

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #6
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
May 2, 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 Daniel Sutton, Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, and Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance.

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. 7.1.5, 7.1.7, and 7.4

RESOLUTION NO. 062

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 April 3, 2024 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 063

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 May 2nd, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

None.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

A01-HO

5.3.1 February 29, 2024 – Kenora District Home for the Aged Meeting Minutes

A01-HO

5.3.2 March 28, 2024 – Kenora District Home for the Aged Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION NO.

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 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations numbered 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 at the May 2nd, 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 March 28, 2024, re: Ontario Raising Minimum Wage to Support Workers

M06-ON

7.1.2 Ontario News, dated April 2, 2024, re: Province Levelling Playing Field for Ontario Businesses

F00-TA

7.1.3 Letter from Ministry of Finance, dated April 4, 2024, re: New Tax Tools for Municipalities as announced in the 2024 Ontario Budget

M06-ON

7.1.4 Ontario News, dated April 8, 2024, re: Province Expanding Mass Timber Construction up to 18 Storeys

M06-ON

7.1.5 Ontario News, dated April 9, 2024, re: Inclusive Communities Grant

Council discussed some of the opportunities for Administration to review in terms of project eligibility.

D02-IN

7.1.6 Email from Amarjot Sandhu, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure, dated April 19, 2024, re: Post-ROMA virtual meeting about Broadband in the Township of Ear Falls

M06-ON

7.1.7 Ontario News, dated April 18, 2024, re: Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund

Council discussed this fund and await the release of the program guidelines. Discussed the need for facility rehabilitation and the potential for a new skate-park in the community.

P03-EM

7.1.8 Letter from Emergency Management Ontario, dated April 15, 2024, re: 2023 Emergency Management Program Compliance

S08-NO

7.1.9 Media Release from the Northwestern Health Unit, dated April 17, 2024, re: Boards of Health vote against voluntary merger of northwestern Ontario's two health units.

RESOLUTION NO. 065

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 7.1.9 at the May 2nd, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – year to date (dated April 26, 2024).

Council reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - year to date (dated April 26, 2024) in accordance with By-Law 2283-20.

M02-PR

7.3 Letter from Mark Rubenstein, CEO for Hope Air, dated April 8, 2024, re: Request for proclamation of June 7th, 2024, as Hope Air Day.

RESOLUTION NO. 066

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

WHEREAS access to healthcare is a fundamental right for all citizens, regardless of their geographic location; and,

WHEREAS Hope Air, a charitable organization, has been tirelessly dedicated to providing access to healthcare by facilitating free flights and other services for patients living in rural and under-served communities in Ontario, ensuring they can receive vital medical treatment regardless of distance or financial means; and,

WHEREAS Hope Air has been instrumental in bridging the gap between smaller communities and hospitals far from home, reducing the barriers that often prevent individuals from reaching medical care; and,

WHEREAS the impact of Hope Air extends beyond the individual patients served, positively affecting families, communities, and the healthcare system as a whole by promoting wellness and reducing the burden of untreated medical conditions; and,

WHEREAS the compassion, dedication, and commitment demonstrated by Hope Air and its volunteers embody the spirit of community and the belief in the inherent value of every individual's well-being;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls hereby proclaims that June 7th, 2024, shall be known as "Hope Air Day" in recognition of the invaluable contributions made by Hope Air to the health and well-being of individuals in Ontario's remote and rural communities; and,

FURTHER THAT Council urges all citizens to join us in celebrating Hope Air Day, to reflect on the significance of ensuring equitable access to healthcare for all members of our society, to affirm our commitment to supporting initiatives that promote health equity and to extend our gratitude to Hope Air for their unwavering dedication to serving those in need.

Carried.

L06-IN

7.4 2024 Insurance Renewal

Council discussed the increase over the 2023 premium and the changes in operations and increase in equipment that have been added since the last renewal.

RESOLUTION NO. 067

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls approves the 2024 Insurance Renewal with Intact Insurance at a cost of \$147,125 plus applicable taxes.

Carried.

***F11-NO**

- 7.5 Application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) – Community Enhancement Program - Enhance Your Community Stream – Ear Falls Covered Pavilion Project

RESOLUTION NO. 068

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance is hereby authorized and directed to submit an Application for funding to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) under the Community Enhancement Program - Enhance Your Community Stream – Ear Falls Covered Pavilion Project in accordance with the attached application; and,

FURTHER THAT the Township of Ear Falls will accept responsibility for its contribution to the project any cost over-runs and, if necessary, will fund them with municipal Reserves.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

- 8.1 By-Law No. 2559-24, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

L07-LA

- 8.2 By-Law No. 2560-24, a By-Law to Authorize the Purchase of 74 Forest Drive, Plan M700 Lot 182, from Lou Edelis and Patricia M. Edelis

***L04-CR**

- 8.3 By-Law No. 2561-24, a By-Law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with Criterion Pictures

A08-PI

- 8.4 By-Law No. 2562-24, a By-Law to Authorize the Execution of a

Lease Agreement (renewal) with Pitney Bowes

P.F.

8.4 By-Law No. 2563-24, a By-Law to Enter into an Employment Agreement with Shawna Weston for the position of Deputy Clerk Intern.

P.F.

8.4 By-Law No. 2564-24, a By-Law to Appoint a Deputy Clerk.

RESOLUTION NO. 069

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law Nos. 2559-24, 2560-24, 2561-24, 2562-24, 2563-24, and 2564-24 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

*L07-LA & L.R.

9.1 Declare Property Surplus – 74 Forest Drive (M700 Lot 182)

RESOLUTION NO. 070

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

WHEREAS Plan M700, Lot No. 182 is in the process of being purchased by the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls for the purpose of with a closing date set for May 17, 2024;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls hereby declares Plan M700, Lot 182 to be surplus to the needs of the Corporation; and

FURTHER THAT based on the Opinion of Value provided in accordance with By-Law No. 2230-19, the minimum bid will be set at \$6,700 for Plan M700, Lot 182; and

FURTHER THAT Offers to Purchase will be accepted on a first come - first served basis beginning June 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Carried.

9.2 Review of By-Law 1967-15, A By-Law to Regulate the Installation of Culverts Placed on Municipal Road Allowances and to Provide Access Therefrom to Private Abutting Lands

Council discussed the fee amendments proposed for entrance permits and the upcoming enforcement of the by-law where needed.

Administration will be sending letters out to non-compliant property owners with timelines to bring their non-conforming entrances into compliance, or for the complete removal of entrances where they are a safety concern (i.e. entrances near intersections or stop signs). Administration noted that some culvert replacement would be completed by the Township to correct problem areas that were in place prior to the enactment of By-Law 1967-15.

- 9.3 Email from Janet Masdea, Operations Manager, Diabetes Canada, dated April 4, 2024, re: Partnership with Diabetes Canada for placement of a donation bin in Ear Falls.

Council discussed this request and concerns about the uncertain pick-up schedule. They discussed the participation by Diabetes Canada at a special event such as Family Safety Night where an annual pick-up could be scheduled.

- 9.4 Youth/Student Member of Council

Council discussed the potential appointment of a youth/student Member of Council. Administration has reviewed other municipalities policies for their youth members and will distribute these for Council for consideration and potential policy development locally.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Kim Thain

Ear Falls Community Health Center Board Meeting

- The Board is seeking clarification on the process for advertising for the 0.5 physician position that has been allocated to Ear Falls.

Councillor Dan Sutton

Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) Meeting

- There is an ongoing dispute between the Ontario Provincial Government and the Federal Government over funding allocations which will potentially impact KDSB's housing funding.

Councillor Doug Woolsey

Ear Falls/Red Lake OPP Detachment Board

- Training has been completed by Ear Falls appointed members.
- The first meeting of the board will be held on June 12

Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Conference

- Good networking opportunities with other municipalities especially those from the Thunder Bay district as we don't see them as much.
- Met with Henry Wall from KDSB, about social housing needs and

seniors housing needs.

- Met with Mac Potter from Kinross about a housing needs assessment for future employees.
- Met Chris Holland from Smart Modular Canada and discussed their modular construction practices. Will be doing a walkthrough of their plant in Thunder Bay in the near future and will see if there is an opportunity to set up a show house in Ear Falls.

Mayor Kevin Kahoot

Kinross

- Gwyneth Carlson has moved over from Evolution to Kinross on the municipal relations front.
- There will be an environmental update provided soon.

Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) Conference

- Good presentations this year. There were several provincial ministers and representatives and there were good opportunities to discuss housing and healthcare which are primary concerns in the region. This included the expansion of the number of student spaces in the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Although this won't have an immediate impact it will be positive as the school begins to have more graduates in 2028 and beyond.
- There was also a very good presentation on social media and communications.

Have set up two meetings between the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Chief Administrative Officers for Red Lake and Machin to begin a dialogue on issues of mutual interest.

11 CLOSED MEETING

12 CLOSED REPORT

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 071

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:35 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk