

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #18
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
December 6, 2023 @ 2:30 p.m.

1 CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Daniel Sutton called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

2 ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Daniel Sutton, Councillor Brad Mountain, Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance and 7 members of the public

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

R04-PA

4.1 Joanne Kay and Alex Merkoske

- Retention of Ear Falls Lions Park
- Petition to Keep Lions Park

Ms. Kay thanked Council for the opportunity to speak about Lions Park.

The Ear Falls Lions Club was founded in 1970 with the park coming into effect around 1980. The park has been around for over 40 years. Green spaces, like Lions Park, are very important for children and families alike, especially spaces that are within a five minute walk. The full fencing around the park is important to the safety and security of the space. The archway with the name Lions Park is what initially drew Ms. Kay to learn more about the Lions Club.

There are currently 10 members of the Lions Club, but these members and their children and grandchildren play in this park. This generational history is important to the community. Ms. Kay noted that removing the park will kill the morale of the small existing Lions Club. The Club understands that the new greenspace that is being developed at the Ear Falls Government Building site with the playground, splashpad and trails, but does not want to see any playgrounds removed from the community.

She asked Council to reflect on their plan to remove the park from the community, and to consider the number of people that signed the petition, even though some are not residents of Ear Falls.

Mr. Merkoske spoke about his family using the park as well as the large number of comments that were made on social media against the potential closure of the park.

Council requested clarification on the Lions' Club's request from the Township for the Park. Ms. Kay advised that the Lion's Club is not equipped to own or operate the park but would be willing to contribute funds for capital improvements to provide for the safe operation of the park.

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. 7.7 and 7.9.

RESOLUTION NO. 206

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

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 22, 2023 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 207

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

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 December 6th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

None.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

None.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

*F18-AU

6.1 Request for Proposal – Provision of Municipal Audit Services

RESOLUTION NO. 208

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Township of Ear Falls hereby accepts the proposal from BDO Canada LLP for the provision of Municipal Audit Services in accordance with their proposal dated November 21, 2023.

Carried.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1 Correspondence.

M06-ON

7.1.1 Ontario News, dated November 22, 2023, re: Ontario Helping Contain Costs of Building Roads and New Homes.

RESOLUTION NO. 209

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 document numbered 7.1.1 at the December 6th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – year to date (dated November 30, 2023).

Council reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - year to date (dated November 30, 2023) in accordance with By-Law 2283-20.

7.3 2023 Uncollectibles and Write-Offs.

RESOLUTION NO. 210

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT Council approves setting up Allowances for Uncollectible accounts and Write-offs in accordance with Schedule “A”, as attached.

Carried.

7.4 Establishing 2023 Reserves.

RESOLUTION NO. 211

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

WHEREAS Revenues for 2023 were greater than anticipated and expenses in some areas were less than anticipated;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Reserves be established for 2023 in accordance with the attached listing.

Carried.

7.5 2024 Annual Employee Health & Safety Workshop being held on May 10, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 212

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls approves the closure of all Municipal Departments on Friday, May 10, 2024, for the purpose of education and training for all Municipal employees at the 22nd Annual Employee Health & Safety Workshop.

Carried.

7.6 Re-Schedule the December 18th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 213

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the December 18th, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council is hereby re-scheduled to December 20th, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

Carried.

7.7 Unexpended Funding to be transferred to a Reserve / Reserve Fund.

Council requested clarification on this item.

RESOLUTION NO. 214

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

WHEREAS funding agencies may advance funds for future expenditures to the Township of Ear Falls; and

WHEREAS the Township of Ear Falls is unable to expend these funds by year end of the current year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls approve the transferring of the unexpended funding into a Reserve / Reserve Fund for the current year.

Carried.

7.8 Expenditures in excess of the 2023 Budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 215

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

WHEREAS expenditures for purchases in 2023 may have exceeded the 2023 approved Budget; and

WHEREAS the excess of expenditure must be authorized by Council as to where the source of revenue is to be recorded;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Reserve / Reserve Funds be the source of revenue for the remainder of the excess expenditure.

Carried.

C11-MU

7.9 Report to Council, dated November 24, 2023, from Manager of Public Service and Operations, Glenna-Lynn Wigle re: Information Follow Up Request - Removal of John Deere 310SG Backhoe from Service

Council requested clarification on the report.

RESOLUTION NO. 216

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Report to Council, dated November 24, 2023, from Manager of Public Service and Operations, Glenna-Lynn Wigle re: Information Follow Up Request - Removal of John Deere 310SG Backhoe from Service; and,

FURTHER THAT that GovDeals be used to auction this item.

Carried.

L14-MU

7.10 Letter to Minister of Finance re: the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's Data Sharing and Services Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 217

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes and directs the Clerk Treasurer Administrator to execute the attached letter to the Minister of Finance re: the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's Data Sharing and Services Agreement.

Carried.

7.11 Support for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout's Resolution No. CL-042-2023 re: Lobby the Federal Government to Reinstate the Northern Allowance for the Sioux Lookout Area

RESOLUTION NO.

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls hereby supports the Municipality of Sioux Lookout's Resolution No. CL-042-2023 re: Lobby the Federal Government to Reinstate the Northern Allowance for the Sioux Lookout Area, as attached.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

Council requested clarification on Item 8.5.

8.1 By-Law No. 2535-23, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

D12-DE

8.2 By-Law No. 2536-23, a By-Law to Deem Lots in a Registered Plan of Subdivision no Longer to be Lots in a Registered Plan (M537 Lot 119 and 120) – 32 and 34 Balsam Avenue

D12-DE

8.3 By-Law No. 2537-23, a By-Law to Deem Lots in a Registered Plan of Subdivision no Longer to be Lots in a Registered Plan (M537 Lot 117 and 118) – 40 and 42 Balsam Avenue

D12-DE

- 8.4 By-Law No. 2538-23, a By-Law to Deem Lots in a Registered Plan of Subdivision no Longer to be Lots in a Registered Plan (M653 Lot 44 and 45) – 5 and 7 Oak Street

L14-WA

- 8.5 By-Law No. 2539-23, a By-Law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with Transport TFI 4 Inc. (Kingsway Bulk Div Vrac) for Temporary Use of the Ear Falls Waste Disposal Site

Council requested clarification on the source of the contaminated soil. Administration advised that it was from a diesel spill located near the Dixie Lake Road, between Ear Falls and Red Lake.

RESOLUTION NO. 219

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law Nos. 2535-23, 2536-23, 2537-23, 2538-23 and 2539-23 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

- 9.1 Report to Council dated December 1, 2023, re: Water Treatment Plant – Low Lift Pumping Station Project

Council discussed the report as presented and requested that Administration investigate an additional option where three pumps are placed in the water and push, rather than pull, water into the plant. Councillor Brad Mountain, Rob Eady and Administration will meet with the engineers to flush out this option as proposed by Councillor Brad Mountain. A report will be returned to Council following review.

- 9.2 Request for Resolutions for the 2024 Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA) Conference and Annual General Meeting

Council discussed options for motions to put forward at the KDMA Annual General Meeting including:

- Emergency Department Closures in regional hospitals
- Funding for Seniors Housing developments in smaller communities

Draft motions will be brought back to next meeting.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Kim Thain

- Attended the Community Health Centre Board’s Annual General Meeting on December 4, 2023. The Board’s Membership stayed the same since 2 members were acclaimed to their positions. The agenda package will be passed on to Administration.

Councillor Doug Woolsey

- Has not received any information on the new Police Services Board’s meeting dates.

11 CLOSED MEETING

None.

12 CLOSED REPORT

None.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 220

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:14 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk