

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #12
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
September 6, 2023 @ 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 Brad Mountain, Councillor Daniel Sutton, Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance and 3 members of the public

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Councillor Mountain declared an interest in Item 8.4 as he is the proponent on the purchase of the property.

4 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Matt Norlock, Staff Sergeant, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

- Policing Update

Matt Norlock provided an overview of the first half of 2023 including the number of tickets issued in the community and the entire district. Calls for service have been increasing over the past few years and have pretty much returned to pre-covid levels.

Detachment operations has begun refocusing on traffic safety, including speeding and seatbelt compliance. Public education during traffic stops has had a higher focus, rather than ticketing, but tickets are still issued as necessary. Impaired driving is a major concern in the district and includes both alcohol and drug impairments.

The first half of the year included 263 hours of patrol time along with a small amount of foot patrol time and school visits. The school visits are good opportunities to meet members of the community and the number of visits is intended to increase.

Recruiting and retaining staff continues to be an issue throughout the region, and the focus has been on recruiting northern residents to the district so that they are familiar with the remoteness of our communities.

Matt Norlock expressed an interest in attending a meeting at end of year to present Council with a complete year of information on policing activities in the community.

Council requested clarification on the current staff compliment in Ear Falls.

Matt Norlock advised that Ear Falls is allocated seven officers and there is currently one vacancy in the community. It takes about one year to fill a vacancy in the region because of the process for offering positions to existing officers in Ontario. The standard duration in Ear Falls is three years, and there is an incentive for officers to stay for a second 3-year term, although this incentive is not as effective as the OPP would like to see. Housing is also on the horizon as a concern for regional operations. The opening of an all-weather road to northern communities will also have an impact on the district's operations. The detachment in Red Lake is very full and already requires additional space. The Ear Falls detachment also requires work.

Council requested clarification on the positive reinforcement efforts and involvement of the OPP in the school system. They also requested input on the number of youth who are driving bicycles without helmets and youth who are driving off-road vehicles under age since these type of problems appear to be increasing.

Matt Norlock noted that increased intervention in the school system seems to be the most impactful way to address these types of safety concerns. There has been a commitment by the local OPP to increase their interaction in the school system and they are in contact with Principal Jennifer Olsen to work on these issues. He also noted that youth under age 12 can use off-road vehicles under supervision, off-road, but are not permitted to be on the roadway even with parental supervision.

Council requested clarification on drug use in the community, particularly with transient workers on forestry and private roads.

Matt Norlock advised that there have been several ride checks completed already this year with a focus on the Wenesaga Road to address this concern. With hunting season starting soon, there will be an increased effort to work with local conservation officers to maintain safe roadways.

Council requested information on the number of commercial trucks that speed through the municipality on Highway 105, as this seems to be an ongoing issue.

Matt Norlock noted that speed is a matter that the OPP can address, and they are training some of the local officers on commercial vehicle mechanics to address other issues such as inappropriate noise associated with commercial trucks. The OPP also works with the Ministry of Transportation to jointly address commercial vehicle concerns.

Council requested clarification on the ongoing drug use / trafficking

occurring at Sunset Leisure Place, which is a safety concern for the seniors in the community that live there.

Matt Norlock will connect with the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) to review this matter. He noted that the OPP continue to battle the opioid crisis in the region.

Council requested clarification on the legality of using golf carts on roads.

Matt Norlock advised that golf carts are not deemed off-road vehicles so would technically require plates and insurance to be driven on a roadway. Generally, this has not been an issue in Ear Falls, but he noted that impaired driving or reckless driving would remain an issue that the OPP would enforce. He advised that he will review and provide an update to Council at a later date.

Council thanked Matt Norlock for his attendance and presentation.

Matt Norlock noted great appreciation for the Ear Falls Fire Department and intended to head over to their practice which is underway to thank them directly for their service.

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 No. 5.2.1, 6.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4, 7.1.6, 7.1.11, and 7.3.

RESOLUTION NO. 139

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

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

C04-MI

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

5.1.1 August 1, 2023 – Special Meeting of Council Minutes.

5.1.2 August 2, 2023 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 140

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

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 to 5.1.2 at the September 6th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

C06-JO

5.2.1 June 7th, 2023 – Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Council requested an explanation on how the Township selected the worker representatives for the Committee. Administration advised that any worker can put their name forward for the Committee and the workers vote to select their representatives.

RESOLUTION NO. 141

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the Minutes of Committees numbered 5.2.1 at the September 6th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

A01-HO

5.3.1 June 29th, 2023 – District of Kenora Home for the Aged Regular Meeting Minutes.

A01-KE

5.3.2 June 15th, 2023 – Kenora District Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 142

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

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 and 5.3.2 at the September 6th, 2023,
Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

6.1 Recreation Centre Accessibility Renovation

Council requested clarification on the other subcontractors which would be required, the timeline for completion of the project and Administration's plan for management of the project.

