



LOCAL SERVICES BOARD OF LORING, PORT LORING AND DISTRICT
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Minutes of Board Meeting June 8, 2016

The minutes can also be viewed on our website: www.loringslb.com

Attending:

Darrell Rogerson, Mike Buchanan, Steve Davis and Peggy Whitehead

Absent: Hilary Chambers and Julia Moore

Representing MNDM, Carole Mantha and 2 community members

ACRONYMS

Ministry of Finance (**MOF**), Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (**MPAC**), Local Services Board (**LSB**), Provincial Land Tax (**PLT**), Standard Operating Procedure (**SOP**), Activity Centre (**AC**), Argyle Community Centre (**ACC**), Argyle Heritage Celebration (**AHC**), Conflict of Interest (**COI**), Ministry of Natural Resources (**MNR**)

Call to order by Darrell at 7:00 p.m.

Our current powers are water, fire protection, emergency telecommunications, recreation and library.

The meeting is for a discussion about and speaking to the Alterations of Boundaries. Darrell read the boundaries that we are proposing to obtain. Darrell then showed on the map our existing boundaries and the proposed boundaries. Carole asked if there was road access to Brown Township. Darrell explained that there are access roads from Hwy 522 or you can go in from Hwy 69 near the community of Still River and join the road from Lost Channel in Blair Township. Mike also added that roads from Wilson Township also access Brown Township from the East and the Salines Road (a colonization road) accesses from the northeast. Darrell also explained that there are 44 properties in Brown Township, including government, MNR and corporations. It is wilderness, but it is still accessible.

There are 13 parks, conservation and reserves. All the park lands in the existing area and the areas to be added contribute to the attractiveness of our area for outdoors and wilderness experiences. Our community lives on tourism and recreation. This proposal is expected to improve and expand the marketability of our area.

McConkey has 10 properties on islands and mainland of the French River and there are approximately 4 more scattered throughout the interior. Brown has 44 properties half of which are MNR or other Government Agencies. Twenty are clubs, corporations, LUP's, LOO's

and non-resident U.S. citizens. Two or possibly three are Canadian citizens over 18 years of age. Hardy has another 12 below the Hydro Dam within Concession XX on islands and a few scattered throughout the interior. Concession XXI of Hardy has approximately 40 properties on islands and the mainland. They are not included in the area defined by Bylaw to be considered as a Boundary Addition.

Darrell explained that this is not a tax grab; most will come from Brown Township. Steve said the fire department is already servicing this area. Carole said the fire department can only service an area within the LSB boundaries. So Steve said it makes sense to extend the boundaries. Carole said that we cannot charge for a service if we can't provide. Lewis Berger asked what the point of this is. Darrell said to administer the new area the same as ours. We are already providing fire protection in that area. Financially and hypothetically, Darrell said that they would contribute approximately \$3,000.00 to the Budget. It is hypothetical because this Board cannot propose any fees, levies or taxes for the new Board to implement. Darrell said that the Fire Department has said they can service the proposed areas in the same manner they service our existing areas that have similar geography. They have the equipment and training to do so. Their contracted arrangements are unlikely to change significantly.

There was considerable discussion suggesting the Fire Department should not be servicing any areas they cannot drive to because they might need more equipment and the road accessible properties would have to pay more. That premise was dismissed by the Board.

Darrell also mentioned the Parklands and the potential benefit to our Community. Carole asked if tourist will spend more and Darrell said this will be an economical benefit.

Carole said under the Power of Recreation:

The Board may by by-law,

- (a) contract for the use of recreation facilities or participation in programs of recreation;
- (b) provide for the carrying out of programs of recreation; or
- (c) acquire, establish, construct, operate and maintain recreation facilities, and may charge fees in respect of the programs of recreation or the recreation facilities

Sandra Gendron mentions the Fire Department would be obligated to serve the new areas.

Carole read the Power for the Fire Protection:

The Board may by by-law,

- (a) establish a fire department and for that purpose acquire, operate and maintain a fire-hall, fire engines and apparatus and equipment for use by volunteer firefighters in connection with fire suppression and other fire protection activities; or
- (b) contract for fire protection, and may charge a fee for the cost of such service.

The summary at the end focused on the benefits to our community of expanding to include more Parklands as a desirable goal. There are many parks in the three proposed areas. We have all or part of most of them now. The enhanced area will include: Northern McConkey Conservation Reserve, Swan Lake Conservation Reserve, French River Provincial Park (Waterway Class) in Blair, McConkey and Hardy, Restoule Provincial Park (National Environmental Class) including Restoule Provincial Park in Hardy to the French River, Smoky Creek Provincial Park, Noganosh Lake Provincial Park, Magnetawan River Provincial Park, Pakeshkag River Forest Preserve, Island Lake Forest and Barrens Lands Conservation Area, Raganooter Lake Park.

Lewis Berger said the LSB's mandate is to manage funds. That is true, but it is only a small part of the total scope of the Board.

Lewis Berger asked to see the contract with the Fire Department and I said it was on the website. Darrell asked if we could build our own cell tower since we have the power of emergency telecommunications and Carole said this is only for 911 services. Carole will check under recreation and let us know.

Next information session will be on Wednesday, June 15th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Prepared By



Peggy Whitehead
Secretary/Treasurer

Posted on June 16, 2016