

Request for Decision United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, February 19, 2016				Report Date	Saturday, February 13, 2016			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Auto Extrication - Report #19/02/16/1101-A

Subject:

Council's response to the comments made by Warden Emon concerning the current situation with lack of emergency services along Highway 17.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the following resolution requesting a retraction from Warden Emon.

WHEREAS the lack of auto-extrication services along a section of Trans Canada Highway within Head, Clara & Maria has resulted in coverage in the local and national media;

AND WHEREAS statements made by Warden Peter Emon of the County of Renfrew are not based in fact, are inaccurate, defamatory and not representative of the County Council as the issue has yet to be debated at the county level;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the municipality of the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria does hereby authorize staff to forward this resolution and letter of concern to the Council of the County of Renfrew for discussion and action;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the County of Renfrew release a media retraction for the inappropriate and erroneous statements made by the Warden.

AND FURTHER THAT staff is directed to circulate a copy of this resolution and letter to MPP John Yakabuski, MP, Cheryl Gallant and area municipalities for information.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Quite self-explanatory.

When statements are attributed to a person in a position of authority it is expected that they be accurate and based in fact. Many of the statements made by Warden Emon concerning the issue of auto-extrication within Head, Clara & Maria are not factual and are somewhat defamatory.

It is the role of a head of council to provide direction to its council. It would be expected that this would mean obtaining accurate information, professional advice and consensus of council prior to making public statements. That is certainly not the case here.

Statements made attribute responsibility and liability where none exists. The position taken by Warden Emon makes it appear that the Council and staff of Head, Clara & Maria have taken or recommended actions which are illegal and even irresponsible. This is simply not the case.

Due diligence has been completed. Public consultation occurred. Staff and Council reached out to others to obtain a resolution to the situation yet, the warden's statements make it appear that costs were the only consideration and that Head, Clara & Maria are unwilling to work towards a solution.

As discussed previously, any comments made by a member of county council are those of the individual, while representing their municipality; they do not necessarily reflect the position of the council of the municipality.

Mayor Gibson is encouraged to address this issue from the perspective of a county council member however; it is staff recommendation that Council also address this issue on behalf of the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria and its staff. The two perspectives and actions are similar but independent.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Policy Impact:

As per policy.

Others Consulted:

Dan Koroscil, Ontario Fire Marshal Municipal Advisor
Tawnya Roberts, Ontario Fire Marshal Municipal Advisor
Bill Riley, Municipal Insurer, MIS Insurance
Ontario Community Safety and Correctional Services website
Ontario Provincial Police – for statistics

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith