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Mayor Casts Deciding Vote

Town Council Is Wrong Baling Out Sub-Divider Says Councillor Haggart

Mayor K. W. Tomlin cast the deciding vote Monday night at a regular Town Council meeting to carry a motion granting \$1600. consideration to a subdivider to assist in the construction of a watercourse through his property. The motion to grant the \$1600. was made by Councillor Bradstock and supported by Reeve Perkins and Councillor Ross. Voting against the motion were Councillor Haggart, Councillor Paterson and Deputy-reeve Tinker.

In opposing the motion Councillor W. J. Haggart charged that council was just baling out the subdivider, who claimed he was going to lose his shirt in the undertaking. Declaring the council action was unfair to other subdividers, Councillor Haggart said, "we have no right to subsidize a subdivider". Councillor Joseph Paterson said the concession was "a very dangerous precedent and I can't honestly go along with it".

Mr. Agh appeared before council with an agreement for the development of an eight lot subdivision on the west side of Cedar Avenue. On the 75 foot lots he plans to erect 8 semi-detached houses. The usual levy on subdividers for semi-detached houses is \$400 per unit plus \$150 per lot for park purposes, so the usual levy for the sub-division would have been \$1,100 per semi-detached unit or a total of \$8,800.

Richmond Hill Works Commissioner Whelan on being shown the sub-division plans insisted on changes in the drainage plans to provide against possible flooding which Mr. Agh said will cost him an additional \$4,000 or \$5,000. In view of this he asked for some relief in the usual levy.

Councillor Haggart said similar requests had been refused in the past and he thought granting of anything now would be a very dangerous precedent. He moved that no action be taken and his motion was seconded by Deputy-reeve Stanley Tinker.

Councillor Bradstock moved an amendment that the town not grant any relief in the levy but grant \$1600. towards the cost of the watercourse. He said the town is benefiting. Reeve Perkins agreed the work is of benefit to the town, and seconded the motion.

Councillor Haggart — "Was the work specified essential to the

construction of these houses on this plan?"

Works Commissioner Whelan answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Haggart — "Then you are subsidizing the subdivider, and I can't go along with it."

Councillor Bradstock — "I agree to a point, but we should encourage development."

Councillor Joseph Paterson vigorously opposed the Bradstock amendment and said "the point to remember is that the change in the watercourse was necessary to make two lots saleable. It's subsidizing the sub-divider and I do not see how the town can do it."

Deputy-reeve Tinker said while he had seconded the Haggart motion he would consider consideration to an amount of \$1,000.

On behalf of the sub-divider it was stated there had been difficulty in obtaining mortgage money for the project and that with the extra cost of the drainage he stood a good chance of "losing his shirt."

Councillor Haggart — "I sympathize with Mr. Agh, but I do not feel it is our duty to bale out any sub-divider. He made a poor purchase but that's not our responsibility." We are spending public funds.

Councillor Ross expressed the opinion that there was some benefit to Richmond Hill in the drainage work done by Mr. Agh.

Councillor Paterson—"Twenty-five per cent of his land area was useless for building unless he did this work. It's a very dangerous precedent and we would be violating our duty as councillors."

Councillor Bradstock argued that the area "needs a shot in the arm." He suggested that the proposed development is very desirable as an improvement. The place is crummy now, he said.

Reeve Perkins — "It's a low lying area and not in good condition."

Mr. Tomlin in casting the deciding vote in favor of giving the sub-divider \$1600., said "your Mayor never sits on the fence, I vote for the motion". He said otherwise an unfair burden would be placed on a small sub-divider for carrying out work specified by the works commissioner as a benefit to the town.

Councillor James Haggart protested the council action and voted against the agreement with the sub-divider. He said council action was unfair to the town and to other sub-dividers. In other sub-division agreements the sub-divider not only paid the required fee per lot, but in addition paid for roads and services. In this case the sub-divider did not have to pay for roads and services and in addition the town pays \$1600. towards the drainage. "I'd like to have that kind of action clarified," said Councillor Haggart. Mayor Tomlin said the matter was settled and ruled further discussion by Councillor Haggart out of order.

Vaughan O.K.'s —

(Continued from page 1)

in the mail. The clerk informed members of council the new numbers have been put on the assessment role and a covering letter will be sent to residents, along with the number plates. It is expected 90 per cent of the population to be affected by the numbering system will use these plates; the other 10 per cent will wish to purchase their own on receipt of their official house numbers.

Tax Payment Fines
 After council passed a borrowing-by-law for \$600 thousand, "until the annual taxes are paid," at 5 per cent per annum, the clerk stated this was changed against the revenue of the municipality for 1959, to which Reeve Perry added, "This is the answer as to why we have to charge interest on unpaid taxes."

Clerk McDonald advised council that last year the township collected 80 per cent of the 1957 taxes but that this year 85 per cent of the 1958 taxes have been paid. Deputy-reeve Vic Ryder said that pre-payment of taxes in Long Branch had been encouraged with good results; by January 15 of this year \$125 thousand in pre-paid taxes had been received in that municipality.

Building Committee
 Councillor Anstey presented a building report brief, prepared by Mr. Thomas Gillings, building and planning administrator for the township which is expected to increase the revenue of the building department considerably. Mr. Gillings' report pointed out that revenue for the department last year came to \$4,200, whereas expenses were in the neighbourhood of \$8,000. Councillor Anstey said "It appears our building costs are not paying for the running of the building department."

The following resolution was read, passed and becomes effective immediately in Vaughan Township:
 Builders will now pay a basic application fee of \$5.00, this will include the former temporary building permit which was purchased for \$2.00. The initial five dollar fee will include the site inspection — up to \$2,000 worth of construction in minor alterations and repairs.

In the case of new building the building inspector will then assess, on the square footage (rather than the estimated cost of the final building as it was done in the past by the builder), with \$2.00 per thousand dollars worth of construction to be charged.

Commercial and residential will be assessed at \$10 per square foot, industrial \$5.00, office space \$10, institutional, schools, churches, etc., \$14. In effect that would mean on a 1,000 square foot house the building fee would be \$20., with another \$5.00 for a building permit. Comments in favor of the revision of building permit and building fees came from Councillor Anstey who said this would double the revenue for the building department, which has such varied expenses as inspectors' salaries, mileage accounts and office workers fees to meet. Deputy-reeve Ryder said council has to be prepared for this department to expand and Councillor Bruce Ralph said he thought the building inspector's office should be operated at a profit.

Further to the building department Councillor Anstey said the building inspector had too much work and asked that Mr. Jack Hamilton be appointed as assistant building inspector, to which council acquiesced.

Ask Board Speed Drain Approval

(Continued from page 1)
 Council to discuss the permanent paving of Bayview.

Reeve F. R. Perkins suggested council consider the establishment of a local labor pool. He said council should consider setting up an organization where local people desiring work could register, and where employers could apply when they needed help.

Councillor Ross—"Do you suggest we should ask the Department of Labor establish an employment office in Richmond Hill?"

Reeve Perkins said the plan of a labor pool was quite general in England. Councillor Haggart said the idea might apply only to casual labor. He thought if it included all kinds of employment the clerk's office might be inundated.

Council took no action on a letter from the City of Woodstock asking concurrence in a resolution asking legislation to bring uniformity in starting and terminating dates of Daylight Saving Time. Councillor Paterson moved council take no action. "We are closely linked with the Metropolitan district we have to be guided by what they do," he said.

It was agreed to authorize the Mayor to proclaim the week of February 8th as "Electrical Week" to emphasize the benefits of living electrically.

Authorization also was given to proclaim week of January 25th to 31st as Minor Hockey Week in Richmond Hill. In making the motion Councillor Haggart said council should express its appreciation to the public spirited citizens who are giving leadership and direction to minor hockey in the community. "They're doing an excellent job," said Mayor Tomlin.

In answer to an enquiry by Councillor R. P. Ross the Works Commissioner stated that most of the sewers in the Harding area should be in operation by the coming weekend.

Councillor Ross asked if any report has been received from town solicitor re the new deep well on the MacKay property south of town limits. Mayor Tomlin said that along with the Reeve and Deputy-reeve he was arranging a meeting to discuss the whole matter with a committee of Markham Township Council.

Seek Help For Doncaster Family

Recently the Bonnici family of 75 Morgan Avenue, Thornhill, were victims of a most unfortunate fire. Their home and its contents must be considered a total loss. The Doncaster Ratepayers Association is sponsoring a movie at Henderson Avenue Public School, this Saturday, January 24, and all proceeds are earmarked for this unfortunate family. The Thornhill District Lions Club has agreed to accept donations for this worthy cause, Box 100, Thornhill, Ont.

Teen Town Membership Now Near The 300 Mark

Sponsored by Richmond Hill Lions Club, Teen Town, the last surviving club of its name in Ontario, not only survives but flourishes. Numbering nearly 300 members, it is a source of pride to the whole community. So said Lion President Harold Sanderson in accepting, for Lions' welfare activities, a cheque for \$200. presented last Thursday evening by Teen Town President Mickey Peck. He and the other members of the Teen Town executive were presented to the Lions Club at their monthly business meeting by Mrs. Ed. Butlin.

Special guest of the club was Lion Elmer Grose, district governor of A7. In a brief talk to the club the district governor reviewed the principles of Lionsism and outlined its development. Its principal aim, to be a practical appreciation of the Golden Rule, is attested by the recorded 180,260 separate activities carried out

by Lions Clubs in 91 countries during 1958. Lion Elmer congratulated the local club on what he termed its fine friendly spirit. Two new Lions, John Farrell and Nick Hallman, were inducted by Lion Dick Edmonds; and Lion Don Ross, transferred from Elora Lions Club, was welcomed as a new member of the local club. Lions again made their periodic review of their efforts on behalf of the community; gifts of clothing, food, furniture, medicine, eyeglasses, braces and crutches were recorded. Particular pleasure was reported by Lion Bill Wagner over the fine spirit of co-operation shown among Lions, Rotarians and Kinsmen who worked together to distribute 49 Christmas baskets.

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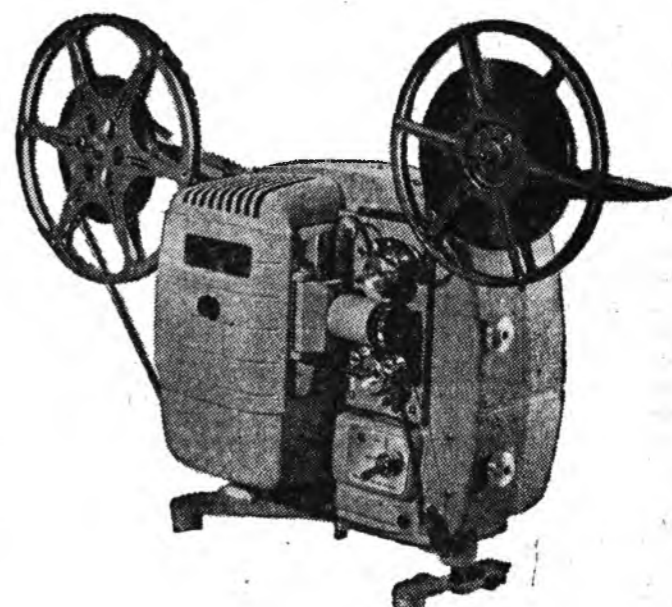
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