

Vote 14-4 accept



John Pow
Mayor of the City of Nanticoke

John Pow:
"I didn't vote for it. I thought we had taken the salary for the first term and then maybe at the end of the next term, councillors might get a raise. There is a lot of work concerned, and it takes a lot of time, but I feel I am already well paid."



Dave Pierson
Mayor of the Town of Haldimand

Dave Pierson:
Unavailable for comment.



Charles Lundy
Mayor of Dunnville

Charles Lundy:
"I'd just as soon not comment. I spoke on it in the council chambers."

Story and pictures by Trisha Banks



Fred Peacock
Mayor of Delhi Township

Fred Peacock:
"It's quite controversial maybe, for some. It seems to me that it is quite reasonable when you think of the inflationary rises. It is not as much as the cost of living rise."



Jerome VanDeSlyke
Mayor of Norfolk Township

Jerome VanDeSlyke:
"I think it is reasonable. After all, it is only two-thirds of what last year's cost of living was. If everyone only took two-thirds of the cost of living there would sure be a lot of screams about how far behind they were."



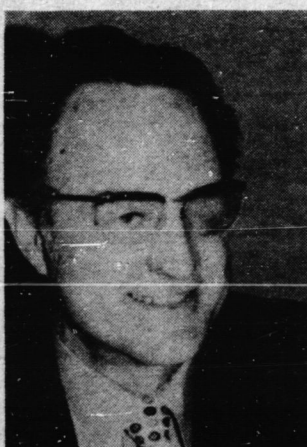
Roy Whitehead
Simcoe

Roy Whitehead:
"I don't feel that it is out of the way. The cost of living rose by 12 per cent so an eight per cent raise doesn't seem too bad. If we don't stay in line with what others are getting, it could mean a big raise in a couple of years."



Lorna Miller
Dunnville

Lorna Miller:
"I felt that it was a fair raise, considering everything. With the cost of living going up and particularly the cost of travel, I feel it is quite a reasonable raise."



A. Clare Huffman
Delhi

A. Clare Huffman:
"I haven't really given it much thought. I think there is justification in an eight per cent pay raise for a regional councillor."



Alfred Judd
Mayor of Simcoe

Alfred Judd:
"Personally, I could take it or leave it, but I don't think the raise is out of proportion when you consider the amount of work we do."

8 per cent pay hike



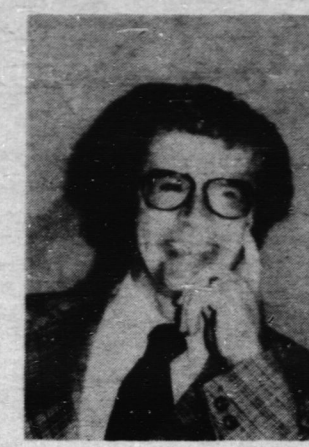
Lyle N. Furry
Haldimand

Lyle N. Furry:
"I support it as being warranted at this time. I think that everybody else seems to want more and that council could be one place where we could cut back. It just wasn't the right time for a raise."



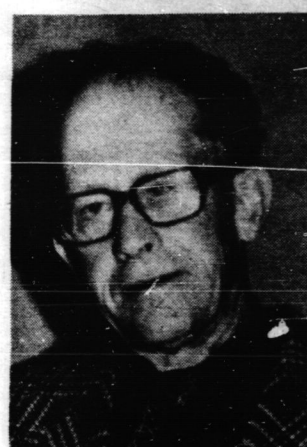
Keith Shay
Nanticoke

Keith Shay:
"I don't think it is warranted at this time. I think that everybody else seems to want more and that council could be one place where we could cut back. It just wasn't the right time for a raise."



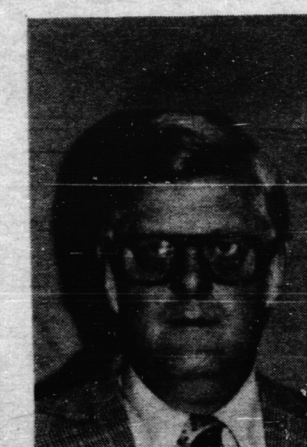
John Roxburgh
Nanticoke

John Roxburgh:
"As far as I am concerned, I voted against the original committee motion. I think it shows some restraint on government spending when it is only two-thirds of the cost of living index."



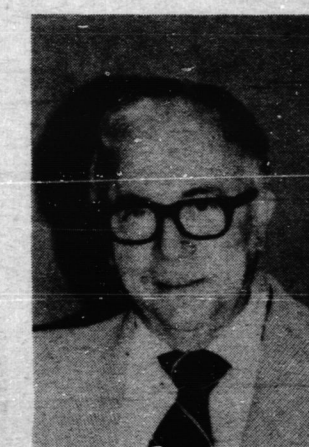
Jack Young
Haldimand

Jack Young:
"It is all right as far as I am concerned. We are not in this for the money anyway. We do this work for the good of the Town of Haldimand. We do it for the good of the people."



Robert Causyn
Norfolk

Robert Causyn:
"I think an eight per cent raise is justified when all the other staff received 12 per cent. The workload is much heavier than expected. I don't think any elected officer should get into the position of the Ottawa M.P.'s who haven't had a raise in four years and are now trying to catch up."



Basil Long
Norfolk

Basil Long:
"If I wasn't worth it I wouldn't have voted for it. The cost of living has risen by 12 per cent and the raise doesn't even keep up with it. If you are entitled to an increase then you should get it. I'm happy with it."

Councillors grab \$520 more

Haldimand-Norfolk Regional councillors voted 14 to 4 last week to increase their annual salaries by eight per cent.

The increase appeared on the finance and administration committee agenda, chaired by Simcoe councillor Roy Whitehead, as a Member of Council Budget in the amount of \$159,805.

The salary increase was brought to the attention of the press when Simcoe Mayor Alfred Judd accused Councillor Whitehead of "trying to sneak this thing through. If we are voting ourselves a pay increase then the public should know about it," he said.

Councillor Judd went on to say that the increase was "a reasonable amount for the work done and time consumed. Some councillors can do the job for nothing," he said, "but others depend on this pay."

Nanticoke Councillor Gordon Miller told council that he disagreed with a salary hike. "Salaries should remain the same for this term."

Haldimand Councillor Lyle N. Furry said he saw nothing wrong with the raise. "The M.P.'s took a 32 per cent raise then seven per cent more, so if we do it by small percentages it helps keep down the rate of inflation. The raise is under the cost of living."

Nanticoke Councillor John Roxburgh said he had voted against the original committee recommendation but felt that the eight per cent raise was "reasonable".

Simcoe Councillor Catherine Smale agreed with the raise, but asked council to draw up a policy on raises. "Perhaps a two per cent raise less than the cost of living would be reasonable. The salaries should be raised at the end

of each year so people can understand it," she said. Dunnville Mayor Charles Lundy told council he disagreed with the pay hike. "I feel we are reaching just a little too far into the rate

Nanticoke Councillor Keith Shay called for an amendment to the motion proposed by Councillor Smale, deleting the eight per cent increase. Councillor Shay said, "I did not hear

the by-law has been passed, and there should be no further discussion."

Dunnville Mayor Charles Lundy supported Councillor Shay, saying, "We should complete our term of office before there is any talk of salary increases."

Councillor Keith Shay asked for a recorded vote on the report of the finance and administration committee which included the pay hike proposal.

Mayors Charles Lundy and John Pow and Councillors Keith Shay and Gordon Miller voted against the pay raise.

Mayor Judd, Mayor Jerome VanDeSlyke, Mayor David Pierson, Mayor Fred Peacock and Councillors Catherine Smale, Robert Causyn, Lyle N. Furry, A. Clare Huffman, Basil Long, Lorna Miller, Keith Richardson, John Roxburgh, Roy Whitehead,

and Jack Young voted in favour of the pay hike.

The vote increases regional councillors pay from \$6,500 to \$7,020.

Members of regional council are also paid by the area municipality which they represent.

Township of Delhi - mayor, \$4,500 and councillors, \$3,500. Town of Dunnville - mayor, \$5,000 and councillors, \$3,700. Town of Haldimand - mayor, \$8,500 and councillors, \$3,200. City of Nanticoke - mayor, \$8,500 and councillors, \$6,500. Township of Norfolk - mayor, \$8,500 and councillors, \$6,500. Town of Simcoe - mayor, \$6,000 and councillors, \$2,400.

Simcoe Mayor Alfred Judd accused Councillor Shay of "waffling". "I suggest we give a hearing test to those who can't hear," said Councillor Judd.

Councillor Shay's proposed amendment was ruled out of order by Regional Chairman John McCombs. Chief administrator Dan Ciona told Chairman McCombs, "The vote has been taken,

payers pocket book," he said.

Simcoe Councillor Catherine Smale introduced a motion to set policy on salary increases. "I don't think we can continue in this ad hoc manner in the future," she said.

Although her motion was accepted by a 16-2 vote,

Story and pictures by Trisha Banks