

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR**  
**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, November 30, 2020**

**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.

Guest scheduled by teleconference: Chas Anselmo, Senior Manager, KPMG. Guest observing by teleconference: Lee McConnell, Reporter, Almaguin News Metroland Media.

**Presentation Service Delivery Review**

Objectives of the review, scope of work, key findings and potential courses of action were reviewed. Objectives of the review were evaluation of current service offerings provided by the Township, review operating effectiveness and efficiency of the Township's processes, identifying potential opportunities intended to increase the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Township. The scope of work included development of municipal service profiles, comparative analysis, process mapping of various administrative processes, identification of potential opportunities for enhancing efficiencies, reducing operating costs and increasing non-taxation revenues. Key findings were reflected. From an overall perspective, the majority of the Township's municipal services are either mandatory in nature (required by legislation) or essential. 92% of our services are mandatory or essential, 8% are traditional. 0% are discretionary which reduces our ability to reduce costs. Generally, the Township's financial indicators, complement of services and associated operating costs are consistent with the selected municipalities included in our comparative analysis. Variances from the comparative average are associated with activity related variances. Consistent with municipal best practices, the Township appears to be making good use of shared service agreements to deliver various municipal services. We were consistent in the comparator group. The Township offers a good blend in delivering services, a balanced approach between our own resources, shared services, contracted service, and combined. Our review has identified a number of issues that constrain operating efficiencies. Various changes include formalizing processes through written policy development, reducing manual processes and increasing the overall use of technology where possible. Our barrier is access to reliable internet in order to take advantage of technology. This barrier was consistent across our region. Service based opportunities for consideration were highlighted; explore the establishment of a capital levy for the purpose of creating another revenue stream for the Township's capital needs, increase the frequency for the tendering of professional services (cautionary due to inferior service), financial policy review and development (formal written budget process and donation policy), re-formalize the shared services agreements with South River to define roles and responsibilities (we've started but had to pause due to Covid), review the Township's approach to user fees (ensure a component for capital replacement and moving with rate of inflation), review of information technology operations (explore seeking out a 3<sup>rd</sup> party service provider), explore the potential of redeveloping the Township's approach to solid waste management (establish a limit of how much waste can be disposed of). It was noted we have a high level of success in obtaining Capital Grants as a percentage of Total Capital Expenditures and our financial health is good.

**168-20 Wood, McLaren**

THAT we receive the Service Delivery Review. CARRIED

**BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of Nov 13, 2020 minutes, Resolution**

**169-20 Scarlett, Wood**

THAT we adopt Nov 9, 2020 minutes. CARRIED

**2. Regional Broadband Project & Universal Broadband Fund update**

As a follow-up that Blue Sky has been successful in moving to Stage 2 of the Provincial Broadband

program (ICON), they're happy to share that the Universal Broadband Fund has now opened with a project deadline of Feb 15, 2021. Blue Sky's project which includes our community will be submitted to that program. The Rapid Response Program which is a small part of the UBF and our project will not be part of that program as our project is more suited to sourcing funding from both the Province and the Federal government based on the cost of the project. We may hear from other ISP's that are interested in the Rapid Response small one time projects and if so, by all means feel free to explore those options, but remember that you want coverage for your whole community and not just partial areas that may be attractive to some providers, so be sure to ask - where exactly will your project provide service?

### **3. Auditor Communication and Auditor Engagement, Resolution**

Interim Audit completed Nov 19, 2020 towards the year ending Dec 31, 2020.

#### **170-20 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we authorize the Mayor and Clerk Administrator to execute the Auditor Communication and Auditor Engagement letters. CARRIED

### **4. MPAC 2021 Values and Covid-19**

The Ontario government postponed the 2020 Assessment Update due to COVID-19 and 2021 property values will continue to be based on the current legislated valuation date of Jan 1, 2016. This means there will be no overall increased assessment values for 2021. The Clerk Administrator cautioned this may result in some challenges to our 2021 Budget.

### **5. Pay List for Oct 2020, Resolution**

Questions asked and answered; postage lease, computer upgrade, roll up of Narrow's dock.

#### **171-20 Wood, Scarlett**

THAT we authorize Pay List by Fund for Oct: \$181,384.80 Grand Total. CARRIED

#### **a. Council/Committee Remuneration Expense Record submit by end of Nov**

## **COMMITTEES**

### **6. Machar Public Works minutes of Nov 20, 2020, Resolution**

#### **172-20 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Nov 20, 2020 as amended. CARRIED

### **7. Shared Services Monthly Reports; Fire, Fire Prevention Officer**

Some discussion and some concerns were expressed regarding the Officer position. Fire Committee reps indicated this is a different person than originally put forward, that the original person had been presented as his qualifications were such that we couldn't pass up the opportunity to have his knowledge and expertise available to the Fire Chief for more difficult inspections. Council members queried if we've went from hiring someone with qualifications, to training someone to be qualified instead, what happened, when did it change. Additionally, it was asked if the new person is already on the job. Council directed the Clerk Administrator to forward the queries for response.

#### **a. Arena ICIP COVID-19 Resilience Infra Stream, Resolution**

Further to our previous communications, the Clerk Administrators had a discussion on Fri afternoon. Council inquired and were surprised, expressing concern that the new upgraded commercial kitchen layout wasn't intending to be designed. In reviewing the ICIP information and requirements at the meeting, we already discussed "the Province will require a partnership agreement to be in place between all parties outlining ownership and operating structure", as well as "funds will only be made available to the lead applicant, who is responsible for the financial management of the project and

meeting provincial reporting requirements". Project Requirements also indicate "Accessibility standards: Projects must meet or exceed the requirements of the highest published accessibility standard in a jurisdiction in addition to applicable provincial building codes and relevant municipal by-laws and accessible design guidelines." We believe this will dictate that the new upgraded commercial kitchen will need to be designed, which is our preference. We feel there's a great opportunity available with the funding and we want to be sure it's utilized to the fullest enduring benefit.

**173-20 Flowers, Scarlett**

THAT we apply to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream Local Government Intake Ontario jointly with the Village of South River for the Arena, as follows: generators installation, commercial kitchen upgrades and washroom upgrades if feasible. CARRIED

**8. South River Machar Medical minutes of Nov 17, 2020, Resolution**

Supplementary tax notice queried. This is a result of the Village of South River filing a Request for Reconsideration further to the lower level tenant taking occupancy, previously deemed exempt.

**174-20 Wood, Flowers**

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes of Nov 17, 2020 as follows: Pay Lists/Budgetary Control, rescind motion #3 dated Feb 18, 2020 due to COVID 19 Province's direction to freeze rents and not increase in 2021, adjourned until Dec 15, 2020...

**9. South River Machar Library minutes of Nov 18, 2020, Resolution**

Lots of opportunity for activities are happening; Ontario Parks Day Use Permit lending program which could be loaned to patrons coming (we've expressed interest), Food for Fines (Food Bank donation), loaning snow shoes in winter/ fishing rods in summer, Adult Book Club, Youth Book Club.

**175-20 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Nov 18, 2020. CARRIED

**10. Central Almaguin Planning minutes of Nov 18, 2020, Resolution**

Still seeing lots of activity, working on Interim Consent Policies for the unorganized and seeking funding for same, looking for an assistant to the Secretary Treasurer to be trained for succession.

**176-20 Wood, Scarlett**

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Nov 18, 2020. CARRIED

**11. Joint Building Permit Summaries for Oct, Resolution**

Machar is reflecting the highest project values and permit fees of the 7 municipalities.

**177-20 McLaren, Flowers**

THAT we accept Building Permit Reports for Oct 2020. CARRIED

**12. Parry Sound EMS (Emergency Medical Services) minutes of Nov 18, 2020**

Supplemental levy due to Covid-19 discussed. Mayor Carleton advised Magnetawan received a presentation and has paid. Clerk Administrator to request our rep be scheduled for presentation.

**INFORMATION**

- 13. City of Hamilton Motion** – Amending the AGCO licensing and application process for cannabis retail stores to consider radical separation from other cannabis locations. Currently the City of Hamilton has reviewed 61 cannabis retail location applications since Jan 2020. Approximately 12 of these potential locations are within 50m (or less) of each other. The City of Hamilton is confident that

radial separations from cannabis retail locations will have a significant positive impact on the community and allow for its residents to continue to enjoy a safe and healthy community lifestyle.

14. **City of Brantford Resolution** – Supporting Ontario’s Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020, Council does not support the proposed changes to the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, specifically related to the removal of the option for a municipality to hold a ranked ballot election. Council does support the principle that each Municipality should be able to choose whether or not to use first-past-the-post or a ranked ballot election. Council encourages the Provincial government to meaningfully consult with Municipalities on municipal; issues before introducing legislative changes of this magnitude.
15. **Town of Fort Erie Resolution** – Supported correspondence from the City of Hamilton requesting the Province to consider amending its licensing and application process for Cannabis Retail Stores to consider radial separation from other cannabis locations. City of Hamilton has reviewed 61 cannabis retail location applications since Jan 2020. Approximately 12 of these potential locations are within 50m (or less) of each other. The City of Hamilton appreciates that the AGCO conducts a background search prior to approving any license, however the lack of separation between locations poses a community safety issue, as the over saturation in specific area(s)/wards, can negatively impact the surrounding community with increased traffic flow, and an overall “clustering” of stores within a small dense area. The City of Hamilton is confident that radial separations from cannabis retail locations will have a significant positive impact on the community and allow for its residents to continue to enjoy a safe and healthy community lifestyle.
16. **Town of Fort Erie Resolution** – Supported correspondence from the Township of Asphodel-Norwood requesting the governing body in cannabis production that: takes a unified approach to land use planning restrictions; enforces the regulations under the Cannabis Act on behalf of the licencing agency and ensures local authorities are in fact provided with notification of any license issuance, amendment, suspension, reinstatement, or revocation within their region; communicates more readily with local governments and provides local governments with more support.
17. **Town of Fort Erie Resolution** – Supported correspondence from the Town of Grimsby strongly recommending that Schedule 11 of Bill 108 be amended to return the authority for final decisions to municipal council’s as the elected representatives of the communities wherein the property and its features of cultural heritage value exist.
18. **Township of Howick Resolution** – That Council request the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to consider lowering the interest rate on Tile Drain Loans to 4% and increasing the yearly loan limit to \$100,000.
19. **District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board Monthly Report Nov 2020**
20. **FONOM, GoNorth Campaign** – Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUEGyXL2AXk.com> to see our second of 8 videos that are being produced and then promoted to the business community in and around the GTHA. The purpose of the Videos is to showcase the 7 districts of Northeastern Ontario. Funding for this project was received by FedNor, showing that our Region is a Healthy place to do Business.
21. **FONOM Media Release** – FONOM to hold 2021 annual conference virtually, hosted by the City of Timmins, new virtual format will provide a venue for the Board to connect with its membership at no charge. FONOM Board has launched a campaign aimed at showcasing Northern Ontario as a healthy place to do business. Supported by FedNor Canada, the GoNorth Campaign involves the creation of eight videos that will be shared through social media with business communities in the GTHA. The first two videos can be viewed at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=X81-vtsgs0w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X81-vtsgs0w) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUEGyXL2AXk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUEGyXL2AXk)
22. **AMO Policy Update** – Project intake: COVID-19 Resiliency Infrastructure Stream, municipal governments have access to \$250 million federal and provincial funding, application intake for this funding is open. Expanding mental health services, Ontario government today announced over \$37 million to significantly expand mental health services across the justice system. Will lead to better supports for individuals with mental health and addictions challenges, including help to reduce their interactions with police. This includes:
  - Over \$6.5 million for mobile crisis services.
  - \$5 million for safe bed programs to support mobile crisis teams.
  - Over \$14 million for supportive housing programs designated for justice involved individuals.
  - \$2 million for addictions/withdrawal specialists to support safe beds.
  - \$2 million for mental health and addictions peer support for offenders under community supervision.
  - \$1.1 million for mental health and addiction supports to vulnerable and marginalized persons as part

of the Ministry of the Attorney General's Justice Centres.

Province extends AODA compliance report deadline, extended from Dec 31, 2020 to Jun 30, 2021.

- 23. AMO Policy Update** – Bill 218, supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020 Passes. Third Reading to Bill 218 and its changes which provide liability protection for good faith actions to protect Ontarians from COVID-19. Revoked regulations under the Municipal Elections Act allowing ranked ballot elections and changing the nomination deadline for candidates. The legislation changes the date for receiving nominations to the third Fri in Aug of an election year. Annual auditor general report details considerations to improve greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions and access to park space. Calling for an overall focus on climate change as an all-of-government priority as committed to in the Made in Ontario Environment Plan. Pays particular attention to GHG emissions in the building sector as Ontario's third most significant source and makes recommendations on better energy conservation measures through the Ontario Building Code and updating the Long-Term Energy Plan to reduce fossil fuel use in buildings, particularly natural gas use which has been increasing. Ministry of Finance clarifies BET rate reduction impacts to municipalities, addresses recent concerns on reducing Business Education Tax (BET) rates for municipalities that host facilities that fall under the payment in lieu (PIL) category of property taxation with assessed values in commercial and industrial tax classes. The Ministry indicates it will ensure municipalities are not negatively impacted by the BET reductions. The Province will maintain BET rates at the 2020 BET rate for properties whose PIL of education taxes are permitted to be retained by municipalities.
- 24. AMO Policy Update, 2020 Provincial Budget** – The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance has released the 2020 Provincial Budget. Fiscal outlook, COVID-19 has impacted the global economy and Ontario has felt the impact. Provincial GDP declined by 12.3% in the 2nd quarter of this year. Despite some economic improvement of late, the economy is expected to contract by 6.5% in 2020. Business Education Tax, the government is lowering the Business Education Tax rates in recognition of this long-standing municipal concern. Property tax relief for small business, municipalities will be provided flexibility to target property tax relief for small businesses with provincial commitment to consider matching these reductions. Addressing Speculative Sales. Broadband and Infrastructure, the government announced an additional \$680 million to support broadband and cellular connectivity for unserved and underserved communities, including a doubling of the ICON program to \$300 million. Long-Term Care. Stormwater Investments, \$15 million over two years in one-time funding to support municipalities to improve the management of Lake Ontario's wastewater and stormwater discharges, to reduce combined sewer overflows and bypasses, lower phosphorus discharges. Public Transit, \$4 billion Safe Restart Agreement provides \$2 billion to Ontario's transit systems to help support services during the pandemic. Conservation Authorities. Ontario's Community Building Fund, the budget invested \$100 million over 2 years to support community tourism, cultural and sport organizations. Seniors, the budget puts forward an investment in Seniors Active Living Centres in the amount of \$3.1 million over the next fiscal year (2021-22). Inclusive Community Grants Program, the budget invests \$2 million over 2 years to fund the development of community supports that promote healthy and active again, support social engagement, and help with participation in the labour force.
- 25. AMO Policy Update, \$1.75 Billion Announced For Broadband Across Canada** – The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, announced an additional \$750 million to support connectivity through an expanded Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) today. The UBF includes \$150 million for Rapid Response Stream Projects which can connect Canadians by Nov 15, 2021, and \$50 million available for mobile internet projects primarily for Indigenous communities. The Prime Minister also announced today an agreement with Telesat to improve high-speed internet coverage for the far north, rural, and remote regions across Canada through Low Earth Orbiting satellites.
- 26. AMO Communications** – Immunization strategy start. Revised COVID-19 closure regulations. Chief Medical Officer of health reappointment motion. Cemetery care and maintenance funds discussion paper released.
- 27. AMO Watchfile, Nov 12, 2020, In This Issue** -
- Seeking expressions of interest for 2 municipal staff vacancies on AMO Board.
  - Accessible municipal websites.
  - New Inclusive Community Grant: Applications open.
  - ROMA 2021: Request for delegation meetings is open!
  - ROMA 2021: Exhibitor information now available.
  - The "Echo" Pandemic: Supporting employee mental health in wake of COVID-19.
  - Keeping up with Ontario legislation: Digital solutions to support your municipality.

- LAS procurement goes digital.
  - AMO's Business Services help you work better.
  - Group Buying Webinars: Last ones for 2020!
  - Investments 101 - Online training.
  - Technation's Municipal Cybersecurity Best Practices event.
  - Career with AMO.
- 28. AMO WatchFile, Nov 19, 2020, In This Issue -**
- Seeking expressions of interest for 2 municipal staff vacancies on AMO Board.
  - AMO participates in Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission.
  - ROMA launches a new Connectivity Primer and Roadmap.
  - Accessible municipal websites.
  - New Inclusive Community Grant: Applications open.
  - ROMA 2021: Delegation requests with NDP and GPO.
  - AMO-BEACON Webinar: The "Echo" Pandemic.
  - Keeping up with legislation: Digital solutions to support your municipality.
  - The new EPT - not your granny's software!
  - LAS Blog: Electricity Program Pricing Details for 2021.
  - Investments 101 - Online training.
  - Careers with AMO, Orillia, OPS, Greater Sudbury and TTC.
- 29. AMO WatchFile, Nov 26, 2020, In This Issue -**
- ROMA launches new connectivity resources.
  - Comments on Draft Blue Box Regulation and Plastics consultation.
  - Accessible municipal websites.
  - New intake for the National Disaster Mitigation Program.
  - ROMA 2021: Ontario Government delegation requests close November 30.
  - Fire equipment webinar: Municipal Group Buying Program.
  - Now booking for 2021 Road/Sidewalk Assessments.
  - Investments 101 - Online training.
  - Careers with AMO, The Blue Mountains, Mississippi Mills, TTC and Manitowadge.
- 30. AMCTO, Bill 218: Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020 -** With regard to nomination day, AMCTO expressed to the Government that changing the date to the "2<sup>nd</sup> Fri in Sep from the 4<sup>th</sup> Fri in Jul," would have significant impacts on our members' ability to deliver effective election services. Nomination day is now proposed to move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Fri in Aug. While AMCTO maintains that the new proposed nomination date still puts undue pressure on election administrators, this amendment does provide a few more weeks time to deliver election services. Ontario Fall 2020 Budget. The Budget was built around three themes: protect, support, and recover, and provides a three-year outlook with a few scenarios of what Ontario's fiscal situation could look like. Ontario is projecting a \$38.5 billion deficit for 2020-2021, as a result of COVID-19. Additionally, the Bill proposes to extend property tax exemptions that already apply to land that is used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds by an Ontario branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, units of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Veterans in Canada.
- 31. FCM Communique -** The federal government launched its Universal Broadband Fund, a major win for rural, remote and northern communities. This \$1.7 billion fund will help connect communities to high-speed internet across the country. That's up from the \$1 billion originally allocated in Budget 2019. Below you will find important details on the new funding program:
- In the coming weeks, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) will be hosting a series of webinars to help guide you through the application process.
  - The application guide provides detailed explanations to help you apply to the Universal Broadband Fund, including who is eligible to apply, what areas are eligible for coverage, and what expenses are considered eligible.
  - An eligibility mapping tool has been developed to assist applicants in developing the most comprehensive projects with no overbuild or overlap.
  - The deadline for the rapid-response stream is Jan 15, 2021. Applications are being accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.
  - The deadline for the regular project stream is Feb 15, 2021.
- 32. FCM Voice -** Taking to the (virtual) Hill. Encourage a young woman you know to apply for FCM scholarship. Video: Keys to developing your climate action plan. Webinar: Moving your Atlantic climate plan forward. Share how municipalities are building a sustainable future.

- 33. FCM Voice** – Ottawa launches Universal Broadband Fund. FCM President reaches out, FCM unites more than 2,000 municipalities of all sizes from coast to coast to coast. Together, we're working hard to support Canadians and their communities through the unprecedented challenges of a pandemic. At every step, FCM will be grounded in the needs of members, and strengthened by the relationships we build. GMF public awareness campaign: Help us share what municipal climate action looks like. Funding opportunity for affordable housing, the Community Housing Transformations Centre is an organization created through the National Housing Strategy. Recognizing the key role of municipalities in advancing housing solutions, the Centre is offering opportunities: a matching fund, as well as expedited support for Rapid Housing Initiative applications. A recent partnership between the Centre and a municipality saw a city-led \$50,000 proposal development grant tripled by the Centre. Video: Taking local action on climate. New toolkit on short-term rentals. New insights on asset management. Applications now open for community greening projects.
- 34. FCM Voice** – Building back better together, recommendations to build a stronger post-pandemic Canada. First steps toward climate resilience, have a look at Climate in Focus – Getting Started. Building a modernized workforce, building the right workforce, with the right skills, right now, takes a look at how COVID-19 has changed the way we work and how public sector leaders can respond to the new modernized workplace. Making affordable housing sustainable, great introduction to the Green Municipal Fund's Sustainable Affordable Housing (SAH) initiative for municipal, non-profit and co-operative housing providers.
- 35. ROMA, Rural Ontario Municipal Association** – A path to better connectivity: ROMA launches municipal broadband resources, two comprehensive resources tailored specifically for Ontario's rural municipalities about broadband and cellular connectivity. The Municipal Primer gives an overview of the broadband landscape, including Canada's regulatory framework. The Municipal Roadmap lays out components of a municipal connectivity plan that municipal councils and staff can implement to create local solutions. Investing in connectivity remains a choice at municipal level because local governments do not have a mandated role in telecommunications.
- 36. ROMA Insider** –
- 2021 ROMA Conference: Connecting Rural Ontario
  - A path to better connectivity: ROMA launches municipal broadband resources
  - Community paramedicine shines during COVID
- 37. MMAH, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** – The Province introduced the Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act, 2020: Accelerating Infrastructure Projects – a package of legislative measures, policy changes, and communication opportunities that would accelerate the delivery of major public (infrastructure) projects. To consult with municipalities to better understand the challenges and barriers they are facing in delivering local linear infrastructure projects. We will also explore what new authorities' municipalities may need to accelerate the delivery of these projects, requesting written input from our municipal partners across the province. Online survey, available with some discussion questions to gather your feedback and perspectives. Written submission to [PlanningConsultation@Ontario.ca](mailto:PlanningConsultation@Ontario.ca) by Dec 18, 2020.
- 38. MMAH, National Disaster Mitigation Program** – Check out our new National Disaster Mitigation Program web page, our goal with this new web page is to provide Ontario applicants with easy access to information and valuable resources. Visit our website at: <https://www.Ontario.ca/page/national-disaster-mitigation-program>.
- 39. Northeastern Ontario Newsletter** – Marketing update, Northeastern Ontario has a successful fall campaign, promoting touring, fishing, arts and culture and outdoor activities. Significant updates were made to the landing pages for these products, and our staff has been actively updating out partner and community pages too. Attention fixed roof operators! Your input in this Northern Ontario Survey is very important. Win \$1,250 by sharing your input on your performance and the impacts of COVID-19 on your property, and learn how best to plan and market your business in 2021! Cultural Crossroads: 101 experiences, a program for culture in small communities. MTO Northeastern Transportation Survey, now live! Survey will be available until Nov 20, 2020. Northern Ontario Tourism training week, Nov 23-27, 2020, join industry expert and peers for an opportunity to help grow Northern Ontario's tourism industry by joining industry peers and colleagues in our shared pursuit of excellence and success. Canada Life Business Boost Program, in celebration of Small Business month, Canada Life is introducing a one-time Business Boost Program. 12 grants of \$120,000 will be given to Canadian small businesses to recognize their resilience and support them during the pandemic. The Conference Board of Canada: New report outlines economic, health, conservation benefits of trails. Impacts of COVID-19 on the Canadian economy and consumer

sentiment. Provincial announcement, budget for 2020-2021. Community & partner highlights.

- 40. Explorers' Edge Important Update:** New Winter Cottage Country Spirit Program & Industry Update Webinar Details. Targeting permanent and seasonal residents from this region only, 2,500 packages available with 5 x \$10 vouchers included in each, can be redeemed Dec 7, 2020 – Feb 28, 2021
- 41. ENDM** - Funding inclusive community grant, now accepting applications for Inclusive Community Grants, applications will close on Dec 21, 2020. Inclusive Community Grants are designed to sustain existing, and create new, age-friendly Communities (AFCs) for older adults and people of all abilities by supporting projects with funding up to \$60,000. Projects can be focused on assisting:
- Small urban/rural/communities
  - Under-served populations
  - Diverse population of adults including Indigenous and immigrants
  - Older adults, including those with accessibility needs
  - Individuals self-isolating and following social distancing due to COVID-19
- 42. Sudbury East, Nipissing & Parry Sound, Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs – SNAPP** Sustainable New Agri-Food Products & Productivity Program Intake Open: Nov 9, 2020 to Feb 12, 2021. The program is an initiative of the Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN), a division of the Sault Ste Marie Innovation Centre in partnership with the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance (NOFIA) and the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre. Project activity streams, eligible projects may fall under the following streams:
- New Products – Projects that enable agriculture or food producers to create primary or processed products that are new to the business. Examples of potentially eligible projects include the creation of a new ready-to-eat processed product, or the ability to produce a new farm product. Project equipment may include food or fibre processing equipment or food production equipment.
  - Productivity Enhancement – Projects that utilize innovative technologies or processes to increase efficiencies in their operations and improve processes or products. Project equipment may include greenhouse structures, production equipment, animal tracking (tag reading technology) meat processing equipment, or food packaging equipment.
  - Clean Tech in Agri-Food – Projects that adopt clean technology at the farm/business level and support improved environmental performance while fostering productivity, growth and competitiveness. Eligible projects must improve environmental performance relative to standard/most commonplace technologies. Therefore, energy, efficiency, remanufacturing, or productivity improvement initiatives do not necessarily include clean tech adoption/adaptation. Examples of potentially eligible projects include precision agriculture technology for irrigation and fertilization, composting and waste management, controlled environment greenhouse technology and gaining water or energy efficiencies.
- 43. Enbridge, Ontario's Energy Transition** – As a natural gas company, a question we get asked a lot is, “what are you doing about climate change?” The answer is meeting our future energy needs in a way that is affordable, reliable and minimizes the environmental impacts, will require multiple energy systems working together, and we're stepping up. We're targeting net zero greenhouse gas emissions in our own operations by 2050 and we're innovating to deliver clean energy solutions for Ontario. Today, natural gas is a critical component of Ontario's energy supply – providing about twice the energy needs of Ontario compared to electricity, with unsurpassed system reliability of over 99.9%, at about half the cost. In fact, 75% of Ontario households and business rely on this affordable energy choice to keep energy costs low for families and businesses competitive. Some say the best way to achieve this is to electrify everything. Economic impacts: The infrastructure to support full electrification does not exist today. Reliability: Electricity can't be efficiently stored, and renewable electricity requires backup that can ramp up quickly to meet our energy needs when the wind doesn't blow, the sun doesn't shine, or above-ground infrastructure is impacted by climate events. Energy Intensity: Electricity does not have sufficient energy intensity to power many critical technologies that our quality of life depends on like heavy transportation for the shipment of goods and steel and concrete manufacturing needed to build things like wind turbines and solar panels. Solutions include:
- Greening the gas supply
  - Displacing more carbon-intensive fuels for heavy transportation
  - Green technologies for heat
  - Conservation programs for homes and businesses
- 44. MNFR, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry** – Pembroke District, Algonquin Park Forest, MNFR Digital Mail List, to receive future notifications, please send an email request.
- 45. Municipal Monitor Q3 2020;** Planning the Post-Pandemic City, Climate Change Remains a Priority,



Smart Cities should Get Smart about Privacy, a Fine Balance

- 46. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs** – Place to Grow: Agri-food innovation initiative, open until Nov 26, 2020, a program which will help drive innovation, reduce red tape, and address industry priorities.
- 47. 2021 Prime Minister’s Awards** – Do you know an inspirational educator? Submit your nomination electronically or by mail by Jan 12, 2021
- 48. Ontario Heritage Trust, Nov News** – Giving Tue: Dec 1, Doors open Ontario showcases new rules for old buildings, Projects recognized for their adaptive reuse of heritage buildings. Heritage Award Winners:
- The Courthouse Hotel Project turned the original 1924 Thunder Bay Courthouse into a hotel that preserved the stateliness of the original while contributing to the revitalization of the Port Arthur neighbourhood where it stands
  - The John Muir Branch of the Windsor Public Library repurposed the city’s 1921 and 19<sup>th</sup>-century fire halls to create a unique library for the here and now
  - The Kingston Public Market square has been an important assembly point in Kingston for over 200 years – seeing such gatherings as celebrations of Confederation in 1867, troop assembly during the First and Second World Wars, and the final Tragically Hip concert in 2016. The Trust also holds conservation easements on 278 properties across the province, many of which have been adapted from their original use. A couple of examples include:
  - The Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives was once the Peel Country Courthouse and Jail.
  - Willowbank, once a private Queenston residence, is now home to the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts
  - Hamilton’s Canadian National Railway Station (built in 1929-31) is today the LiUNA Station Banquet and Convention Centre.
- Places of Worship Inventory is a database of over 5,700 places of worship in Ontario. Some of these sites are no longer in religious use but have been adapted for new purposes, including:
- The Glebe Community Centre (formerly St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Ottawa) is now a local landmark for a whole new reason.
  - Toronto’s St. George’s Greek Orthodox Church remains one of very few examples of Byzantine-inspired architecture in the city. The building was uniquely adapted in 1937 to accommodate a new faith.
  - The Green Door Bed and Breakfast in Brockville was constructed in the 1920s in an art deco design. Adapted from a church into this B&B in 2005.
- The Ontario Heritage Centre in downtown Toronto was once the Canadian Birkbeck Investments and Savings Company. Built in 1908-09 by award-winning architect George W. Gouinlock, the Birkbeck Building remains an excellent example of beaux arts architecture.

#### INFORMATION – COVID-19

- 49. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release** – The province is currently experiencing a record number of cases of COVID-19, during this second wave, and trending upwards. Since mid-October, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit’s (Health Unit) region has seen an increase in the number of new COVID-19 cases among residents indicating that our region has also entered the second wave. This past week, we have the highest number of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 (8) since early April. Currently, there are seven (7) active infections within the Health Unit district for a total of 56 confirmed cases since the pandemic began. We urge you to:
- Avoid socializing for now
    - Limit travel outside the home to
    - Attending school or work – if unable to work from home
  - Essential trips for groceries, medication and medical appointments
  - Assume everyone has COVID-19 outside your home and take precautions
    - Keep a distance of two (2) metres between yourself and anyone outside of your home
    - However, if you live alone, you may consider having close contact with another household
    - Wear a face covering if you need to be closer than two (2) metres from someone outside your home during essential trips. Being in close contact to someone has the highest risk of transmitting COVID-19, along with being in closed or crowded spaces.
    - Wash or sanitize your hands often, cough or sneeze into your sleeve and if you feel unwell stay home and arrange to be tested.
  - Limit exercise and recreation to outdoor spaces where physical distancing is possible.

- Avoid travel outside of our district, especially to areas with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, unless for emergencies or urgent medical appointments
- 50. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release** – Member of Nipissing University Community tests positive for COVID-19, close contact tracing is underway and individuals who are deemed at high risk will be contacted by the Health Unit, individuals who are not contacted by the Health Unit are not considered at high risk. “We remind the public that we must continue to work together to help slow the spread of COVID-19 by following public health measures and limiting social activities and travel outside the district.” The Health Unit encourages everyone to remain “COVID Kind” and continue to support each other through these unprecedented times. Continue to follow public health measures including physical distancing, wearing a face covering, washing or sanitizing hands often, coughing or sneezing into your sleeve. Currently, there is no specific treatment for COVID-19. It is important to remember that some people with COVID-19 have no symptoms or mild symptoms.
- 51. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release** – Health Unit Declares Community Outbreak in Connection with Nipissing University after 6 members of the Nipissing University athletic community have tested positive for Covid-19. Close contact tracing has been completed and those who were in close contact with folks who have tested positive were asked to self isolate and arrange to be tested. Individuals who have attended social gatherings with folks who are a part of the Nipissing University athletic community are asked to self monitor. Staff are working with Nipissing University to provide important public health direction. Our communities are experiencing a significant increase in Covid-19 illness. We must all act now to slow the spread.
- 52. COVID-19 Update from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare** – In the Simcoe Muskoka region as of Thu, Nov 12, the Health Unit has reported 1,604 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Simcoe Muskoka, of which 83 are reported in Muskoka (Gravenhurst 14; Huntsville 26; Muskoka Lakes 21; Lake of Bays 3; Bracebridge 11; Georgian Bay 8) with 79 recovered, one hospitalized, and one deceased. Today, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (NBPSDHU) reported that its region has seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases among residents, indicating the region has also entered the second wave. This past week, NBPSDHU has the highest number of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 (8) since early Apr. Currently, there are seven (7) active infections within the Health Unit district for a total of 56 confirmed cases since the pandemic began.
- Both sites continue to experience high, over-census occupancy and across both sites averaged 107% in Oct with Nov tracking very similarly in average occupancy.
  - As the second wave impacts hospitals across Ontario, MAHC has also seen occasional COVID-positive inpatients at each site and anticipates there could be more as infections increase.
  - COVID investigation continues to regularly impacts patient flow and occupancy due to the isolation requirements from screening, which has continued to place an isolation load on staff.
  - Infection control measures continue across both sites while screening of outpatient and infection control measures continue across both sites while screening of outpatients and essential visitors continues.
  - Since the start of the pandemic up to Nov 11, MAHC’s COVID-19 testing in hospitals has grown to 3,500 swabs.
  - The Regional Pandemic Response Unit (PRU) adjacent to the Royal Victoria Regional Health Center in Barrie is creeping closer to opening. This 70-bed, 8,000-plus square foot structure is a separate yet fully functioning four-season field hospital connected to the main hospital by a covered tunnel. The ideal patient population is non-COVID patients requiring general medicine, and is intended to ease capacity issues faced by hospitals across the North Simcoe Muskoka region, including Parry Sound. Take a virtual tour of the PRU or learn more from the Oct 23 feature on CTV News Barrie. Since opening the Bracebridge COVID-19 Assessment Centre behind the South Muskoka Memorial Hospital on Aug 31, the centre has completed just over 3,600 swabs up to and including Nov 10, 2020, by appointment only from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon to Fri except for statutory holidays. Appointments can be made by calling, 1-888-383-7009. More information is available at [www.mahc.ca/COVID-19Testing.ca](http://www.mahc.ca/COVID-19Testing.ca).
- 53. AMO Policy Update** – Province updates COVID-19 framework with new lower thresholds, to respond to the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases updates are necessary and will help limit the spread of COVID-19 while keeping schools open, maintaining health system capacity, protecting the province’s most vulnerable, and avoiding broader future lockdowns. Modelling indicated that if the number of new cases continue to grow at its current rate, the province could register up to 6,500 new cases per day by mid-Dec. Within the next two weeks the province will likely exceed its intensive care threshold of 150 beds, under any potential scenario.

**54. AMO Policy Update, Updated COVID-19 Public Health Measures** – The Province announced the movement of certain public health unit regions to new levels. Many regions will also remain at their current level. 10 regions remain at the Green – Prevent level.

- Lockdown
  - City of Toronto
  - Region of Peel
- Red - Control
  - Durham Region Health Department; and
  - Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services
  - York Region, City of Hamilton, and Halton Region remain
- Orange - Restrict
  - Huron Perth Public Health;
  - Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit;
  - Southwestern Public Health; and
  - Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
  - Brant County, Niagara Region, City of Ottawa, and Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph remain
- Yellow - Protect
  - Chatham-Kent Public Health;
  - Eastern Ontario Health Unit;
  - Grey Bruce Health Unit;
  - Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health;
  - Peterborough Public Health; and
  - Thunder Bay District Health Unit
  - Haldimand-Norfolk, Middlesex-London and Sudbury & District remain.

Public health units will stay in their level for a minimum of 28 days, for long-term care homes, visitor restrictions apply to those homes in the public health units that are in the Orange-Restrict level or higher. New LTC Projects, the Ontario government has announced 29 new long-term care projects, which will lead to an additional 3,000 new upgraded long-term care spaces across the province. Of the 29 projects, 23 involve the construction of brand-new buildings and 19 involve campuses of care where multiple services are provided on the same site. In addition to the 29 projects announced today, Ontario is investing an additional \$761 million to build and renovate 74 projects under the modernized funding model, creating close to 11,000 safe, modern spaces. Emergency Orders Extended, the Province has extended all orders until Dec 21, 2020. Correction: AODA Compliance Reporting Deadline, information was provided to inform members that the compliance reporting deadline for public sector organizations has been extended from Dec 31, 2020 to Jun 30, 2021. We need to correct this statement to clarify that this extension applies to business and non-profit organizations. Public sector organizations, including municipalities, are due to report in 2021 and the deadline for these reports is Dec 31, 2021. There is no report required in 2020. Reminder: Upcoming Deadline for Accessible Website Compliance with the AODA, beginning Jan 1, 2021, all public websites and web content posted after Jan 1, 2012 must meet WCAG 2.0 Level AA other than criteria 1.2.4. To support compliance, AMO has partnered with e-SolutionsGroup and GHD Digital as a preferred vendor to assist municipal governments to meet or exceed AODA and WCAG 2.0 requirements.

**55. AMO Policy Update** – Auditor General of ON Special Report on Ontario’s Initial Covid-19 Response,,, summary available, AMO will review as well as the Province’s response and commentary, Winter Holiday Guidance, preliminary advising that the safest way to spend the holidays this year is by only celebrating in person with your household and celebrating virtually with everyone else, for those who live alone, it is suggested that they exclusively celebrate with one additional household as a safe approach to the holidays

**56. Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing** – Enforcement of Orders under the Reopening Ontario Act 2020. Given the recent rise in Covid-19 cases, the government recently announced new provincial restrictions. The government is amending ON Reg 950 under the Provincial Offences Act, set fine to be attached to any ticket. These actions are being taken to help stop the spread of Covid-19. The ON government has also extended all orders currently in force under the Reopening Ontario Act until Dec 21, 2020. Changes to POA and ROA Regs 124 pages.

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

#### **Accessory Buildings Zoning Contravention 6-048**

Council received and reviewed a letter from the owner further to By-Law Enforcement investigation of a complaint. We regret to advise a Council Resolution cannot override Zoning requirements as Zoning By-Laws/Official Plans are regulated by the Planning Act. As such, owner options are to convert the Accessory Buildings back to sheds, or apply for a zoning amendment. The owner would incur the costs to proceed with a zoning amendment and there is no guarantee it would be approved. It must go through the process dictated by the Planning Act which includes several requirements including public notice. While we appreciate the owners' circumstances, it's a significant contravention of the Zoning By-Law to convert sheds (Accessory Buildings) for human habitation. This simply isn't permissible from a Zoning standpoint, and additionally from a safety perspective. The owner will need to contact our By-Law Enforcement Officer immediately to remedy the contraventions. Alternatively, further action will proceed. We regret this action is necessary, however trust the owners can understand the concern.

### **Explore South River – our own app!**

Join on Dec 7 at 11 am via Zoom to celebrate big news and share your insights about what comes next. Explore South River is excited to announce their partnership with Creative ONE & Digital Mainstreet Labs to create a fabulous new website & handheld application. ESR map, calendar of events, stores & member listings will be available on phone app stores this Spring! Councillor Wood plans to attend.

### **Mikisew Provincial Park – Winter Activities**

The Park Superintendent has been in touch and proposed for this winter (2020-21): Mikisew Provincial Park is interested in providing limited winter recreation opportunities for 2020-21, for 2020-21 the park would not be charging any fees, for 2020-21 the park will not have any funding to support this initiative, the park would not have any staff on site and would not provide any washroom facilities, the park would also not be able to regularly plow additional parking areas, the park would be willing to open up additional parking around the park office if the Township were able to plow and maintain the parking area for the winter of 2020-21. If the parking area is maintained, Mikisew could be promoted by local businesses as a featured activity in the area, local volunteers living on Park Rd have expressed interest in grooming of a small ski trail loop using campground roads, the existing park trails would provide some excellent snowshoeing opportunities. The Clerk Administrator has discussed with our Superintendent of Public Works to determine capabilities. The Township is very excited at this opportunity for our citizens as we've long recognized the potential of Mikisew Provincial Park, ideally located north of Arrowhead which offers fantastic winter recreation opportunities. Administration and Public Works are authorized to work in conjunction with Mikisew Provincial Park in providing winter opportunities for 2020-21, with no liability assumed by the Township for services provided. We look forward to working with Mikisew.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### **178-20 Wood, 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, litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board. Time 7:50 pm. CARRIED

#### **179-20 McLaren, Flowers**

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:02 pm. CARRIED

### **ADJOURN**

#### **180-20 Scarlett, McLaren**

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, Dec 14, 2020. CARRIED

---

Mayor Lynda Carleton

---

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

BP