

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #2
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
February 7, 2024 @ 2:30 p.m.

1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kevin Kahoot called the meeting to order at 2:30 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, Manager of Public Service and Operations Glenna Wigle and 3 members of the public

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

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. 5.3.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, and 7.4.

RESOLUTION NO. 015

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

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 January 16, 2024 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes.

RESOLUTION NO. 016

Moved by Daniel Sutton. 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 February 7th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

C06-JO

5.2.1 November 7, 2023 – Health & Safety Committee Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. 017

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

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 February 7th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

A01-HO

5.3.1 November 30, 2023 – District of Kenora Home for the Aged
Regular Meeting Minutes.

Council requested clarification on the rate increase for the 2024 year.

RESOLUTION NO. 018

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 at the February 7th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

None.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1 Correspondence.

M06-ON

7.1.1 Ontario News, dated January 22, 2024, re: Premier Doug Ford's Speech at the 2024 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Annual Conference.

M06-ON

7.1.2 Ontario News, dated January 22, 2024, re: Ontario Helping Rural Communities Grow With More Jobs, Homes and Infrastructure.

Council discussed the funding availability to rural communities.

M03-DO

7.1.3 Letter from Jennifer Chamberlin, Executive Director for New Starts Women Shelter, dated January 24, 2024, re: 18th Annual International Women's Day Luncheon and Donation request.

Council discussed the event and the Township's donation, which is authorized through the Donation Policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 019

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.3 at the February 7th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Monthly Reports to Council

P01-BY

7.2.1 By-Law Enforcement Officer – December 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 020

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Council receives and files the Monthly Report to Council numbered 7.2.1 at the February 7th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

- 7.3 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – year to date (dated February 1, 2024).

Council reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - year to date (dated February 1, 2024) in accordance with By-Law 2283-20.

M03-DO

- 7.4 Letter from Matt Barrow, President of Royal Canadian Legion Ear Falls Branch 238, dated January 31, 2024, re: Request to reduce fees for the Recreation Centre second floor for Shamrock Hockey Tournament for the term of Council.

Council requested that Administration initiate a discussion with the Legion about making an accessible location on the main level when they are providing this service on the second floor.

RESOLUTION NO. 021

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Kim Thain.

WHEREAS the rental rate for the Second Floor of the Arena (with an S.O.P.) is currently \$46.00/hour; and

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Legion Ear Falls Branch 238 has proposed a rental rate of \$50.00/day for the provision of Bar Services for the Shamrock 2024, 2025 and 2026 Hockey Tournaments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls hereby accepts the proposal from the Royal Canadian Legion Ear Falls Branch 238 to rent the Second Floor of the Arena (with an S.O.P) at a rental rate of \$50.00/day for the provision of Bar Services for the Shamrock 2024, 2025 and 2026 Hockey Tournaments.

Carried.

F05-EX

- 7.5 Report to Council dated January 31, 2023, re: Budget Matters – Expenses Report (in accordance with O. Reg. 284/09).

RESOLUTION NO. 022

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Report to Council dated January 31, 2024, from Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance re: Budget Matters - Expenses Report (in accordance with O. Reg. 284/09).

Carried.

E03-RE

7.6 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Drinking Water System – 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 023

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the 2023 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Drinking Water System in compliance with Section 11 and Schedule 22 requirements of O. Reg 170/03, under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Carried.

E03-RE

7.7 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant - 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 024

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the 2023 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant accordance with Condition 10(5) of amended Environmental Compliance Approval No. 1492-A2ZHLC.

Carried.

E03-WA

7.8 Corrosion Control Evaluation Report for the Ear Falls Drinking Water System - 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 025

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the 2023 Corrosion Control Evaluation Report for the Ear Falls Drinking Water System.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

Council requested clarification on 8.2 and 8.3.

8.1 By-Law No. 2549-24, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

8.2 By-Law No. 2550-24, A By-Law to Authorize the Sale of 19 Mills Street, Plan M732 PT Lot 28 DES 23R-6098 Part 2 PT PCL 5234 and

23 Mills Street, Plan M732 PT Lot 27 DES 23R-6098 Part 1 PT PCL 5234, to Anthony Plourde

Council requested clarification on the availability of any other industrial properties. Administration confirmed that the Township does not have any other industrial properties available for sale.

- 8.3 By-Law No. 2551-24, A By-Law to Amend the Municipal Health and Safety Program Policy and Procedures Manual for the Township of Ear Falls

Council requested clarification on the amendment to the Work Alone Policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 026

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law Nos. 2549-24, 2550-24, and 2551-24 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

- 9.1 Letter from the Ear Falls and District Minor Hockey Association and the Ear Falls Skating Club, received January 24, 2024, re: Earlier Ice Installation for 2024/25 and Report to Council dated January 31, 2024, re: Earlier Ice Installation 2024/2025 Season

Council discussed the needs of the community, the potential operational impacts and costs. Consideration was given to possibly not operating a full-time, full-week operation for the first month of the season. Council was supportive in getting additional information from Administration prior to making a decision on this matter.

Council requested input from club representatives who were present. Minor Hockey representatives noted the importance of retaining youth in hockey at the U13+ level would require earlier ice times to be prepared for tournaments with other groups in the region. This age group is likely to leave the sport in Ear Falls to other leagues if they want to pursue higher level hockey. They have strong participation from all age groups at this time, and anticipate that will continue next season.

The Skating Club representative noted that they were supportive of the earlier ice time and would like to see their costs for the additional ice times early to prepare parents for the inevitable cost increase.

Both clubs noted that they were appreciative for Council's consideration of the matter.

Council was supportive of the Report to Council to get additional information from Administration prior to making a decision on this matter.

RESOLUTION NO. 027

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the Report to Council dated January 31, 2024, re: Earlier Ice Installation 2024/2025 Season.

Carried.

T06-RO

- 9.2 Email from Carl Bleich, dated January 26, 2024 re: Pakwash "Loop Road" Maintenance and Report to Council dated January 31, 2024 re: Letter of Request – Non-Municipal Road Maintenance.

RESOLUTION NO. 028

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the Report to Council dated January 31, 2024, re: Letter of Request – Non-Municipal Road Maintenance.

Carried.

- 9.3 Regulations for Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment Boards under Part V of the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 – Draft for Review

Council discussed the draft Regulation as presented. Council concurred that the municipality should submit a response to the Regulation as the Township should not have to equally share the costs of Board Administration, rather the costs should be reflective of the municipality's smaller size.

- 9.4 Email from Lou Edelis, dated February 1, 2024, re: Offer to Sell Back to the Township – 74 Forest Drive

Council discussed the offer and directed Administration to bring back an Offer to Purchase from Lou Edelis for the original purchase price.

- 9.5 Letter from James and Megan Trippier, received January 22, 2024, re: Water / Sewer Infrastructure Fee

Council concurred that the municipality will waive the infrastructure fees if the lots are legally consolidated by end of 2024.

9.6 Report to Council, dated January 31, 2024, re: 2024 Proposed Budget

Council discussed the Accessibility Project at the Arena, and Council concurred with the removal of the elevator at this point in order to complete the project within the funding deadline but would like to continue to pursue second floor accessibility as part of a future project.

Late Bus funding was discussed and Administration will proceed with a public open house or meeting to invite prior members of the committee and fundraisers to participate in a discussion on what to do with the remaining funds.

Council discussed the need for a more comprehensive exterior surveillance system for consideration in the 2025 Budget.

The budget adoption meeting has been advertised to the public for February 16, 2024. All Members of Council noted their availability for the meeting.

Council requested a short recess at 3:40 p.m.

Council resumed the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Kim Thain

Community Health Centre (CHC) Board

- Applied to the Rotary Club for new equipment and some updates for their facility. The new nurse is working out great.

Discussed the newly allocated 0.5 doctor position with Dr. Khan.

Councillor Doug Woolsey

Attended the Township's Health and Safety Committee Meeting last week.

Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference

- Good learning experience and good opportunity to network with other municipal council members, Ministers, and Ministry Staff.
- Attended a number of sessions including on the topics of health care in rural areas, doctor recruitment, Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), Ministry of Infrastructure on improving internet in the Province, methods for attraction and retention of employees such as pensions, benefits and work/life balance.
- Also attended a Strategic Steps workshop about improving community life for rural municipalities and the Premier's speech.
- Great opportunity as a new member of Council.

Mayor Kahoot

Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Conference

- Met with Minister Graydon Smith, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
 - A letter had been sent to the Ministry from Wabauskang First Nation and Lac Seul First Nation jointly pressing the Ministry for sale proceeds from Crown Land.
 - They discussed the need to concurrently process Survey Instructions in-line with the Archeological Assessment. The Ministry agreed in principle, and we will see how it plays out in practice.

- Met with Parliamentary Assistant Dawn Gallagher Murphy, Ministry of Health
 - Discussed funding for nurse recruitment, retention, and the new funding for 0.5 physician for Ear Falls. That funding should be available for the next few years.

- Attended several workshops with topics including immigration to small communities and the needs to welcome new residents, and funding for rural communities for a variety of projects including a Seniors Housing Project in Ear Falls.
- Met with Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) about the renovations to Sunset Leisure Place.
- Meetings with Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) included:
 - Ministry of Transportation (MTO) about twinning the Highway or increasing passing lanes, and about rest stops being operational in the Winter.
 - Ministry of Infrastructure about funding for infrastructure projects.
 - Met with Al Spacek, MPAC Board chair about the need for reassessment which sounds like it will be done for next year.

Will be attending Kenora District Municipal Association Conference and Annual General Meeting in Kenora with the rest of Council later this week. It will be the first conference held in-person in three years.

11 CLOSED MEETING

None.

12 CLOSED REPORT

None.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 029

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of
4:05 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk