

# **THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS**

**MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #3  
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers  
March 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, Deputy Treasurer Shannon Jeffries, and 1 member of the public

## **3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

Councillor Dan Sutton declared an interest in Item 9.4 due to a close relationship with one of the applicants.

## **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 Nos. 7.1.2 and 7.1.10.

RESOLUTION NO. 032

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 February 7, 2024 – Special Meeting of Council Minutes

5.1.2 February 7, 2024 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes

5.1.3 February 16, 2024 – Special Meeting of Council Minutes

### **RESOLUTION NO. 033**

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

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 5.1.3 at the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

None.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

### **\*A01-HI**

5.3.1 November 2, 2023 – Highway 105 Tourism and Marketing Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

### **\*A01-HI**

5.3.2 January 15, 2024 – Highway 105 Tourism and Marketing Board Regular Meeting Minutes.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 034**

Moved by Daniel Sutton. 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 and 5.3.2 at the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 February 2, 2024, re: Ontario Opposes Softwood Lumber Duties Harming Forest Sector.

F11-CO

7.1.2 Letter from Emergency Management Ontario, received February 27, 2024 re: Denial for funding under the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) program.

Clarification was requested on this denial.

L11-EN

7.1.3 Letter from Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks dated February 16, 2024, re: Modernizing Ontario's Environmental Assessment (EA) program.

D07-CO

7.1.4 Letter from the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, dated February 22, 2024, re: Rural Ontario Municipal Association Meeting on Crown Land Disposition.

M06-ON

7.1.5 Ontario News, dated February 22, 2024, re: Ontario Keeping Energy and Housing Costs Down

L11-EN

7.1.6 Letter from Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks dated February 22, 2024, re: Modernizing Ontario's Environmental Assessment (EA) program.

L14-MU

7.1.7 Letter from Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, received February 27, 2024, re: the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's Data Sharing and Services Agreement (DSSA).

M06-ON

7.1.8 Ontario News, dated March 1, 2024, re: Be Bear Wise to Prevent Bear Encounters

M06-ON

7.1.9 Ontario News, dated March 1, 2024, re: Ontario Government and Ontario Medical Association Working Together

D05-MI

7.1.10 Kinross Great Bear Open House invitation for March 18, 2024, 6:00 – 8:30 pm at the Ear Falls Royal Canadian Legion Branch

238.

Members of Council discussed attendance at the Open House.

D05-MI

7.1.11 Kinross Great Bear Notice of Commencement of a Screening  
Great Bear Temporary Power Project.

D19-ST

7.1.12 Letter from Canada Post, dated February 2024, re: Important  
Notice about your Mailing Address.

RESOLUTION NO. 035

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 documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.12  
at the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

## 7.2 Monthly Reports to Council

C11-MU

7.2.1 Public Service and Operations – February 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 036

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Council receives and files the Monthly Report to  
Council numbered 7.2.1 at the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Regular Meeting of  
Council.

Carried.

\*L14-DI

## 7.3 Digital Purchase Order Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 037

Moved by Dan Sutton. Seconded by Kim Thain.

WHEREAS the Township of Ear Falls is pursuing modernization of  
internal purchasing practices to improve administrative efficiency;  
and,

WHEREAS the Administration, Public Service and Operations and  
Water and Wastewater Operations Departments have completed a trial  
of Digital Purchase Order's software and Administration is  
recommending adoption of the product;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Clerk Treasurer Administrator and Deputy Treasurer are authorized to proceed with the execution of an agreement with Digital Purchase Order in accordance with the attached Terms of Service.

Carried.

## **8 BY-LAWS**

Council requested clarification on Item No. 8.2.

8.1 By-Law No. 2555-24, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

L11-SU

8.2 By-Law No. 2556-24, A By-Law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with Suncorp Valuations Ltd.

Council requested clarification on the use of these assessment values.

RESOLUTION NO. 038

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Dan Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law Nos. 2555-24 and 2556-24 as passed.

Carried.

## **PART II – OTHER ITEMS**

### **9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION**

D05-MI

9.1 Kinross Gold Great Bear Project and Future Housing Needs

Council discussed the future housing needs for this project and the availability of municipally owned property that could be used for this purpose. Kinross is not interested in directly developing housing but will cooperate with developers in providing information about housing needs when employment begins to ramp up.

Mayor Kahoot and Councillor Sutton met with Kinross while at the PDAC conference about their housing needs.

Council discussed the development of the subdivision located between Birch Drive, Aspen Street and Balsam Ave including the possible revision of the lot sizes and consideration of the type of municipal infrastructure that will be considered including roads, water and sewer infrastructure, storm water drainage, and streetlights.

Council requested information from Administration on the plan and planning processes for future Council discussion.

\*A04-KE

9.2 Kenora District Municipal Association's Conference and Annual General Meeting – Ear Falls 2025

The Township of Ear Falls will be hosting this event February 6-8, 2025. Administration has blocked hotel rooms at both hotels and will make arrangements to book the Legion. Council was requested to submit any comments and ideas for the event to Administration.

9.3 Letter from Murray and Lucie Carlson, dated February 23, 2024, re: Lot Sale Offer for 33 Birch Drive and Original Lot Sale Documents dated July 2, 1981.

Council discussed the offer and is not interested in pursuing it at the offered price.

Councillor Sutton left the meeting at this point.

P16-ON

9.4 OPP Detachment Board Applications

Councillor discussed the applications received and the needs of the community and recommended the appointment of Kylie Sutton subject to meeting the requirements of the Board for a Criminal Reference Check (CRC). An appointment motion will be forthcoming.

Councillor Sutton returned to the meeting at this point.

C11-MU

9.5 Report to Council, dated March 5, 2024, re: Water and Sewer Fees for Part Lots

Council reviewed the report as presented and directed that the three parcels identified be excluded from the application of water and sewer fees.

9.6 2024 Budget Highlights – Draft

Council concurred with the draft as presented.

## 10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Kim Thain

Community Health Centre Board Meeting

- The recent painting contract has been completed but the quality of work was quite poor, and the contractor did not clean up the workspace upon completion of the job. There are a lot of issues with

the quality of work and this should be considered if the contractor is retained again by the municipality.

- Noted that she reviewed issued with Administration with some photos and they will be following up with the Executive Director and contractor directly.

Mayor Kevin Kahoot

#### Prospectors and Developers Association (PDAC) Convention

- It was the first time the municipality has had representative attending this conference.
- Met with First Mining Gold regarding their Springpole Mine project, including issues they are having with operations, and communication matters with Cat Lake First Nation.. First Mining Gold were meeting with the area First Nations about the project during PDAC to discuss the project.
- Met with Kinross on a few occasions during the conference. They will be submitting formal requests to the Township of Ear Falls for the availability of a staging area for the mine site, and for permission to use of the Ear Falls Waste Disposal Site. Both could have some potential positive impacts to the municipality for revenue generation. Kinross is also looking at opening a hiring portal for online employment applications moving forward. This should be online by Spring 2024. Permits for water use and highway modifications are on track as part of those processes.
- Met with the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs and Member of Provincial Parliament for the riding of Kenora-Rainy River and Kevin Holland, Member of Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay-Atikokan and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Indigenous Affairs and to the Minister of Northern Development. Discussed the Build Faster Fund, as it appears that the 10% set out for small municipalities is nearly fully expended. Also briefly discussed the Township's cottage lot project and the progress on it to date.
- Met with Mayor of the Municipality of Red Lake, Fred Mota about the Kinross project and the importance of working together for mutual opportunities and benefits.
- Met briefly with Evolution Red Lake Gold and discussed their production levels and current market conditions.

#### **11 CLOSED MEETING**

None.

#### **12 CLOSED REPORT**

None.

#### **13 ADJOURNMENT**

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 039

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:17 p.m.

Carried.

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Mayor

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Clerk