

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 11, 2021**

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 observing by teleconference: Marv Nolan, and Pearl Ivens.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Dec 14, 2020 minutes, Resolution

1-21 Wood, Scarlett

THAT we adopt Dec 14, 2020 minutes. CARRIED

2. Annual By-Laws, Resolution

2-21 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to annual by-laws as follows;
By-Law No. 1-21 to provide for interest to be added to Tax Arrears,
By-Law No. 2-21 a penalty charge for non-payment of Current Taxes,
By-Law No. 3-21 to provide for an Interim Tax Levy. CARRIED

3. Administration Update, Resolution

Updates; our Health Unit has been changed to a 30 day lockdown, Audit will be done Feb 18.

3-21 Wood, Flowers

THAT we accept Administration Update of Jan 5, 2021. CARRIED

4. Pay List by Fund for Dec, Resolution

4-21 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we authorize Pay List by Fund for Dec 2020: \$113,472.03 Grand Total. CARRIED

COMMITTEES

5. Machar Public Works minutes of Dec 17, 2020, Resolution

5-21 Wood, McLaren

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Dec 17, 2020 as amended. CARRIED

Clerk Administrator will refer clarifications to the Secretary; security cameras were maintained.

6. South River Machar Medical minutes of Dec 15, 2020, Resolution

6-21 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes of Dec 15, 2020 as follows: adopt the minutes of Nov 17, 2020, install the additional lighting as per the quote, donate the 30 grey cloth chairs, Pay Lists/budgetary control, adjourned until Jan 19, 2021... CARRIED

Correction in 10.3, line 3 Advantage to Adventist. Currently no known lower tenant issues.

7. Central Almaguin Planning minutes of Dec 16, 2020, Resolution

7-21 Wood, Flowers

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Dec 16, 2020. CARRIED

Very busy with development (as is the Township), although for the Board mostly in Magnetawan and Lount. The Board has hired a consultant to update policies for Lount Twp as it's unorganized. Unorganized municipalities basically have no rules, no municipal government. The Planning Board is seeking funding from the Province as unorganized municipalities fall under the Province's purview.

8. District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board, DSSAB December Monthly Report

Stats updated monthly, 16 pages available, new CAO is Tammy MacKenzie.

INFORMATION

9. **Township of Matchewan Resolution** – Acknowledging the appreciation of the grants but requesting that the application deadline on any further grants have a longer turn around time.
10. **City of Port Colborne Resolution** – Proposed regulation under the Ontario Heritage Act. Bill 108 amended to remove the powers provided to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal to return the authority for final decisions to municipal council's as the elected representative of the communities wherein the property and its features of cultural heritage value exist.
11. **Town of Lincoln, Resolution** – Support City of Hamilton, regarding Request for Interim Cap on Gas Plant and Greenhouse Gas Pollution and the Development and Implementation of a Plan to Phase-Out Gas-Fired Electricity Generation by 2030 to ensure that Ontario meets its climate targets.
12. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Naloxone Saves Lives** – Reminding the public that if you are an individual who uses opioids or you are a friend or family member of someone who uses drugs you can pick up a naloxone kit at one of the North Bay and Parry Sound Health Unit locations. Businesses who wish to receive free naloxone training for their staff can do so virtually through a partnership with the Health Unit and the AIDS Committee of North Bay & Area. Naloxone is a medication that temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose, and is offered in two forms in Ontario: injectable and intra-nasal spray.
13. **MPAC InTouch, Dec 2020** – Celebrating municipal partnerships. 2021 roll return captures how Ontario has changed. MPAC again named a top employer. Upcoming Webinars. Getting ready for the virtual ROMA conference next month.
14. **Ministry of Transportation, Office of the Minister** – Pleased to announce the province released its plan to build a better transportation system in Northern Ontario. Connecting the North: A Draft Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario includes more than 60 actions that will get people moving, improve travel options for people in northern First Nations and remote communities, and support economic growth in the North. This plan is centered on 6 goals: getting people moving and connecting communities, enabling economic opportunities, keeping people safe and providing reliable transportation options, preparing for the future, maintaining a sustainable transportation system and providing reliable travel options for remote and Far North communities. Key actions include improvements to rest areas, expanding bus service and moving forward with highway widening projects on key corridors in the region, such as Highway 11/17. The plan also includes actions to make further progress on our plan for passenger rail service in the North.
15. **Solicitor General** – Amendments to the Police Services Act (PSA) mandate every municipality in Ontario to prepare and adopt a community safety and well-being (CSWB) plan, new deadline for municipalities to prepare and adopt a CSWB plan is now Jul 1, 2021. Provides municipalities with an additional six months to complete their plans.
16. **Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs** – Announce the next application intake for the Rural Economic Development (RED) program open on Dec 11, 2020 and will be available until Feb 1, 2021. The program has two categories:
 - The **Strategic Economic Infrastructure** stream provides up to 30 per cent in cost-shared funding for minor capital projects that advance economic development and investment opportunities.
 - The **Economic Diversification and Competitiveness** stream provides up to 50 per cent in cost-shared funding for projects that remove barriers to business and job growth, attract investment, attract or retain a skilled workforce, strengthen sector and regional partnerships and diversify regional economies.
17. **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services** – Pleased to announce the release of *Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario (2020-2025)*. In this new five-year

strategy, we set out a vision for an Ontario where everyone can participate to their full potential in their communities and achieve greater independence, stability and, wherever possible, long-term job success to support themselves and their families. Received more than 2,500 survey responses and over 280 submissions and had additional engagement with Indigenous partners and municipal committees. Reducing and preventing poverty is a goal that is even more important in the context of the health, social and economic challenges resulting from COVID-19. Building on the government's COVID-19 response, the strategy connects them with employment, training, health, mental health, and housing supports to set them on a pathway to jobs and financial stability. The Social Assistance Recovery and Renewal Plan and Employment Services Transformation are the cornerstone initiatives of the strategy, supported by others like the *Roadmap to Wellness*, Ontario's mental health and addictions strategy.

18. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs – In order to help farm businesses and municipalities save time and money, the Ontario government is posting a discussion paper on a new regulatory proposal to implement recent amendments to the Drainage Act, as part of Bill 197, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act. The proposed regulation supports the government's commitment to reduce burden and promote economic development while maintaining effective environmental standards. Drainage is critical for supporting agricultural productivity and the production of food.

19. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Notice approved 3 month short-term forest management plan extension for the Algonquin Park Forest 2010-2021 Forest Management Plan, available electronically, <https://nrp.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online>.

20. Minister's Annual Report on Drinking Water 2020 and 2019-2020 Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report – These reports highlight the province's strong drinking water and wastewater monitoring, reporting and enforcement activities and programs and how these actions and those of our partners are effectively safeguarding Ontario's drinking water.

21. Ministry of Energy Northern Development and Mines – Government has revoked Ontario Regulations 355/17, effective Jan 1, 2021, removing the requirement to release a new Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP) every three years. In order to solicit broad-based feedback from across the province, will be opening a formal 90-day engagement on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO), please monitor the ERO for this notice and for a more detailed timeline in the near future.

22. AMO Policy Update, Long-Term Care Staffing Plan Released – "A Better Place to Live, A Better Place to Work: Ontario's Long-Term Care Staffing Plan". Included in the plan are six key areas of action to be delivered over four years, not least of which is an investment of up to \$1.9 billion annually by 2024-2025 to create more than 27,000 new positions for personal support workers (PSWs), registered nurses (RNs), and registered practical nurses (RPNs) in long-term care to meet the government's 2020 Ontario budget commitment to increase hours of daily direct care to an average of four hours per day for each long-term care resident. Ontario's working group on conservation authorities. The working group will be formed early in the new year and will provide input to help the Province develop regulations that will focus on:

- The mandatory core programs and services conservation authorities would be required to provide,
- The agreements between municipalities and conservation authorities and the transition period associated with non-mandatory programs and services, and
- How local members of the community can participate in their conservation authorities through community advisory boards.

Ontario's new poverty reduction strategy, key government initiatives are to help connect people experiencing poverty with education, skills training, health, and other supports. New mental health and addiction services, as part of the ongoing response to COVID-19, the government is providing \$147 million of funding to increase access to supports. This allocation builds on the provincial Roadmap to Wellness Plan.

23. AMO Watchfile, Dec 17, 2020, In This Issue –

- AMO office closure during the holidays.
- Provincial survey: Seeking feedback to improve the towing industry.
- Connecting Rural Ontario Conference - Don't miss the Early Bird!
- AMO Launches its 2021 Virtual Annual General Meeting and Conference.
- How to ensure your CFTA compliance in 2021.
- Big purchases in your budget? LAS can help!
- LAS Blog: Year end message.
- ONE Investment fall webinars.
- Investments 101 - Online training.
- Careers with AMO, Durham, OPS and Canada Council for the Arts.

24. AMO Watchfile, Jan 7, 2021, In This Issue –

- Maple Medical to help AMO members/communities by donating certified PPEs.

- Important deadlines coming for broadband funding.
 - Provincial survey: Seeking feedback to improve the towing industry.
 - Three weeks until ROMA 2021 and there is still time to register!
 - New lighting incentives for LED upgrades.
 - Spring Road/Sidewalk Assessments ready to book.
 - LAS Blog: Accessible websites.
 - Energy Training in an era of social distancing.
 - Keeping up-to-date with LAS.
 - Careers with United Counties of Leeds & Grenville, Greater Sudbury and Ottawa.
- 25. The Municipal Experts, AMCTO Legislative Express Annual Round-Up** – Legislative passage of Bill 204 which provides the legislative impetus for single register of voters for provincial and municipal elections (proclamation pending), nomination day 3rd Fri in Aug. Budget deficit is estimated to be \$33.1 billion in 2021-22 and \$28.2 billion in 2022-23. Implementation of the Voters’ List ahead of 2024, election training and tools plus preparing the post-2022 municipal election survey.
 - 26. FCM Communique** – FCM welcomes new federal climate measures to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Congratulations Edmonton, winner of the 2020 Inspire Award. Upcoming deadline for FCM resolutions. International Awards announcement coming in Jan. New insights on asset management.
 - 27. Dec News from The Ontario Heritage Trust** – New ways to celebrate communities, Doors open Ontario, Emancipation Day.
 - 28. Prime Minister’s Awards Nomination Deadline is Jan 12, 2021** – Do you know an inspirational educator, amazing teacher or early childhood educator?
 - 29. Municipal World** – 7 vital qualities to look for in your local leader, relationship builder, a team player, emotionally mature, approachable, critical thinker, and prepared.
 - 30. Municipal World** – How microliving can help reshape communities. Changing policy, shaping the future. Seizing the opportunity for innovation. Solution for affordable housing challenges.

INFORMATION – COVID-19

- 31. Town of Kingsville Resolution** – Calls upon the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, as well as the Ontario cabinet and Health officials, to protect the health of Ontarians and our small businesses by allowing them to remain open to in-store sales and service with limited capacity and increased safety measures.
- 32. Township of Nairn and Hyman Resolution** – Calling upon the provincial government to stop the mandatory closures of these small businesses, as our municipality believes that these businesses are “essential” for not only taxes collected by the municipality but also the mental health of the owners, employees and clients of these businesses, and that these small businesses have not been linked to the spread of the virus.
- 33. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Possible COVID-19 Exposure at a Private School** – Due to privacy associated with the small population at the private school, the Health Unit will not be identifying the school. The Health Unit is working with the school to ensure that all individuals who are considered high risk are contacted.
- 34. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Declares Community Outbreak Over** – In connection with Nipissing University, all nineteen individuals associated with the outbreak are considered resolved.
- 35. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Identifies Risk of Exposure to Night Shift at Walmart’s North Bay Location** – On the evenings of Dec 11,12 and 13. The Health Unit has not identified a COVID-19 risk to shoppers, cashiers or staff working during the day.
- 36. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, West Parry Sound Experiencing Increase in Individuals Testing Positive for COVID-19** – On Dec 19, 2020, the Health Unit identified eight (8) new individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, seven (7) from the District of Parry Sound and one (1) from the Nipissing District. This is the single highest daily number of COVID-19 cases in the Health Unit’s District, since the start of the pandemic.
- 37. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, District Moves to Lockdown on Dec 26** – For 14-days.
- 38. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Issuing COVID-19 Class Order Under Section 22 of the HPPA** – Enables North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit to enforce self-isolation requirements for the group of individuals whom it applies, is different from the provincial shutdown, applies to all persons who are required by public health to self-isolate, including those who:
 - a. Are a confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19;
 - b. Have new symptoms (even mild symptoms) or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting the results of their test;
 - c. Have symptoms (even mild symptoms) of COVID-19, or have had such symptoms within the past 10 days;

- d. Are a close contact of a person identified in (a) even if they do not themselves have any symptoms of COVID-19; or
- e. Are a parent, or person with responsibilities of a parent, of a person under sixteen years of age identified in (a), (b), (c), or (d) who resides or is present in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit region.
- 39. MPAC: Pausing Field Inspections** – Province-wide shutdown beginning on Dec 26 extends to Jan 9, 2021 in northern Ontario and Jan 23 in southern Ontario.
- 40. AMO Policy Update, New Stronger Public Health Measures** – Ontario government, in consultation with provincial and local public health, is moving seven public health regions to new levels, effective Mon, Dec 14, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.:
- Grey-Lockdown
 - Windsor-Essex Country Health Unit; and
 - York Region Public Health
 - Red-Control
 - Middlesex-London Health Unit;
 - Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit; and
 - Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
 - Orange-Restrict
 - Eastern Ontario Health Unit
 - Yellow-Protect
 - Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.
- 41. AMO Policy Update** – Financial Accountability Office Reports on financial impacts of COVID-19 on Ontario Municipalities. Finding that the pandemic will ultimately result in a cost of \$6.8 billion in lost revenues and expenses for municipal governments. Ontario expanding supportive housing, over \$47 million in investments will strengthen supports for individuals with mental health and addictions issues who are either homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. COVID-19 modelling and emergency order extension until Jan 20, 2021. Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, released updated pandemic modelling showing growth in cases, ICU bed occupancy, and mortality. The modelling suggests that relaxing current public health restrictions would increase cases, ICU demand and mortality. Ontario legislature adjourned, fall session of the Legislature wrapped up on Tue. The next session will begin on Feb 16, 2021.
- 42. AMO Policy Update** – Province allocated \$120 million in Social Services Relief Funding, will help municipal governments, District Social Service Administration Boards, and Indigenous community partners with their COVID-19 responses to protect the health and safety of vulnerable people. Vaccine rollout planning and coordination, encourage the municipal sector to reach out now and assist your public health and health care partners to make 2021's vaccine distribution process as well planned, transparent, and seamless as is possible.
- 43. AMO Policy Update, Phase 2 ReStart Agreement Municipal Funding** – This \$696 million in relief funding is broken out into two sections:
- First, \$396 million will be allocated to 48 individual municipalities that have demonstrated the need for additional assistance in covering operating deficits for 2020.
 - The remaining \$299 million will be allocated across all 444 municipalities to help provide additional financial relief to help support operating budgets in 2021. Machar, Township of \$20,000 2021 Funding, South River, Village of \$87,000 Application Based Funding, \$20,000 2021 Funding, help ensure they do not carry operating deficits into 2021.
- 44. AMO Policy Update, Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Rolling Out** – Doses of the Pfizer vaccine to 17 more hospital sites throughout the province over the next two weeks, including regions with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection. This is part of the initial phase of the government's three-phase vaccine implementation plan that began on Dec 14 in Toronto and Ottawa. Extension of temporary relief from ESA termination and severance provisions until Jul 3, 2021.
- 45. AMO Policy Update, Lockdown 2.0: Province-Wide Lockdown Starts Dec 26, Communities Strategy and Enforcement, New School Protocols, Child Care, and Small Business Grant** – Lockdown measures include:
- **Restricting indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household.**
 - **Prohibiting in-person shopping in most retail settings.**
 - **Restricting indoor access to shopping malls.**
 - **Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining.**
- The government is providing \$12.5 million to implement a High Priority Communities Strategy to take a tailored, community-based approach to fund community agencies in 15 priority neighbourhoods in Durham, Peel, Toronto, York, and Ottawa. Additional funding of \$42 million will

also be available to establish isolation centres. New school protocols and child care, all publicly funded and private elementary and secondary schools will move to teacher-led remote learning when students return from the winter break on Jan 4, 2021. During this period child care centres, authorized recreational and skill building programs, and home-based child care services will remain open. From Jan 4-8, 2021, before and after school programs will be closed and emergency child care for health care and frontline workers will be provided. New Ontario small business support grant will provide a minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$20,000 for eligible businesses, how to apply will be announced in Jan 2021.

- 46. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, MAHC Assessment Centre COVID Testing Update** – The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health has Announced COVID-19 testing for outbound international travelers will no longer be funded by the province. Area residents will no longer be able to book a test at Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare’s (MAHC) COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Bracebridge if the reason for the test is travel. The province recommends travelers consult the guidelines of their airline and country of destination and if a test is required, seek the test through a private testing facility or travel clinic. Participating Shoppers Drug Mart locations are available online.
- 47. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, COVID-19 Update, Dec 21, 2020** – Simcoe Muskoka region has reported 3,075 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka, of which 124 are reported in Muskoka (Gravenhurst 25; Huntsville 39; Muskoka Lakes 29; Lake of Bays 4; Bracebridge 19; Georgian Bay 8) with 106 recovered and two deceased.

Covid-19 Phase 2 Funding

43. highlights additional Covid 19 Phase 2 funding of \$87,000 to South River that may be related to the Arena, we don’t know the specific details, information has been provided by AMO. \$299 million is being allocated across all 444 municipalities to help provide more financial relief, as 2021 operating budgets are finalized. An additional \$396 million is also being allocated to 48 municipalities (South River included, Durham and Orillia are next closest to receive Phase 2 funding) that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 and have demonstrated a need for additional assistance in covering their 2020 operating deficits. Through Phase 2 the Ontario Government committed to providing further financial support to those municipalities that require additional funds to address extraordinary operating expenditures and revenue losses arising from COVID-19 in 2020, over and above the allocation provided in Phase 1. Requests for Phase 2 were application based.

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

Snowmobile Speed Complaint

Councillor Wood referred a snowmobile speed complaint from Morris Ln. He informed the complainant that this is an OPP, not municipal enforced matter, but the complainant could submit a letter to us.

ADJOURN

8-21 Scarlett, Wood

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 25, 2021. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

BP