

TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 28, 2022

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 and Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney. Staff scheduled Fire Chief Risto Maki.

Guests observing: John Mowat, Pearl Ivens.

Staff scheduled and guests observing attend by teleconference due to Covid-19 protocols.

GUESTS

New Announcement on Responses to Unincorporated Ontario

Ontario is supporting local fire services in the north with a new program reimbursing municipalities for fire services provided on crown land. The Ontario Government is launching a new program through the Northern Fire Protection Program to reimburse municipalities that provide protection services in parts of the province that don't fall under any municipal boundaries, known as unincorporated areas. Through this reimbursement program, the province is allocating funds to help northern municipalities recover costs associated with responses into areas without fire protection services such as search and rescue, medical, motor vehicle collision and property fires that are not covered by any other funding agreements. The Fire Chief advised through the authority of our Establishing and Regulating By-Law (Fire Dept), the South River Machar Fire Dept will be responding to Lount Township and the program is retro-active, already in effect (launching announced by the Ministry on Mar 19, 2022). Several questions and answers took place. Comments were shared that the incorporated municipalities continue to subsidize the unincorporated municipalities (other services, infrastructure and capital costs).

Firefighter Mandatory Certification

Changes are coming, despite our request for reconsideration and objection. The Fire Chief detailed the training commitment that will be required, indicating the current budget does not address certification, that the budget for 2023 will look significantly different. Fire Chief further advised the legacy clause for grandfathering current firefighters is not intended for full service departments and so it won't apply.

Any Budget Questions

Fire Budget is proposed at an increase of 4.15%. Fire Chief advised he attended a Budget Committee meeting with South River last week. Clerk Administrator inquired if Machar's request to lower the budget was referred at the meeting. Fire Chief advised no, but the budget was reviewed line by line and was chopped as low as he could get it when presented. Mayor inquired if the budget increase could be decreased from the 4.15% increase to 3%. Fire Chief advised with the removal of the accreditation item but this would affect taxpayers' insurance rates negatively. Council confirmed that would not be the item to remove. Fire Chief advised Budget includes \$20,000 from reserve to lower the budget, in addition to capital of \$55,000 from reserve. Councillor Wood expressed we missed the Chief's explanatory notes to the budget this year. Fire Chief advised there has been a change in process, and the explanatory notes will be coming forthwith. Fire Chief was thanked for attending and departed. Councillor Wood advised the firefighter mandatory certification training will most likely require the hiring of another person for the Fire Dept and so we'd be looking at additional costs of about \$100,000.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Mar 14, 2022 minutes, Resolution

46-22 Scarlett, Wood

THAT we adopt minutes of Mar 14, 2022. CARRIED

2. Fireworks inquiry, additional information/input Short Term Rentals

Fireworks inquiry reviewed. Council feel the wording is clear and no change is needed. Clerk Administrator advised we reviewed several other municipal fireworks by-laws when drafting. We believe the wording is meant to encompass any potential variation of the holiday dates. Further inquiry asks how Council is planning on educating visitors about the new fireworks by-law. Discussion ensued. Information is feature prominently on the 2022 Spring Newsletter and our webpage and information disseminated in the Community. Additionally, posters will be done.

Correspondence items received: 4-083 Mar 22, 2022 with link to article Airbnb in East Ferris creating a lot of conflict with existing residents, 4-083 Mar 23, 2022 link to article Growing Pains: Short-term rentals are prompting concerns around the world, 5-095 Mar 15, 2022, 4-209 Mar 13, 2022, 4-022-02 Mar 17, 2022, 4-022-01 Mar 15, 2022. Information provided: Township of Severn Council did not pursue zoning or licensing/have opted to strengthen regulatory by-laws (noise, parking, etc), Bay Today article East Ferris plans to bring short-term rental by-law home by Apr end.

Mayor Carleton advised discussions on STRs at FONOM are contentious, Labrador and Newfoundland have made STRs commercial and required rezoning, indicating it's something to consider as they are businesses. It was agreed we need to put the time in to review and not make a snap decision. We should continue acting on problem STRs per individual incidents. Mayor and Council would like to invite input. Clerk Administrator suggested the 2022 Summer Newsletter.

COMMITTEES

3. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Feb; Arena and Fire

Info received: Arena Chief Operator Report, Income Statements, AP Ledgers, Fire Chief's Report.

a. Proposed 2022 Budgets

2022 Budget Worksheets for Arena and Fire reflected proposed increases of 32.08% and 4.15% respectively at our last meeting. Council requested lower drafts for this Council meeting. Drafts came back from South River at the same for Fire (4.15%) and a bit higher for Arena (32.23%). Discussion ensued on the proposed increases and responsibility to our taxpayers. Per our Resolution authorizing payment to South River, we need to have amounts approved by Apr 1. It seems the only choice we have is to keep our word as expressed to South River on Mar 9, 2021 in our reply to Mayor Coleman's statement: "Machar will agree to an annual renewal for a fixed term at an increase of up to, but no more than 3% each year." Our own departments are coming in for 2022 Budgets at 1.2% for Landfill and 2% for Roads. Recorded vote requested.

47-22 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we approve 2022 contributions to shared services; Arena and Fire at 2021 Budget amounts + 3% subject to Resolution 135-21. CARRIED

YEAS: Lynda Carleton, Ron McLaren, Blair Flowers, Neil Scarlett. NAYS: Bart Wood.

4. Machar Public Works minutes of Mar 17, 2022, Resolution

Discussion ensued. By-Law Enforcement reference to Tiny Township queried; information is contained in the presentation to Council on Mar 14, 2022. Tiny Township does no licensing, does not regulate STRs, the Township passed more by-laws with strict enforcement by written complaint. Mayor Carleton queried news on the funding for the Eagle Lake Narrows Beach retaining wall project. Clerk Administrator advised we're still awaiting an answer and answers are delayed further than originally indicated. The word bomb should be changed to artillery shell in the minutes.

48-22 Flowers, Scarlett

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Mar 17, 2022. CARRIED

5. FONOM (Fed of N ON Munic); 7 weeks until FONOM Conference, NOSM (N ON School of Medicine) Expansion Announcement, ON Supporting Local Fire Services in the North, New Program Reimbursing Municipalities for Fire Services Provided on Crown Land (unincorporated)

Information provided: FONOM Conference schedule as of Mar 22, 2022, 2022 FONOM Conference Big Data means Big Ideas May 9-11, 2022 City of North Bay, the Province of Ontario government has added 30 more undergraduate and 41 additional postgraduate positions to our complement to roll out over the next 5 years, NOSM University expansion to aid with Northern Ontario physician shortage, Ontario supporting local fire services in the North, new program reimbursing municipalities for fire services provided on crown land (protection services in unincorporated areas).

6. Joint Building Committee minutes of Mar 17, 2022, Resolution

Reviewed. NOHFC is not an eligible funding for the position, decision made to keep JBC office access as it is currently, which is closed for public access, however a drop off area for customers is available in the lobby area during normal office hours, CBO has option if he requires an in person meeting, shared service agreement in discussion and will be circulated to Committee for review.

49-22 Wood, Flowers

THAT we accept Joint Building minutes of Mar 17, 2022. CARRIED

7. DSSAB (Distr of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd) CAO Report Mar 2022 available

8. Central Almaguin Planning minutes of Dec 15, 2021, Jan 19, 2022 and Feb 2, 2022, Resolution

50-22 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Dec 15, 2021, Jan 19, 2022 and Feb 2, 2022. CARRIED

INFORMATION

- 9. Township of Lake of Bays Resolution** – Supports the requests of the Town of Bracebridge Motion regarding Hospital Capital Funding and requesting for a provincial re-examination of the “local share” hospital capital calculation methodology, to better reflect the limited fiscal capacity of municipalities, and the contributions to health care services they already provide to a community.
- 10. Township of Strong Resolution** – Supports the creation of a local primary care Almaguin Highlands Health Hub, in partnership with the North Bay Wellness Ontario Health Team, funded by the Ministry of Health.
- 11. Town of Wasaga Beach Resolution** – Supports recommendations nine and ten of the Fire Service Review report and requests the Province to further review the interest arbitration system, as the changes introduced in 2018 have no impacted wage increases awarded to the fire services sector, often exceeding negotiated settlements for other municipal employee groups, continuing to place a financial strain on municipalities, and creating wage comprehension with Fire Department leadership.
- 12. Town of Mono Resolution** – Request that the Canadian Government without delay to provide greater material support, to exert maximum sanctions and pressure on Russia and to use all diplomatic means possible to end this war.
- 13. Municipality of Mississippi Mills Resolution** – Supports Prince Edward County’s call for government action concerning the current legislation and regulations surrounding municipal requirements to take over and maintain abandoned operating cemeteries.
- 14. Township of Strong Resolution** – Supports the creation of a local primary care Almaguin Highlands Health Hub, in partnership with the North Bay Wellness Ontario Health Team, funded by the Ministry of Health. (rescinds 10.)
- 15. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, News Release, MAHC to Welcome New President & CEO In May** – The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Cheryl Harrison as President and Chief Executive Officer at Muskoka Almaguin Healthcare (MAHC) effective May 30, 2022. Find out more about Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare by visiting www.mahc.ca.
- 16. AMO Communications, AMO Policy Update, Ontario Expanding Mobile Crisis Response Teams, Excess Soil Regulation Implementation Postponed, Increasing Long-Term Care Staffing** –
 - Ontario expanding mobile crisis response teams.

- Proposed one-year implementation delay of excess soil requirements to Jan 1, 2023.
 - Ontario further increasing staffing in long-term care.
- 17. AMO Communications, Amo Policy Update –**
- Workplace Naloxone Kits.
 - Northern Fire Services Municipal Reimbursement.
 - IESO Long-Term RFP.
 - AMO/LAS Municipal Energy Symposium.
- 18. AMO Communications, AMO WatchFile, Mar 10, 2022, In This Issue –**
- Lead Where You Live: AMO’s Guide to Running for Municipal Election.
 - AMO/LAS Municipal Energy Symposium Mar 31 – Apr 1.
 - Webinar: Prevention strategy, H&S rep training update, & rebates from WSIB.
 - Webinar: Jump-start your Digital Transformation with an e-signature solution.
 - Webinar: Breaking down barriers – Accessible digital solution for your community.
 - Kenora’s experience with an LAS Road Assessment.
 - Overcoming supply chain challenges.
 - Canoe webinar – Madvac/Exprolink.
 - ONE Investment Spring 2022 webinar: Why Proxy Votes Are Important for ESG.
 - Register to vote in the 2022 Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections.
 - Careers.
- 19. AMO Communications, Amo WatchFile, Mar 17, 2022, In This Issue –**
- AMO’s 2022 Provincial Election Strategy 8-point plan.
 - PJ Marshalls Awards – Call for submissions for 2022 now open.
 - Seniors Community Grant Funding announcement.
 - Update on AMO 2022 Conference and Annual General Meeting.
 - AMO/LAS Municipal Energy Symposium Mar 31 – Apr 1.
 - Webinar: Prevention strategy, H7S rep training update, & rebates from WBIS.
 - Webinar: Jump-start your Digital Transformation with an e-signature solution.
 - Webinar: Breaking down barriers – Accessible digital solutions for your community.
 - What upcoming changes are expected with the carbon tax? Read our blog.
 - FCM funding still available for Road & Sidewalk Assessments.
 - Canoe vendor spotlight: ARI Phoenix.
 - Canoe webinar: Johnson Controls.
 - ONE Investment Spring 2022 webinar: Why Proxy Votes Are Important for ESG.
 - Register to vote in 2022 Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections.
 - Careers: Orillia, Hasting, Brock, Windsor and Hornepayne.
- 20. AMCTO, Local Government Priorities Toolkit –** Ontario Provincial election is taking place on Jun 2, 2022. Over the coming months they will continue to update the toolkit to include other Issue at a Glance briefing notes and analyses of political party platforms.
- 21. ROMA Communications, ROMA Board, Mar Highlights –** ROMA Board met on Mar 11, here are some of the highlights:
- Focus on Rural Post COVID Recovery.
 - ROMA launches Housing Committee.
 - Approval of 2022 Strategic Objectives.
- 22. Almaguin Highlands, Chamber of Commerce, Why Join the Chamber? –** Visit www.ahchamber.ca or <https://ahchamber.ca/join-the-chamber/>.
- 23. FedNor Out Reach, Recruitment for Prime Ministers Youth Council –** The federal Youth Secretariat launched the recruitment campaign to appoint new members to the Prime Minister’s Youth Council (PMYC). Candidates must apply online by Apr 10, 2022.
- 24. Northeastern Ontario Tourism, Mar Newsletter –**
- 2022 Spring Training Week Survey.
 - Fall and Winter Training Planning.
 - CERB and RRRF Loan Repayment Extended by Federal Government.
 - Introducing the Ontario Staycation Tax Credit.
 - Tourism HR Canada Recovery Programs and Resources.
- 25. Ministry of Energy, Letter from the Minister, Todd Smith –** The government is taking steps to launch a significant provincewide competitive process to procure new electricity resource through the Independent Electricity System Operator.
- 26. IESO Community Engagement, Municipal Involvement in Procuring New Electricity Supply Facilities –** In discussion with Mayors and members of Council, business owners and community

representatives, we are seeing how economic development continues to drive the province and municipalities forward. As a result, power system planning is increasingly occurring at the local level as municipalities demonstrate their climate priorities through sustainability plans and broad electrification goals. You can stay involved and up to date on these important topics by accessing the new community engagement webpage.

- 27. Green Economy North, FedNor Invests \$774,177 in rethink Green to Help Northeastern Ontario Businesses Enhance Productivity and Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy** – To read more about this announcement, check out FedNor’s new release or some of the following Northern Ontario media:
- CTV News
 - Northern News
 - Timmins Daily Press
 - The Sudbury Star
- Northern Ontario Businesses
- 28. NDMNRF, Algonquin Forest Annual Work Schedule, Inspection Notice** – The AWS will be available beginning Mar 16.
- 29. Enbridge. Introduction Letter, Senior Vice President & President, Gas Distribution and Storage Stakeholder Introduction Letter** – Excited to lead two strong companies whose core purpose is to deliver the energy that enhances people’s quality of life. They intend to build upon this solid foundation and the outstanding leadership of Cynthia Hanson, who is now Executive Vice President and Presidents of Gas Transmission for Enbridge Inc., and brings to her role a deep understanding of Enbridge Gas, Gazifere in Quebec and their respective markets.
- 30. BAO, Lifeline: Audio Consumer Information Guide, Inspectors on the Road Again, ALR’s Coroner’s Office Transfer RFR** –
- BAO provides greater access to information with audio version of its Consumer Information Guide.
 - BAO inspections are on the road again.
 - Online portal is now open to submit.

INFORMATION – COVID-19

- 31. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Public Service Announcement, Situation Risk Assessment Recommended in Regard to Lifted Mask Mandates** – Although face covering requirements for many settings will ended on Mar 21, 2022, there is still substantial transmission of the Omicron Variant of COVID-19 within the Health Units district. Wearing a face covering is a simple precaution people can still choose to take help reduce the spread of COVID-19 as we learn to live with the virus.
- 32. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Public Service Announcement, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics This Week, By Appointment or Walk-in** – The following clinic locations taking place this week:
- North Bay
 - Mattawa
 - Sundridge
- Individuals can book and appointment at www.Ontario.ca/BookVaccine, or by calling the Health Unit call centre at 1-844-478-1400. Children must be at least five least of age to receive a vaccine. For more information, visit www.myhealthunit.ca/GetVaccinated.
- 33. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Public Service Announcement, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics This Week, By Appointment or Walk-in:**
- North Bay
 - Noval
 - Parry Sound
 - Redbridge
 - Sequin
 - Sturgeon Falls
- 34. Ius Laboris Canada Global Hr Lawyers, Mathews Dinsdale, Federal Government to Lift Pre-Entry COVID-19 Testing Requirements for Fully Vaccinated Travellers** – Effective Apr 1, 2022 at 12:01 am fully vaccinated travellers will no longer be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result in order to enter Canada.

35. BAO, Registrar's Directive: Mask Mandate Ends Mon – The mask-wearing requirement ends on Mar 21, for all bereavement sector operations, in alignment with the province.

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

CLOSED SESSION

51-22 Wood, Scarlett

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; security of the property of the municipality or local board, advice that is subject to solicitor/client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose. Time 7:36 pm. CARRIED

52-22 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:28 pm. CARRIED

ADJOURN

53-22 Flowers, Scarlett

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Apr 11, 2022. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

BP/ss.