

**TOWNSHIP OF STRONG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
AT 5:45 P.M.  
ON AUGUST 18, 2015  
IN  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5:45 p.m.**

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Christine Ellis, Councillors Les Blackwell, Jason Cottrell, Kelly Elik, Jeff McLaren.

**Conflict of Interest Declared by:** Councillor Kelly Elik declared conflict of Interest and left Council Chambers during the discussion.

**Delegations:** Barry Keown – Solar Farm Concern

Mr. Keown thanked council and his neighbours for the opportunity to speak on the Solar Farm project on Rodeo Road. Mr. Keown's presentation is attached to the Minutes. He reminded Council of the property in question being owned by Councillor Don Gore and thanked Mr. Gore for his service to the community. The land in question is quality farm land and has been farmed for several years. He is concerned with the traffic on Rodeo Road during construction, traffic issues that may arise, the quality of the road during construction, cost associated with maintaining the road, impact to wildlife in the area, hazards associated with solar farms, to his view now that he will be looking at a solar farm from his property. He was never approached by Saturn Power and feels that it was their responsibility to contact all property owners. He is requesting that Council vote no to the Solar farm application.

John MacLachlin – Agricultural Land concerns. Mr. MacLachlin although he is not abutting the solar farm he had several concerns with the loss of excellent agricultural land within the township. Mr. MacLachlin thanked council for the opportunity to discuss his concerns. He provided council with mapping information he had identifying this property as a class 4 –and this land is the best rating we have in the Township. This land is the same classification as the Magnetawan Silty Loam, Powassan Silty Loam and the Himsworth Silty Loam. He reminded Council of the quality of farm land in the Powassan area which is comparable to this property. He cautioned council that if the land is not maintained for the next 20 years it will not be good for farming. Agriculture programs are being implemented to encourage farms again in an effort to provide locally grown produce etc. These farms should be promoted and encouraged to create economic growth. Although he is not opposed to small solar projects he is opposed to large solar farms as they are not in our best interest. We have an abundance of hydro generation opportunities – biomass, water, methane etc, solar is not the best solution.

The following Resolutions were passed:

**Resolution:**

**R2015-211**

**Jeff McLaren – Jason Cottrell:**

Therefore be it resolved the Council for the Township of Strong hereby approve the Agenda for the August 18, 2015 Special Meeting of Council as amended.

-Amended to include:

Closed Session Section 239(2)(f) legal advice – solicitor client privilege  
Exemption to Noise By-law – Fowler Construction- Rodeo Road Culvert  
installation project.

**Carried**

**R2015-211**

**Les Blackwell – Jason Cottrell:**

Therefore be it resolved that as per the Municipal Act, S.0 c. 25, Section 239 the Council for the Township of Strong hereby enter into a Closed Session of Council, subsection 2 (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose at 6:05 p.m.

**Carried**

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*The Council for the Township of Strong resumed the regular meeting of Council at 6:15 pm. The Mayor reported that Council discussed the matters it was permitted to under the resolution authorizing the public exclusion*

**R2015-213**

**Jeff McLaren – Jason Cottrell:**

The Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the Prescribed Template-Municipal Council Support Resolution regarding the Rodeo Road Solar Farm Project – Saturn Power Inc.,  
And that Council shall sign the prescribed template on behalf of the Municipality in support of this project.

Recorded Vote Requested:

<b>A recorded Vote was requested:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	
<b>Chris Ellis</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Les Blackwell</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Jason Cottrell</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Kelly Elik</b>			
<b>Jeff McLaren</b>			<b>X Defeated</b>

**R2015-214**

**Jason Cottrell – Les Blackwell:**

The Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the Community Vibrancy Fund Agreement presented by Saturn Power,

And That Council for the Township of Strong hereby accept the provisions of this Agreement;

And Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Clerk to sign this Agreement on behalf of the Corporation and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto.

<b>A recorded Vote was requested:</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	
<b>Chris Ellis</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>Les Blackwell</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Jason Cottrell</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Kelly Elik</b>			
<b>Jeff McLaren</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>Carried</b>

**R2015-Jason Cottrell – Les Blackwell:**

The Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the letter prepared by the Township of Ryerson to the Honourable Bob Chiarelli, Ontario Minister of Energy expressing concern with the lack of assistance to Municipalities in understanding the complex topic of renewable energy projects;

And that the Council for the Township of Strong support this resolution and forward our support to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier, MPP Norm Miller, MP Tony Clement, Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for their consideration.

**Carried**

**R2015-216**

**Jason Cottrell – Les Blackwell:**

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby support the Almaguin News Special Feature focusing on Manufacturing and Industry in the Almaguin Region;

And that Council supports an ad in the amount of \$ 160.00 for this special feature.

**Carried**

**R2015-217**

**Kelly Elik- Jeff McLaren:**

Therefore be it resolved the Council for the Township of Strong hereby provide Fowler Construction and exemption from the Noise By-law to permit construction

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activities on the Rodeo Road Culvert Project on Saturdays and Sundays for the month of August in an effort to complete this project in a timely manner.

**Carried**

**R2015-218**

**Les Blackwell – Jeff McLaren:**

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby adjourn the Special meeting at 6:35 p.m. until the next regular meeting scheduled on August 25, 2015.

**Carried**

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**Mayor, Christine Ellis**

**Clerk/Treasurer, Linda Maurer**