

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, March 13, 2023**

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

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Pearl Ivens, and Blair Flowers. Councillor Neil Scarlett was present by teleconference. Staff present: Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul and Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney.

Guest observing: Mark Smuck.

**BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of Feb 27, 2023 minutes, Resolution**

**45-23 McLaren, Ivens**

THAT we adopt Feb 27, 2023 minutes. CARRIED

**2. Adoption of Mar 6, 2023 minutes, Resolution**

**46-23 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we adopt Mar 6, 2023 minutes. CARRIED

**3. Pay List by Fund for Feb, Resolution**

**47-23 Ivens, McLaren**

THAT we approve Pay List by Fund as of Feb 28, 2023: \$185,543.00 Grand Total. CARRIED

**COMMITTEES**

**4. Shared Services Communication feedback**

Received and discussed: Fire Chief/Fire Prevention Officer duties, Fire response vehicles/population, Town Hall sessions on important matters. Council felt the suggestion for the Town Hall was too late for this year. It had some good points, within parameters. To be put on file.

**5. Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection – A Decision Maker’s Guide; Sundridge, Apr 4, 9 am - noon**

Councillor Ivens has already registered. Mayor Carleton to be registered. Other members of Council have attended when previously held.

**6. South River Machar Library 2023 Budget up 10.34% (\$3,559.51)**

Reviewed and discussed: increase attributed to wage adjustment to comparable for new staff, and shouldn't be that much next year. Mayor Carleton advised operations are working well at the moment. Councillor Ivens queried Library event information; posters, hours, social media discussed.

**48-23 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we approve 2023 Library Budget – Annual Share to Machar and South River of \$37,991 at an increase of 10.34% over the 2022 amount of \$34,431.49, subject to overall Township Budget requirements. CARRIED

**7. South River Machar Library minutes of Dec 21, 2022, Jan 11 & Feb 8, 2023, Resolution**

**49-23 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Dec 21, 2022, Jan 11, 2023, and Feb 8, 2023. CARRIED

**8. Central Almaguin Planning minutes of Jan 11 & Feb 1, 2023, Resolution**

Reviewed and discussed: studies required per Strong and Armour OP due to proximity to pit, restricted area by-law for the unorganized rescinded per Ministry and legal review, funds taken back. Magnetawan is pursuing leaving the Planning Board and doing their own work/approvals.

**50-23 McLaren, Flowers**

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Jan 11, 2023, and Feb 1, 2023. CARRIED

**9. Parry Sound District EMS (Emergency Medical Service/Land Ambulance) 2023 Levy up 6.3%**

Reviewed. Levy distribution is based on weighted assessment; Machar pays \$89,858.53, South River pays \$25,187.31, and Joly pays \$20,511.57. Weighted assessments are provided to EMS annually.

**10. Eastholme Home for the Aged 2023 Levy up 3.3%**

Reviewed. Apportioned in accordance with Ontario Regulation 26/22 (households, Assessment, Hydro Power Dam Compensation, Industrial Tax Ratio); Machar pays \$92,462 for 2023. Annual General Meeting will be held on Mar 22, 2023 at 10 am. Councillor Ivens will RSVP to attend.

**11. District of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd programs and services**

DSSAB provides social services throughout the District, including Children's Services, Income Support and Stability, Housing Services, and Violence Against Women programs. To build community awareness, they've offered to attend a future Council meeting to provide an overview. Offer accepted. District has 22 municipalities and unincorporated areas, presentations will be spread out.

**12. District of Parry Sound Municipal Assoc Secretary Treas position open**

Seeking an individual to fill the position as of Jun 1, 2023. Please submit interest by Mar 31, 2023 to Beth Morton, Secretary-Treas, DPSMA, c/o Township of Perry [beth.morton@townshipofperry.ca](mailto:beth.morton@townshipofperry.ca) Most municipal offices are too busy to take on added workload, an outside person may be needed.

**13. Distr of Parry Sound Munic Assoc Spring Meeting, Sprucedale, May 5, 2023, door opens 8:15 am**

Full Council to attend, except Councillor Ivens who already has a prior commitment.

**14. Armour Mayor Rod Ward update on MAHC Hospital Local Share**

The Almaguin Highlands has targeted a range of \$2m to \$9.5m, the target overall is \$12m over 12 years, with \$2.5m remaining in Almaguin and \$9.5m going toward MAHC Local Share.

**15. Armour Mayor Rod Ward additional update on MAHC Hospital Local Share; Almaguin asked to ante up \$11 million for new hospitals, North Bay Nugget article**

Mayor Ward clarifies, the article states that the 20% Almaguin portion is to be allocated to the health centre in Burks Falls and this is not the intent, the intent is to hold back 20% for healthcare in the Almaguin Highlands, this could include healthcare needs anywhere in the Highlands.

**16. Joint Building Permit Summaries for Feb 2023, Resolution**

Reviewed. Permit activity = 5 at Feb 28, 2023 compared to 4 last year. Project values = \$418,000.

**51-23 McLaren, Flowers**

THAT we accept Building Permit Summaries for Feb 2023. CARRIED

**17. JBC CBO module in CGIS program**

Reviewed and discussed. MBS/CBO (Manager of Building Services/Chief Building Official) is setting

up CBO module in the CGIS (Centre for Geographic Information Systems) – Spatial Land Information Management System (SLIMS) Services. The cost of this program will be billed to and paid for by the JBC through the permit fees collected and has been added to the budget proposal this year. E-permitting is also being looked at, which will be no extra cost. Access to property files is the document file that appears on the CGIS program. CBO module should be a read only option to allow 2 staff members access from each office. This will enable us to see issued permits and inspections conducted. Information requested on shared drive and who manages our internet access/router.

We contacted CGIS to determine the property files. The property files don't exist within CGIS, they would gain access through our system to the digitization file jointly done in 2015 through Blue Sky. This information isn't current and we don't have the IT staff to support it. As such, given the limited information available and considering the security of our network, we're unable to provide access.

## INFORMATION

- 18. Short Term Rentals 4-083;** Bay Today article, Bonfield has been invaded by commercial investors who do not live here - resident
- 19. Township of Ashfield, Colborne and Wawanosh Resolution,** Requests that the Province of Ontario, through Elections Ontario and the Chief Electoral Officer utilize any resources available to produce the highest quality Permanent Register of Electors
- 20. Township of Ashfield, Colborne and Wawanosh Resolution,** Supports the letter and resolution of the Town of Petrolia requesting that school boards become responsible for conducting their own trustee elections or at minimum municipalities be compensated by the school boards for overseeing such trustee elections
- 21. Town of Grimsby Resolution,** Expresses its support for women in politics and their right to participate in a political environment that is free from misogyny and harassment, and where everyone feels equal, commits to taking steps to ensure that our political environment is inclusive and welcoming to all individuals, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other identity factors
- 22. Town of Grimsby Resolution,** Addresses this resolution to the government of the Province of Ontario, affirming the importance of the Municipal Heritage Register and its role in preserving the cultural heritage of municipalities throughout the province, encourages the government of the Province of Ontario to make changes to the Ontario Heritage Act which promote the retention and expansion of the Municipal Heritage Register, including the listing of properties of cultural heritage value or interest that are not currently designated
- 23. Municipality of Niagara Resolution,** Regional Chair be directed to formally issue three separate declarations of emergency, in the areas of homelessness, mental health and opioid addiction, as per the procedure outlines in the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, send correspondence to the Provincial Government requesting that action be taken on the eight measures proposed by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (as previously endorsed by Regional Council on Jun 23, 2022)
- 24. Municipality of Trent Lakes Resolution,** Request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that the following changes be made to the municipal oath of office: I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King Charles III and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including the Constitution, which recognizes and affirms the Aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people
- 25. Town of Cobourg Resolution,** Council acknowledges that homelessness in the Town of Cobourg is a social, economic and health crisis and requests the support of the County of Northumberland as the regional service manager and facilitator of the Community Safety and Well-Being Taskforce by including Cobourg representatives and people with lived experience on it and effort to address the local issues of homelessness and requests a need for immediate action from the Province of Ontario to develop, resource and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent, reduce and ultimately end homelessness in Ontario
- 26. Municipality of Moonbeam Resolution,** Requesting the provincial government through the Minister of Education to extend the moratorium on most pupil accommodation reviews in order to allow municipalities, townships, neighborhoods or subdivisions the opportunity to prosper, develop and grow without being hindered by school closure because of current low enrollments that could quickly change

