

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #15
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
October 16, 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 Dan Sutton, Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance, Deputy Clerk Shawna Weston, and Manager of Public Service and Operations Glenna Wigle.

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 Nos. 7.2.2, 7.4, and 7.5.

RESOLUTION NO. 170

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 Meetings.

5.1.1 October 2nd, 2024 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 171

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Minutes of the previous Meetings of Council numbered 5.1.1 at the October 16th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

C06-JO

5.2.1 August 28, 2024 – Health & Safety Committee Meeting

RESOLUTION NO. 172

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 of Committees numbered 5.2.1 at the October 16th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

A01-HO

5.3.1 June 27, 2024 – District of Kenora Home for the Aged Regular Meeting Minutes.

A01-NO

5.3.2 October 10, 2024 – Northern Ontario Municipal Association Board Meeting Summary

RESOLUTION NO. 173

Moved by Daniel Sutton. 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 October 16th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

None.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1. Correspondence.

D05-TI

7.1.1 Letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources, dated September 27, 2024, re: Kenora and Whiskey Jack Forest 2024-2025 Prescribed Burn Plan for Slash Pile Burning.

A01-NO

7.1.2 Letter of Support from the Northern Ontario Municipal Association, dated September 26, 2024, re: Addressing Northern Ontario Labour Market Needs Through the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program.

A01-NO

7.1.3 Letter of Support from the Northern Ontario Municipal Association, dated October 7, 2024, re: The Future for Billy Bishop Airport.

A01-NO

7.1.4 Letter of Support from the Northern Ontario Municipal Association, dated October 10, 2024, re: Ontario Northland Transportation proposed expansion of motor coach services in Northwestern Ontario.

S08-NO

7.1.5 Letter from the Northwestern Health Unit, dated September 27, 2024, re: Perspectives from Northern Ontario for the Public Health Funding Review.

RESOLUTION NO. 174

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 documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.5 at the October 16th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Monthly Reports to Council

C11-MU

7.2.1 Monthly Report to Council – September 2024 – Public Service & Operations

7.2.2 Monthly Report to Council – October 2024 – Public Service & Operations

Council requested an update on the Arena Renovation project. Administration advised that the renovation area will be open to the public when ice rentals resume but there will still be deficiencies requiring correction prior to the Township paying the final bill for the work.

Administration noted that the project was rather disorganized since the contractors' project manager was rarely on site and was relying on municipal staff to act as the general contractor. Many of the subtrades were not well coordinated or prepared to be working in a remote community, and repeatedly requested supplies from the Township. There were some great subtrades working on the project, but the coordination of their work was lacking resulting in repetition of some tasks. The cleanliness of the worksite was not ideal for a facility that was still open to the public and there were several change orders requested that increased the overall cost of the project.

RESOLUTION NO. 175

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Council receives and files the Monthly Reports to Council numbered 7.2.1 to 7.2.2 at the October 16th, 2024, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

H11-WA

7.3 Resignation of Macey Finan from her position of Water and Wastewater Treatment Operator (Full Time, Union Position) for the Township of Ear Falls.

RESOLUTION NO. 176

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the resignation of Macey Finan from her position as Water and Wastewater Treatment Operator (Full Time, Union Position) for the Township of Ear Falls be accepted with regrets effective November 22, 2024.

Carried.

*F11-CO

7.4 Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 1:
Repair and Rehabilitation Application

Council discussed this funding application and the plans for the renovation. Administration will update the draft application accordingly.

RESOLUTION NO. 177

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Clerk Treasurer Administrator, Kimberly Ballance is hereby authorized and directed to submit an application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 1: Repair and Rehabilitation re: the Recreation Centre Changeroom / Foyer Renovation Project.

Carried.

*F11-CO

7.5 Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 2:
New Builds/Signature New Builds Application

Council discussed this application and the planned uses of a four-season space if this application is approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 178

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Clerk Treasurer Administrator, Kimberly Ballance is hereby authorized and directed to submit an application to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund – Stream 2: New Builds/Signature New Builds re: New Golf Course Clubhouse.

Carried.

*F11-HO

7.6 Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) Intake II
Application

RESOLUTION NO. 179

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT Clerk Treasurer Administrator, Kimberly Ballance is hereby authorized and directed to submit an application to the Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund Intake II re: Residential Subdivision Development Project (Phase 1).

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

- 8.1 By-Law No. 2594-24, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.
- 8.2 By-Law No. 2595-24, a By-Law to Authorize the Execution of a Digital Solutions Agreement with GHD Digital to update the Township of Ear Falls website.

RESOLUTION NO. 180

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. 2594-24 and 2595-24 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

- 9.1 Report to Council dated October 9, 2024, re: English River Road Sign Permit

RESOLUTION NO. 181

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls hereby approves the addition of the following to the Subscriptions and Memberships listings for 2024 and 2025:

- English River Road - Sign Permit \$305
 (5-year term)

Carried.

- 9.2 Report to Council dated October 10, 2024, re: Sheila Williamson's request re: Lions Park fence ownership

Council discussed the request and confirmed that the Township is willing transfer the remaining portion of the fence to the property owners of 32 Balsam Avenue for a nominal charge subject to the necessary repairs being completed by the property owners. Administration will respond accordingly.

- 9.3 Report to Council dated October 11, 2024, re: By-Law Enforcement Services

Council discussed the report and concurred that they will work towards the development of a Job Description for a joint By-Law Enforcement Officer and Chief Building Official Position through the Human Resources Committee. This can be later advertised to the community for interest from the public and potentially to grow your own including necessary training and equipment.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Doug Woolsey

- The date for the first meeting of the Red Lake / Ear Falls OPP Detachment Board has been set for October 21, 2024 at 3 pm. Not sure if Kylie Sutton is attending, but will follow up to coordinate travel.

Councillor Kim Thain

Ear Falls Community Health Centre Board Meeting

- They have been invited to join the Northwestern Ontario Physician Recruitment Alliance and will be joining to improve locum and other medical practitioner coverage in Ear Falls.
- Received a donation from the Pit Stop for \$500 from their Old Dutch win.

Councillor Dan Sutton

- Met with the Ministry of Infrastructure about their incorrect mapping for broadband in Ear Falls. There have been recent improvements to fiber infrastructure in the community but there are still areas in the community without access to fiber service.
- Working with Susan Church, from Blue Sky Net and Administration to complete some updated internet speed testing to improve the internet mapping. Blue Sky Net is looking at potentially improving the TBayTel tower to improve service in the areas without fiber access.

Kenora District Services Board Meeting

- Board looking at the possibility of modifying its Management structure.
- The Sunset Leisure Renovation project continues and is back on track for their 2024 renovation timeline.

Mayor Kahoot

- Received a call from a tourist from the states who complimented the Township on the Waterfront Park Upgrades. Asked him to pass on this compliment to Council.

Met with Jack Dawson re: Junior B hockey team for Ear Falls

- Jack will be coming to a meeting with Council and staff to discuss their needs for the 2025/2026 season, and will also be hosting a community meeting to discuss volunteer needs for billets and to assist with games.

Lions' Club Meeting

- Attended their meeting on October 15, 2024 with Councillor Thain and reiterated Council's decision to move the equipment at Lions' Park to the new location adjacent to the Splash Pad. There was some misunderstanding about the ownership of the main structure of the park that is being reviewed by Administration. The meeting was quite positive and clarified several assumptions that the club had about Councils' direction in the community.
- Some of the Lions' Members will also be volunteering to open the Museum one evening per month.

11 CLOSED MEETING

11.1 Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended.

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local Board employees;
 - Cemetery Complaint

RESOLUTION NO. 182

Moved by Daniel Sutton. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby convenes into a Closed Session at 3:29 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to:

- Section 239 (2) (b) - Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local Board employees – Cemetery Complaint.

Carried.

11.2 RESOLUTION NO. 183

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls convened from a Closed Session at 3:51 p.m. to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

12 CLOSED REPORT

Council provided direction to the Clerk Treasurer Administrator regarding a Cemetery Complaint.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 184

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:52 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk