

TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 8, 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, Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney and Administrative Assistant Teresa Rennie.

Guests observing: Marvin Nolan, Pearl Ivens, John Mowat, Almaguin News Reporter Sarah Cooke.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Feb 22, 2021 minutes, Resolution

36-21 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we adopt Feb 22, 2021 minutes. CARRIED

2. By-Law for outdated records, Resolution

Part of the annual retention procedure, 1 year is archived and 1 year is removed, items listed.

37-21 Wood, Flowers

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to By-Law No. 6-21 to authorize the destruction of certain outdated Township records. CARRIED

3. Administration Update, Resolution

Report provided. Tax collection had 0 accounts forwarded to start Tax Sale proceedings in Jan 2021 as recommended due to the Covid-19 pandemic and citizens facing personal financial pressures, staff are proficient in the collection process and proactive on tax accounts, Interim taxes have just been sent, there was very little change in the number of accounts for action, 44 this year compared to 40 last year, which indicates we're still in good shape. Administration staff remain busy with regular duties and additional duties, the workload we've experience during Covid-19 is at least twice what it would be normally, we continue to experience a large volume of citizen inquiries and building inquiries, we've continue to process rezoning and minor variance applications during the pandemic, Municipal Depts remain closed to the public in person with alternate service available, new Municipal Property Assessment Corporation Municipal Connect platform being introduced. Treasurer Deputy Clerk has received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing AMP Levels of Service Workshop. Administrative Assistant is fielding frontline inquiries on planning and doing a great job. Additional workload details provided to Council. Administration is stretched, we just managed to get items to the Auditors in time for Audit and we've just barely started Budget.

38-21 McLaren, Scarlett

THAT we accept Administration Update as of Mar 1, 2021. CARRIED

4. ELCA follow up Report on Phragmites, lessons learned in first 4 years

Report identifies the lessons learned over the past 4 years, provided for information. Mayor Carleton inquired on any dates known for this year's effort. Dates are not currently known.

5. Pay List by Fund for Feb 2021, Resolution

Reviewed; insurance increase noted, steamer for culverts purchased. Arena Q1 was requested in the wrong amount, we had already processed it in the right amount and put in the mail.

39-21 Wood, Scarlett

THAT we authorize Pay List by Fund for Feb 2021: \$310,675.86 Grand Total. CARRIED

a. Santa Claus Parade Committee invitation to attend parade Dec 11, 2021, donate, participate

Council expressed interest, but would like to wait for the time being. Decision deferred.

COMMITTEES

6. Shared Services Unaudited Statements for Arena and Fire 2020, Resolution

Unaudited statements received in time for our Audit, audited statements provided after South River's Audit is done. There may be some adjustment/variance to the figures provided.

40-21 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we acknowledge Shared Services Unaudited Statements for Arena and Fire 2020 reflecting a Net Variance (amount owing over budget) of \$328.15 for Arena, and an Additional Transfer to Reserve/Net Revenue and Expenses (budget surplus) of \$64,548.96 for Fire into Fire Reserve. CARRIED

7. Reply on Arena staffing inquiry due to extended shutdown

Further to last meeting, question asked about staffing. Reply from South River Clerk Administrator says they're working through the staffing requirements, they have some time as the ice removal and regular maintenance will take them to at least the end of Mar. Council expressed they've asked several times to no avail, and that maintenance continues to be the answer provided by South River.

8. Shared Services Agreements Reply to Statement, Resolution

Discussed. Councillor Wood suggested we not reply directly to the statement, but address comments during negotiations. Councillor Scarlett expressed that if it's not addressed properly, it's never going to change. The Clerk Administrator advised we've requested previously that items be shown on the agenda and the background material provided in advance. Deputy Mayor McLaren and Councillor Flowers expressed support for the reply. Mayor Carleton summarized this is our proposal, we think it will work better, we've had difficulty having a say on Arena, contracts, etc.

41-21 McLaren, Flowers

THAT we approve Reply to Statement read by Mayor Coleman on Feb 11, 2021. CARRIED

Recorded Vote: Yeas; Lynda Carleton, Ron McLaren, Blair Flowers, Neil Scarlett. Nays; Bart Wood.

9. Joint Building minutes of Feb 18, 2021, Resolution

Discussed. Draft Budget reflects no municipal operating grant required for 2021. Difficulties and workload for Admin associated with the new Municipal Zoning Compliance Form required and implemented by Building on Jan 1 were reviewed in detail. The initial zoning inquiry to Admin seems to have been dropped from the new process. The forms are coming through Building with no advance dialogue to Admin to determine the zone and setback requirements. It was agreed the property owners need some guidance/education from Building or an example to follow to know what to do, much the same as Admin does for a Building Permit; you need your septic approval first. The workload experienced for the form to date is significant, and we're in the off season, we don't know how we'll keep up in the building season when building permit activity will see an increase. By-Law Officer Complaint Form received from Chief Building Official. CBO advises JBC approved the use of the form and it has been sent to By-Law Officers to use. JBC rep Councillor Wood advised the form hasn't been reviewed at JBC. Next Joint Building Committee is Mar 18, 2021 for discussion.

42-21 Wood, Flowers

THAT we acknowledge Building minutes of Feb 18, 2021. CARRIED

10. Joint Building Permit Summaries for Feb, Resolution

Total number of permits = 6, Burks Falls/Joly/Strong/Ryerson with 1 each and Sundridge with 2.

43-21 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we accept Building Permit summaries for Feb 2021. CARRIED

11. ARI minutes of Jan 20, Feb 17 and 2021 Budget, Resolution

Reviewed. Per household cost is up significantly. Committee rep Councillor Wood provided an explanation and budget details; Stewardship revenues are down, Hazmat costs are up for 2 dates.

44-21 Wood, Scarlett

THAT we acknowledge ARI minutes of Jan 20 & Feb 17, 2021, including Hazmat cost of \$7.27 per household = \$6,652.05 for 2021, representing an increase of 25.5% over the actual for 2020.

CARRIED

12. District of Parry Sound Municipal Association updates

Executive met electronically, passed a resolution waiving 2021 membership fees, directed the Spring meeting be cancelled, expects the Fall meeting will also be cancelled, will revisit this Summer.

13. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit 2021 Municipal Levy Information Package

Mitigation funding from the Province covers the additional municipal cost due to the change in the cost sharing formula to 30 municipal/70 provincial. This change would have resulted in a 42% increase in the levy. The Province provided this transition funding to eliminate the 2021 increase for municipalities. It would be prudent for municipalities to plan for the full 42% increase in 2022. 2021 levy to us is \$27,334 = +\$11,480.28 for 42% increase. Levy is per Board of Health budget requisition.

14. Eastholme E District of Parry Sound Home for the Aged 2021 Levy, Annual General Meeting

The 2021 municipal levy was increased by 10%. In addition there is a one-time special assessment levy for Covid-19 related cost increases. Combined the increase to us is \$18.99%. Total levy for 2021 is \$85,909 + Special Assessment Levy Covid-19 \$7,810 = \$93,719. Area rep is Mayor Jim Coleman. Mayor Carleton requested additional details for Annual General Meeting to attend. Levy is per Eastholme Board of Management budget requisition apportioned per Ontario Regulation.

INFORMATION

15. Municipality of McDougall Resolution – The North Bay Parry Sound Health District was a Green Zone prior to the Stay-at-Home Order and the more restrictive the directives, the greater the financial burden on businesses and individuals in the community. Community understanding and support is critical to achieving the objective of the directives – slowing the spread of the virus, variants of the virus have been confirmed in other Ontario Health Districts and the Stay-at-Home Order has been lifted. The Municipality of McDougall requests that the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit take a more pro-active approach to community outreach and communication through a range of communication techniques.

16. Township of Perry Resolution – Supports the Resolution from the Town of Carleton Place requesting the Government of Ontario to:

- a. Prioritize children and childcare as part of its overall post pandemic recovery plan;
- b. Develop, adequately fund and release publicly a comprehensive plan that can support facilities through the provision of licensed childcare and early learning education; and
- c. Provide increased funding to childcare reflective of COVID-19 operating cost increases to ensure a safe reopening and long-term sustainability for the sector.

17. Township of Perry Resolution – Requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College Campus in Gravenhurst as the OFC is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assist us in protecting our residents.

