

Good afternoon, Jessie. Please see below for my responses. I hope I have touched on your topics of interest adequately. You can visit me on my facebook page to hear more of my thoughts about Tiny.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my thoughts with your organization.

Regards,
Tony

On Wednesday, September 5, 2018, 1:32:07 p.m. EDT, Webmaster <webmaster@bluewaterdunes.org> wrote:

Dear Candidate for the Tiny Township 2018 Municipal Election

Thank you for advancing your candidacy for the Tiny Township Municipal Election. Our Association (Bluewater Dunes Ratepayers Association – BDRA) would appreciate your opinion on the subjects listed below and any suggestions for improvement.

Please be advised that your answers will be shared with our members and published on our website, **without editing or commenting**.

We would appreciate to receive - should you to do it - your answer **before Sept 24th, 2018** .

If you do not wish to participate in our survey, we would also appreciate an explanation.

Thanking you in advance for your time and effort.

Best Regards,

Jessie Garland / BDRA President.

garlandjc@gmail.com

<https://bluewaterdunes.org/site1/>

CC / BDRA Board.

Questionnaire:

1) Governance:

- 1a) Tiny staff organization structure
- 1b) Council By-laws & procedures
- 1c) Transparency (e.g. in-camera sessions)
- 1d) Committees
- 1e) Customer service (all departments)
- 1f) By-Law department services

It is my view that a complete organizational and operational review should be conducted for each of the operating departments to validate the effectiveness and efficiency of their respective operations.

Council discussions should be held in open session as much as possible to ensure openness and transparency. There are a few specific reasons set out in the Municipal Act for conducting business in closed session and any matter that does not fall within these provisions should be discussed in open session.

I believe improvements in the level of customer service are necessary. As an example, better use of voice mail messaging and e-mail notifications to advise callers and writers if staff are away from the office due to vacation, or other absence that may create a delay in response.

By-law enforcement activities should become proactive and not merely complaint-driven. By-laws such as the Property Standards and Clean Yards by-laws are key to making and keeping Tiny a beautiful place to live. By-law enforcement officers should initiate action on the more serious violations that they see on a daily basis.

2) Finances & Budget:

- 2a) budget process (e.g. zero budgeting)
- 2b) accountability & Monitoring
- 2c) reserves

I believe that Council should be examining departmental budgets more closely in order to keep costs as low as possible without reducing service levels. It seems that too much focus is placed on the bottom line (ie. annual tax increase) instead of how we get to that bottom line in terms of spending.

Council needs to finally make a decision on the future viability of the existing township offices on Balm Beach Road West. Good money after bad is being spent on this facility, which clearly no longer has the capacity to enable staff to work efficiently in a reasonable environment. The studies have been completed. A decision needs to be made one way or another. This decision will likely impact reserves.

3) Public Works & Water:

- 3a) Infrastructure maintenance
- 3b) water department projects, maintenance, billing

I would like to get a better understanding as to why Tiny, unlike most other municipalities, hasn't seen fit to require water meter installations in their serviced areas. It seems to be the only utility that doesn't bill according to usage. Treated water is expensive. In my view, a flat-rate scheme leads to wastage of a costly and valuable resource.

4) Emergency Services:

- 4a) Fire department master plan

- 4b) Administration and volunteer recruitment

A great deal of time and effort went into the creation of the draft fire master plan. Although a few of the recommendations have been implemented, some of the major recommendations have been shelved by Council, based on the recommended actions provided in a report to Council by the recently-installed fire chief.

5) Parks and recreation:

- 5a) Recreation programs (e.g. viability)
- 5b) Infrastructure rental
- 5c) Accessibility for people with disabilities
- 5d) Watercraft safety (e.g. installation of buoys)
- 5e) Smoking on public property

The increase in recreational programs in recent years is impressive and great for encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle for residents. I believe that the township should arrange to have non-motorized craft such as paddle boards and kayaks available for rental at every major beach park.

I would strongly support the installation of buoys or other means to keep motorized craft away from areas used for swimming. It's just a matter of time before a serious injury occurs because the personal watercrafts and other motorized crafts come right into shore and leave, often at high speeds. If, of course, it is within the Township's right to do so.

I would like to see smoking banned in public parks and beaches but I know it would be hard to enforce. If I recall correctly, I believe the County has passed such a by-law that applies throughout Simcoe County but enforcement is almost non-existent.

6) Environment:

- 6a) SSEA action.
- 6b) Township leadership / cooperation with ratepayers associations. (Water, Air, Invasive species, Pesticides, grass carp and any others you wish to comment upon.)
- 6c) Teedon Pit Site 42

I would like to see more pressure being applied to provincial ministries for possible funding to enhance our efforts to control invasive species. We do rely on volunteer groups to complete this tedious work so a strong level of cooperation is important.

I think it is important to state my position on the Teedon pit license renewal application. I sat through a number of council meetings, during which numerous residents expressed their concerns about how this operation, under the ownership of Beamish, was affecting their wells.

I seem to recall that the old license only permitted the taking of gravel but Beamish was washing gravel without any Ministry approval. Beamish was also known to operate beyond the hours permitted by their license.

So now, Dufferin Aggregates has taken ownership of the site. I suppose they shouldn't be held responsible for issues that occurred prior to the ownership change, but I still have the same opinion about this gravel pit.

I have seen first hand some of the samples of water from nearby wells that were cloudy, murky, and silty. Residents clearly stated that this was a recent development as they had no problems with their water before.

Of course, the consulting engineers' reports say there is no legitimate concern for a decrease in the quality or volume of water available from this aquifer, even though they hope to draw millions of litres for 220 days per year.

I'm afraid that I don't buy their assurances. They are far removed from the potential disaster if they are wrong, which wouldn't be the first time, and quite frankly, they have no skin in the game. They, nor their families, will be impacted if they are wrong this time.

I will fully support a decision to deny the renewal of their license at this location, and any actions required to achieve this result.

It makes no sense to gamble on the future of such a pure and valuable resource.

7) Public relations:

-7a) access to individual, Groups and Associations to Council & Deputations.

-7b) Council and staff response to ratepayers by phone, mail and e-mails.

I believe that Council needs to make time available for delegations/deputations so that individuals and groups have an opportunity to be heard. I also believe that once a decision has been made on a matter, it is time to move on.

As I stated earlier, staff response to ratepayers could be improved by ensuring that all staff use their voice mail and e-mail correctly by advising when they are away from the office for any extended period of time and adopting a standard of responding to calls within a specified period of time.

8) Shoreline:

-8a) expansion of public beach property by purchasing private property.

-8b) legal claims.

-8c) encroachment of private property owners onto public property. How would you define encroachment ? Permanent structures or temporary items such as boats, chairs, umbrellas?

-8d) surveys (cost and frequencies)

-8e) Paid parking- net revenue of day-trippers

-8f) B.E.S.T. to expand strategy to include more of Tiny's municipally owned beaches (e.g. Edmore , 13th Concession , 9th Concession, Sand Rd and their accesses.)

I don't agree with Council's recent decision to purchase the Surf Restaurant or even the 110' of water front behind the restaurant. I think it was a waste of taxpayers' money as I think that whoever bought the Surf would have realized that closing off beach access would have doomed their business.

Creating more public beach property may well just lead to more crowding and parking issues and I'm not sure that the majority of Township residents are supportive.

I believe that all Tiny households should be issued one free parking pass since their taxes pay to maintain the beaches and the roads leading to them. I believe the cost would be about \$50, 000 per year. This could be recouped by upping the rates for non-resident parking.

A policy and action plan needs to be developed and adopted regarding encroachments. It should define the type and nature of encroachments that would require action as well as what action and timelines would be followed.

As to legal ownership of waterfront properties and beach access, there is far too much money being spent on surveyors and lawyers. It is time to strike a Council committee that would bring all interested/affected parties to the table to try to identify the key issues and try to develop fair and equitable solutions or at least Township policies to hopefully stop or reduce the constant bickering, lawsuits, police activity and bad feelings among some residents.