

BIA picks their board for 1981-82

by Don Lawrence

At the last regular meeting of the Midland Business Improvement Area Board for the year 1980, Monday night in Midland's Athenian Banquet Hall, a vote was taken to decide who would be sitting on the 1981-82 board.

There were some new faces added as well as some old faces returning to the new board.

Those people remaining on the board are Peter Palmer who served as board chairman for the past three years since the board's beginnings in March, 1978, John Swick, Steve Orr and Pat Cowden.

Joining the board this year are Tom Borsa, Dan Herbert, Alex Kowalski and Douglas Parker.

The number of board members has been reduced to nine from the original eleven to accommodate a smaller quorum vote.

Midland Council will appoint the ninth member.

Palmer started the meeting with a review of the past two years' progress.

He stated despite the problems faced when trying to initiate the buying of the property for the new municipal parking lot on Midland Avenue, the project has been successful as far as the board is concerned.

He added that the beautification programs for Midland have been very successful but also stated a revitalization program for Midland has not been settled upon as of yet and will therefore have to be passed over to the new board to be completed.

Speaking of the aspect of advertising and promotion of Midland's downtown core, Palmer stated, "There's an awful lot that can be done but hasn't been done."

He added, "I'm fairly happy with the progress we've made, but we can do better."

Palmer said that the BIA's objectives could be fulfilled but, "it requires continuous revitalization and a constant promoting of downtown."

A suggestion also made to the new board asks for any board member who misses

two meetings in a row to submit their resignation.

This idea came about because of the poor attendance records of some of the past board members.

Also discussed at the meeting was the possibility of hiring a BIA manager to carry out the organization required to make the BIA's plans work.

Board members in the past have not been able to give the amount of time necessary for these plans to be carried out because they have their own businesses to take care of.

Of a successful candidate for the job, should someone be hired, Palmer said, "We are going to need someone who's knowledgeable, an administrator and a marketing man."

Board member, Pat Cowden felt that a BIA manager is a necessity if the board is to work properly.

As she stated, "We want to spend the money wisely and none of us sitting on the board feel it was spent wisely."

The board operates with a budget in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 and roughly \$15,000 to \$20,000 of that amount being required to hire a BIA manager.

Palmer pointed out that this money would be well spent and their budget would not likely have to increase because the board only spent about three-quarters of their budget last year.

Palmer justified the hiring by saying, "We don't have the bodies with the time or the commitment."

The new board will decide what will be done about the proposed hiring in the future as well as choosing a board chairman Friday morning at their first meeting.

Dumping permit expires at the end of this month

A temporary extension on the permit to Decor Metal Products for disposal of industrial waste at the Perkinsfield landfill site expires on Jan. 31.

Although Midland and area industries were prohibited from disposing of industrial

waste at the site at the end of December, Decor was granted a temporary extension of one month by the Ministry of the Environment through the intercession of George Taylor MPP for Simcoe Centre.

In a letter to Harry Parrott, Minister of the

Environment, Taylor made the request on December 17 for the company to be granted the extension on the understanding that the period of grace would "allow them the opportunity to seek alternative methods of depositing its waste."

In an interview earlier this month, Bob Young, Senior Environmental Officer at the Ministry of Environment in Toronto confirmed that the one-month extension had been granted, and explained that any further extensions would depend on the effectiveness of the search conducted by Decor for an alternate site.

When questioned about the progress of Decor's search, personnel manager Michael Tidy yesterday

expressed "pure ignorance" of the situation, saying "Gee, are we out looking for a site for ourselves?"

Efforts to obtain interviews with other management officials of Decor over the past weeks have been unsuccessful.

The waste deposited by Decor at the Perkinsfield site has been in the form of inert inorganic slurry, and the Ministry of the Environment has been concerned that large amounts of slurry could leach into the water table over a period of years.

Waste products dumped at the Pauze landfill site in the past by Midland and area industries include metal finish, phosphates, oily water, waste oil, organic solvents, chlorinated solvents,

plastic resins, pigments, paints, printing adhesives, plant and animal wastes and inert sludges.

Industrial waste is accepted at the CPW Disposal site in Barrie and toxic wastes are sent from this transfer station to Tricil in Sarnia, pending the opening of the new site in Cayuga.

Although waste could be trucked to Barrie, this would be considerably more costly than continued use of the nearby Perkinsfield site.

However, the extended period of grace granted Decor Metal Products for continued use of the local dumping ground expires at the end of the week.

Any further extension by the Ministry of the Environment may well be unlikely.

Letter is for 'info only'

Council agreed in Midland, Monday night, that a letter from the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario should be treated at this time as "information only."

The letter advised council Windrifter Tavern is making application for a patio lounge licence.

Alderman Joe Blake suggested both the town's harbour committee and planning board also be advised.

Meanwhile the LLBO indicated when the application is scheduled for a public hearing it will provide council with a copy of the board's letter to the applicant setting out the date, time and place of the hearing.

In other council business it was agreed to proclaim the month of February Heart Month.

And councillors were pleased to learn a cheque for \$500,000 had been sent to the town last week from Queen's Park as part of a \$2 million grant earmarked for the town's sewage treatment plant which is presently being expanded.

Last year the town received \$1 million to help the cause. The town can also expect an additional \$500,000 as work proceeds at the construction site.

Since council met last, Mayor Moreland Lynn told his colleagues that he had attended seven

meetings on their behalf, a number of them being full-day events.

Clerk Mike Owen was praised by Reeve Catherine Dion for being elected to the board of directors (Zone 2) of the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario

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Firefighters on the job

During December, Midland firefighters answered 18 calls, 11 were general alarms and seven were "silent alarms."

A "silent alarm" is one responded to only by firefighters on duty at the fire hall.

During December firefighters also answered four false alarms, Fire Chief Terry Lethbridge notes in his monthly report for last month.

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