

The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Report



To: Mayor Twolan & Members of Council	General Committee:	
Subject: Natural Gas Project Open House Update	Council: February 18 th , 2014	7.1
Date: February 7 th , 2014	Attachment:	
Prepared by: Sonya Watson, Clerk		File No.

RECOMMENDATION

For information purposes only.

REPORT

Open houses were held on November 22nd, and November 23rd, 2013 in the three municipalities of Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine and Arran-Elderslie. The general consensus was the project could provide an affordable alternative to existing energy supplies and residents were eager to move the project forward however, concerns were expressed that involved the need for a business case and a clear picture of the cost burden on homeowners who decided to hook up.

Below are combined comments received at the open houses from the public.

Positive feedback:

- Natural gas would reduce monthly energy consumption for all who could hook up.
- It could provide a level playing field for retaining and attracting new businesses.
- It would be a safe, economical alternative to the existing options.
- The pipeline would be a benefit for the local economy and municipality even if a homeowner decided not to hook up.
- It would increase the value of the property.

Concerns:

- The unknown costs to convert a house to be able to receive and distribute natural gas and the unknown cost to hook up to the pipeline.
- Whether the project would become a financial burden on the general tax rate to all citizens.
- The business case was not yet clear and some were disappointed that the proposed line would not be available to them.
- The lack of information was also noted multiple times as residents wished to see a website set up to follow the project and learn more.
- A display board showing the annual cost of various sources of energy was disputed.
- Information regarding the financial difference of trucking natural gas and one through a transmission was sought.
- The conceptual nature of the current status was not acceptable and this project should have been further along.
- The survey that stated 70% of households would hook up was misleading as the public hasn't been given the financial information to make an informed decision.
- Health concerns that natural gas can create was noted.
- Regarding the ownership structure and operation.

SUSTAINABILITY ALIGNMENT

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission. The *recommendations* or *actions* contribute to our goals in achieving a *prosperous and accessible* community.


Respectfully Submitted:

Sonya Watson, Clerk


Reviewed by:

Mary Rose Walden, Administrator