

Council won't help dog shop move

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

The owner of K9's in Kahoots, a pet store and doggie day care on Stouffville's Main Street, didn't get any satisfaction from Whitchurch-Stouffville council Tuesday evening.

Darlene Johnson asked council to waive or reduce around \$5,000 in rezoning fees to move her business to a property on Tenth Line.

Council did not pass a motion on the request, which means Mrs. Johnson will have to pay the full fees.

Mrs. Johnson and her husband, Dean, left the meeting deciding what to do next, which will probably involve more talks with the town.

She would make a move reluctantly

and told council, "We still believe that we are in compliance with the zoning at our current location and we do not want to move the business."

However, if council had reduced or waived the fees, she was ready to make a rezoning application. The business has operated in downtown Stouffville for five years.

A complaint about two years ago, after a client's dog was badly mauled at the day care, led the town to inspect the premises. They concluded the day care component does not comply with town bylaws, since it is deemed to be a kennel.

There have been no other complaints, Mrs. Johnson said.

The owner doesn't believe her

business is a kennel since she doesn't board, breed or treat dogs or keep them overnight or on weekends. Staff in the town's bylaw office had said earlier that there are often between 12 and 20 dogs in the back yard of the business.

Mrs. Johnson had been given several dates to cease the day care operation, the latest being May 31.

"We have given her an opportunity to look at other sites," Mayor Wayne Emmerson said in an interview.

The current site is zoned for retail/commercial, Mr. Emmerson said. "It was never for a doggie day care."

The application for rezoning the Tenth Line land is to allow a kennel.

She said it will cost around \$28,000 to move to the new property.

Soccer fields on land?

COUNCIL BRIEFS

A 25-acre site on the south side of Bethesda Road is being purchased by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

The property is west of Hwy. 48 and has a frontage of 712 feet. It comes with a price tag of \$750,000.

An operations centre for the public works and leisure services departments and unlit micro-soccer fields are possible uses for the land.

With this land, the town won't have to rely as heavily on leased sports fields in future as demand for leisure activities from residents increases.

Costs are to be covered by development charges, the park trust and from other sources, likely land sales.

Taxi fares up in town

It will cost you more to take a cab.

There was no com-

ment and no protest as Whitchurch-Stouffville council decided to raise tax rates in the municipality Tuesday evening.


The start rate remains the same at \$2.75, but there is an increase from 28 cents to 35 cents per 200 meters.

"The proposed increase will bring Whitchurch-Stouffville's rates in line with the towns of Aurora and Newmarket," Colleen Clarke, the town's licensing officer, said.

The rate for waiting time goes down, however, from 22 cents to 20 cents per 30 seconds.

"Gas prices have gone up," Ms. Clarke said. "And (taxi operators) pay their own insurance."

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