

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held at the Municipal Office
On Wednesday, June 5, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Erwin Butikofer
Councillor at Large Gordon Cuthbertson
Crooks Councillor Brian Wright
Pearson Councillor Gary Gardner
Blake Councillor Mark Thibert
Pardee Councillor Curtis Coulson
Scoble Councillor Brian Kurikka

Rosalie A. Evans, Solicitor-Clerk

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

- (a) Call to Order: Mayor Butikofer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- (b) Attendance: Attendance was recorded.
- (c) Town Hall Segment:

There were no attendees for the Town Hall segment of the meeting.

- (d) Accept/Amend the Agenda:

Res. No. 2019-06-126

Moved by: Councillor Coulson
Seconded by: Councillor Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda circulated for this regular meeting of Council be amended to add, as Item 4.10, a request from the Neebing Recreation Committee to use the municipal office and grounds for Canada Day celebrations, and, as Item 5.1, a By-law to appoint the temporary summer roads staff, and that the agenda, as so amended, be approved.

CARRIED ✓

- (e) Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest were brought forward.

2. HEAR DEPUTATIONS FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

2.1 Deputation from Mr. Gary Davies, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Mr. Davies thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. Using a power point presentation, he described for Council the Nature Conservancy of Canada's ("NCC") recent activities in Neebing.

Recently, the NCC has purchased two parcels of land in the Pearson Wetlands. The wetlands are now under public/agency ownership. These are the headwaters for the Pine River. Development consisting of a small parking lot, a trail leading to a lookout on the mesa, and some interpretive information stations, is a vision for the future.

Significant work on the Big Trout Bay Nature Reserve has been undertaken. The “James Duncan Nature Trail” is complete. This is a 9.8 km trail with gorgeous views. The Mount Molly lookout in particular is spectacular. There is a new parking lot on the Memory Road side of the trail. At the Little Trout Bay side of the trail, the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority allows NCC to use its parking lot. Patrons are reminded to pay! It will be on the NCC website very soon. If you go to the website now, you will see other similar sites. The website treats it as a “nature destination” site. NCC has a goal to have a minimum of 150 such sites across the country. There is potential for more than one in Neebing. The site profiles the properties and the community that they are in.

The NCC worked with the Thunder Bay Hiking Association to put Parks Canada ratings on the new trails. Most are rated “difficult” because of the steep grades. The part from the new parking lot to the cobble beach at Little Trout Bay is rated “moderate” – it is reasonably flat. Signage has been installed, including warning signs about fall hazards.

The ponds in the former gravel pit area will be deepened. There is a vision for an accessible trail for birdwatching, interpretive sites, etc. Some funding has been obtained from the Westin Foundation. The accessible trail will not be paved – it will be packed crusher fines.

Most work is being undertaken by volunteers, putting in hundreds of hours.

It would take approximately 5 hours to hike from one parking lot to the other. It is anticipated that people would park a vehicle at each end rather than do the whole trail and then reverse and re-do it.

By July, Big Trout Bay will be the first Nature Destination in Northwestern Ontario. A map, a gallery of photos, a “rules” section, and other information will be posted. Interpretive signs have not been placed. Technology is being considered – “swipe and learn”.

Parking lots will be open until winter. The NCC prohibits use with motorized vehicles (ATVs, snowmobiles, etc.) People can access the trails in winter for snowshoeing – but at present there is no budget for maintaining the parking lot clear of snow – so they would need to traverse the lot to get to the trails.

Forest management strategies are under discussion. It is important that we maintain the variety of habitats – understanding the functions of each habitat – and then determine how best to manage them.

Mayor Butikofer thanked Mr. Davies for his presentation. He expressed support for the NCC attracting both visitors and new residents.

Mr. Davies encouraged Council to reach out to provide input to NCC. It wants to work with the community.

Mr. Davies left the Chambers at 6:45 p.m.

3. CONSENT AGENDA: MINUTES, REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council (sitting as Committee of the Whole) held on May 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
Administration had recommended approval of the minutes, with any error corrections, as required.
- 3.2 Minutes of the Open Session portion of the Regular Meeting of Council held on May 15, 2019
Administration had recommended approval of the minutes, with any error corrections, as required.
- 3.3 Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on May 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
Administration had recommended approval of the minutes, with any error corrections, as required.
- 3.4 Minutes of the meeting of the Cemetery Board held on May 13, 2019
Administration had recommended that the minutes be received.
- 3.5 Minutes of the meeting of the Neebing Recreation Committee held on May 13, 2019
Administration had recommended that the minutes be received.
- 3.6 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Administrative Activity
Administration had recommended that the report be received.
- 3.7 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Annual Approval of Health & Safety Policy
Administration had recommended that the policy be approved.
- 3.8 Exclusion of Certain Liabilities from the 2019 Budget
Administration had recommended that the report be received.
- 3.9 Information Correspondence List (Distributed at the Meeting)
Administration had recommended that the correspondence be received.

Res. No. 2019-06-127

Moved by: Councillor Kurikka
Seconded by: Councillor Cuthbertson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the recommendations from Administration with respect to all of the items on the consent agenda portion of this evening's meeting, being Items 3.1, through 3.9.

CARRIED ✓

Administration requested that Council address the "decision" items noted in the Administrative Report (Item 3.6).

On consensus, Council:

- scheduled Tender Review Committee meetings for June 18th at 6:00 p.m. (to review the tenders for the pintle hitch trailer and the proposals for the Alf Olsen Center playground, June 26th at 1:00 p.m. (to review the proposals for the branding and website project) and July 9th at 1:00 p.m. (to review the proposals for the Asset Management Plan Consultant and the tenders for the road gravel projects);

- directed Administration to proceed with the Shed Guy's quotation for a skate shed for Blake Hall, and a second one for the Alf Olsen Center, and to include these in the budget;
- directed Administration to proceed with an RFP to convert two furnaces at the Municipal office building, and one at Blake Hall from oil to propane, to include a trade-in value for the furnace at Blake Hall, since it is relatively new, and to include these in the budget;
- directed Administration to proceed with purchasing ceiling fans for the municipal garage to help drive the heat to the floor; and
- directed Administration to provide a report on "next steps" should Council be interested in reducing the size of Council, including "pros" and "cons".

4. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING DIRECTION:

4.1 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Neebing News (after 6 month further "trial")

Members present reviewed the report. Ms. Vaclav from Design House was present and responded to questions.

Res. No. 2019-06-128

Moved by: Councillor Cuthbertson

Seconded by: Councillor Gardner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council continue with the Neebing News as it is currently published and distributed;

AND FURTHER THAT Ms. Vaclav be asked to include a classified advertisement section, where Neebing residents can advertise without charge;

AND FURTHER THAT Administration write a Neebing News article to solicit community interest in writing articles relating to information from their neighbourhood/ward.

CARRIED ✓

Ms. Vaclav left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

4.2 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Feedback on Council's draft strategic plan

Options for an open house session to obtain information from members of the public were discussed. Administration was directed to commit the "town hall session" portion of the Regular Council meeting scheduled for September 4th as an open house relating to Council's strategic plan, and to advertise it as such.

No resolution was passed.

4.3 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Feedback on a Code of Conduct for Staff and Volunteers.

Members present discussed the Report. The Solicitor-Clerk responded to questions.

Res. No. 2019-06-129

Moved by: Councillor Coulson

Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the draft Code of Conduct be amended such that municipal staff are not prohibited from bidding on surplus municipal items;

AND FURTHER THAT the Code of Conduct, as so amended, be approved.

CARRIED ✓

4.4 Report from Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Regarding Asset Management Strategic Policy.

Members present discussed the Report.

Res. No. 2019-06-130

Moved by: Councillor Thibert

Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the amendments to the Asset Management Policy, as presented in the Report, be approved, and that the policy be renamed the "Asset Management Strategic Policy".

CARRIED ✓

4.5 Report from Solicitor/Clerk Regarding International Emergency Mutual Assistance Agreement

Members present discussed the Report.

Res. No. 2019-06-131

Moved by: Councillor Kurikka

Seconded by: Councillor Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the Agreement "in principle";

AND, FURTHER, THAT Administration report back on changes, if any, requested by our mutual aid partners during their reviews of the Agreement, when presenting a by-law to authorize its execution.

CARRIED ✓

4.6 Correspondence from Town of Fort Erie, received May 22nd, Seeking support of its Resolution requesting Information on Cannabis Licencing and requesting that Public Hearings be required

Members present discussed the correspondence. No resolution was passed.

4.7 Correspondence from Township of Bonnechere Valley, received May 23rd, Seeking support of its Resolution Opposing Bill C-68's Rewriting of Subsection 2(2) of the Fisheries Act

Members present discussed the correspondence. No resolution was passed.

4.8 Correspondence from Town of Lake of Bays, received May 17th, Seeking support of its Resolution requesting that the Province maintain OMPF funding at no less than its current level

Members present discussed the correspondence.

