

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, March 27, 2009				Report Date	Friday, March 6, 2009			
Decision Required	x	Yes		No	Priority		High	X	Low
Direction Only		Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Procurement of Chain of Office - Deferred and updated from July 2008									

Subject: Procurement of a Chain of Office for use by the Head of Council.

Recommendation: That Council **does not pursue** the procurement of a “chain of office” for use by the Reeve due to the size of the municipality; the budget and cost of acquiring a “chain”; the absence of a coat of arms, or any other substantial crest or symbol to be used on the medallion; and the lack of public appearances to warrant formal dress and use of the “chain” without public consultation.

A discussion with a group of local ratepayers, by specific or general invitation, would present an opportunity to find out what the ratepayers think. Further, should a chain be obtained it would be of more significance if it contained the names and dates of all past Reeves. This would be a costly venture and not something that should be taken lightly or produced from inferior materials. As this is a significant expense for a municipality of this size, **it is my recommendation that the public be consulted through an open forum** as with the business operators and recycling. Only after obtaining input from the public should this be considered further.

Resolution deferred from previous meeting.

WHEREAS historically a “chain of office” is a symbol of the history of the office and a symbol of authority worn at public events;

AND WHEREAS Council is considering obtaining a “chain of office” for use by our Head of Council;

AND WHEREAS the procurement of an appropriate chain would cost upwards of \$4,000;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria do hereby agree to pursue the procurement of a “chain of office” for use at sanctioned municipal functions by the Head of Council allocating \$_____ to this budget item for 2009.

Background/Executive Summary:

I have surveyed County municipalities and have included the results below. In summary, out of the 16 emails sent I have received 14 responses – of those, **only 5 municipalities have a chain of office – 9 do not.** Municipalities with larger budgets do not see the value in this. During this time of economic down turn; this purchase might not be taken well by those who are losing their jobs.

One comment from another municipality was that they didn’t have a chain as “We don’t have an official Coat of Arms granted by the Crown. Only a crest designed locally. The badge on the Chain is normally part of the Coat of Arms.”

From the Governor General’s Website – “The cost to obtain an official coat of arms is as follows: “All costs must be paid before the Letters Patent can be sent to the petitioner. The government of Canada requires that **the petitioner cover all direct costs related to the grant of armorial bearings.** These costs are in three parts:

1. The **processing fee** for all petitioners, fixed at \$435 (plus GST) by Ministerial order.
2. **Variable costs of research** and/or specialized translation, to cover, for instance, the translation of mottoes into Latin or other foreign languages. In cases requiring additional research, the petitioner will receive an estimate and will pay a supplementary fee to the researcher.
3. **Artwork costs**, paid by the petitioner directly to the artist assigned by the Authority. The maximum cost of the artwork is established before each stage of the process, and the petitioner indicates agreement by signing contracts. Artwork is forwarded to the petitioner by the Authority, together with the artist’s invoice, payable within thirty days of receipt.

- The **cost of one preliminary design** ranges from \$300 to \$1,000 depending on the complexity of the design and the number of components. The cost increases if the petitioner wishes to make changes that require the revision of the preliminary design or the creation of new artwork.
- The **cost of the letters patent** depends on the format of the document chosen by the petitioner, the complexity of the design, the number of components in the grant, and the inclusion of additional decoration.”

Options/Discussion:

1. Cost – of obtaining a coat of arms, of having a proper formal chain designed and created. A less expensive option would be reflected in the quality.
2. Is this the best use of taxpayer dollars? Are there not other priorities within the municipality?
3. Benefit – need and opportunity for use. Where would it be used? How would anyone benefit from that use? If the purpose is to create a piece of history that will provide value for many generations to come, an inexpensive chain will not likely pass the test of time.
4. Public consultation.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Approximately \$1,500 plus for a coat of arms (depending on research and design), plus \$2,500 - \$3,500 for the creation of a standard formal chain (any engraving would be extra). Not a prudent use of ratepayer funds. Likely hard to defend to ratepayers.

- Quotes from *Dominion Regalia*, velvet cloth as background with in stock bars, brass with gold plated on felt – approximately \$900, nothing making it uniquely ours except a medallion with our logo. (Not including coat of arms, bars for all past Reeves or engraving)

- *International Coat of Arms* quotes a standard chain at \$2,399. (Not including coat of arms, bars for all past Reeves or engraving)

Policy Impact: Would require the creation of policy to regulate the use and safekeeping of the chain. No local precedents as the majority of municipalities do not have a chain.

Others Consulted/Resources: various web pages, Governor General of Canada website, Dominion Regalia, International Coat of Arms.

Municipality	Head	Have	Cost	Origin/Composition
Arnprior	Reeve	Yes		
Deep River	Mayor	Yes	?	Gift from Chamber in 1967, made of gold and silver
Laurentian Hills	Mayor	No		
Petawawa	Mayor			
Renfrew	Reeve	Yes	?	Velvet band with Silver chain containing names and terms of past Mayors
Admaston/Bromley	Mayor	No		
Bonnechere Valley	Mayor	No		
Brudenell, Lyndoch & Raglan	Reeve	No		
Greater Madawaska	Reeve	No		
Horton	Mayor	No		
Killaloe, Hagarty & Richards	Mayor	No		
Laurentian Valley	Mayor	Yes	\$1,200	Designed and ordered by Jp2g @ amalgamation
Madawaska Valley	Mayor	No		
McNab/Braeside	Mayor	No		
North Algona Wilberforce	Mayor			
Whitewater Region	Mayor	Yes	\$2,500 in 2006	Replaced Reeve title with Mayor – good time to purchase chain – silver with logo on the front
Previous Township Mr. Kirby worked at			\$3,500 – 12 years ago	Sterling silver plated in gold.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

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