

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the **Special / Closed** Meeting of Ear Falls Council
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
May 14th, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kahoot called the Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Kevin Kahoot, Councillor David Carrol, Councillor Rob Eady, Councillor Wendy Pearson, Councillor Daniel Sutton, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance, Red Lake Mayor Fred Mota, Councillor Dale Butterfield, Councillor Janet Hager, Councillor Jamie Kristoff, Chief Administrative Officer Mark Vermette, Clerk Christine Goulet, and Northwestern Health Unit Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kit Young-Hoon.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4. MATTERS FOR WHICH SPECIAL MEETING WAS CALLED

S08-NO

4.1 Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU)

- Proposed changes to public health and related funding.

Dr. Kit Young-Hoon thanked the Councils for providing this opportunity to meet with them to provide an update on the proposed changes to public health and related funding. She discussed the proposed change from thirty-five (35) existing local public health units to ten (10) new regional health units and the proposed cost-sharing model that reflected an increased share for municipalities.

In Toronto the model will be 50:50; southern Ontario municipalities will be 60/40; and Northern Ontario municipalities will be 70:30 split (Provincial/Municipal portions) with an anticipated start date for this model during the current fiscal year. This funding change hasn't been confirmed yet, but should be forthcoming.

This change would increase Northwestern Health Unit cost to obligated municipalities by an estimated amount of \$1.1 million or 46%. This increase would be approximately \$21,000 for Ear Falls and approximately \$78,000 in Red Lake.

Councils expressed significant concerns about this shift in funding as it is simply downloading the cost to the same taxpayer.

The proposed shift to ten (10) regional health units will likely have an impact on our region through the amalgamation of the NWHU and the Thunder Bay Health Units. This is not as impactful as some other

areas, however the geography remains significantly large and could result in the reduction of local offices, increased travel costs for senior management, reduced local partnership opportunities, reduced municipal representation on the Board despite an increased financial contribution, and changes in public health programming to meet regional, rather than local health needs. The NWHU is a very lean organization from a staffing perspective, and it does not appear that there would be many gains from a back-office perspective. Many of its managers have seventeen (17) or more staff reporting to them, which is substantially larger than what is considered a best practice.

Dr. Kit Young-Hoon noted that the NWHU is concerned about the change that this will have on Northwestern Ontario given that it will increase the financial burden for municipalities while decreasing municipal representation on a regional board. She presented a template letter to the municipalities for their use to lobby provincial representatives.

Council discussed the scale of the zones for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the comparison of that scale to the new regional boards and noted that it needs to be addressed. If a large region is acceptable to AMO, the province will think it's acceptable for the north on other matters as well.

Public communication will be forthcoming from the NWHU to regional newspapers, social media, as well as directed letters to MPPs and other people to ensure that the voice of the north is heard.

Councils thanked Dr. Kit Young-Hoon for her presentation

4.2 The Road South (aka the Road North).

Mayor Mota, provided a summary of the change to the name of the project which will enable people from the north easier access to the southern portion of the region. MP Bob Nault has advised that the Federal Government has advised that they are awaiting funding for the design of the bridge, not the construction of it. This is not the impression that the municipality had previously, rather they were under the impression that the design was completed and that the Federal Government was working on getting funding for the construction of the bridge. A majority of Band Councils have committed to the location of the proposed bridge via Band Council Resolution, with North Spirit Lake being the final approval.

Red Lake is participating in a small working group with regional members from the north to remain apprised of the status of the road. The group will expand as the project progresses to include all of the communities involved and recognizes that the process will be slow. We, as municipalities, are not the drivers of the process, we are supporting the project, but the project will be driven by northern communities.

Councils discussed the Chukuni Communities Development Corporation (CCDC) proposed funding application / project about this road and what the impact this would have on the region as it seems like Ear Falls / Red Lake would be taking a leadership role, which is not desirable by either municipality. The municipalities are supportive of the road project but need not be the driver of it, rather need to play a supportive role. The small group project / committee is being led by Sandy Lake First Nation. The Councils discussed the need to not lead the project and maybe not support the CCDC project unless it is further supported by the northern communities. A rescheduled meeting to discuss this proposal has not been set by the CCDC.

4.3 Shared Services

L04-WA

4.3.1 Waste Disposal Site Services

Council reviewed the purpose of the Agreement and discussed the topographical survey work that the Township is completing. This work is intended to be completed prior to renegotiating an Agreement.

E07-RE

4.3.2 Recycling

Red Lake's program is expensive with an approximate 2.75% burden to the taxpayer (excluding employee wages). Chukuni Sanitation completes the curbside pickup and deposits it at the Transfer Station where it is held for transport, by municipal staff, to Winnipeg. Options for pickup in Ear Falls by Red Lake on the Winnipeg back-haul is an opportunity for further discussion. Ear Falls Council advised that they would consider a depot rather than curbside pickup.

P01-BY

4.3.3 Potential for other shared services.

By-Law Enforcement Officer services for Ear Falls is an opportunity as the community doesn't require a full-time officer, rather we would need a 3-4 day / month service. Administration from the communities will discuss this and bring forward an Agreement to Council for consideration.

Red Lake also noted that they had a need for a Health and Safety / Human Resources employee and noted that this was another potential option for a shared service.

The group discussed Chief Building Official (CBO) service provision in the future. Administration will work together to discuss a potential CBO shared service. Machin could also be included in this discussion as they are also in need of this service.

P15-CO

4.5 Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Discussed the development of a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan including the requirement for having one by January 1st, 2020. The group agreed that a Joint Plan made sense for our communities. Staff will proceed accordingly.

Councils took a short recess at this point.

5. MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION APPROVED BY PUBLIC RESOLUTION

5.1 RESOLUTION NO. 138

Moved by Rob Eady. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby convenes into a Closed Session at 11:33 a.m. to discuss matters pertaining to:

- Section 239 (2) (d) – Labour relations or employee negotiations – Day Care Services.

Carried.

Section 239 (2) (d) of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended.

- Labour relations or employee negotiations.
- Day Care Services

5.2 RESOLUTION NO. 139

Moved by David Carroll. Seconded by Rob Eady.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls convened from a Closed Session at 11:51 a.m. to the Special / Closed Meeting of Council.

Carried.

6. CLOSED MEETING REPORT

Councils discussed Day Care Services.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Ear Falls Council thanked Red Lake Council and staff for attending.

Red Lake Council thanked Ear Falls Council for the invitation and discussion about shared services, economic development opportunities, and its ongoing partnership with Ear Falls.

7.1 RESOLUTION NO. 140

Moved by David Carroll. Seconded by Rob Eady.

RESOLVED THAT this Special / Closed Meeting of Council adjourn
at the hour of 11:55 a.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk