

Councillor Marilyn Serjemonson noted truck traffic has been reduced but Maltby said that is only because of the winter.

Health minister angers region

Members of Halton Region Administration Committee are angry because Ontario Health Minister Dennis Timbrell won't consider picking up what the committee feels is a fair share of hospital costs.

Committee members argue that because they have no effective control over the operation of hospitals, they should not become involved in debenturing to cover costs of hospital construction and additions.

Under the current system the region picks up one third of the costs and the province assumes two thirds.

Committee members feel that the province has complete control over the hospital additions or construction of new hospitals and because of that, the province should pay 100 per cent of the cost.

At one point during the committee meeting, Wednesday, Burlington Councillor David Coons said the region shouldn't be involved in hospital financing but should

charge it back to area municipalities.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett explained that patients from various communities rely on hospitals in other communities and because of that, it didn't make sense to charge the full cost to municipalities where hospitals existed.

After a long discussion the committee agreed to support a recommendation from Burlington Mayor Mary

Munro.

Her recommendation indicated that the region found the minister's position unacceptable. She suggested the region should pick up the cost of one third of any expansion project, but charge back costs of interest and carrying charges for debentures to the hospital boards. That way the expenses incurred by going with debentures would be reflected in hospital board budgets and become eligible for provincial subsidies.

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