

MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION

SEPT. 16, 2018

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL CANDIDATES

1. Why are you running for office? What vision for our community drives your participation in municipal politics? What do you think you can contribute to our municipality?

I believe we are at a critical time and we need fact based long term planning. Our past councils have always worked hard but have been hampered by unexpected challenges that took up much of their efforts and resources. I believe to best serve Mulmur we need to engage with the residents, gain access to their collective skills and cooperatively work to improve our township. An example is expanding on the North Dufferin Community Center approach to management to other areas in Mulmur. The Mansfield Water System is a prime example. It is an incredible asset to all of Mulmur for any development in the Mansfield area. It is, as I understand, a system completely paid for by the users and managed by the Township. In my opinion it is a disservice to the users that they don't have any opportunity for discussion to understand how the system is managed. The township is I'm sure doing their best to manage it appropriately however it would be practical to have the users inputs. My experience in the public sector will be a positive contribution to Mulmur. I have experience in change management, extensive planning and budget management. I have experience in consensus building which is crucial to managing any changes, putting in place planning strategies and discussing budget challenges. I am skilled at understanding budgets, matching the intent of line items with outcomes. This is an area that is typically lacking in the public sector. Did the reason to assign budget costs to an item realize the outcome that was expected? If not, then the approach needs to be adjusted or the cost removed. These can be difficult discussions but they need to happen.

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2. Do you subscribe to the theory that increased residential development will reduce the tax burden on residents, and if so what would you do to encourage such development in our community? What about other types of development: industrial, commercial, etc.?

It is my opinion that increased residential development does not necessarily reduce the tax burden on residents over the long term. It may appear to be so due to development charges and the like but that is in the short term. There is a point of diminishing returns. If the residential development is dense enough without having to increase the development of new infrastructure then it can help to reduce the tax burden in the short term. Our challenge is any development that is likely to happen is scattered over a large geographic area which increases cost to deliver services. Any development in Mansfield close enough to the municipal water system for example is an advantage to developers, helps the municipality in delivering services efficiently, dilutes water usage costs to the all the users. However the requirement for individual septic systems impacts the size of the residence and property. There is a minimum lot size to residences and users to have an individual septic system. That reduces the densification and will likely increase the tax burden to deliver service and maintain infrastructure over the long term. Commercial and Industrial development is key to decrease the residential tax burden. I do support it but only in targeted areas where we already have this development. Development in other areas would impact our rural character and that is not something I would support.

3. What would be your approach to maintaining municipal services while keeping taxes stable?

It is critical to look at how we are delivering the services. The delivery models for services should be reviewed periodically for options to reduce costs while maintaining the services. As an example there may be some services that can be shared with other neighboring smaller municipalities. This is already done with Fire Services for example and Libraries. Challenges include:

- 1) History and resistance to change. Any change that potentially impacts the

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township delivery team would be a challenge particularly as they are quite skilled at delivering the services. In this case it is an advantage as we may be better at delivering services than our neighbors for example.

2) Perceived reduction in Control of the Services. This can be managed with a clear understanding of the deliverables, service standards and targets.

4. Aggregate mining is a major industry in Dufferin County, including in our communities. How would you propose to limit the expansion of aggregate mining?

This is a challenge. Municipalities have a limited capacity to limit expansion as resources are a provincial mandate. Due to our close proximity to the GTA and their need for aggregate for development, any aggregate resources within a 1-2 hour radius of the GTA is of strategic value to mining companies. This is a prime example where Council needs to engage our residents and community groups for their expertise and political connections. We would need a strong voice in the Provincial government to help protect our natural heritage and rural character. Petitioning the government to make these areas greenbelts for example may hamper (no guarantees) the mining companies but it also restricts the municipalities ability to manage growth. It also impacts property values for the residents of Mulmur and our tax base so this approach needs to be tempered cautiously. Where we have exhausted our capacity to block the expansion then it is critical to ensure any agreement safeguards the needs of Mulmur. Water, Pollution (including noise), traffic concerns etc. must be safeguarded.