RESOLUTION NO. 143

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls has released three Requests for Proposal since 2021 for the completion of the Recreation Centre Accessibility Renovations and have not received any bids for a general contractor; and,

WHEREAS sub-contractor bids for the installation of the elevator have been received on the third Request for Proposal issued; and,

WHEREAS the project funder has confirmed that the Township has completed its due diligence on its procurement process and has accepted that the Township may select contractors and trades through a sole source process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls approves the Proposal from TK Elevator Canada Limited at a cost of \$104,352.35 plus applicable taxes; and,

FURTHER THAT the Clerk Treasurer Administrator is authorized and directed to sole source contractors and trades for the project to complete it by the funding deadline; and,

FURTHER THAT any excess costs for the completion of the project will come from reserves.

Carried.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1 Correspondence.

M06-ON

7.1.1 Ontario News, July 28, 2023, re: Ontario Denouncing Harmful Trade Practices targeting Lumber Exports

L07-LA

- 7.1.2 Email from Ben Reynolds, Kenora District Services Board, dated August 15, 2023, re: Unsuccessful for Ear Falls Seniors Housing Project under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Rapid Housing Initiative

Council discussed holding a Town Hall Meeting to provide an update to the public about this property, and other municipal matters.

R02-EA

- 7.1.3 Letter from Susan Carey, Ear Falls Public Library Library Director/CEO, dated August 23, 2023, re: Successful fundraising efforts to purchase new computers

Council commended the fundraising efforts of the Ear Falls Public Library Board and the Library Director/CEO. This is a great addition for the community.

M06-ON

- 7.1.4 Ontario News, dated August 21, 2023, re: To Build More Homes, Ontario Launching Building Faster Fund and Expanding Strong Mayor Powers

Council discussed the new Building Faster Fund allocation for small communities.

M06-ON

- 7.1.5 Ontario News, dated August 21, 2023, re: Premier Doug Ford's Speech at the 2023 Association of Ontario Municipalities annual conference

M06-ON

- 7.1.6 Ontario News, dated August 22, 2023, re: Ontario Investing in a Stronger Public Health Sector

Council discussed this news release as it relates primarily to southern Ontario and the impact on Northwestern Ontario.

M06-ON

- 7.1.7 Ontario News, dated August 22, 2023, re: Ontario Making Progress on Work to Build at Least 1.5 Million Homes

M06-ON

- 7.1.8 Ontario News, dated August 23, 2023, re: Working with Municipalities to Build Ontario

*F11-BU

- 7.1.9 Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Steve Clark, dated August 22, 2023 re: Building Faster Fund

*L11-EN

7.1.10 Letter from Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, dated August 9, 2023 re: Changes to Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act

S08-DO

7.1.11 Letter from Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones, dated August 28, 2023, re: 2023 AMO Conference delegation with the Township of Ear Falls

Council discussed the letter as presented.

RESOLUTION NO. 144

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.11 at the September 6th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures – year to date (dated September 1, 2023).

Council reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - year to date (dated September 1, 2023) in accordance with By-Law 2283-20.

C11-MU

7.3 Monthly Report to Council

7.3.1 Public Service and Operations – August 2023

Council discussed the report as presented and requested additional attention given to the golf course greens as part of the shut-down / start up procedures.

RESOLUTION NO. 145

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT Council receives and files the Monthly Report to Council numbered 7.3.1 at the September 6th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

Councillor Mountain noted that he had declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8.4 and left the meeting at this point.

L07-LA

- 8.4 By-Law No. 2515-23, a By-Law to Authorize the Sale of 17 Mills Street, Plan M732 Lot 29 DES 23R6098 Part 3 PT PCL 5234, to Bradford Mountain

RESOLUTION NO. 146

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law No. 2515-23 as passed.

Carried

Councillor Mountain returned to the meeting at this point.

- 8.1 By-Law No. 2512-23, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

L07-LE

- 8.2 By-Law No. 2513-23, a By-Law to Authorize the Execution of an Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Dr. Tom Ding Dentistry Professional Corporation for Office Space at the Community Health Centre.

A09-SP

- 8.3 By-Law No. 2514-23, a By-Law to Amend the Special Occasion / Funeral Policy for the Township of Ear Falls

L07-LA

- 8.4 By-Law No. 2515-23, a By-Law to Authorize the Sale of 17 Mills Street, Plan M732 Lot 29 DES 23R6098 Part 3 PT PCL 5234, to Bradford Mountain

Otherwise dealt with.

A09-VO

- 8.5 By-Law No. 2516-23, a By-Law to Amend the Use of Volunteers Policy for the Township of Ear Falls.

*A09-VO

- 8.6 By-Law No. 2517-23, a By-Law to Adopt a Volunteer Appreciation Policy for the Township of Ear Falls.

RESOLUTION NO. 147

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law Nos. 2512-23, 2513-23, 2514-23, 2516-23 and 2517-23 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

F00-TR

9.1 2024 Annual Travel and Attendance List

RESOLUTION NO. 148

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT travel and attendance be hereby authorized in accordance with the attached 2024 Annual Travel and Attendance List.

Carried.

9.2 Superior International Junior Hockey League Use of the Ear Falls Recreation Centre

Council discussed the possibility of the Superior International Junior Hockey League's (SIJHL) Kam River Fighting Walleye and the Kenora Islanders running a hockey camp and/or holding some Home Games in Ear Falls against the Red Lake Miners. This is a very tentative idea at this point and will be subject to the SIJHL permitting it. The General Manager of the Kenora Islanders will be coming to have a look at the Arena in the next week for this purpose.

Council discussed the potential costs and staffing impacts of the use, as well as the positive impacts that it could have for the youth, legion, and local businesses in the community. Additional information will be forthcoming.

F00-SC

9.3 Highway 105 Tourism Adventure Guide

RESOLUTION NO. 149

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT Council approves the addition of the Highway 105 Tourism Adventure Guide to the Township of Ear Falls's Annual Subscription and Membership List.

Carried.

9.4 Draft Parking By-Laws

Council discussed the by-laws and concurred with them as presented.

9.5 Draft Noise By-Law

Council discussed the by-law and concurred with it as presented.

F02-WA

9.6 Water and Sewer Rates and Report to Council from Clerk Treasurer Administrator dated August 31, 2023 re: Infrastructure Fee for Serviced Vacant / Inactive Properties

Council discussed the implementation of Infrastructure Fees on vacant and Inactive properties and how this may be a disincentive to retain vacant lots and a means to incentivize building rather than speculation on properties. Council requested that this issue be returned to the next meeting for additional consideration. Administration noted that ideally any changes to fees would be determined and approved by Council by October so that notice could be provide to the public of any changes to fees.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Doug Woolsey

- Attended the Health and Safety Meeting held earlier today.

Councillor Kim Thain

- Attended the Pride Event held in Ear Falls on August 26, 2023 on behalf of Council. Noted that the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre organized the event, and it was very nice.
- Advised that the Community Health Centre has hired a new receptionist and continues to look for a Nurse Practitioner.

Councillor Daniel Sutton

- Attended the Chukuni Communities Development Corporation's (CCDC) Consultation with Councillor Woolsey and Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance. The session was facilitated by Doug Griffiths, author of 13 Ways to Kill Your Community, and two of his colleagues. The session was interactive, and participants had a good discussion about branding noting a number of commonalities between Red Lake and Ear Falls. Some opportunities were identified to assist in rebranding the region under a common name.

Mayor Kahoot

Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Annual Conference

- Met with the NOMA roundtable to discuss regional issues, this included some time with MNR Minister Graydon Smith on the need for crown land disposition within municipal boundaries.
- Had a delegation with Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones and discussed the difficulty retaining medical professionals in the community and the need to increase grow-your-own type programs to encourage local people to advance their skills and stay in the community. Discussed the Red Lak Margaret Cochenour

Memorial Hospital’s continued closures due to a lack of medical professionals. This is a significant issue throughout the region.

- Cottage Lot update
 - Minister of Natural Resources, Graydon Smith made an announcement at the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce on the Friday prior to AMO about crown land dispositions. This announcement seemed counterproductive to the Ear Falls pilot project on White Wing Road.
 - Met with Minister of Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs, Greg Rickford, and his Ministry had not been briefed by the Ministry of Natural Resources about the announcement. He provided assistance to clarify the matter and the Township received an update from the MNR within a couple hours to confirm that the community would remain a pilot project.
 - Additional steps were taken in the next day by the Ministry of Natural Resources to move the cottage lot project forward including the approval of provincial funding for the archeological study. This study is being set for completion in the month or so.
- Met with representatives from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) to review the planning process and knowledge of the needs for the Kinross Great Bear Project and First Mining Gold’s Springpole Project. They were aware of the projects and timelines and are prepared to action them as the mines progress through their respective permitting processes.

Nuclear Waste Management Organization Conference

- This conference was held in Niagara Falls with a lot of technical information was presented. There was also an emphasis on public consultation processes that were being used by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization.

11 CLOSED MEETING

11.1 RESOLUTION NO. 150

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby convenes into a Closed Session at 8:55 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 - 17, 19, 23 Mills St (Plan M732 Lots 29, 28, 27)
- Section 239 (2) (b) A personal matter about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees – Cemetery Matter

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;
 - 17, 19, 23 Mills St (Plan M732 Lots 29, 28, 27)

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

- A personal matter about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
 - Cemetery Matter

11.2 RESOLUTION NO. 151

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls convened from a Closed Session at 9:05 p.m. to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

12 CLOSED REPORT

Council provided direction to the Clerk Treasurer Administrator regarding the disposition of land.

Council provided direction to the Clerk Treasurer Administrator regarding a Cemetery Matter.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 152

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 9:05 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk