

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 14, 2020**

Call to Order, Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; nil.

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Blair Flowers, Bart Wood and Neil Scarlett. Staff present: Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul.

Guests attending by teleconference: Kennedy Ins Brokers Partner Chris Bevan, EMS Area Rep Lyle Hall, Director of Development and Protective Services/Fire Chief Dave Thompson, Manager of Emergency Services Parry Sound District EMS Frank May. Guest registered to observe and not present: Almaguin News Metroland Media Reporter Lee McConnell.

Insurance Renewal Proposal

Presentation and comments were received on renewal pricing. The insurance brokers have negotiated with the program Insurers to secure the best possible premium rates for us. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall Municipal Insurance marketplace was experiencing increased premiums due to various factors and the company has confirmed the following:

- The Municipal Liability premium has received a 12% increase, which is below the average for the Company's Municipal clients.
- Property coverage premiums received a 52% increase. The minimum premium increase applied by the Company for their Municipal clients is 10% for the 2021 renewal. Due to market conditions and the claims experience on the property coverage experiencing an \$81,666 incurred loss, the renewal premium is the lowest available increase the program insurers require for this 2021 coverage as the loss ratio is 291.2%. Property limits have received % inflationary coverage as standard practice.
- Automobile Fleet premiums received a 14.9% rate increase. The company has advised that this is the minimum increase that can be applied to the policy coverage item.

The overall 18.5% increase for the 2021 term is slightly above the average renewal increase of 15% within the Company's Municipal Program. Actual premium increase experienced is 21.6%. Program Options reviewed and declined.

181-20 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we accept insurance renewal for 2021 from Frank Cowan Company at a total annual premium of \$39,145 representing a 21.6% increase. CARRIED

EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Advisory Committee Supplemental Levy

Cost overruns have occurred due to significant increases in needed Personal Protective Equipment (including higher than usual costs for PPE), COVID related sick time and overtime costs associated with sick time. To meet financial requirements in 2020 without significant decreases to EMS staffing, the EMS Advisory Committee has recommended to the Town of Parry Sound a one-time supplemental levy be issued to the district municipalities recognizing that municipalities can utilize COVID-19 related funding from the Province. A supplemental levy of \$450,000 was applied in 2020 to municipalities using the traditional funding formula with our proportion being \$8,208.45 additional to our EMS levy for 2020. The Municipality of Magnetawan and the Township of Machar expressed concern by Resolutions 2020-139 and 145-20 respectively. Discussion ensued with area rep, director and manager. Provincial funding has been applied for, but will not be received until next year. Actions have been taken to reduce costs where possible. Magnetawan and Machar request any surplus realized in the overage returned to the municipalities. Mayor Carleton expressed our gratitude to the director and manager for EMS services.

182-20 Flowers, Wood

THAT we authorize Administration to pay EMS supplemental levy in the amount of \$8,208.45 from COVID-19 related funding. CARRIED

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Nov 30, 2020 minutes, Resolution

183-20 Scarlett, Wood

THAT we adopt Nov 30, 2020 minutes. CARRIED

2. Eagle Lake Conservation Association partnership on Short Term Rentals initiative

Letter received as a follow up to discussion with Council on Oct 13, 2020. The ELCA has identified the issue of short term rentals on lakefront property as a potential concern with respect to the health of Eagle Lake and the continued enjoyment of the lake environment by all of those who use it. The ELCA would like to work in partnership with us to properly research this issue and identify positive action that can be initiated to minimize any problems that short term rentals can create. The ELCA Board of Directors identified this initiative as a major priority for 2021. The ELCA President will provide whatever support is required to assist this initiative, but will not take the lead on the project. 2 ELCA members have volunteered to participate, 1 has already completed a significant amount of research on short term rentals and 1 is an ELCA Board member with firsthand experience with lakefront rentals. Discussion ensued on the importance of this initiative and the desire of many to be involved. It was therefore suggested the most expedient way to proceed and to involve all parties expressing an interest, would be to request the 2 ELCA members give a presentation to Council. The ELCA President and Municipal Law Enforcement Officer would also be able to attend. Clerk Administrator to reply with dates available.

3. Budget Report to Nov 30, 2020 as of Dec 9, 2020, Resolution

The Clerk Administrator explained several notes of interest, upcoming payments and year end adjustments. Revenues are currently at 114.90% and Expenditures are at 90.05% which at this point should position us well for 2021. It is noted our 2021 assessment will be frozen at our 2020 amount.

184-20 Flowers, Scarlett

THAT we accept Budget Report to Nov 30, 2020. CARRIED

4. Pay List by Fund for Nov, Resolution

4th Quarter payments and final remittances to the 4 School Boards for 2020 were highlighted.

185-20 McLaren, Wood

THAT we authorize Pay List by Fund for Nov 2020: \$246,914.29 Grand Total. CARRIED

COMMITTEES

5. Machar Emergency Plan update distribution, MMAH Covid-19 Vaccine Strategy

Full copies of the Emergency Plan updated were provided to Council. Councillor Wood referenced the new Pandemic Plan and a sample he had sourced with a more fulsome structured template. Discussion ensued. Councillor Wood will provide the sample sourced to the Clerk Administrator and the Clerk Administrator will forward to the (CEMC) Community Emergency Management Co-ordinator for review.

Vaccine quantity, phases, population to be vaccinated and distribution sites overview provided.

6. Shared Services; Arena ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infra Stream update

South River has agreed designs are a good idea indicating there is time for design of both the kitchen and washroom upgrades once we are approved, which is anticipated in the Spring. Draft ICIP Application received from South River for review. Administration requested confirmation from Council on Project Financials page Professional Fees and Construction/Procurement Component. Council concurred Professional Fees; Kitchen & Washroom Design and requesting that more be added to the Kitchen upgrade as it's the higher priority and less to the washrooms. The washrooms were a suggestion only in the event that there were any funds left after the Generators and Kitchen upgrade.

Arena Manager's Report for Nov, Nov Income Statements and AP Ledgers received for Arena and Fire.

7. East Parry Sound Veterinary Service Committee Annual Meeting of Mar 25, 2020

This program pays the veterinarian's travel costs to the large animal livestock and to return to their clinic, reducing the cost of calling the vet no matter where you live from the vet's clinic base. 2020 brought a new large animal vet on the scene from Dr. Fritz Verzijlenberg's clinic in Sundridge.

186-20 McLaren, Wood

THAT we acknowledge East Parry Sound Veterinary Service Committee minutes of Mar 25, 2020.

CARRIED

INFORMATION

- 8. Regional Municipality of Peel Resolution** – Whereas, the 2020 Ontario Budget provides for amendments to the Assessment Act to apply the existing property tax exemption for Ontario branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, for 2019 and subsequent tax years, to Ontario units of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada, to request that upon passage of the 2020 Ontario Budget, the amendment to the Assessment Act be implemented as soon as possible.
- 9. City of Hamilton** – Request the Government of Ontario to place an interim cap of 2.5 mega tonnes per year on our gas plant and greenhouse gas pollution and develop and implement a plan to phase-out all gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to ensure that Ontario meets its climate targets.
- 10. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare News Release** – MAHC welcomes new obstetrical care providers, three, two family medicine providers and one midwife offering community prenatal care in Muskoka and obstetrical care services at MAHC, Dr Erin Fennell, Dr. Christopher LaJeunesse, Registered Midwife Jocelyn Latter.
- 11. MPAC InTouch, Nov 2020** – Over \$37.3B in new assessment added this year. Responding to COVID-19 restrictions, taking a consistent approach to changes in regional restrictions across Ontario. Regions are subject to 'red – control' and 'grey – lockdown' measures, pausing field work and in-person appointments at field offices. Ontario budget highlights:
 - Postponing the property tax reassessment
 - Enabling property tax relief for small businesses
 - Reducing property taxes for employers
 - Property tax exemptionsNew requirements for sharing property owner address changes, beginning Feb 2021, municipalities will be required to confirm they have property owner consent before sharing any mailing address changes with MPAC.
- 12. AMO Policy Update, Conservation Authorities Act Proposed Amendments** – Schedule 6, Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020, be withdrawn so that matters of concern can be resolved. Of significant concern is the creation of an apparent conflict between the fiduciary duty of Conservation Authority Board members and the proposed amendment requiring board members to act on behalf of their respective municipal councils.
- 13. AMO Policy Update, Federal Fall Economic Statement** – Titled Supporting Canadians and Fighting COVID-19. It outlined the government strategy for managing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and provided its focus for economic recovery.
 - Will provide additional funding of \$299.4 million to help shelters to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
 - New investments up to \$1 billion which will help provinces and territories protect people in long-term care and support infection prevention and control.
 - Has committed to establish a Federal Secretariat on Early Learning and Child Care to support development of a national system.
 - An additional \$12 billion is proposed for the Rental Construction Financing Initiative to support new lending over seven years.
 - Proposes to provide \$150 million over three years to improve ventilation in public buildings and help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
 - Plans to outline the next steps on public transit that include efforts to electrify public transit systems.
 - Tackle gun crime, provide dedicated funding of \$250 million over 5 years will target municipalities, community-led initiatives, and Indigenous communities to support anti-gang programming.
 - Support small and regional airports make critical investments in health and safety, an additional \$186 million for the Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP).
 - To provide \$2.6 billion over 7 years to help homeowners improve their home energy efficiency by providing up to 700,000 grants of up to \$5,000 to encourage energy-efficient improvements to homes.
 - Accelerate previous investments in recharging and refueling infrastructure along highways and communities to encourage Canadians to choose zero-emission vehicles, provide \$150 million over 3 years.
- 14. AMO Policy Update, COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force** – The Ontario government has announced the appointment of nine members chaired by General (Retired) Rick Hillier, former Chief of Defence Staff for the Canadian Forces will oversee the delivery, storage, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. New COVID-19 measures for three regions, effective Mon, Dec 7, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.
 - Orange – Restrict
 - Middlesex-London Health Unit; and

- Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- Yellow – Protect
 - Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit

Long-Term Care commission releases second set of recommendations, focus on three areas: leadership and accountability; using performance indicators to assess each home’s readiness to prevent and manage outbreaks; and, focused inspections by the Ministry of Long-Term Care to assess compliance with measures known to reduce the impact of the virus. AMO-Ontario annual joint MOU statement, now available.
- 15. AMO Policy Update** – Ontario approach on key populations to vaccinate first, including long-term care and retirement home residents and the staff who provide care to these groups
 - Health care workers, including hospital employees, other staff who work or study in hospitals, and other health care personnel;
 - Adults in Indigenous communities, including remote communities where risk of transmission is high; and
 - Adult recipients of chronic home health care.

As well, the Province will be prioritizing the rollout of the vaccine in regions with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection, including those in the Red-Control and Lockdown zones. The immunization program will focus on health care workers and the most vulnerable populations in those regions. Auditor General 2020 Annual Report focuses on consumer protection, oversight, and operational effectiveness. New Ontario wetland conservation program to help create and restore wetlands in the Great Lakes watershed. In the first year, Ontario is providing \$6 million to Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) focusing on restoration projects in the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie watersheds.
- 16. AMO WatchFile, Dec 3, 2020, In This Issue** –
 - Report out on November 27th AMO Board meeting.
 - Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS).
 - Accessible municipal websites.
 - Rowan’s Law Phase 2 proclamation date moved to July 2021.
 - Follow ROMA for chance to win 2021 ROMA Conference pass!
 - Investments 101 - Online training.
 - Careers with AMO, Augusta, Durham and Orillia.
- 17. AMO WatchFile Dec 10, 2020, In This Issue** -
 - Accessible municipal websites.
 - Ontario seeking input on Draft Water Quantity Framework Guidance.
 - ROMA Conference 2021: Connecting you to provincial leaders.
 - Want to reduce stress this lockdown holiday season? It's possible.
 - Webinar: Struggling with your meeting management system? eSCRIBE can help.
 - Municipal Group Buying Program saves thousands!
 - Investments 101 - Online training.
 - Careers with AMO, Ontario Public Service, Durham and Toronto.
- 18. FCM President’s Corner** – Our hard work is paying off! This month FCM also scored a major win for rural, remote and northern communities. On Nov 9, the federal government launched it’s \$1.75 billion Universal Broadband Fund. That’s higher than the \$1 billion originally allocated in Budget 2019, and it includes a new Rapid Response Stream.
- 19. FCM Voice** - Municipal advocacy builds better lives. The regional energy coach pilot project. Video: Move from climate planning to local action. Virtual workshop: setting a GHG emissions target and developing local action plans.
- 20. Deputy Attorney General** – Expanding the use of certified evidence in Provincial Offences Act Courts.
- 21. West Nipissing East Sudbury Soil & Crop AGM** – Dec 16, Sturgeon Falls.
- 22. Sudbury East, Nipissing & Parry Sound, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs** – Meat processors capacity improvement initiative intake open: Dec 4, 2020 to support the productivity and efficiency of eligible businesses through the purchase and installation of new/refurbished equipment and associated costs.
 - Increased cooler/freezer capacity
 - Waste management handling/processing
 - Animal handling/processing
 - Product Handling/processing
 - Engineering/professional services for equipment that is part of the project
 - One-time costs associated with training
 - One-time labour costs

60 per cent cost-share, up to maximum of \$150,000. Cost-share funding for farmers intake open Dec 9, 2020-Jan 6, 2021 provides cost-share funding support to farmers and other businesses key priority areas, which include; research and innovation, economic development, environmental stewardship and protection and assurance.
- 23. Sudbury East Nipissing Parry Sound Ag News, Dec 2020** – OMAFRA dateline events posted on this site are aimed at sharing information of interest to agriculture and regional economic development clients. Exploring the impact of Ontario research – webinar series. West Nipissing East Sudbury Soil & Crop AGM. IAPO Dec workshops, Ontario Agricultural Conference. Grower pesticide safety course. OSCIA Biosecurity and Environmental farm plan workshops. COVID-19 related funding, Northern Ontario Recovery Program – INTAKE

ON HOLD, due to overwhelming demand... Funding Programs, NEW – CAP Funding for meat processors announced... Information...

- 24. You're Invited, IESO Regional Electricity Forum on Jan 20th** – Theme of this year's event is Strengthening Communities Through Energy Choices, the morning session to hear about recent electricity trends and initiatives facing Ontario's electricity sector. The afternoon will break out into the five separate Regional Networks to provide an opportunity for community representatives to gather and discuss diverse views and perspectives facing each region.
- 25. Municipal Word** – Doug Lagore: Dealing with the pressures of senior staff departures.

INFORMATION – COVID-19

26. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Public Service Announcement, COVID-19 Community Outbreak Update – On Nov 24, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit declared a COVID-19 community outbreak. As of Nov 27, the outbreak includes 16 individuals. The growth in the number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 is expected, as high-risk contacts are being tested. Close contact tracing is complete for every individual who tested positive. Individuals who have tested positive are self-isolating. The Health Unit encourages everyone to remain "COVID Kind" and continue to support each other through these difficult times. Continue to follow public health measures including physical distancing, wearing a face covering, washing or sanitizing hands often, coughing or sneezing into your sleeve.

27. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release, Dec 3, 2020 – Health Unit monitoring COVID-19 activity and is ready to change levels if needed. Our Health Unit district is currently at the Prevent – Green level, and any change to this will be publically communicated. The restrictions imposed by the province represent the minimum measures required in the district. They decrease, but do not prevent the spread of COVID-19. That is why the Health Unit urges everyone to:

- Avoid socializing for now.
- Limit travel outside the home to:
 - Attending school or work – if unable to work from home
 - Essential trips for groceries, medication and medical appointments.
- Assume everyone has COVID-19 outside your home and take precautions.
 - Keep a distance of two (2) metres between yourself and anyone outside of your home. However, if you live alone, you may consider having close contact with another household.
 - Wear a face covering if you need to be closer than two (2) metres from someone outside your home during essential trips. Being in close contact to someone has the highest risk of transmitting COVID-19, along with being in closed or crowded spaces.
 - Wash or sanitize your hands often, cough or sneeze into your sleeve and if you feel unwell stay home and arrange to be tested.
- Limit exercise and recreation to outdoor spaces where physical distancing is possible.
- Avoid travel outside of our district, especially to areas with high numbers of COVID-19, unless for emergencies or urgent medical appointments.

28. AMO Policy Update, New Regions Moving to More Restrictive COVID-19 Framework Levels – The Ontario government is moving five public health regions, effective, Nov 30.

- Red – Control
 - Windsor-Essex Country Health Unit
- Orange – Restrict
 - Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit
- Yellow – Protect
 - Hastings Prince Edward Public Health
 - Lambton Public Health; and
 - Northwestern Health Unit

Phase 2 Long-Term Care community paramedicine program expansion, the Ontario government is investing up to \$15 million. This fully provincially funded initiative will help more seniors on long-term care waitlists stay safe at home. Uses the skills of community paramedics to help seniors stay at home safely by providing primary care while delaying their need for long-term care.

29. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare – Gratitude to hospital staff looks different this holiday season, as we watch the numbers grow everywhere, we must pause and reconsider traditional holiday approaches. Thoughtful gifts to say thank you like boxes of chocolate or Christmas baking warm our hearts and mean a lot to our team members, but they also carry a level of risk to our staff and physicians that is not advisable, and can ultimately potentially hinder our ability to provide high-quality care to you or your loved ones when needed. The safety and wellbeing of our team members is a priority for our hospitals, and therefore we regret our staff are unable to accept homemade prepared food such as Christmas baking and shareable items in gifts baskets this holiday season. We hope you can understand why this is necessary. We are truly touched that grateful patients and/or their caregivers want to show their appreciation this holiday season. Perhaps the best way you can show our team your love is to give the gift of better local health care by supporting our Foundations that work tirelessly to raise money for our much-needed capital equipment and technology needs. Both of our Foundations have specific giving programs that allow you to honour a hospital hero by making a tribute gift in their honour. We

encourage you to consider gratitude in the form of a donation to your hospital hero: Huntsville Hospital Foundation “Hospital Heroes” giving program: <https://huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca//heroes/>, South Muskoka Hospital Foundation “Health Care Heroes” giving program: www.healthmuskoka.ca/givetoday.

30. **FCM Voice** – Fall Economic Statement sends encouraging signals to municipalities. FCM especially welcomed new commitments to tackle homelessness by expanding the Reaching Home Strategy, most critical priority is to ensure municipalities have the support they need to continue protecting frontline services and transit systems. Safe Restart Agreement provided municipalities with badly-needed emergency funding at the deepest moment of COVID’s first wave, but we’ll need successor arrangements soon as pandemic impacts stretch through 2021. Upcoming deadline for FCM resolutions. Only a few weeks left to apply for an FCM scholarship. Video: moving forward – making progress on climate action. Watch highlights from SCC 2020.
31. **Tribunals Ontario, New Practice Direction Memo** – Tribunals Ontario has an updated Practice Direction on Hearing Formats, is part of digital transformation to enhance the quality of dispute resolution services while meeting the diverse needs of Ontarians. The plan to become digital first, is not digital only. Matters will proceed as video, telephone or written hearings unless a different hearing format is required as an accommodation for an Ontario Human Rights Code. All Tribunals Ontario’s hearing centres are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When in-person proceedings become available, Tribunals Ontario’s hearing centres will adhere to strict health and safety measures to protect staff, adjudicators and Ontarians.
32. **Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario** – Highlights of recent liquor reforms to support businesses, the Government of Ontario announced that it has recently amended a number of regulations that affect the liquor industry. These reforms are intended to support businesses as they work to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and offer consumers greater choice and convenience, now and into the future.

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

CLOSED SESSION

187-20 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; security of the property of the municipality or local board, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, labour relations or employee negotiations. Time 7:50 pm. CARRIED

188-20 Wood, Scarlett

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:17 pm. CARRIED

ADJOURN

189-20 Flowers, Scarlett

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Jan 11, 2021. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

BP