

TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – TELECONFERENCE MEETING
Monday, June 8, 2020

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

Council present in the Council Chambers physically distanced; Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren and Councillor Neil Scarlett. Council attending by telephone; Councillors Blair Flowers and Bart Wood. Staff attending and physically distanced; Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul and Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney.

Guests registered and attending by telephone for the Public Meeting portion: Paula Murphy, and Karol Hyland.

PUBLIC MEETING

6:00 pm Application for Rezoning; Part Lot 29 & 30, Con 1 (4-019-60)

Notice provided by 1st class mail on May 15, 2020. The applicant summarized the rezoning requested; to facilitate the construction of a dwelling. The Mayor confirmed with the applicant the amendments required to the lot standards in the Rural Zone; minimum front yard of 8 m where Section 4.8.3 c) of the Zoning By-Law 45-12 as amended requires a minimum of 15 m, minimum side yard of 4.5 m (western side yard) where Section 4.8.3 d) requires a minimum side yard of 6 m, minimum exterior side yard of 14 m where Section 4.8.3 e) requires a minimum exterior side yard of 15 m. The Mayor requested any comments: oral from any public attending, written from the Clerk Administrator. No written comments received. Paula Murphy put forward a verbal objection stating she hadn't known the property was for sale, and she officially opposed the application on the basis the property is too small overall, potentially too small for a septic system, and basically she doesn't want the property developed. It was indicated the municipality has no control over private sale of property, and approval for a septic system is a requirement for a building permit. It was also added the applicant's sketch reflects there is adequate space and the septic is located on the side of the lot furthest from Ms. Murphy. Ms. Murphy remained opposed. Decision deferred, comments will be forwarded to our planner for review and report back. Parties attending tonight will be apprised when Council will consider the further report and decision.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of May 25, 2020 minutes, Resolution

85-20 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we adopt May 25, 2020 minutes. CARRIED

a. 2020 Budget Update Release, Resolution

86-20 McLaren, Wood

THAT we approve 2020 Budget Information release. CARRIED

Tax Rates have been input into OPTA (Online Property Tax Analysis), completed and data frozen for Final tax billing purposes. Files have been posted for our billing supplier software purposes. There are several steps required in the budget process to the Final tax billing mail out in Aug.

b. South River Shared Services Monthly Reports; Arena inquiry reply, meeting update

Further to discussions at our last meeting, inquiry sent, error identified and corrected from budget line Arena-Telephone. Revised Income Statement provided up to Apr 30, 2020.

Date for Arena Committee meeting requested by South River has been set for Jun 11, 2020.

c. Town of Caledon 10 Year Economic Development Strategy; additional information

Reviewed, the strategy is more applicable to a larger, more urban municipality.

- **Service Delivery Review**

The Clerk Administrator advised kick-off meeting has been held and information sent.

2. Blue Sky Net Economic Growth Corp; Almaguin North Parry Sound Broadband Project update

Update provided on funding programs: CRTC, Provincial Broadband Fund, and Federal Broadband Fund. Application submitted to CRTC (Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission) fund in plenty of time. There was an announcement today regarding a small Provincial Broadband Fund (\$150 million). This is not new funding, but part of the original \$315 million announced last year. Applications are not yet open but as soon as they do, Blue Sky will submit an application for the project. Very soon, we'll see a new partnership between CIRA (Canadian Internet Registration Authority) and Blue Sky Net. They'll be incorporating the CIRA speed test into connectednorth.ca that will allow ISED (Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada) to view speed tests in real time. They suggest all citizens go to connectednorth.ca and take the CIRA speed test that should be up the week after Jun 3, 2020. It is helpful to support the application in this way. Still no word on the Federal Broadband Fund. Councillor Wood expressed concern that the criteria for eligibility is very narrow. The Fund uses the hexagon mapping system and if one household has access to 50/10 Mbps service, then the whole hexagon is not eligible.

a. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing letter to Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Minister of Rural Economic Development/Minister for Women and Gender Equality, adding his voice and those of Ontario's municipalities to the call for urgent federal action to provide immediate funding for reliable broadband access across Ontario, Ontario has targeted \$315 m over 5 years to expand broadband and cellular infrastructure

The letter calls for urgent federal action to provide immediate funding for reliable broadband access across Ontario. Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has heard from the 1st day he took office that lack of access to reliable high speed internet service is holding communities, people and businesses back. Now as Ontario and our towns and cities are working together to respond to the Covid-19 outbreak, there is even more urgency to address the gaps in service and high costs. Ontario cannot do this alone, urgent investment from the federal government is required. For many in Ontario, the costs to access service are also prohibitively high. The lack of broadband access in rural Ontario puts everyone in unserved or underserved areas at a disadvantage; students seeking help on homework while learning remotely, seniors and other vulnerable individuals looking to access critical services, and business owners working hard to keep afloat and compete during challenging times. Broadband limitations also restrict the services that rural and northern municipalities can provide to their residents. Broadband infrastructure is an essential building block, we need the federal government's commitment to invest without delay in the future of Ontario's towns and cities.

3. Non-Profit Organization for Almaguin Housing (NOAH) thanks and update

A note received to express thanks (appreciation for our letter of support) and provide an update to Council. In early Feb, they were able to purchase a property in Sundridge, including the Castle Inn/Schnitzel Haus restaurant, and made good progress toward obtaining rezoning and in meeting environmental requirements. This month, they expect to clear the property and take initial steps toward construction. The Castle Inn building, one of the oldest buildings in the village, will remain and the restaurant will continue to operate. They anticipate the opening of their 50 unit Seniors accommodation in the Fall of 2021. In the immediate future, a website will be available to address the many questions arising (www.noahhousing.ca) and a sod turning ceremony will soon follow.

4. Pay List by Fund for May 2020, Resolution

87-20 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we authorize Pay List as of May 31, 2020: \$97,188.07 Grand Total. CARRIED

- a. **Women's Own Resource Centre asking for support in the amount of .50 per capita**

Approved \$100.

- b. **Almaguin Highlands Secondary School contribution towards Graduation Awards**

Approved \$125.

COMMITTEES

5. **Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce; help small businesses, how you can help:**

Shop local, Purchase gift cards now, Continue supporting your regular service providers, Write reviews, Reschedule instead of cancelling, Make referrals, Before you cancel pause and ask, Now may be time to get those projects done. Local businesses Stichiz www.facebook.com/fortheLoveoffibre/ and Copperhead Distillery www.facebook.com/CopperheadDistillery/ featured, Canada Post's Think Small support program.

6. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit 2019 Municipal FIR Schedule 77 & financial situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic, monitoring extra costs & cost savings, no risk of extra levy, Ontario extending one time mitigation funding for an additional calendar year (2021)**

Required for consolidation into our Audit, statement of municipal reserve, Schedule 77 proportionate share. Update on Health Unit's financial situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic; monitoring extra costs incurred to respond to Covid-19, also monitoring cost savings related to regular work reductions, at this time managing within the current budget, notified of extra funding available for Covid-19 for extraordinary costs that would put into deficit, with this funding as a backup, there will be no risk of an extra levy for 2020. With respect to 2021 planning, Ontario is providing stability to municipalities as they complete 2021 budget planning by committing to extending one-time mitigation funding for an additional calendar year for Health Units. Extending mitigation funding will keep municipal funding levels for public health units in calendar year 2021 at the same level as calendar year 2020. This is in addition to the \$100 m Covid-19 Contingency Fund.

INFORMATION

7. **City of Brantford Resolution to declare Mar 17 be proclaimed Essential Worker's Day** – our community owes a profound debt of gratitude to every single essential worker who ensured our community could continue to operate
8. **Export Marketing Assistance Program** – funded via NOHFC (Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation) and Fednor, new intake funding for Northern Ontario-based companies, associations and not-for-profit entities, Northern Ontario Exports Diversify, Expand, Succeed, delivered by ONEDC (Ontario's North Economic Development Corporation as a partnership between the cities of North Bay, Sudbury, Sault St Marie, Timmins and Thunder Bay, for inquiries/application form, contact elena.zabudskaya@greatersudbury.ca or scott.rennie@greatersudbury.ca
9. **Ministry of Energy, Northern Development & Mines – Introducing the Regional Opportunities Investment Tax Credit** – the government is proposing to introduce a new 10% refundable Corporate Income Tax credit for capital investments, available for expenditures in excess of \$50,000 <https://budget.ontario.ca/2020/marchupdate/annex.html#section-3>
10. **MPAC In Touch May 2020** – Delivering new assessment for municipalities, Finding new ways to share information, Creating faster access to assessment data, Upcoming municipal webinars, Partnerships in action, Covid-19 resources
11. **AMO Watchfile May 21, 2020 In This Issue**
- COVID-19 resources.
 - 2020-2022 AMO Board of Directors - Call for Nominations.
 - Apply for an AMO Federal Gas Tax Award!
 - BEACON: A digital mental health therapy program for members.
 - Regional Relief and Recovery Fund now accepting applications.
 - Extension to Natural Gas extension applications.
 - Virtual AMO 2020 Conference.
 - AMO Annual Conference Exhibit Hall.
 - Deliver services efficiently with digital solutions.

- AMO's social media webinar series available through Municipal Education.
- RETScreen Workshop: You don't want to miss it!
- Use FCM funding for your Road & Sidewalk Assessment.
- Municipal Group Buying Program: COVID-19 updates and PPE.
- Career with Transit Windsor.

12. AMO Watchfile May 28, 2020 In This Issue

- COVID-19 resources.
- Municipal Labour Relations During Covid-19 Part 2 webinar now available.
- 2020-2022 AMO Board of Directors - Call for Nominations.
- Former Mississauga CAO Janice Baker takes stock.
- Resolutions on Blue Box Transition due by June 30.
- On-site and excess soil management webinar.
- Update on AMO's groundbreaking Virtual Conference.
- AMO Annual Conference Exhibit Hall.
- Communications through COVID-19.
- ONE Investment launches first Joint Investment Board for Ontario municipalities.
- 507/18 energy reporting deadline extended.
- FCM MAMP funding - up to 90% for group road/sidewalk assessments.
- Group buying COVID-19 PPE and vendor updates.

13. ROMA Insider May 2020 – Pandemic Highlights Digital Divide, Financial Relief for Municipalities, Broader Investment Options Now Available for Municipalities, connectivity during Covid-19 isn't a luxury, it's a lifeline, we're all in this together, the gap in rural internet connectivity has been highlighted by the pandemic, while there are no quick fixes, ROMA and AMO are advocating on 2 fronts, in the short term seeking temporary solutions such as offering low cost Mobile Internet Sticks at a reduced rate or setting up temporary wireless hotspots for rural residents, a private sector role will be important for long term solutions, the federal and provincial government commitments to date are encouraging, all stakeholders will need to work together, broadband connectivity across all of Ontario will be key to the province's future, ROMA's board met recently to discuss how Covid-19 response is hitting rural municipal budgets, support from the federal and provincial governments to stabilize municipal budgets is critical, ONE Investment launched a new era in investing for municipal governments through its brand new Joint Investment Board

14. FCM Communique – Carole Saab named new CEO of FCM

15. FCM Communique – FCM's 2020 Sustainable Communities Conference is going virtual, New format, same quality experience, despite the change to a virtual format, SCC will still bring together municipal leaders from across Canada and beyond along with valued sponsors, community partners and exhibitors, only this time, it'll happen online, theme of this year's conference is Bringing projects to life, Updated conference program coming

16. FCM Voice – FCM's next CEO: Carole Saab, most of you know Carole as Executive Director of FCM's Policy and Public Affairs dept, tireless champion for the local order of government, selection follows a 6 month nationwide search, Case study: One Mayor's role in his community's asset management journey, Video: Why invest in asset management, Reminder: Fostering brownfield redevelopment email series, Corporate Sponsor; Pandemic to transformation: an opportunity for construction

17. FCM Voice – Federal help for municipalities: a modest first step, accelerate 2020-2021 Gas Tax Fund transfers, New course: Climate leadership for elected officials, Reminder: short term rental survey, Covid-19: Emergency funding appeal gains more support, Webinar: join the Global Covenant of Mayors in Canada, Canada Post's Government & Community Affairs Team: here to help community leaders, FCM Tweets

18. FCM President's Corner – Looking back, driving forward, annual conference has been cancelled, annual general meeting and elections postponed until the fall, Covid-19 pandemic continues to turn our communities and our lives upside down, FCM's remarkable advocacy, Celebrating FCM's programs; Green Municipal Fund (GMF), Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP)

19. May news from the Ontario Heritage Trust – Up front, Beth Hanna CEO of the Ontario Heritage Trust, Museums from a whole new perspective, offering virtual tours, videos and webinars, Trust easement museums in the spotlight, the Trust raises more than 65% of its funding, give today

20. Laurentian University – Global design competition puts Sudbury in the spotlight, McEwen School of Architecture gives back to the city through an urban design competition with the goal of providing new perspectives for the city following the end of Covid-19, check it out at www.sudbury2050.ca

21. Almaguin Adult Learning June Calendar 2020 www.almaguinadultlearning.org

INFORMATION – COVID-19

22. Town of Oakville letter, resolution, article – request urgent action to ensure the safe and speedy re-introduction of patio service for restaurants in Ontario, concerned as a result of the Alcohol and

Gaming Commission (AGCO) no reviewing patio applications during this time period, significant bottleneck in the application process when the Province lifts its restrictions, resolution passed to enable the provision of temporary commercial services outdoors and patios associated with existing restaurants and news article from local paper on this initiative, Town staff have proactively begun to accept and review patio applications

- 23. North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit** – The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit announced today that there was a privacy breach in relation to its online COVID-19 dashboard, The dashboard contained information related to the number of COVID-19 tests and confirmed case in the local community, Inadvertently, personal identifying information was made accessible through the dashboard, A member of the public reported the breach to the Health Unit, The likelihood of someone else having accessed the information is quite low, because it was not immediately visible and accessing it required a number of steps that were not obvious
- 24. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce** – with the recent framework for opening our Province, the Government has released general workplace guidance, sector specific guidance and planning for operations resources on the Ontario.ca COVID-19 Business Support webpage, AHCC recommend that part of your plan includes consideration for what to do if we have a 2nd wave and are required to move back to increased restrictions or closures, Business Continuity Plans and Templates in AHCC COVID-19 Business Toolkit section under support
<https://almaguinhighlandschamberofcommerce.wildapricot.org/Blog>
- 25. AMO Covid-19 Update** – Emergency Order Extended to Jun 9 include the closures of outdoor playgrounds, play structures and equipment, public swimming pools and outdoor water facilities, as well as bars and restaurants except for takeout and delivery, continues to be restrictions on social gatherings of more than 5 people and staff redeployment rules in place for long term care homes and congregate settings like retirement homes and women’s shelters, Next Steps on Long Term Care deeply concerned about the Canadian Armed Forces’ findings on their observations while dispatched to assist in 5 long term care homes in Ontario, while municipal long term care homes were not among those implicated, there are important lessons for all operators, Premier Ford noted today that there will be an independent commission into elderly care and will include public hearings, Ontario will be taking over the management of 4 of the 5 long term care homes, the government will be conducting extremely rigorous inspections of those homes, as well as 13 other homes facing Covid-19 challenges and will be doing random spot checks across the province, have been advocating for better funding and coordination of all seniors services for well over a decade, the municipal sector operates over 100, or 16% of the homes with 17,000 beds, about 1 in 5 beds is in a municipal home, as well municipalities contribute significant funding over and above the provincial funding, about \$350 m per year not including capital
- 26. AMO Covid-19 Update** – Looking Ahead it’s been 10 weeks since the state of emergency was declared in Ontario, municipal governments have been on the front line of response and recovery every day since and will be for the foreseeable future, our residents and businesses have made enormous sacrifices to keep our communities safe, municipal employees have made heroic efforts to protect essential services and to support and protect the most vulnerable people in our communities, municipal Councils have ensured needed resources are in place, Ontario has joined AMO and FCM in advocating for federal financial assistance, members are deeply concerned about the future of public health, paramedic services and long term care and many other issues such as expanded broadband and the protection of our shared environment, AMO recognizes the remarkable leadership of municipal Councils and extraordinary municipal public administrators in responding to the Covid-19 emergency and creating a foundation for recovery
- 27. AMO Covid-19 Update** – Pandemic Pay Update for the municipal sector this will include public health and paramedic services, additional details for long term care homes, and housing and shelters will be coming shortly, is for those front line staff that have direct physical interaction with people who may be infected with Covid-19, will not apply to management even those who are working in providing front line services to residents, patients or the public, in the first week of Jun, ministries will start sending funding details to employers that receive funding directly from government and service delivery managers, eligible employees will receive pandemic pay through their existing payroll systems, appropriate accountability requirements will be put in place, pandemic pay website updated today, will involve 3 ministries and 4 program areas
- 28. AMO Covid-19 Update** – Federal Gas Tax Funding Accelerated, Pandemic Pay, ESA Changes, Additional Re-openings, accelerated Gas Tax Fund in 2020 a first step in supporting towns and cities, will be forwarded in one payment in Jun, rather than in two in Jul and Nov and can pay for a range of capital projects in 18 different categories, AMO has supported FCM’s call for \$10 billion in

emergency funding from the federal government to help municipalities to continue operating during the emergency, Province will be distributing this temporary top-up pay through existing transfer payment agreements so that employers will pay eligible employees through their existing payroll processes, funds will be distributed to employers on an allocation basis and will be reconciled at a later date, Jun 5 is the target date for funds to begin being transferred, Province released a new regulation that is intended to provide temporary relief from the ESA's termination and severance provisions for employers whose operations have been shut down or otherwise curtailed by Covid-19, do not apply to unionized staff, Collective agreement provisions and the ESA's usual temporary layoff rules will continue to apply in unionized workplaces, enabling the Retirement Homes Regulatory Authority (RHRA) to better support seniors living in retirement homes during the Covid-19 outbreak, regulation change increases the emergency payment the RHRA can pay to eligible retirement home residents from \$2,000 to \$3,500, funding can be used to support residents to cover costs for transportation, alternative accommodation, or temporary care, Ontario government is starting to reintroduce camping in Ontario Parks and recreational camping on Crown land, require the public to continue to practice required public health measures, drive-in movie theatres that were in existence before May 29 to reopen with restrictions and batting cages

- 29. AMO Covid-19 Update** – Broadband Funding Announcement, Emergency Extended, and Pandemic Pay Webinar, Province Launches the Improving Connectivity for Ontario Program \$150 m provincial broadband and cellular infrastructure program Improving Connectivity in Ontario (ICON) initially announced in Jul 2019 as part of the Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan, Ontario has extended the provincial Declaration of Emergency to Jun 30, may be further extended with the approval of the Legislature, committed to sending the pandemic pay funding details to employers that receive funding under this temporary program
- 30. FedNor Outreach** – The Prime Minister announced expanded eligibility criteria for the Canada Emergency Business Account to include more owner-operated small business and help protect jobs in Northern Ontario, The CEBA provides a loan of up to \$40,000 to eligible businesses to assist with their immediate operating cash flow needs, I would encourage you to refer clients to banks, credit unions and caisses populaires for more information about CEBA, or visit <https://ceba-cuec.ca/>.

88-20 Wood, McLaren

THAT we support 7. City of Brantford Resolution to declare Mar 17 be proclaimed Essential Worker's Day – our community owes a profound debt of gratitude to every single essential worker who ensured our community could continue to operate. CARRIED

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

31. Notice of Proposed Road Closing and Sale By-Law 4-238 (55 Quirt Rd)

Advertising and posting of notices will begin as required. Public meeting will be Jul 13, 2020.

Potential Amendments to the Provincial Offences Act to Expand the Availability of Remote Proceedings in Provincial Offences Courts

At the direction of the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice (OCJ), Provincial Offences Act matters scheduled from Mar 16-Jul 3, 2020 have been rescheduled to a later date. As the Ministry of the Attorney General works with the OCJ to plan for resumption of municipal court operations, they're reaching out to you and key stakeholders to ask for feedback and comment on potential amendments to the Provincial Offences Act to enable the enhanced use of remote appearances in POA proceedings. The objective of these potential amendments would be to broaden the options available to the court and to municipal partners as they plan for the resumption of POA court operations and to increase efficiencies in POA proceedings in the longer term. The needs of the justice sector have changed during this outbreak, and the demands on the system will continue to evolve as we begin to see the province reopening in stages. To address these changes, we will continue to act on the guidance of public health experts, and we will continue to work together to develop new ways of conducting matters. POA proceedings have been suspended until Jul 6, 2020 at the earliest. Information to be forwarded to Councillor Wood for review. *Email sent to us Jun 4 at 7:52 pm with letter dated Jun 4, 2020 requesting written comments by Jun 10, 2020.

Narrows Beach

The Clerk Administrator advised the Province announced today that the government is easing restrictions in communities where it is safe to do so, based on health unit regions. Effective this coming Friday, June 12, 2020 at 12:01 am, the Province will increase the limit on social gatherings from 5 to 10 people across the province, regardless of whether a region has moved to Stage 2. Additionally, all places of worship in Ontario will also be permitted to open with physical distancing in place and attendance limited to no more than 30% of the building capacity to ensure the safety of worshippers. Businesses and services permitted to reopen with proper health and safety measures in place in regions entering Stage 2 include: beach access and additional camping at Ontario Parks. We are still reviewing the details (including effect on playgrounds/play structures) and additional information will be provided for discussion and decision at our Public Works meeting this Thu.

ADJOURN

89-20 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Jun 22, 2020. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

BP.