

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

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, December 5, 2014				Report Date	Friday, November-07-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

## Change of Title of Head of Council - Report #05/12/14/1203

**Subject:**

Consideration of a by-law changing the title of the head of Council for the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria from Reeve to Mayor.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council adopt the following resolution changing the name of the Head of Council from Reeve to Mayor for simplification in representation outside of this community.

**From By-law 2014-20**

“**WHEREAS** the *Municipal Act, 2011, Section 220*, as amended, authorizes a municipality to change the titles for its head of council and other members of its council. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 95. ;

**AND WHEREAS** historically a Reeve was the head of Council in small rural municipalities which had different responsibilities than larger municipalities where the head of Council is called a mayor;

**AND WHEREAS** these distinctions no longer exist as small rural municipalities are responsible for many of the same legislated responsibilities as large municipalities;

**AND WHEREAS** five municipalities in Renfrew County have both a mayor and a reeve;

**AND WHEREAS** 10 of the 17 municipalities at county council have a mayor only leaving two Renfrew County municipalities with the head of Council known as the reeve;

**AND WHEREAS** the trend across Ontario is to change the title from reeve to mayor to simplify communications with upper tiers, larger centres and ministry representatives;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby enact as follows:

1. **THAT** the title of the head of council be changed from “reeve” to “mayor” to more accurately reflect current understanding by members of the community and the public in general ;

**THAT** this by-law shall come into force and take effect from and upon the final passing thereof.

## **BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Change of name was brought up by a previous Council in 2007 as changes were taking place in other municipalities within the County. It was decided that Council would get a feel for this decision within the municipality prior to making a decision but the issue simply fell off the radar and never came up at council again.

As with the senior administrative position being referred to by "Clerk" officially by this council; for everyone else from the county or other levels of government the position was that of "CAO" simply because that was the job that was being done and that is what the position is classified as in other locations.

The same holds true for the "Reeve" position. Even at the county, a "Reeve" is the lower tier council representative at the county not the head of the lower tier council. For this reason it is recommended that the position title be changed from "reeve" to "mayor". Mail routinely arrives here addressed to the "Mayor". For all intents and purposes that is how the head of Council is known outside of our community. There is no other reason to do this except for clarity and simplicity; with no further authorities or responsibilities. It is simply a change of title.

## **Others Consulted:**

Reeve Gibson; Councillor Grills; County Council By-laws;

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,  
Municipal Clerk

*Melinda Reith*

## **References**

1. "Role of Head of Council

Depending on your municipality, the head of council may be called a warden, chair, reeve, or mayor. Whatever title is preferred, the role of head of council as set out by the Municipal Act, 2001 remains the same:" <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page8390.aspx>

2. The change from "Reeve" to "Mayor" was completed by our former Mayor during his last term. The reason was very simple. With the title "Reeve" apparently he was not being invited to various meetings of Northeastern Ontario Mayors such as the "Northeastern Ontario Mayor's Action Group" (NOMAG). So he made the change.

Now with the upcoming 2007 changes to Bill 130 (The Municipal Act, 2001) the terms "Mayor" and "Reeve" no longer appear. Instead they are now called "Heads of Council". Once Bill 130 is passed, it will be up to each Municipal Council to decide what they want to call their "Head of Council". A city in Southern Ontario is calling their Head of Council "Lord Mayor", obviously a city with British roots! <http://mike1936.wordpress.com/2007/02/19/training-for-councillors-and-mayor/>

3. Resolution No. 2012 - 137 - Heads of Council Title

Councillor Sherry Senis - Reeve Mary Smith -

Whereas the Municipal Act 2001, gives the Council the authority to change the title of Heads of Council; and...

Whereas the Townships of Douro-Dummer, Galway Cavendish & Harvey, Cavan-Monaghan, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen and Asphodel-Norwood in Peterborough County, all smaller in size, have adopted the titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their township Heads of Council, because historically the titles of Reeve and Deputy Reeve imply smaller rural townships which are isolated from a lot of issues and decisions made in larger urban centres, paradoxically, this is no longer the case, and the fact that the titles of Reeve and Deputy Reeve are not recognized or known to the broader public; and

Whereas comparator municipalities consistently used by our Township because of like size, assessment base and service provided, including Loyalist, Greater Napanee, North Grenville, Springwater and Trent Hills all have adopted the titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their municipality; and

Whereas many other smaller rural municipalities in Ontario have also adopted the titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor to gain immediate recognition of the significance and credibility province wide that these are the Heads of Council,

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield adopt the titles for Heads of Council of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Council discussed the possible change of the titles for the Heads of Council to Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

<http://www.selwintownship.ca/en/resources/05-22-2012.pdf>

4. Dropping reeve breaks "chain" of history - Trent Hills Independent  
Re: "It's official, Percy becomes mayor"

After 162 years the Township of Asphodel-Norwood has changed the title of the chief magistrate from reeve to mayor. The reasons for the change appear to be that many people are unaware of the origin of reeve. The position dates from the 10th century in England. I expect that not many people know that mayor comes from the Latin, "maior" meaning "greater." The Oxford Dictionary explains reeve as follows: "In Ontario and Western Provinces the elected leader of a town or other rural municipality."

Our local paper EMC has described the title of reeve as venerable and this writer would add distinctive, standing out from the crowd. But other municipalities surrounding our township have elevated their municipal leader (to "greater") and it would appear that we must keep up with the Joneses.

The CAO-Clerk-Treasurer has stated that we (Asphodel-Norwood) could technically call ourselves a city, like the City of Kawartha Lakes. This nomenclature was given by obliterating the County of Victoria from the map. Ontario counties are older in fact than the title of reeve in Ontario. It was the Normans who introduced the county system of government to England and Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe who instituted the 19 counties in Upper Canada in 1792.

It is unlikely there will be any material or financial benefit from the change. Upper levels of government will not be influenced. What has been achieved is a break in a chain that has lasted 162 years. Rob Gordon <http://www.insidebelleville.com/opinion-story/3948112-dropping-reeve-breaks-chain-of-history/>

5. "Earlier this year, when Reeve Ken Lamming requested the title change, council invited residents to air their views on the matter. Most of those who responded favoured keeping the title of reeve.

Lamming contended a title change would win the township more recognition from officials at upper government levels and spark interest in municipal politics among younger voters.

"There's no more power. The only benefit is you get is to move the township forward," he reminded council before the vote. "When you go to these meetings (with government officials), and you're applying for grants or trying to get something for the township, they recognize the title mayor but they don't recognize the title reeve," Lamming said.

He added that the next generation of voters is equally mystified by the term reeve. "The other day, I spoke to a young girl of voting age, and I had to explain to her what a reeve was," he said."

<http://www.saultstar.com/2011/03/29/reeve-rules>

6. Mark Hault - Community Press - Havelock-Belmont-Methuen - Council here is contemplating joining other rural municipalities in consigning the reeve and deputy reeve to the dustbin of history.

Council this week gave CAO Linda Reed and clerk Glenn Girven the go-ahead to prepare a report on the implications of discarding the titles reeve and deputy reeve in favour of the more widely-used and more familiar mayor and deputy mayor to designate the heads of a municipal council.

Coun. Barry Pomeroy put the motion on the table, saying it's time the municipality adopted titles that are familiar to both rural and urban residents of all ages. "We're going into the 21st century," he said. "Anyone coming here out of a city doesn't know what a reeve is, and even here many younger people don't know what a reeve is."

Pomeroy noted there were "very few reeves and deputy reeves" at the recent ROMA conference in Toronto. He said he often finds it necessary to explain "a reeve is like a mayor." Coun. Jim Martin agreed council should consider the change in titles. "I think it's time to take a look at it at least."

Coun. Larry Ellis also agreed, noting the growing number of township residents who come from Toronto and other cities are better able to "relate to the title mayor." Reeve Ron Gerow said he appreciates the tradition and history behind the reeve title, especially in rural Ontario.

"Our township is a very rural township, and for that reason, and from a historical perspective, I see the arguments to retain the reeve designation."

But Gerow said he also understands that fewer Ontario municipalities are retaining the old titles.

"Other municipalities across the province are looking at this very question," he said, noting that in Peterborough County, Cavan-Monaghan Township has discarded reeve in favour of mayor, and Douro-Dummer Township is looking at doing the same. "So we need to look at others to see where this is going."

The title "reeve" originated in Anglo-Saxon England, and was used in medieval times to designate a representative of the King in rural shires. <http://www.communitypress.ca/2011/03/21/reeve-may-get-axe-in-favour-of-mayor>

7. A political or municipal township is an incorporated municipality consisting of one or more geographic townships united as a single entity with a single municipal administration, usually consisting of one or more communities that are not incorporated for various reasons. Often rural counties are subdivided into townships. In some places, usually if the township is in a county rather than in a regional municipality, the head of a political township is called a reeve, not a mayor. However, this distinction is changing as many rural townships are replacing the title reeve with mayor to reduce confusion. A few townships keep both titles and designate mayor as the head of the municipal council and use the title reeve to denote the representative to the upper tier (usually county) council.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Township\\_\(Canada\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Township_(Canada))