5. We live in “Headwaters” communities and ground water is our most important resource. What steps do you feel the council should take to ensure the protection of our water?

I am not as familiar with the capacity that council has to protect our water with the exception of Development and reducing water consumption. Development can only be allowed if ground water is shown to be protected first. Mulmur was not identified as an area of growth by the province which does help to protect our water by reducing the amount of dividing of our natural areas and managing any

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increases in water usage demands. Areas to explore could include working with residents to modify the greenscape approaches used to reduce the amount of water required to maintain.

6. What are your plans to manage the ongoing problem of noise pollution in our community?

The increase in traffic and speeding and by default noise pollution is an increasing challenge for municipalities such as ours. In one sense by promoting the splendor of our natural beauty we are attracting more people to visit. We need to continue to attract visitors but manage the expectations of those who visit to discourage the behaviours such as speeding. The efforts of the current council are a great start but there is more to do. Police enforcement is part of the solution and if we are going to spend tax dollars it needs to be prudent and targeted. Opportunities such as Special Constables would need careful consideration prior to any implementation. Although the salary costs are considerably less than Police Constables, there are still the infrastructure costs to consider such as fleet vehicles, insurance, human resource costs, court costs etc. I'm of the opinion our Township doesn't have the volume required to put this in place but it is worth exploring with other municipalities to share the costs. This would need to be balanced against the known fixed costs of requesting paid duty officers on an as needed basis.

I would propose a selection of targeted areas with targeted solutions. The following could be deployed in rotation.

- 1) Mobile speed display signs to show the drivers their actual speed.
- 2) "Police Constable Decoy's". These are full size models complete with replica radar that motorists will believe actual radar enforcement to slow them down. The Advantage is education for locals and visitors so they obey the laws and are not impacted by paid duty officers. Those merely using Mulmur as a gateway to other destinations will be encouraged to obey the traffic laws or choose other options which in both cases reduces the noise pollution

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3) Police Enforcement deployed to select areas where speeding continues to be an issue. Every opportunity for motorists to obey the traffic laws are implemented before paid duty police officers are utilized. This is one example where these could be rotated through the targeted areas. Using rotation helps to keep motorists from getting used to the traffic calming strategies. This reduces cost with the highest impact. It could be shared with other municipalities to reduce costs.

7. The dumping of contaminated landfill is an increasingly serious problem for our area. What will be your approach to addressing the fill dumping issue?

The new by-law is an improvement to address the dumping of contaminated landfill. The difficulty is it works on those intending to obey the by-law. The challenge is how is the illegal dumping monitored and what are the repercussions on those dumping and accepting the fill? The municipality certainly does not have the resources to actively monitor where all the dumping is occurring and if it is compliant. Included in the permit process could include notifying the neighbours on the route the trucks will be using and when the dumping will occur. This would help residents to be able to make note of illegal dumping and make the appropriate calls.

8. How do you propose to increase citizen engagement and participation in council business? How can the council improve transparency? Will you support continuing with regularly scheduled town hall meetings? Do you support the creation of and full support for effective council committees (eg: clear mandates, regular reports to and interaction with council, etc.)? What other forums for transparency and citizen involvement do you foresee?

This is an area of particular importance to me. We need to increase citizen engagement by first increasing transparency and knowledge of what occurs during the council meetings. While the minutes are published on the website, these do not portray the meetings in any significant detail. A particular example is the question period by the public. The website rarely if ever describes the questions and I've yet to note any of the responses. I've been to meetings where there is discussion back

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and forth yet it is not captured in the minutes. I do support continuing with regularly scheduled town-hall meetings and even expanding them to include other meetings. I whole heartedly support the creation of and full support for effective council committees. I even repeatedly requested the reinstatement of the Mansfield Water Committee without success. To get agreement and support from citizens we need to prove and invest in their participation. We invest in ourselves and the outcomes will always be positive.

9. Our communities have Codes of Conduct, which aim to ensure dignity and respect for participants in the municipal government process. What do you feel could be done to improve the current Code of Conduct?