- 18. Township of Perry Resolution** – Supports the efforts being taken seeking an extension of the Jul 1, 2021 deadline to the Solicitor General for the submission of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.
- 19. Township of Archipelago Resolution** – Requests that Minister Clark review the Municipal Elections Act and provide amendments to provide clearer, stronger wording to assist Municipal Clerks in addressing issues to allow for a more definitive decision to be made when adding names to the voters' list.
- 20. Township of South Glengarry Resolutions** – Speeding on provincial, country and municipal roadways continues to put the lives of Ontarians at risk, while we have access to several tools to help mitigate speeding traffic, the one tool that is currently not fully available to us is Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE) (aka photo radar). We need a way to address the poor behaviors and habits that are putting our citizens at risk and tying up much needed first responder resources that could be better utilized to improve the well-being of our communities. Speeding, particularly through our small villages, creates community concerns for the safety and wellbeing of our children and other vulnerable members. The Township of Guelph/Eramosa, practice and continue to promote open and transparent government operations, actively disseminate information and routinely disclose public documents upon request outside of the MFIPPA process. Government operations, public expectations, technologies and legislation surrounding accountability and transparency have dramatically changed and MFIPPA has not advanced in line with these changes. The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services be requested to review the MFIPPA.
- 21. Norfolk Country Resolution** – The Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) who represents the agricultural sector in Norfolk Country, Ontario is very concerned about the federal government's current carbon pricing policies. It is with hope that they consider their concerns and move to exempt all primary agriculture producers from current and future carbon taxes.
- 22. MPAC, InTouch** – Introducing the new Municipal Connect, to see a live demo of the new Municipal Connect, watch the recording of the Jan Municipal Webinar. If you are a user with questions about the transition, contact your local Account Support Coordinator. Virtual Day with MPAC, this month MPAC held their first webinar with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP) from the PC Caucus to discuss their role, the work they do and ways they can support MPPs in responding to property owners with questions about property assessment and taxation. Upcoming webinar, Modernization Opportunities for Ontario's Building Permit Process, Thu, Mar 4, 2021 from 1 to 2 pm, register now.
- 23. ENDM, Broadband Resources, Information and New NOHFC** – Broadband resources and new information, <https://nohfc.ca/en/pages/programs/community-enhancement-program/broadband-and-cellular-expansion-projects.com>
1. ROMA Broadband Connectivity A Municipal Road Map
 2. ROMA Broadband Connectivity A Municipal Primer
 3. Mel's Broadband Summary and Supports 2020
- 24. ENDM, Tourist Information and Stats for the Region** – RTO's are funded by the provincial government and are an excellent tourism resource that helps with marketing and advertising to both domestic and international visitors along with lots of excellent resources, Regional Tourism Organizations (RTO's) (provincial website with background information – <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/regions/regions.shtml.com>). Links to the 3 RTO 12 Websites:
1. Tourism Industry Members website: this is where they have lots of great info, stats, resources, research and where they post their updates for their tourism business members to use: <http://rto12.ca>
 2. Domestic (aka Explorer's Edge) Outwards Domestic Tourist Marketing website: this is the website targeted at travellers within Ontario to find things to do in the region and where you can have your business posted/marketed essentially with your membership – <https://explorersedge.ca>.
 3. International (aka Great Canadian Wilderness) Outwards International Tourist Marketing website: this is the website targeted at International travellers where they can find things to do in the region and where you can have your business posted/marketed essentially for free once it meets these standards – <https://thegreatcanadianwilderness.com/>.
- 25. ENDM, Feminist Response and Recovery Fund** – The purpose of the Women's Program is to address or remove systemic barriers impeding the progress and advancement of women, in all their diversity, in three priority areas:
1. Encouraging women and girls in leadership and decision-making positions,
 2. Improving women's and girls' economic security and prosperity.
 3. Ending gender-based violence. For more details: www.cfc-swc.gc.ca.

- 26. ENDM, Ontario Increases Support for Transit Across the Province** – New funding provides added relief to ensure transit remains a reliable travel option. The Ontario government is providing \$150 million in additional funding to help municipal transit systems address the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional \$150 million in provincial funding means that there is a total of \$650 million in funding available to municipalities up to Dec 31, 2021, with extensions to Dec 2022 granted on a case-by-case basis.
- 27. ENDM, TEN Announces New FREE Online Training Program on Snowmobile Friendliness, Communities, Accommodations, and Restaurants** – Operators who are interested in becoming a best-in-class snowmobile destination are encouraged to participate in this online training by watching a series of educational and entertaining training videos.
<http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/en/northern-development.com>.
- 28. ARB (Assessment Review Board), New Rules** – The ARB would like to highlight the following substantive changes for the Rules that will take effect Apr 1, 2021.
- Modified and reduced the timelines of the Schedule of Events for the General stream
 - Modified and updated the requirements under the Schedule of Events for the Summary stream relating to the Special Notices
 - Updated the requirement for the extension of time for expert reports
 - Form Acknowledgement of Expert Duty has been updated and is a required document for the process
 - Form – Affidavit of Service – removed
 - Minutes of Settlement Rules – updated language to allow for “any party” to file the minutes of settlement for the purposes of the Board issuing a decision
 - Updated and clarified the language
- 29. ARB** – The Board has made a wording change to Rule 27, will be posted on website.
- 30. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce, NOHFC and GRANT Information Session** – Four new NOHFC programs have been launched, Melanie Alkins from the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development & Mines will be spending some time on Mar 10, 2021 to answer any questions on these grants, as well as discuss any other queries on grants in Ontario. Programs:
- Community Enhancement Program
 - Invest North Program
 - Cultural Supports Program
 - People & Talent Program
- 31. FONOM, 4th GoNorth Promotional Videos** – FONOM with the financial support of FedNor is creating 8 videos promoting Business life in Northeastern Ontario, and then using Social media to hi-lite it in the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DLV-SUC1J9c>.
- 32. ROMA Insider, New Chair, Conference Round-Up, In This Issue** –
- Introducing New ROMA Chair Robin Jones
 - 2021 ROMA Conference Highlights
 - Consultation on ROMA Governance and Zones
- 33. AMO Communications, Policy Update** – Build Back Better Pilot Extended in Municipal Recovery Assistance Program, Build Back Better helps municipalities that require assistance to recover from flooding or other natural disaster to rebuild public infrastructure to a higher standard such as raising roads or increasing ditch sizes or other work to make communities more resilient. Ontario Introduces New Anti-Human Trafficking Legislation, the proposed legislation will focus on protecting children and youth, supporting survivors, and providing law enforcement with additional tools to prevent and deter human trafficking.
- 34. AMO Communications, Policy Update** – Province Provides Additional Transit Funding, providing an additional \$150 million to support transit systems through the pandemic. The funding is in addition to funds provided by the provincial and federal governments under the Safe Restart Agreement. Municipal Modernization Funding, this funding is in addition to the Jan 26, 2021 ROMA Conference announcement of \$40 million to help small and rural municipalities through the Municipal Modernization Fund. Public Health Vaccination Plans, further to the good work the Toronto Star did to have all 34 Public Health Units’ vaccination plans in one publicly accessible site, AMO staff has reviewed and updated each of the PHU’s links and have put them in one spreadsheet.
- 35. AMO Communications, WatchFile, Feb 18, 2021, In This Issue** –
- An opportunity to transform your meetings.
 - Healthy Communities Initiative.
 - Managing COVID-19 testing and vaccination appointments online – webinar.
 - Have you seen the new Energy Planning Tool?

- Municipal Group Buying webinar: Fleet Upfitting options.
 - LAS Blog: Joint and Several Liability & Rising Municipal Insurance Costs.
 - Now booking Virtual Energy Training for Spring '21.
 - Energy Savings Success in LTC facilities!
 - Nominations for the David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility.
 - Careers: Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, Georgina and Tiny.
- 36. AMO Communications, WatchFile, Feb 25, 2021, In This Issue –**
- AMO launches redesigned website.
 - Healthy Communities Initiative.
 - AMO 2021: Keynote to explore cultural and economic climate change impacts.
 - Register for AMO's Long-Term Care webinar.
 - Managing COVID-19 testing and vaccination appointments online – webinar.
 - EPT Spotlight: Regulation compliance.
 - Group Buying Webinars – March 2021
 - Seizing the Hydrogen Opportunity – CHFCA webinar.
 - Careers: AMO, OPS, The Nation, Amherstburg, Dutton Dunwich and Hamilton.
- 37. FCM Communique – Celebrating Black History Month, FCM is featuring key moments in Canadian municipal history impacting Black People and people of African descent on Twitter. We do this as part of our commitment to fighting anti-Black racism, both within our organization and in communities across Canada. Webinar: how to level up your green projects, on Mar 2 (1 pm) how to take your sustainable initiative to the next level. You'll learn from speakers who have successfully expanded their municipal projects at various stages. WEST takes budget priorities to federal minister, they highlighted the progress WEST is making and reiterated the taskforce's recommendations for Federal Budget 2021 and beyond. FCM intervenes in Supreme Court case on cuts to Toronto City Council, Bill 5, also known as the Better Local Government Act, redrew Toronto City Council's electoral structure, reducing the number of city wards and councillors from 45 to 25. FCM gets results for members, by working together, we can continue to see municipalities through this pandemic, and we can position them at the heart of tomorrow's nationwide recovery.**
- 38. FCM Communique – Our united voice on full display, FCM has long made it clear that investing in public transit and transportation empowers municipalities to create jobs, reduce emissions and shorten commutes – all things that deeply shape people's quality of life. Ensuring continued operating support, FCM is still acutely aware of the immediate challenges local leaders face and one of those challenges is operating shortfalls. Many communities are still facing COVID-related revenue losses – including at the transit fare box – and many are still scrambling to make up for those losses. The Safe Restart Agreement helps tackle these shortfalls, but was designed for a 6-8-month span.**
- 39. FCM Communique – Shaping Federal Budget 2021, a full year into the pandemic, the next federal budget is critical. It needs to strengthen Canada's pandemic response, while also laying ground for a strong recovery. New Funding for affordable residential efficiency projects, with the Government of Canada, FCM's Green Municipal Fund launched its newest funding call from Community Efficiency Financing initiative (CEF). Carole Saab named top lobbyist, CEO Carole Saab has once again been named one of Canada's Top 100 Lobbyists by the Hill Times. Exciting green hydrogen injection project in Canada, Evolgen, in collaboration with Gazifere, are very excited to be developing one of Canada's largest green hydrogen projects for injection into a natural gas distribution network in Quebec.**
- 40. Ontario Public Service (OPS), Summer Employment Opportunities – The Summer Employment Opportunities (SEO) provides up to 5,000 students with the opportunity to gain valuable work experience through supervised summer employment in the Ontario Public Service. To be eligible in the program, students must be currently enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary institution, be at least 15 years old, be living in Ontario during the summer and be legally entitled to work in Canada. Positions for the summer of 2021 will be posted on Feb 25, 2021 with eight different closing dates between Mar 10 and Jun 1, 2021. The 2021 employment period for students is from May to Sep. To participate, students must apply online at www.ontario.ca/careers.**
- 41. Ontario Heritage Trust – Special edition: Celebrating achievements in heritage conservation, Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards Lifetime Achievement William Terry, Youth Achievement Charlene Rocha, Paula Emeh. Excellence in Conservation. Thomas Symons Award for Commitment to Conservation Carolyn King, a public educator whose leadership and profound efforts have significantly enriched cross-cultural knowledge and understanding of Indigenous culture and worldviews.**

INFORMATION – COVID-19

- 42. Municipality of Halton Resolution** – Residents and staff at long-term care (LTC) homes have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, in the first wave of the pandemic there were approximately 5,488 resident cases and 2,290 staff cases in Ontario and tragically 1,817 residents and 7 staff lost their lives to this disease. The Federal Government does not currently provide funding earmarked to support the LTC home sector. Halton Region advocate to the Federal Government to enhance federal health care funding to the Provinces and Territories, specifically dedicating funding to long-term care, and to undertake further efforts to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of long-term care residents in Canada.
- 43. Lake of Bays Resolution** – The inequity of establishing a capacity limit of no more than 10 patrons for larger restaurants continues to impact the financial visibility of the restaurants during this difficult time, the Council requests that the Provincial Government review and reconsider the capacity limits for restaurants across the province be based on the size of the square footage of the seating area instead of a flat occupancy, restrictions set out in the COVID-19 Response Framework.
- 44. MMAH, a Message from General Hillier** – We’ve hit another milestone in Ontario’s COVID-19 vaccination efforts – over 500,000 doses of vaccines have been administered. That is over half a million doses in the arms of Ontarians, something that could not have been imagined even six months ago. We continue to move forward in vaccinating our most vulnerable. Given the expected gradual increase in Ontario’s vaccine supply, the next target groups within the Phase One priority populations have been identified for vaccination. This information was provided to Medical Officers of Health and Hospital CEO’s so they can begin operationalizing. More detailed information can be found in the accompanying slide deck.
- 45. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Provides Update on Phase 1 of Vaccination Rollout in District** – The Health Unit is preparing to vaccinate other priority groups in Phase 1 of Ontario’s Ethical Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution. To date, 1109 vaccines have been administered in our district. Once the next shipment of vaccine arrives, it will be allocated to second dose vaccinations to individuals that have already received their first dose and to continue first dose vaccines for priority groups. As part of the province’s Ethical Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution, the immediate priority groups within the district to receive vaccine are:
- Staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes, high-risk retirement homes and First Nations elder care homes, and any residents of these settings that have not yet received a first dose of vaccine.
 - Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors.
 - Highest Priority health care workers, followed by Very High Priority health care workers, in accordance with the Ministry of Health’s guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization.
 - Indigenous adults in northern remote and higher risk communities (including on-reserve and urban communities).
- When all immediate priority groups have received vaccination for COVID-19, the remaining Phase 1 population will receive the vaccine, including:
- Adults 80 years of age or older,
 - Staff, residents and caregivers in retirement homes and other congregate care settings for seniors (e.g., assisted living),
 - Health care workers in the High Priority level, and in accordance with the Ministry of Health’s guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization,
 - All Indigenous adults,
 - Adult recipients of chronic home care.
- 46. Communications, Media Advisory, Dr. Chirico Addresses the Public About the Stay-at-Home Order Extension** – Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health will address the public about the Stay-at-Home Order Extension and the current situation within the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit’s region on Feb 19, 2021 at 3:30 pm.
- 47. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Opens Skating Rinks, Skating Trails, Tobogganing Hills, OFSC Snowmobile Trails and Snowmobile Trails on Crown Land** – Effective Mon, Feb 22, 2021, municipalities are asked to assess their plan and capacity to be able to safely open their outdoor recreational amenities in compliance with COVID-19 public health measures.
- 48. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Public Service Announcement, Sunset Park School Set to Re-Open on Feb 22** – Set to re-open in-person learning on Mon, Feb 22, 2021 along with West

Ferris Day Nursey. High-risk contacts have been in self-isolation and to date no additional members of the Sunset Park Public School Community have tested positive for COVID-19. The Health Unit reminds parents and guardians to follow guidelines provided to them by the school in preparation for their child returning to in-person learning.

- 49. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Declares COVID-19 Outbreak at Cassellholme Long-Term Care Home** – Thirteen individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 in relation to this outbreak, however none of these individuals are residents. One individual has received a preliminary positive result for a Variant of Concern (VOC). The individuals tested positive following routine surveillance testing of staff and essential visitors at the long-term care home.
- 50. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Public Service Announcement, Health Unit Clarifies Details of Cassellholme Outbreak** – The Health Unit is consulting with experts in laboratory medicine and infectious disease regarding the COVID-19 test results of some of the individuals who tested positive. No matter the outcome of further investigation, Cassellholme will remain in outbreak, due to the following:
- An essential caregiver with a positive screen for a COVID-19 Variant of Concern (VOC), this individual has symptoms compatible with COVID-19, and attended the facility during their infectious period. This is not a false positive.
 - Requirements of the Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 Guidance on managing cases.
 - Data provided from the original COVID-19 test results.
 - Some of the individuals having symptoms compatible with COVID-19
 - Asymptomatic individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 connected to symptomatic individuals.
- 51. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Reports a Second Death Associated with the COVID-19 Community Outbreak at the Skyline-Lancelot Apartments** – The individual tested positive for COVID-19 with a preliminary positive result for a COVID-19 Variant of Concern (VOC). The Health Unit’s district is experiencing an increase in VOC’s, which is particularly worrying as VOC’s spread more easily than the original coronavirus. The best way for individuals to protect themselves against all strains of COVID-19 is to continue taking all COVID-19 precautions seriously and to continue with these measures even once they have received the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 52. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Receives Confirmation of the Second Confirmed COVID-19 Variant Originating from South Africa** – This case is linked to the Skyline-Lancelot Apartments outbreak. As of Feb 23, 2021, at 3:00 pm, 42 people have tested positive for COVID-19 associated with the outbreak. Of these, 26 people have preliminary positive results for a VOC as 2 individuals have a confirmed VOC strain originated from South Africa. Two individuals associated with the outbreak have passed, both had preliminary positive VOC results.
- 53. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Statement from the Medical Officer of Health** – A recently released story in the media has indicated that the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit will remain in Shutdown beyond Mar 8, 2021. At this time, we are unable to determine whether our district will remain in Shutdown with the Stay-at-Home Order in effect or move into the provincial framework after Mar 8, 2021.
- 54. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Confirms No Risk to School Community After a Member of St. Theresa Catholic School Community Tests Positive for COVID-19** – It has been determined that there is no risk to the school community, as the individual was not on premises during their infectious period. The individual and all household members are currently self-isolating.
- 55. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Public Service Announcement, Ecole Secondaire Catholique Algonquin Re-Opening for In-Person Learning on Mar 1** – The school’s dismissal was related to the COVID-19 variant of concern and was a cautionary measure to reduce the spread of the virus. High-risk contacts have been in self-isolation and to date, no additional members of the school community have tested positive for COVID-19.
- 56. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Highlights Details of Local COVID-19 Vaccination Plan** – With COVID-19 vaccinations underway in the district, the Health Unit wishes to highlight important updates to the public. The Health Unit’s Vaccine Strategy Playbook is now available on the website and this document serves as a basis to guide the local rollout of COVID-19. The immediate priorities for vaccine roll out for the remainder of Mar include:
- Alternate level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors.
 - Highest Priority health care workers, followed by Very High Priority health care workers, in accordance with the Ministry of Health’s guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization.

- Indigenous adults in northern remote and higher risk communities (including on-reserve and urban communities).
When the above immediate priority groups have received vaccination for COVID-19, the remaining Phase 1 population will be eligible to receive the vaccine.

57. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Receives Confirmation of 12 Additional Results for COVID-19 Variant Originating from South Africa – Confirmation from Public Health Ontario labs that an additional 12 preliminary positive COVID-19 Variant of Concern (VOC) specimens are positive for the VOC originating from South Africa. All 12 of these individuals are connected to the COVID-19 Community Outbreak at Skyline-Lancelot Apartment. Residents living in multi-home dwellings are reminded to:

- Stay home and only leave for essential reasons;
- Wash or sanitize hands often, especially after returning to their unit;
- Maintain 2 metres from anyone outside their unit, especially in shared spaces like laundry rooms;
- Only ride the elevator with other tenants if you can stand 2 metres apart;
- Wear a face covering when unable to keep 2 metres apart;
- Cover coughs and sneezes;
- Follow all COVID-19 precautions put in place by building management.

58. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Declares COVID-19 Outbreak at Parry Sound McDonald's – To date, two of the four individuals have a preliminary positive test result for a COVID-19 Variant of Concern. All four individuals reside outside the Health Unit's district and are currently self-isolating. The Health Unit is advising individuals who visited the McDonald's drive-thru at 118 Bowes Street in the Town of Parry Sound between Feb 5 and Feb 19, 2021, to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and should symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and contact the local assessment centre for testing.

59. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Reports a Third Death Associated with the COVID-19 Community Outbreak at the Skyline-Lancelot Apartment – The individual tested positive for COVID-19 with a preliminary positive result for a COVID-19 Variant of Concern (VOC). "It is upsetting we have had a third death associated with the COVID-19 Community Outbreak at the Skyline-Lancelot Apartments. I am thinking of the individual's family and friends," says Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health.

60. North Bay Parry Sound District News Release, Health Units Reminds Public of Enhanced COVID-19 Self-Isolation Requirements – Reminding the public of the Ontario Ministry of Health's updated guidelines for self-isolation, even if you only have one symptom of COVID-19. The updates are in response to the evolving situation related to COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOC) across the province. The provincial guidelines now require that symptomatic individuals isolate at home until:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result OR
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional OR
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

61. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Receives Confirmation of Two Individuals Testing Positive for COVID-19 Variant Originating from United Kingdom – 2 individuals in the District of Parry Sound, with their exposure being community spread meaning the individuals did not know where they caught the virus, we now have confirmation of 2 different strains of COVID-19 Variants of Concern, we must do all we can to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, it is essential to follow public health measures, evidence shows that the variant originating from the UK can be significantly more transmissible than the original coronavirus strain causing COVID-19.

62. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, COVID-19 Update – In the Simcoe Muskoka region as of Wed, Feb 24, the Health Unit has reported 6,334 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka, of which 215 are reported in Muskoka (Gravenhurst 48; Huntsville 67; Muskoka Lakes 44; Lake of Bays 6; Bracebridge 39; Georgian Bay 11) with 191 recovered, and three deceased. There is currently one COVID-19 positive inpatient receiving care at MAHC. This figure continues to be updated weekdays on the website www.mahc.ca/COVID-19. Patient Care & Surge Capacity Planning:

- Inpatient occupancy has fluctuated above and below 100% in Feb. MAHC is swabbing all inpatients for COVID-19, which regularly impacts patient flow and bed assignment due to the isolation requirements from screening and the cleaning requirements by Environmental Services.
- With the concern of growing numbers of people infected with a variant of concern, essential visitation continues to be restricted at both sites until further notice as a precautionary protection measure for vulnerable patients and for the safety of our staff and credentialed staff.

- Effective Feb 8, 2021 MAHC Surgical Services returned to 100% surgical volume following a three-week reduction in volume to create bed and staffing capacity across both sites. Pre-Operative COVID-19 swabs continue to be required for certain procedures.
 - To date in Feb, traffic in the Emergency Department averaged 40 visits per day and a total of more than 1,730 patients seen in the department.
COVID-19 Vaccination, MAHC staff who received their first dose of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine in Jan have been receiving their second doses this month. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) MAHC continues to closely monitor and react to a provincially-challenged supply chain, and currently maintains a stable position. Assessment Centre. Communication, the CEO Blog has been published looking back on a year of COVID-19 at the hospitals. MAHC's monthly COVID-19 newsletter will continue in Mar 2021.
- 63. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, CEO Blog – Looking Forward After One Year with COVID-19** – On Jan 30, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the novel coronavirus was a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. At the time there were fewer than 100 cases of the disease we now call COVID-19. Just a week earlier, they had issued their first communication to staff introducing the coronavirus, and preparations at MAHC were well underway when the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic on Mar 11. Visit blog site at <http://muskokaalgonquinhealthcare.blogspot.ca>, or www.mahc.ca.
- 64. AMO Communications, Policy Update** – Pre-Budget Submission, the submission outlines key recommendations for the government to pursue around the following themes:
1. Fiscal Stabilization for Municipalities
 2. Healthy and Safe Communities for People
 3. Investing in a Stronger Economic Recovery
 4. Strengthening Ontario's Municipal Government.
- Updated COVID-19 Regional Framework, the City of Toronto, Peel Region, and North Bay-Parry Sound District will remain in full lockdown for at least two more weeks until Mon Mar 8, 2021. York Region will move from Shutdown to Red and the Lambton PHU region will move from Orange into Red as of the effective date of Mon, Feb 22, 2021. Emergency Orders Extended, Ontario Emergency Orders, which were to expire on Feb 19, in force under the Reopening Ontario Act (ROA), have been extended until Mar 21, 2021.
- 65. International Experience Canada Re-Opening for 2021** – The Government of Canada has announced that the International Experience Canada ("IEC") program will partially re-open on Mar 1, 2021. To participate in the program, eligible candidates may create an online profile with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada ("IRCC"), and submit this profile to any of the three available IEC pools. Candidates will then be randomly selected up to a set quota and issued an Invitation to Apply for a work permit.

Discussion ensued on 17. Mayor Carleton informed she brought this up recently at the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and was advised costs should be about the same, not that much more, as mobile training units will be available. Councillor Wood highlighted the quality of training at the Ontario Fire College having trained there, including live fire training and requested we support again.

45-21 Wood, McLaren

THAT we support Township of Perry Resolution that requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College Campus in Gravenhurst as the OFC is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assist us in protecting our residents. CARRIED

Discussion ensued on 18. Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is being completed through the Almaguin Clerks Group. Public consultation and meeting with partners has been hard due to Covid-19.

46-21 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we support Township of Perry Resolution – Supports the efforts being taken seeking an extension of the Jul 1, 2021 deadline to the Solicitor General for the submission of the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. CARRIED

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

Briefing Note and Call to Action received pertaining to the termination of the Project DARE program

issued to Wendigo Lake Expeditions on Mar 1, 2021. Wendigo Lake has long been concerned that Project DARE's mandate as an open custody program was preventing it from reaching its full potential to serve the needs of the Province. Meanwhile gaps in the service they could help address persist.

47-21 Wood, McLaren

WHEREAS Wendigo Lake Expeditions Inc based out of South River was served 60 days notice of termination of the Project DARE therapeutic adventures open custody program on Mar 1, 2021, THAT we support Wendigo Lake, Canada's Leader in Adventure Therapy call for action to re-establish Project DARE, a one-of-a-kind, leader amongst its peers on an international stage for 50 years. CARRIED

Clerk Administrator Long Service Award

Council HR reps Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren and Mayor Lynda Carleton informed the Clerk Administrator had recently received an award. The Clerk Administrator advised the award was from the Ontario Municipal Administrators Association for long service. There was a virtual ceremony and plaque received. Council expressed congratulations. It was very nice after a tough year, tough for everyone.

ADJOURN

48-21 McLaren, 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, Mar 22, 2021. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

BP