- 27. Municipality of Chatham-Kent Resolution**, Direct administration to engage with other municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and any other relevant municipal associations, to determine what tools may be available to reduce insurance costs, including cooperative purchasing of insurance, creation of a municipal reciprocal insurance provider, or legislative changes to address insurance costs to municipalities, and administration report back to Council regarding the result of this engagement and any recommended Council resolutions to support improvements to municipal insurance in Ontario
- 28. Village of South River**, Ripples Mar & Apr Newsletter, Schedule 'A' To By-Law 5-2014 Rates for Miscellaneous Water Services
- 29. Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC)**, Calendar of Events for March
- 30. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce**, 2023 Almaguin Highlands Community Guide, Reserve your ad spot today, Interested in advertising in this year's magazine?
- 31. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce**, Business After Hours Event Mar 29 at SR Brewing Co
- 32. AMO Watchfile Feb 23, 2023 In This Issue**
- AMO member resolution campaign on homelessness
  - AMO housing and homelessness webinar on February 28
  - 2023 PJ Marshall Municipal Innovation Award - Call for submissions
  - Proposed updates to Normal Farm Practices Protection Board due April 3
  - Mobile Crisis Response Teams resources available
  - 2023-2024 Seniors Community Grant applications
  - New Community Transit Technology Guide available
  - OSUM Conference: Registration and accommodations are open
  - OSUM Conference: Exhibitor information
  - AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information
  - New dates available for AMO's Land Use Planning training
  - Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Councillor Training
  - Save the date for AMO-LAS 2023 Energy Symposium: November 2 - 3
  - New dates available for AMO's Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials training
  - Webinar: Double rebates from WSIB for Municipal Health and Safety Programs
  - Operation Black Vote Canada survey for elected officials
  - Upcoming Canoe webinars: Ambulance remounts, electric fleets
  - Canoe vendor spotlight: Blue1 Energy Equipment, Graco, Syn-Tech
  - Careers: MOE, York Region, Treasury Board, Greater Sudbury, and Hastings
- 33. AMO Watchfile Mar 2, 2023 In This Issue**
- AMO member resolution campaign on homelessness
  - Submit your entry for the 2023 PJ Marshal Awards
  - NG9-1-1 Transfer Payment Program
  - Paramedic Services committee established
  - MECP Webinar On CLI-ECAs March 7
  - Proposed updates to Normal Farm Practices Protection Board due April 3
  - 2023-2024 Seniors Community Grant applications
  - New Community Transit Technology Guide available
  - OSUM Conference: Registration and accommodations are open
  - OSUM Conference: Exhibitor information
  - Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
  - AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information
  - New dates available for AMO's Land Use Planning training
  - Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Councillor Training
  - Save the date for AMO-LAS 2023 Energy Symposium: November 2 - 3
  - New dates for Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials and Human Rights & Equity
  - Webinar: Double rebates from WSIB for Municipal Health & Safety Programs
  - MEPCO 101 for council members and municipal administrators
  - Blog: Municipal Digital Transformation: Avoid These 4 Traps
  - Cooper Lighting: Canoe meets Facility Lighting Service
  - EVs showcased in upcoming webinars
  - Hunting for energy savings with LAS
  - Careers: Peel, Muskoka, Midland, Clarence-Rockland, Mississauga, Simcoe, Halton.
- 34. AMO Events**, Save the Date for AMO's 2023 Ending Homelessness Symposium May 3-4 2023
- 35. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Mar 1 2023**, Rural ON municipalities are adopting the 4-day work week. What does it take to get others on board? Ontario provides more money for municipal public transit, Area 'mega-site' needed to land new industry: Cabinet minister, Divisional Court upholds decision raising assessment on gravel pits in county, Eastern Ontario town dodges vote on nixing

- oath to king, Warwick, Plympton-Wyoming meet with CN over drainage fees dispute, meet the team bringing talent and jobs to Eastern Ontario, Amalgamation in Peel region? A tale of two cities
36. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Mar 8, 2023**, Former municipal employees launch \$125m lawsuit over vaccine mandates, Arbuckle addresses 4-day work week, Toronto continues call for provincial, federal funding to address Covid-19 hangover, Entrepreneurs are crucial to Ontario's economic recovery, The province wants to turn this farmland into factories – the neighbours hate it, Windsor council just made a big decision behind closed doors – here's why that matters, Trent Lakes council seeks to include Indigenous rights in municipal oath of office, Ontario underspent on health – Metrolinx and municipal infrastructure – report finds, Preparing for recession – Canada's biggest banks put aside \$2.5 billion to loan defaults, 15 leadership tips to fix a lack of team communication, How to optimize your anxiety – rather than let it hold you back
  37. **Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Update, News from ROMA**, Feb ROMA Board Meeting Highlights
  38. **Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)**, Mark Wilson elected as Zone 9 Director
  39. **Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Community E Conference & Tradeshow**, N Bay May 9-10
  40. **Pierrette Desrochers**, Sudbury East, Nipissing & Parry Sound Mar 2023
  41. **BAO**, LifeLine: Monument maintenance, Transfer service government RFP, Jim's public message about our professional & caring sector, Fee survey reminder
  42. **Explorers Edge**, Update Mar 1, 2023, 2023-2024 Partnership Program AMA Announced
  43. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release, Health Unit Calls for Higher Social Assistance Rates Due to Food Insecurity**, The N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit has released the 2022 Cost of Eating Well Report, and with the support of the Board of Health, is asking the Province to increase social assistance rates, and revisit the basic income program
  44. **South River Machar Agricultural Society**, March Events, Lumberjack Breakfast Mar 18

**52-23 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we support Agenda item(s) 26. and 27. CARRIED

**INFORMATION – COVID-19**

45. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release, Infant, Child and Youth Vaccine Clinics Taking Place Throughout March**, N Bay Mar 1, 6, Parry Sound Mar 1

**ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION**

**Recreation; Easter Egg Hunt**

Councillor Scarlett updated on the trails at Mikisew and alternate location offered for an Easter Egg Hunt proposing the weekend after Easter. Discussed. There are several Easter Egg Hunts already happening in the area. Several additional ideas for Recreation events were put forward considering venues, volunteer base, donations, and doing something different. Earth Week was suggested.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**53-23 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, labour relations or employee negotiations. Time 7:40 pm. CARRIED

**54-23 Ivens, McLaren**

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:07 pm. CARRIED

**ADJOURN**

**55-23 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Mar 27, 2023. CARRIED

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Mayor Lynda Carleton  
BP/tb

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Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT