

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #02
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
February 2nd, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kevin Kahoot called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2 ROLL CALL

Mayor Kevin Kahoot, Councillor Rob Eady (electronically), Councillor Wendy Pearson (electronically), Councillor Daniel Sutton (electronically), Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance, and Len Hercun, Local Citizen Committee Representative (electronically).

This Meeting was conducted electronically by teleconference due to the declaration of a Provincial Emergency – Human Health Emergency (COVID-19 Pandemic).

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

C12-BO

4.1 Len Hercun – Local Citizen Committee (LCC) Member Update – Forest Management Planning

Mr. Hercun advised that he is pleased to be the Township's representative on the Local Citizen Committee (LCC). He noted that, although this presentation was being completed virtually, he will be providing a map to Council for review.

The Trout Lake Forest Management Plan has been approved at the local level and has gone to the regional level for review and approval. The planning process is going well, despite COVID-19 gathering restrictions, which have limited the ability for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to hold Open Houses to review the Draft Plan.

The Whitefeather, Whiskeyjack, and Red Lake Forest Management Plans are being developed.

The LCC is seeking additional members if you know of anyone who is interested. It looks like there will be a high school student joining the Meetings as a member of the LCC. The virtual meetings are not working too well since people have difficulty connecting to them, although meetings being held by teleconference are working better for discussion purposes. It remains a challenge to communicate without

being in the same room to look at the maps needed for planning purposes.

The Red Lake Forest has a large tree-planting program planned, but COVID-19 gathering restrictions may interfere with that.

Council identified an area on the Whiskeyjack Forest which lies between the EACOM Ear Falls Sawmill and Nymark Drive that has a lot of old growth which appears to be a fire hazard for the community. A selective cut in this area would be desirable from the Township's perspective.

Council thanked Len for his participation and welcomed him to come to a Meeting to review the maps once in-person Meetings resume.

PART I – CONSENT AGENDA

(For the purpose of convenience and for expediting Meetings, matters of business of repetitive or routine nature are included in the Consent Agenda, and all such matters of business contained in the Consent Agenda are voted on collectively.

A particular matter of business may be singled out from the Consent Agenda for debate or for a separate vote upon the request of any Member of Council. In the case of a separate vote, the excluded matter of business is severed from the Consent Agenda, and only the remaining matters of business contained in the Consent Agenda are voted on collectively.

Each and every matter of business contained in the Consent Agenda is recorded separately in the Minutes of the Meeting.)

Council requested clarification on Item Nos. 7.1.1, 7.1.4, and 7.5.

RESOLUTION NO. 022

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Wendy Pearson.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby adopts the Items in Sections 5 – 7 of Part 1 – Consent Agenda.

Carried.

5 MINUTES

5.1 The review and passing of the Minutes of the previous Meetings.

5.1.1 January 19th, 2021 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 023

Moved by Rob Eady. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Minutes of the previous Meeting of Council numbered 5.1.1 at the February 2nd, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

C.O.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

None.

C.O.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

5.3.1 December 17th, 2020 – Kenora District Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

5.3.2 November 20, 2020 – Northwestern Health Unit Regular Board of Health Meeting Minutes.

5.3.3 December 18, 2020 – Northwestern Health Unit Special Board of Health Meeting Minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 024

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Wendy Pearson.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations numbered 5.3.1 to 5.3.3 at the February 2nd, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

*F18-TO

6.1 Request for Quote – Tourism Sector & Marketing Strategic Plan – Ear Falls, Perrault Falls, and Red Lake, Ontario.

RESOLUTION NO. 025

Moved by Wendy Pearson. Seconded by Rob Eady.

WHEREAS the Township of Ear Falls released a Request for Quote, on December 8, 2020, for the development of a Tourism Sector & Marketing Strategic Plan for Ear Falls, Perrault Falls and Red Lake, Ontario in partnership with the Chukuni Communities Development Corporation and the Municipality of Red Lake; and

WHEREAS the Township of Ear Falls applied for \$45,000 but has been approved for \$25,000 in funding from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' Tourism Economic Development and Recovery Fund for the project; and

WHEREAS the Township of Ear Falls' Economic Development Officer recommends the acceptance of a quote from Forrest Consulting / STEM Consulting; and

WHEREAS the Forrest Consulting / STEM Consulting has agreed to maintain the scope of the project, while reducing the cost to offset the reduction in funding received from the Ministry;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the quote submitted by Forrest Consulting / STEM Consulting, as amended, for the development of a Tourism Sector & Marketing Strategic Plan for Ear Falls, Perrault Falls and Red Lake, Ontario at a cost of \$68,789.31 plus applicable taxes; and

FURTHER THAT the Township of Ear Falls portion of costs for the project shall be funded through the Economic Development Reserve (GL60-6000-9780).

Carried.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1 Correspondence.

D05-TI

7.1.1 Letter dated January 15th, 2021 from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re: Trout Lake Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan.

Clarification was requested on this Plan.

P03-CO

7.1.2 Letter dated January 20th, 2021 from the Ear Falls / Red Lake Region Healthcare Team re: Historic moment regarding the two vaccines against COVID-19 being approved by Health Canada and a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document about COVID-19 Vaccinations.

P03-CO

7.1.3 Letter dated January 22nd, 2021 from the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force re: Update on the implementation plan of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine program.

M06-ON

7.1.4 News Release dated January 25th, 2021 from Ontario News re: Investment of \$200 million in Local Infrastructure in Ontario to repair roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems.

Clarification was requested on this funding.

A04-RU

7.1.5 Document received January 25th, 2021 from the Office of the Premier re: Speech at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association 2021 Conference.

F18-TO

7.1.6 Letter dated January 26th, 2021 from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Industries re: Funding for the Tourism Sector & Marketing Strategic Plan for Ear Falls, Perrault Falls, and Red Lake, Ontario.

RESOLUTION NO. 026

Moved by Rob Eady. Seconded by Wendy Pearson.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.6 at the February 2nd, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

C.O.

7.2 Reports from Departments / Boards / Committees.

7.2.1 Monthly Report from Economic Development Officer Michelle Hiscox – January.

RESOLUTION NO. 027

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Rob Eady.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the Report from Departments numbered 7.2.1 at the February 2nd, 2021 Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

*F16-RE

7.3 Remuneration and Expenses.

RESOLUTION NO. 028

Moved by Wendy Pearson. Seconded by Rob Eady.

WHEREAS Section 284 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, requires the Treasurer to provide Council with an itemized statement, on or before March 31st, on remuneration and expenses paid in the previous year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby accepts the attached

Statement of Remuneration and Expenses paid to Members of Council and the appointed Board and Committee Members of the Township of Ear Falls for the period of January 1st, 2020 to December 31st, 2020.

Carried.

F16-RE

7.4 Remuneration and Expenses – Kenora District Services Board (KDSB).

RESOLUTION NO. 029

Moved by Wendy Pearson. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

WHEREAS Section 284 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, requires the Treasurer to provide Council with an itemized statement, on or before March 31st, on remuneration and expenses paid in the previous year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby approves the attached Statement of Remuneration and Expenses paid to a Member of Council as a Kenora District Services Board Member for the period of January 1st, 2020 to December 31st, 2020.

Carried.

C09-GE

7.5 Resolution of the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls Council re: Request for support for small businesses in Northwestern Ontario.

Council requested a draft letter be brought back to the next Regular Meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 030

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Wendy Pearson.

RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby endorses Resolution No. 12-21 of the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls dated January 26th, 2021 regarding a request for support for small businesses in Northwestern Ontario.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

8.1 By-Law No. 2334-21, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

L04-GA

8.2 By-Law No. 2335-21, a By-Law to Enter into a Natural Gas Appointment and Retainer Agreement with Local Authority Services (“LAS”).

RESOLUTION NO. 031

Moved by Rob Eady. Seconded by Wendy Pearson.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby consider By-Law Nos. 2334-21, and 2335-21 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

F05-BU

9.1 Report to Council dated January 27th, 2021 from Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance re: 2021 Proposed Budget.

Council concurred with the updated Budget Report and Tax Policy decisions as presented, but requested that the John Street and McCallum Street and Water/Sewer infrastructure rehabilitation project be moved to the 2022 budget for completion, due to the lack of available funding programs at this time.

Council discussed the proposed tax policy decision regarding the recommended change to the Large Industrial Ratio, and concurred with the shift in order to reduce the risk associated with this unstable assessment and the potentially negative impact on other tax classes in the future. This may also increase the attractiveness of Ear Falls for other Large Industrial users. A final analysis will be provided to Council prior to budget approval.

F00-TR

9.2 Letter dated January 26th, 2021 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing re: Launch of the second intake of the Municipal Modernization Program.

RESOLUTION NO. 032

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Wendy Pearson.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk Treasurer Administrator be authorized and hereby directed to submit an Expression of Interest for the Municipal Modernization Program with supporting documentation through the Transfer Payment Ontario (TPON) system.

Carried.

F00-SC

- 9.3 Report to Council dated January 27th, 2021 from Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance re: Council Remuneration – Review.

Council discussed Council Remuneration which has arisen as a result of a topic discussed at the Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA) Meeting. KDMA members asked that this issue be discussed with respective Councils to identify whether a change to Council remuneration would encourage a greater number of diversified, quality candidates to run for municipal Council.

Council discussed the indexing of rates by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and by the rate of increase provided to union or non-union employees. Council identified concerns that an increase indexed by CPI could potentially be more than what is provided to employees. Council discussed an option to index honorariums at a rate equal to CPI or employee rate change, whichever is less. Council reviewed the remuneration and benefits available to other municipalities in the Kenora District and requested that this topic be returned to Council in March 2021 for consideration.

C08-CO

- 9.4 Report to Council dated January 27th, 2021 from Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance re: Strategic Plan 2019-2022

Council reviewed the progress made to date and recommended ongoing implementation of the Plan as it stands. Council discussed the movement of the playground equipment at Lion's Park to the Splash Pad Area subject to additional review / recommendations from staff. Additional consideration of the current Lion's Park Location will be necessary to provide direction to staff on its future use.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

10.1 Mayor Kevin Kahoot

- Meeting with Rickford last Friday
 - Discussed the Small Business resolution from Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls and identified that the region needs to be considered separately when implementing lockdown provisions. We are anticipating some changes coming for the region which should be announced next week.
- Fort Frances has announced that their arena will be shut down and a number of other municipalities are having that conversation as well at a corporate level. Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association has recently announced that they are shutting down their program for the rest of the season. Locally we have received a lot of good comments about the provision of an outdoor rink and about the free use of the cross-country ski equipment / trails.

11 CLOSED MEETING

11.1 RESOLUTION NO. 033

Moved by Wendy Pearson. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby convenes into a Closed Session at 8:15 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to:

- Section 239 (2) (c) – A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board. – Plan M635, Lot 22, Pcl 5698 & M732, Lot 33, Pcl 7255.

Carried.

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

- A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- Plan M635, Lot 22, Pcl 5698 & M732, Lot 33, Pcl 7255

11.2 RESOLUTION NO. 034

Moved by Rob Eady. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls convened from a Closed Session at 8:25 p.m. to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

12 CLOSED REPORT

Council provided direction to the Clerk Treasurer Administrator regarding a proposed disposition of land by the municipality.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 035

Moved by Wendy Pearson. Seconded by Rob Eady.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 8:26 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk