



Springwater Township – Candidate Questionnaire 2014

We hope that, as a candidate for Springwater Council, you will take the time to complete the following survey. Please return no later than **Monday, September 22nd at 4 pm**. Your responses will help us determine who to recommend to our many supporters, both in Midhurst and the Township at large, for each contested seat on Council. Answers will be rated according to our organizational values. The names of our chosen candidates, together with comments from the MRA board, will be published in the Springwater News. All completed questionnaires will appear on our website after the deadline has passed. Those not received by the deadline will be listed as “no response”. Thank you in advance for your time and your participation.

Platform

What do you believe should be the **top 5 priorities** for Council? *(in order of priority)*

1. In Ward 5 the MSP is the number one priority. Hopefully there will be a change in Council leadership that will result in a willingness to lobby the Province to review the entire MSP process and rescind the special rule. An independent investigation by the Ombudsman into how the MSP was approved would satisfy many taxpayers that all avenues had been explored. There is another 400 hectares that is part of the MSP and waiting final approval. Council and taxpayers need to lobby the Province to justify the appropriateness of future approvals and demonstrate consistency with the Places to Grow Legislation. A united Council should acknowledge the public’s opposition and use that to get the Province’s attention. Given the argument that “there is no basis in law to reverse approvals”, a new and improved Council needs to put taxpayers first and negotiate with developers to get as much benefit as possible for our current residents. The current Provincial Government has not approved ANTI-SLAPP-LAWSUIT legislation. Candidates running for Council need to have the courage and, expectation that they will be protected from threats of litigation for advancing taxpayers concerns. Otherwise there will be reluctance by some to challenge the MSP. In the end, it may require a cooperative effort for all parties to work together to develop as much group synergy as possible to negotiate productive and positive solutions.

2. MSP Environmental Assessment, and Final Report. There needs to be assurances that all environmental concerns are addressed and that the review is unprejudiced and focuses on long range environmental impacts. There also needs to be clarification and justification for Ministry of Environment and Nattawasaga Conservation Authority approvals of the MSP.

Interest groups need to be kept informed in a timely manner of ongoing decisions and the measures being considered to mediate any negative impacts. A New Council needs to assure Taxpayers that staff will cooperate and assist with the preparation for any “Bump Up”.

3. Development Charges (DC). *Council needs to review DC policies, lobby the Province to include additional Township provided services in the DC Act (transit, policing etc.) to ensure development pays for development. That the mega development pays for all required infrastructure and, that current Taxpayers receive as much benefit as possible.*

4. Accountability. *Township of Springwater needs a Council that will follow through on claims of “Open and Transparent Government”. Increase question period to 30 minutes, if necessary and to include any reasonable topic. Question period scheduled from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm “Meet your Councillor(s) and staff”. Regular Council meetings would start at 6:30 pm. Council meetings should be biweekly. Ensure there are no threshold deterrent to residents’ attendance and participation. Stop the authoritative leadership style where only the Mayor or Deputy can answer questions and speak to the media etc.*

5. Fiscal Responsibility. *Start with a budget review of all expenditures (line items). Then determine where savings can be generated. Then let any justifiable expenditures determine any tax increase. Setting a tax increase target then spending to meet it is a flawed process.*

What steps do you intend to take or recommend to council in order to achieve NUMBER 1?
In an effort to explain my priorities I have included an explanation with my answers.

Transparency and Accountability

	YES	NO
1. Are you in favour of appointing the Ontario Ombudsman to oversee Springwater Council? <i>I have argued against spending Taxpayer’s money to contract a private agency to investigate Council. The Ombudsman is already paid for and, most importantly independent. As most Municipalities do not have integrity commissioners The Ombudsman’s mandate should include all Council complaints and any allegations of misconduct.</i>	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you agree with the following improvements to council meetings?		
a) More frequent council meetings?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Question Periods that are not limited to the agenda?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Later start times to improve public accessibility?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Publishing agendas one full week in advance? e)	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Publish the lengthy reports 1 week in advance with the rest of the agenda published no later than Wednesday before council meetings.</i>		
f) Mandatory Question Period for Special meetings?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) All questions asked during Question Period to be recorded in full, answered in a timely manner either orally or in writing and placed on the public record	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Do you support requiring elected representatives to keep their constituents regularly informed via email, newspaper articles, town halls and/or social media? The Township of Springwater's one page news article "THE LINK" in the biweekly newspaper needs to provide more detail on Council activities and decisions. Council meetings should be videotaped and made available to the public online.	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are you in favour of NVCA board representatives providing monthly reports to council on decisions and actions of the NVCA board, with such reports to be placed on the public record?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Growth & Development

	YES	NO
1. If elected, with regard to the Midhurst Secondary Plan, will you support:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) Stopping it in its current form?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Lobbying the provincial government to rescind the special rule?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Lobbying the provincial government to help stop the MSP?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Creating a new plan that puts farmland and source water protection first?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Helping to establish a moratorium on the MSP until all financial and environmental studies have been completed?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. If elected, will you support the following measures to manage development:	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. Extra levies or charges to make growth pay for growth?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Establishing a Planning Committee to oversee and guide the work of the Planning and Public Works departments?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Ensuring future development prioritizes farmland preservation and source water protection?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Creating master plans for heritage areas, areas of archeological significance and key agricultural hubs?	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Environmental Responsibility & Agriculture

	YES	NO
<p>1. Do you think Springwater is doing enough to protect and enhance its natural environment? Comments:</p> <p><i>Development approvals need to ensure best practices to limit tree removal, erosion, preservation of farmland, traffic impacts and increase walking and biking trails. Parkland needs to be usable space in each community. High density (4 to 6 store townhomes) will have limited backyards etc. There will be a need for larger recreational areas.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2. Do you support making Springwater Township a “Food and Water First” township?</p>	X <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3. Are you satisfied that Springwater is doing enough to preserve its farmland from development? Comments:</p> <p><i>The Township and Province need to follow through on their claims to preserve farmland by creating policies and/or legislation to reduce the sale of farmland for development. I.E. If farmland is sold for development immediately tax it as residential and claw back any government grants provided in last 10 years.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X <input type="checkbox"/>

Leadership and Governance

	YES	NO
<p>1. Do you support independent peer reviews, paid for by Springwater, of all reports critical to strategic planning? Comments: <i>Initially reviews should be focused on the most important items and paid for by development and/or through development charges when appropriate. If done correctly with an arm’s length agency developers paying would not jeopardize the independence and avoid Taxpayers paying for</i></p>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>expensive reviews generated by development.</p>		
<p>2. Are you in favour of establishing a Finance Committee comprised of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or Councillors to oversee and guide the work of senior staff?</p> <p>AMO recommends municipalities having a Budget Committee to work with staff to develop annual budgets. This is more productive than staffs creating their budget in isolation then bring it to Council for approval. I believe every line item needs to be reviewed to justify the needed expenditures. I.E. If money is put in a department's budget to purchase equipment and that expenditure occurs. The following year that department's budget should obviously be cut by that amount.</p> <p>I do not support having both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on any committee as they have too much influence. Taxpayers need representatives will question staff and challenge their proposals. I would support the involvement of qualified Taxpayer(s) on a budget committee.</p>	<p>X <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>3. Are you in favour of establishing a Planning Committee comprised of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and/or Councillors to oversee and guide the work of the Planning and Public Works departments?</p> <p>As above. I do not support both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on any committee as they have too much influence. Councillors are needed that will question staff. I would support the involvement of qualified Taxpayer(s). There needs to be more guidance based on what constituents' wants and need; NOT what staff and/or developers want.</p>	<p>X <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>4. Are you in favour of establishing a lobby registry?</p> <p>Not sure if you mean a SIGN IN BOOK or a LOBBYIST registry so I will give my opinion of both.</p> <p>Sign in book;</p> <p>Absolutely if there is assurance that all names will be entered. This could be circumvented by meeting outside Admin office to avoid public knowledge of confidential meetings.</p>	<p>X <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

<p><i>A lobbyist registry; Generally a good idea provided the disclosure of confidential information does not adversely circumvent financial negotiations or need for privacy.</i></p>		
<p>5. Does your campaign accept union or corporate donations?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments:

History has shown that some people may state anything or make inappropriate campaign promises to get elected. This could be overcome if candidates were required to sign a letter of resignation that would be processed should they renege on their promises.

**Name: JACK HANNA
CANDIDATE WARD5**