

TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
AGENDA – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 28, 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 and Neil Scarlett. Councillor Bart Wood was absent with notice.

Staff present: Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul.

Guests scheduled: ELCA President Mike Mitchell, South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki. Guests observing: John Mowat, Marv Nolan, Almaguin News Reporter Lee McConnell. Guests scheduled and observing attended by teleconference.

Use of Lake and Cottage Rentals, Additional concerns (4-020-04 and 5-132)

Letter received. Congratulations extended on the improvements to the Eagle Lake Rd this year. Mr. Mitchell expressed it's been encouraging to see the large number of people that have used and enjoyed Eagle Lake this summer, but at the same time, the Eagle Lake Conservation Association has fielded a number of complaints about people not acting responsibly while at the lake. There is a strong sense that the proliferation of cottage rentals has resulted in Ontario lakes being used, and occasionally abused, by renters who are unfamiliar with cottage living, the particular lake they are visiting, the problems that can arise from misuse and overuse of septic systems, and the need to protect the health of the lake and respect private property. The ELCA would welcome the opportunity to review and coordinate our efforts to encourage people to act responsibly, and protect the health of the lake.

Mayor Carleton responded that we've received a couple of concerns. We've posted a link on our website home page: "My neighbour is an Airbnb host. What do I need to know?" The information is very helpful indicating Airbnb encourages responsibility and Neighbours can report concerns directly to Airbnb. Hopefully this will be of assistance where the rentals are Airbnb. Mayor Carleton is a Director for FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities) and through her activity on the Board has recently been provided information on the Township of Lake of Bays' review of short-term rentals (STRs). The information is comprehensive and just received. It includes a Quick Reference Guide for Property Owners/Renters. Information to be provided to Mr. Mitchell and Council for review.

Fire Chief – Monthly Report

Report for Sep, AP Ledger and Income Statement for Aug received from South River. Fire Chief Maki requested to attend this evening's meeting for more dialogue with Council, similar to dialogue previously done at Committee, just now at Council. Report reviewed. All fire vehicles were undercoated. Deputy Mayor McLaren referred inquiries received from citizens regarding undercoating of vehicles. Chief Maki advised additional undercoating of personal vehicles is offered to firefighters first and they pay the same price as an individual would. Chief Maki expressed the service is offered in appreciation of the quick response required of firefighters to the firehall for a call, as they can't always take the time to warm up their vehicle, and the supplier has indicated the quantity of outside applications done at the firehall is environmentally safe. Questions were asked and answered on the Income Statement. Chief Maki expressed he didn't have the AP Ledger and Income Statement. Chief Maki apprised the MTO Drivetest Centre in Sundridge has changed from Covid-19 closure to permanent closure and the Fire Dept has expressed concern. Mayor Carleton queried whether our support would be of assistance. Chief Maki advised it would and South River is already doing the same. The Clerk Administrator requested a copy of the Fire Dept letter so we can forward our support. Chief Maki apprised of discussions with South River regarding Halloween this year. South River is going to discourage door-to-door trick-or-treating and the Fire Dept would like to host an event at the firehall with appropriate protocols in place for Covid-19. Council agreed and were appreciative of the efforts.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Sep 14, 2020 minutes, Resolution

139-20 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we adopt Sep 14, 2020 minutes. CARRIED

COMMITTEES

2. Machar Public Works minutes of Sep 17, 2020, Resolution

140-20 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Sep 17, 2020. CARRIED

Council were apprised it seems there had been some misinformation circulating between citizens about the Snowmobile trail Morris Lane extension. It has been resolved between the parties.

141-20 Flowers, McLaren

THAT we grant permission to Reg Wilson within his trapping area for the harvesting of fur bearing animals on Township property, including road allowances and Township owned lakeshore road allowances. CARRIED

3. South River Shared Services Monthly Reports for Aug; Arena, Culture & Rec, Fire

The Clerk Administrator referred an update from South River Clerk Administrator; the Arena is on schedule to reopen to the 3 minor youth organizations – girls hockey, boys hockey and figure skating on Mon, Oct 5. The Spartans have taken practice ice in Muskoka and Sundridge in the month of Oct while the Arena works with the local youth groups. Hopefully the Arena will be able to accommodate the Spartan’s special requests, in particular exclusive use of a dressing room in Nov.

4. South River Machar Library minutes of Sep 9, 2020, Resolution

The new Library Assistant is doing well. South River has returned the bench outside the Library.

142-20 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Sep 9, 2020. CARRIED

5. South River Machar Medical minutes of Sep 15, 2020, Resolution

The doctors attended the meeting. Councillor Scarlett queried concerns about office closure and patient visits. Councillor Flowers indicated those concerns were not discussed with the doctors.

143-20 Flowers, Scarlett

THAT we support motions 1-3 in Medical minutes of Sep 15, 2020 as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay List/Budgetary Control, adjourned until Oct 20, 2020... CARRIED

6. ARI (Almaguin Recycling Initiative) Hazmat minutes of Sep 16, 2020, Resolution

Overwhelming number of people attending and extension of Hazmat hours discussed. Council were reminded the May Hazmat was cancelled due to Covid-19, so only the Aug 22 Hazmat was held.

144-20 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we acknowledge ARI minutes of Sep 16, 2020. CARRIED

7. EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Supplemental Levy Covid-19

Discussion ensued reflecting our surprise, displeasure and limited information available.

145-20 Scarlett, McLaren

WHEREAS we received correspondence from the Town of Parry Sound regarding a Supplemental Emergency Medical Services Levy indicating cost overruns have occurred due

to significant increases in needed Personal Protective Equipment (including higher than usual costs for the PPE), COVID related sick time and overtime costs associated with sick time,

WHEREAS there is a request for funding from the contributing municipalities in the total additional amount of \$450,000 apportioned to each municipality with the Township of Machar's share billed at \$8,208.45 in additional costs and EMS summer upstaff shift to operate until Oct 13, 2020 per Town of Parry Sound Sep 9, 2020 correspondence,

WHEREAS the EMS Committee recommended and the Town of Parry Sound is requesting municipalities use the funds received from the Safe Restart Funding – Phase 1,

WHEREAS the municipalities and the Township of Machar have their own increased costs experienced due to Covid-19 and funds allocated through the Safe Restart Funding,

WHEREAS the Covid-19 Pandemic is constantly changing and there may be more costs,

NOW THEREFORE THAT we support the Municipality of Magnetawan's Resolution No. 2020-139 passed Sep 23, 2020 that the Town of Parry Sound should petition the Province for these funds rather than a Supplemental Levy to the municipalities now or in the future,

AND FURTHER THAT we not support the Supplemental Levy to municipalities.
CARRIED

8. **District of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Monthly Report Sep 2020**

Reviewed. Includes introduction to Tammy MacKenzie, new CAO effective Mon, Aug 24, 2020.

INFORMATION

9. **Loyalist Township Resolution re: Ferries** – support of the Canadian Ferry's Association request to the Ministry of Transportation that ferries be considered part of the local transit system and that lost revenue be eligible for reimbursement.
10. **Town of Amherstburg Resolution** – Regarding the AODA Website Compliance Extension Requests that the Province of Ontario extend the compliance deadline by a minimum of one (1) year to at least Jan 1, 2022.
11. **Town of Amherstburg Resolution** – Request for Amendments to Bill 108 re. The Ontario Heritage Act, Strongly recommends that Schedule 11 of Bill 108 be amended to return the authority for final decisions to municipal council's as the elected representative of the communities wherein the property and its features of cultural heritage value exist.
12. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Parenting Campaign** – Re-launching 2020 Parenting Campaign and reminding parents to listen, respond and connect with your child, to help your child work through their emotions, and to let your child play. Key parenting messages will be posted online and displayed throughout Nipissing and Parry Sound Districts. There is no such thing as a perfect parent and with today's extra pressures to juggle demands while dealing with COVID-19, we want to reassure parents that even small moments with your child counts.
13. **Employment North Muskoka Hospitality Program** – Employment North has just shared the launch of their new Hospitality Muskoka program! Offers an 80% wage subsidy for youth (15-29 yrs) placements in the hospitality sector, involves: 3 weeks of training/workshops, 3 week job shadowing, and a 37 week work placement. Businesses could include: hospitality, resorts, food, accommodations, applications will be received on a continuous basis until all of the positions have been filled, www.employmentnorth.com/hospitality-muskoka-new
14. **ACED, Almaguin Community Economic Development** – The ACED team are excited to launch the Digital Main Street program 2.0; Which includes the \$2,500 Digital Transformation Grant for businesses along with access to the Digital Service Squad Member that provides one-on-one support for businesses, read more about the program here: <https://investalmaguin.ca/dms/>
15. **MPAC Board Chair** – Thank you for the work you are doing to keep our community safe and healthy. Disruptions and challenges the pandemic has caused, pandemic support plan has three elements: controlling MPAC costs, supporting municipal priorities and finding new ways to deliver services. Controlling Costs: 2021 Provincial Municipal Levy, the corporation's 2021 operating budget with a total municipal levy increase of 0%. Supporting priorities: extended timeline to capture 2020 new construction and additions, renovations, identified opportunities to speed up processes in order to deliver approximately \$1-billion in additional new assessment for municipalities this year. New ways to deliver services: easier, faster access to assessment data, developing the next iteration of Municipal Connect.

- 16. FONOM, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities Media Release** – Board of directors supports satellite internet access to bring improved services to Northern Ontario, supporting Starlink, a satellite internet service that’s being developed by Space Exploration Technologies Corporation’s (SpaceX). “We know today our citizens require greater connectivity than 50/10 megabits per seconds,” said FONOM President Danny Whalen. “FONOM believes that the Starlink program is our best option.” Broadband Draft Resolution received Sep 24, 2020.
- 17. Justices of the Peace Appointments Advisory Committee** – The committee is mandated by the Attorney General of Ontario to provide a list of recommended candidates that reflect the diversity of the people and communities within Ontario to fill the vacancies that arise on the Justice of the Peace Bench. As leaders in your community, your knowledge and guidance would be most appreciated in identifying potential candidates for this important role. We are asking for your support in distributing our notice of vacancies. Applications for vacancies until Oct 15, 2020. For more information www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/jpaac/
- 18. Stakeholder Memo from the ARB, 2020** – An update on the changes, having a committee formed to deal with the resolution of appeals, have seen a reduction of 50% of the appeals that were identified in Jan 2020, snapshot of the current appeals and properties, 58,851 appeals against 14,012 properties.
- 19. AMO Policy Update, New Legislation, Regional Gathering Restrictions, Pre-Federal Throne Speech Submission** – Municipal Affairs and Housing, has introduced legislation that will, if passed, provide a residential rent freeze and extend suspension of commercial evictions for 2021 as well as change the future management of the municipal electors’ list. Minister Clark also announced legislation to change the *Municipal Elections Act* and *Elections Act* to create one unified Electors’ List for provincial and municipal elections which will be in place for 2024 and subsequent municipal elections. The Ontario government has amended order O.Reg 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3 under the Reopening Ontario (*A Flexible Response to COVID-19 Act, 2020*), to set a new limit on the permitted number of people to attend social gatherings and organized public events in the Toronto, Ottawa and Peel Region public health unit areas that have higher rates of transmission of COVID-19. New limit on the number of people allowed to attend an unmonitored social gathering or organized public event:
- 10 people at an indoor event or gathering (previous limit of 50); or
 - 25 people at an outdoor event or gathering (previous limit of 100)
- 20. AMO Policy Update, Provincial Regional Gathering Restrictions, DC/CBC Regulations** – On Sat Sep 19, the Ontario government announced the limit reduction on the number of people permitted to attend unmonitored and private social gatherings for the entire province. Last Thu, the Province put these restrictions on for Toronto, Peel Region, and Ottawa.
- 10 people at an indoor event or gathering (previous limit of 50); or
 - 25 people at an outdoor event or gathering (previous limit of 100).
- The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing posted for decision notices on Fri, these are the linked together for regulations on development charges (DC), community benefit charges (CBCs), and parkland dedication. The in-force date of Sep 18, 2020 starts the two-year transition period for municipalities to implement a new framework.
- 21. AMO Update: 2020 Federal Throne Speech Lays Out Priorities Including Climate Action, Expanding Rural Broadband, Improved Housing Access, Child Care and Long-Term Care Standards** – The federal government is in a minority government situation and a Throne Speech requires the confidence of the House of Commons. This means that the government will require the support of opposition members to pass the Speech. Significant commitments of interest to Ontario municipal governments include:
- Keeping the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into 2021.
 - Keeping supports such as the Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS).
 - Investments in infrastructure such as public transit and active transportation; flooding and fire prevention; affordable housing and reduction of homelessness – including recent initiatives for rapid housing.
 - Action on long-term care with national standard, “*Criminal Code* amendments to explicitly penalize those who neglect seniors under their care;”
 - Invest in a childcare and early learning system as well as creating a strategy for women in the economy;
 - Banning single use plastics next year and improving recycling as well as creating a Canadian Clean Water Agency;
 - Legislating the goal of net-zero energy emissions by 2030 as well as expanding electric vehicle charging;
 - Targeted support for travel and tourism, cultural and performing arts, and hospitality industries that have been hardest hit from the pandemic.
- The Speech promised action to continue municipal ability to ban handguns; expanding urban parks and access to greenspace and changes to improve civilian oversight of policing including the RCMP as part of its priority to reduce systemic racism.
- 22. AMO Watchfile Sep 17, 2020 In This Issue**
- Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship signed by OFIFC and AMO.
 - CMHC Housing Supply Challenge.

- 3 fall dates available for AMO's Land Use Planning training.
 - Provincial energy reporting link has changed.
 - Investments 101 training available now.
 - Cyber security in Ontario's public sector.
 - Careers with Cambridge, Peterborough Police Services Board and Thunder Bay.
23. **AMCTO, Advocacy Update: Legislation Announced on a Municipal Voters' List** – AMCTO members claim small victory towards efforts to update municipal voters' list legislation. Legislation that would create single register of voters for municipal and provincial elections to take effect Jan 1, 2024 ahead on the 2026 municipal election, pleased to see the government take action after years of advocacy.
 24. **FCM Communique, Sep 10, 2020** – FCM urges rapid housing solutions amid pandemic, proposing a federal initiative and partnership to help non-profit community housing providers rapidly acquire, renovate and retrofit two kinds of buildings:
 - Buildings to convert to deeply affordable and supportive housing
 - Existing moderate – rent residential buildings
 25. **FCM Voice Sep 14, 2020** – Register now for the 2020 Sustainable Communities Conference Oct 22, 2020. Time's running out: Register now as an FCM voter, deadline extended to Sep 18, 2020. Join an FCM standing committee or forum, apply before Oct 16, 2020. Announcing the 2020 sustainable communities' award winners. New rail safety toolkit for Canadian municipalities.
 26. **FCM Voice Sep 21, 2020** – Breaking Today: Action on housing for vulnerable Canadians. Success: Emergency operating funding, Upcoming FCM Tables Officer elections, Get your first look at the Sustainable Communities Conference Schedule. Turning empty buildings into affordable homes, FCM launched a new proposal last week that would seek to convert empty distressed hotels and rooming houses into permanent affordable housing. Video: Taking local action on climate.
 27. **New! Targeted Rural Economic Development (RED) Program** – Is for Economic diversification and competitiveness projects only, capital projects are not eligible, program criteria for this is different than the normal RED program. **This targeted RED is for not-for-profit regional organizations or upper-tier municipalities with economic development projects that support multiple countries/regions/districts/Indigenous communities or the province.**
 28. **Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations** – OEB orders Hydro One to eliminate the Seasonal Rate Class on Sep 17, 2020, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) ruled that Hydro One with eliminate the Seasonal Rate Class, and shall move all customers into one of their other, density-based rate classes.
 29. **Enbridge Gas** – Applied to the Ontario Energy Board for approval to dispose of amounts recorded in certain deferral and variance accounts and for approval of the amount of its 2019 earnings that it is required to share with customers. The deadline to become a registered intervenor is Oct 8, 2020.
 30. **The Great Trail Report** – Our annual report is now online! The myth of the Great Bike Savior, a must read 9 minute article, available online.
 31. **September News from The Ontario Heritage Trust** – Doors Open Ontario – Discovering the story behind every door. Getting the most out of digital door open, expanding the narrative with Digital Doors Open. Supporting Ontario's tourism sector, take a "staytrip".
 32. **Ontario Heritage Trust** – Nominations for the 2020 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards are open! Recognize individual, group and project-based achievements in four categories:
 - Youth Achievement
 - Community Leadership
 - Lifetime Achievement
 - Excellence in Conservation

INFORMATION – COVID-19

33. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release** – Health Unit reminding public to follow gathering size, effective this morning (Sep 18, 2020) at 12 a.m., Toronto, Peel, and Ottawa regions have reduced gathering sizes to a maximum of 25 people outdoors and 10 people indoors. These restrictions come as the province is seeing a steady increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. The North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit (Health Unit) region is still experiencing low levels of COVID-19 with testing rates above the provincial average and, at this time, will not be reducing gathering sizes. The public is reminded that gatherings are not to exceed 100 people outdoors and 50 people indoors and they must continue to physically distance with individuals outside their social circle.
34. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release** – Gathering restrictions expanded to all of Ontario, in response to the provincial daily positive cases of COVID-19 reaching over 400 late last week, the Premier has announced a provincial reduction in gatherings. Effective Sep 19, 2020, social gatherings and organized public events have been limited to 10 people indoors and 25 people outdoors. The country has also announced new enforcement rules.
35. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit** – Health Unit removing gender from the COVID-19 cases page on website. Sharing the gender of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 with the public does not change the public safety or the preventative measures taken by the public, or by businesses and municipalities. With

the potential for cases related to schools and child care centres it also helps to protect the identity of individuals, both children and adults who test positive for COVID-19.

36. FCM Communique, Huge Process on Emergency Funding – Moved much closer to a solution to the financial crisis municipalities face as we carry Canadians through the COVID-19 pandemic. Yesterday, the provinces and territories shared their plans to match federal funding under the “safe restart” agreement, includes up to \$8.6 billion in emergency funding for municipalities. This is a remarkable all-hands commitment to support municipalities, this is about keeping frontline services going strong and keeping people safe. It’s about preparing for a possible second wave of COVID-19. Municipalities will still face hard budget choices, agreement offers real relief for financial impacts from the start of this pandemic through a period of 6-8 months, there’s still work to do to ensure this funding flows efficiently.

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

146-20 Flowers, McLaren

WHEREAS the availability of broadband that is on par with larger, urban areas in Canada is essential for Northern Ontario to achieve economic sustainability and social well-being;

WHEREAS in 2016 the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requested that the internet be designated as an essential service and those efforts are undertaken to ensure all municipalities have access to affordable, fast, and reliable broadband;

WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) agreed that an option to explore and hopefully support would be the Starlink Program, by SpaceX,

NOW THEREFORE THAT we support the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and agree that Broadband is an essential service, that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) should allow SpaceX and other private ventures to compete with those presently acting in the communication field, as they have the private financial ability to move forward. CARRIED

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare; Staff Case of Covid-19

It has been confirmed that the acquisition was through a close contact and did not occur in the workplace at MAHC. The staff member has been quarantining at home.

Explore South River

Printed maps released just in time for Fall colour exploring! We’re expecting a supply in office soon.

Municipal Office Closure – Wed, Oct 21, 2020 per discussions with Munisoft and staffing requirements

ADJOURN

147-20 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Tue, Oct 13, 2020. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

BP