

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #17
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
November 22, 2023 @ 2:30 p.m.

1 CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Daniel Sutton called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

2 ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Daniel Sutton, Councillor Brad Mountain, Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance and 2 members of the public.

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Councillor Reece Van Breeda, Municipality of Sioux Lookout

- Resolution of Support for Northern Residency Deduction (Zone 2) for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout

Councillor Van Breeda presented his resolution about reintroducing the Northern Residency Deduction (Zone 2) for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and requested the support of the region on this motion. Councillor Van Breeda advised that he was also excited to be in Ear Falls and learn more about the community.

4.2 Steve DeRocco, Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)

- Data Sharing and Services Agreement (DSSA)

Mr. DeRocco advised that the DSSA will consolidate the six outdated MPAC agreements into a single document that will be easier to understand. The agreement will set out the rules around data use, data sharing and clarifies the use of MPAC data by municipalities and the use of Municipal data by MPAC.

Mr. DeRocco provided an overview of the DSSA including the requirements to meet Service Level Agreements, MPAC's Use of Municipal Documents, Permitted Uses of MPAC Data, Definition of Internal Planning, Use of Data by Municipal Consultants and other Third Parties.

Mr. DeRocco reviewed some Key Dates including the deadline

to execute the agreement by December 2023, and noted that the agreements come into effect on January 1, 2024. Failure to execute the agreement could result in eventual restrictions to Municipal Connect and other MPAC products although statutory services would not be affected.

Administration requested clarification on the restrictions that may impact the Township's use of external consultants' services for assessment analysis purposes. This appears to be restricted by the DSSA. Mr. DeRocco was uncertain but advised that he would find out and let the municipality know.

Council requested clarification on the reinitiation of the assessment cycle. Mr. DeRocco noted that the current assessments are from January 1, 2016, and were delivered on January 1, 2017. Reassessment will not restart until the Ministry of Finance provides direction to do so. Reassessment does not impact MPAC's ongoing work to add growth values to the assessment roll, although these new values are rolled back to a 2016 value. Only equity changes are being impacted by the cessation of reassessment.

Council requested clarification on who was responsible for assigning members to the Municipal Liaison Group. Mr. DeRocco advised that they were originally people who had expressed interest in volunteering for the Group but was not sure as to how members were added or replaced at this point.

Council advised that the cessation of reassessment has impacted the funding model for the DSSAB, since they use weighted assessments to apportion costs regionally. Municipalities are actively submitting building permits and therefore recording new growth, while the Unincorporated Area is not since buildings do not have a mechanism for building permit issuance. This impacts the proportion of assessment change between incorporated and unincorporated areas. Mr. DeRocco noted that he understood the issue and that there was some discussion at the provincial level about building permits being required in Unincorporated Areas.

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. 7.5 and 7.7.

RESOLUTION NO. 192

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

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 November 1, 2023 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.

5.1.2 November 7, 2023 - Special Meeting of Council Minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 193

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 and 5.1.2 at the November 22nd, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

None.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

A01-HO

5.3.1 September 28, 2023 – District of Kenora Home for the Aged Regular Meeting Minutes.

A01-NO

5.3.2 September 27, 2023 – Northwestern Health Unit Minutes

A01-NO

5.3.3 October 20, 2023 - Northwestern Health Unit Special Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 194

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

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 November 22nd, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

None.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1 Correspondence.

M06-ON

7.1.1 Ontario News, dated October 29, 2023, re: Free Flu Shot and New COVID-19 Vaccines Available for All Ontarians Six Months of Age and Older.

*E06-OE

7.1.2 Ontario Energy Board Notice of a Rate Hearing re: Enbridge Gas Inc. Application for a Natural Gas Distribution Rate Increase.

M06-ON

7.1.3 Ontario News, dated November 9, 2023, re: Ontario Strengthening Penalties for Landfill Facilities that Contravene Environmental Laws.

D04-HO

7.1.4 Letter from Ethel Nelson, dated October 30, 2023, re: Seniors Friendly Housing Complex and Response Letter from Mayor Kahoot, dated November 6, 2023.

7.1.5 Letter from Ian Pritchard, Area Forestry Technician, Hydro One Networks Inc., dated November 6, 2023, re: Vegetation Maintenance Program.

D05-TI

7.1.6 Letter from Scott McAughey, Resource Management Supervisor, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, dated September 24, 2023 re: Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forest 2023-2024 Prescribed Burn Plan for Slash Pile Burning.

D05-TI

7.1.7 Letter from Brian Kilgour, District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, dated October 30, 2023 re: Review of Draft Forest Management Plan Whiskey Jack 2024-2034 Forest Management Plan.

RESOLUTION NO. 195

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.7 at the November 22nd, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Monthly Reports to Council

P01-BY

7.2.1 By-Law Enforcement – October 2023

C11-MU

7.2.2 Public Service and Operations – November 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 196

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Council receives and files the Monthly Report to Council numbered 7.2.1 and 7.2.2 at the November 22nd, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

E00-DR

7.3 2023 Management Review Report for the Ear Falls Drinking Water System.

RESOLUTION NO. 197

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT Council receives and files the 2023 Management Review Report for the Ear Falls Drinking Water System.

Carried.

E03-IN

7.4 Ear Falls Water Treatment Plant Drinking Water System 2023/ 2024 Inspection Report – Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC)

RESOLUTION NO. 198

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT Council receives and files the Ear Falls Water Treatment Plant Drinking Water System 2023/ 2024 Inspection Report.

Carried.

7.5 Red Lake Seniors' Christmas Dinner - November 28, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Councillor Mountain may be able to attend but will confirm with Administration tomorrow.

RESOLUTION NO. 199

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the following be authorized travel and attendance to the Annual Red Lake Seniors' Christmas Dinner being held at the Red Lake Royal Canadian Legion on Tuesday November 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.:

- Councillor Brad Mountain

Carried.

*F11-CO

7.6 Ontario News Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) Application

RESOLUTION NO. 200

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Clerk Treasurer Administrator, Kimberly Ballance is hereby authorized and directed to submit an application Community Emergency Preparedness Grant re: the Ear Falls Government Building Emergency Electrical Capacity Project.

Carried.

C12-BO

7.7 Appointment to a Municipal Board / Committee.

Council discussed the appointment to the Police Board and the changes occurring to the organization of municipal policing and the Ontario Provincial Police.

RESOLUTION NO. 201

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Boards and Committees Appointments for the Township of Ear Falls be approved as per the attached; and

FURTHER THAT the Appointments be for the term of this present Council; and

FURTHER THAT travel and attendance to the Board / Committee Meetings be hereby authorized for the appointed representatives; and

FURTHER THAT Resolution No. 157-23, dated September 20, 2023, is hereby repealed.

Carried.

*F11-SU

7.8 Canada Summer Jobs 2024 Application

RESOLUTION NO. 202

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Clerk Treasurer Administrator be authorized and directed to submit an Application to the Canada Summer Jobs for 2024 for the following positions:

- Parks Maintenance Attendant (4)
- Golf Course Maintenance Attendant (3)

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

8.1 By-Law No. 2533-23, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

L07-LA

8.2 By-Law No. 2534-23, a By-Law to Authorize the Sale of 68 Forest Drive, Plan M700 Lot 185, to Andrew August Yearous

Council requested clarification on the location of the property.

RESOLUTION NO. 203

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law Nos. 2533-23 and 2534-23 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

R04-PA & D12-DE

9.1 Email from Sheila Williamson re: Lion's Park and Property Consolidation

Council discussed the request and concurred with Administration's recommendation to survey the property line to accurately identify the location of it in relation to the fence. This will be done in coordination with other survey work so may not be completed immediately. Administration will communicate this to Ms. Williamson.

Council concurred with the requested property consolidation and a deeming by-law will be brought forward to the next Regular Meeting.

Council provided direction to the Clerk Treasurer Administrator to bring Deeming By-Laws forward when requests for property consolidations are two lots, and to bring forward requests for property consolidations of three or more lots for Council's consideration.

E03-WA

9.2 Report to Council – Wastewater Treatment Plant Automatic Transfer Switch

RESOLUTION NO. 204

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Report to Council dated November 15, 2023, from Manager of Water and Wastewater Operations, Brigitte Jetté, re: Ear Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant – Automatic Transfer Switch.

Carried.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Woolsey

Kinross Open House

- There is ongoing environmental assessment work which may be completed in Spring 2024. This Open House is also the first time that Kinross has advised that there will likely be a residential mining camp at the site. They will also be working on the installation of the gas line to the site.

Councillor Thain

Community Health Centre

- The Annual General Meeting will be held December 4, 2023, at the Community Health Centre.
- They will be hiring a new nurse shortly and continue to look for a Nurse Practitioner.

Councillor Dan Sutton

Kenora District Services Board Meeting

- The Board reviewed its 2024 Draft Budget which has a ~3% increase to Ear Falls' municipal levy. This will change subject to the release of MPAC's weighted assessments later this month. The increase has been reduced to 3% through long-term debt. The budget does include the Housing Renewal plan for Ear Falls which is over \$900,000 in investments for social housing maintenance. The bulk of these housing funds will be used for Sunset Leisure Place. Ambulance service remains the driving factor for increases to the overall budget and non-urgent patient transfers continue to be an issue regionally.

11 CLOSED MEETING

None.

12 CLOSED REPORT

None.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 205

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:48 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk