



TOWNSHIP *Watch*

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Special Council Meeting – Wednesday, March 2nd, 2011 – 7:00 pm

- Ullswater Community Hall Board, represented by Darlene Poirier and Gunta Towsley, delegated Council requesting funds to rebuild the Hall and emphasized its importance to the community.
- Jeff Mole, unsuccessful candidate for Council in the last election, delegated Council requesting that \$100,000 be taken from reserves to rebuild Burgess Falls which will help to promote Bala as a sustainable community.
- Passionate supporters of the City owned Duke House (used now as Tourist information centre), represented by Michael Anne Macdonald, Ian Wallace and Gunta Towsley, requested that the Duke House not be sold, but rather designated as Heritage, and be the subject of an in depth review over the next twelve (12) months to determine its future.
- The Muskoka Ratepayers' Association, represented by its President, Susan Daglish, put forward its suggestions regarding the Budget, and received grateful thanks from Councillors Brent and Furniss.

Special Committee of the Whole – Thursday, March 3rd, 2011 – 9:00 am

- The Township Financial Officer, Julie Stevens, explained the proposed Budget extensively and clearly. Many details were discussed by Council, including the cost of increasing the number of Committee Chairs (we now have 10 compared to 2 or 3 in the past), mileage charge limits made for Township/District business, the cost of District computers for the Councillors, and some cost breakdowns for the Fire Department.

Special Committee of the Whole – Friday, March 11th, 2011 – 9:00 am

Budget Discussions – (continued from March 3rd)

- Ullswater Community Centre's request for \$145,000 from the Capital Budget to replace the roof was reduced to \$132,000
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- a proposal to increase wages for part-time caretakers of the Community Centres was deferred
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- Communities in Bloom funding was questioned in considerable depth – no decision

Council – Monday, March 14th, 2011 – 10:00 am

- The 2011 Township Budget was passed, showing:
 - an increase in this year's effective Tax rate of 2.59%
 - an average increase of \$2.52 per \$100,000 of assessment
 - a decrease in reserves of \$70,000 to \$500,000
- Delegations heard – five (5), all in opposition to the Power Plant at Bala Falls
- on behalf of the Cranberry Festival Board, Wally Henderson requested consideration be given to move the parking area from the Shield Lot to the more expansive Sports Park

District Council – Monday, March 14th, 2011 – 7:00 pm

- The District budgeted \$200,000 towards the funding needs to build a Hospice in Huntsville