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Felines are free — no cat catcher here

By ROB KELLY

There was a cat fight at Milton council's general committee meeting Monday night.

When it was over, the score was Cats 1, Opponents 0.

Actually, those proposing a bylaw to regulate wayward felines can't honestly be construed as cat-haters, except perhaps by the animals themselves. But a proposed bylaw to regulate tabby trespassers was clawed to pieces by the majority of councillors.

Councillor Colin Best suffered most of the scratches.

It was he who initially brought up the idea of curtailing kitty activities. Bylaws prohibiting cats from running at large are common in built-up municipalities, and less common in those with large rural areas.

The proposed Milton bylaw had claws. It would have seen errant owners charged up to \$2,000 for something as simple as letting kitty litter on somebody else's lawn.

"This is the most stupid thing,"

councillor Bill Johnson said with perhaps a catty comment. "In the rural area we have working cats (on farms, for pest control in barns). I can just imagine Mr. Bamford (William Bamford, the bylaw enforcement officer) running around to various barns."

Both councillors Rose Harrison and Brian Penman said the cost of enforcement far outweighed the benefits.

Councillor Don McMillan said the town was already having problems enforcing the existing loose dog bylaw in the rural area, without having to also cope with cats.

Mr. Best beat a cat-like retreat, saying perhaps the bylaw could only apply to the urban area of town.

But his motion catsized, er, capsized, when only he and councillor Brad Clements voted for it.

Backlash promised . . .

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three main options for village reconstruction.

Supporters astonished

However, when the formal area reconstruction plans came before the regional planning and public works committee last month, some of Mr. Turner's supporters were astonished that the recommendations would be put forward with no further input from villagers.

A quickly marshalled opposition

group appeared at regional council, with Mr. Turner angrily saying that the recommendations had been circulated to villagers less than two business days prior to the meeting at which they could be approved.

Bill Johnson, who represents the Campbellville area both at Milton and regional council, had the matter deferred until today so that all concerned would have ample time to study the proposals.

If the recommendations get through the planning and public works committee unscathed they are but a step from being adopted and implemented. It is rare that regional council overturns plans adopted by a committee of elected officials.

While Mr. Turner faces an adversary in Bert Walton he has no ally in Mr. Johnson. The regional councillor said Monday night that he supports most of the current designs.

"I like them. They're the way they've got to be. I have looked at the (regional public opinion) survey, and I've got to look after the needs of the majority."

Asked if he expected to face the promised backlash from Mr. Turner in the fall election, Mr. Johnson replied, "I don't give a s . . . and you can print that. He's the least of my concerns. If Turner runs against me, I'm a shoe-in."

Mr. Walton accused Mr. Turner of being a profiteer devoid of real concern for Campbellville. He said it was Mr. Turner's aim to sell his Campbellville holdings.

"He's got everything up for sale and once it's sold he'll be gone anyway. He'd be gone tomorrow. He's just using everybody. The region spent thousands and thousands of dollars because of Garth Turner. They've had to waste so much time because of him."

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Pumper fix-up

A total of \$26,500 will be spent to hopefully get another 10 years of service from a pumper fire truck based out of Milton's central fire station on Steeles Ave.

C.E. Hickey and Sons Ltd. of Hamilton won the tender to refurbish the truck, which will include body work, painting, inspection and possible repair of operating systems on the vehicle.

The project will be completed in two stages; the first, the body work, will total \$16,391.04 according to C.E. Hickey's tender. The bid range was from the winning company's low to \$20,953.

A further \$9,000 is budgeted to carry out repairs on operating systems which may be necessary following the inspection.

Town councillor Brad Clements was not satisfied that Milton was getting the most bang for Town bucks. "To some extent it's a poor use of money," he commented.

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