Res. No. 2019-06-132

Moved by: Councillor Gardner

Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to maintain OMPF funding at no less than 2016 levels;

AND FURTHER, THAT this resolution be circulated to the Town of Lake of Bays, our local MPPs, those circulated on the Town of Lake of Bays' correspondence, apart from the Ministry of the Solicitor-General and their local MPPs.

CARRIED ✓

4.9 Correspondence from Town of Aurora, received May 22nd, Seeking support of its Resolution Seeking support of its Resolution Opposing the portion of Bill 108 that Restores former OMB powers to the LPAT

Members present discussed the correspondence. The Solicitor-Clerk overviewed some of the history.

Res. No. 2019-06-133

Moved by: Councillor Cuthbertson

Seconded by: Councillor Gardner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing supports the position taken by the Town of Aurora, and several other municipalities, in opposition of Bill 108 insofar as it restores OMB powers to the LPAT;

AND, FURTHER, THAT the resolution be circulated to all of those municipalities who have circulated their similar resolutions to Neebing; to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; to the Premier; and to the local MPPs.

CARRIED ✓

4.10 Request from the Neebing Recreation Committee to use the Municipal Office and Grounds for Canada Day Celebrations

Res. No. 2019-06-134

Moved by: Councillor Cuthbertson

Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Recreation Committee's request to use the municipal office and grounds for Canada Day celebrations be approved, and that the Committee be so advised.

CARRIED ✓

5. TABLE BY-LAWS

5.1 By-law 2019-022 to Appoint Temporary Roads Department Staff

Res. No. 2019-06-135

Moved by: Councillor Cuthbertson

Seconded by: Councillor Kurikka

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2019-022, to appoint Messrs. Peterson and Oleksuk as temporary roads crew staff, be passed.

CARRIED ✓

6. NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Thibert advised that his new named-for-Neebing "Peregrine Jazz Falcons" band will be performing on August 19th at Waverly Park in Thunder Bay.

Mayor Butikofer advised he attended a Chamber of Commerce event at the DaVinci Center earlier today. He discussed with the owner of a construction company that strings fiber optic cable the potential available funding for municipalities. He will forward the information to Administration. He also had a conversation with the CAO of Marathon regarding the liquid natural gas project in Nipigon. He is wondering what is the residential density required to meet a business case. We have a number of "pockets" of 50 or so lots. He will bring this up at the LRMC meeting.

Dan Munshaw, the Manager of Supply Management in Thunder Bay, gave a presentation at the event, and referenced that the City would be "giving" Neebing a garbage truck.

Councillors asked whether we might be able to "bulk purchase" the fire truck with other partner(s). The Solicitor-Clerk indicated that it usually takes a fleet full to make a bulk purchase of vehicles worthwhile, but if the Federal Government will be bulk purchasing trucks for the reserves, that might be do-able.

Mayor Butikofer indicated that he spoke with Nick Kaplanis, who is with a Chinese company, Argo, that has an 8-wheeled unit that can be fitted with fire fighting equipment. It is more "nimble" and can pump water or foam. It uses a car engine. This may be something to pursue as a back up unit.

Mrs. Evans advised members that the new "Northwest Nosh" magazine is available, and it has an article by our Economic Development Officer Intern about the "Bakery on Boundary".

7. CLOSED SESSION:

Res. No. 2019-06-136

Moved by: Councillor Coulson
Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 7:32 p.m., Council enter closed session under the authority of paragraph 239(2)(c) of the Municipal Act, 2001, to consider item 7.1, involving a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality, and under the authority of paragraphs 239(2)(b)&(d) to consider item 7.2, involving personal matters about identifiable individuals and employee negotiations or labour relations.

CARRIED ✓

During Closed Session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

Res. No. 2019-06-137

Moved by: Councillor Coulson
Seconded by: Councillor Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 7:43 p.m., Council rise from Closed Session and report in Open Session.

CARRIED ✓

Matters Arising from Closed Session

7.1 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Unsolicited Offer on Property

Res. No. 2019-06-138

Moved by: Councillor Wright
Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration proceed as directed in Closed Session.

CARRIED ✓

7.2 Discussion Regarding Summer Roads Crew Staffing

No resolution arose from this discussion.

8. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

8.1 By-law 2019-023 to Confirm the Proceedings of the Meeting

Res. No. 2019-06-139

Moved by: Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by: Councillor Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2019-023, to confirm the proceedings of the meeting, be passed as presented in the agenda.

CARRIED ✓

9. ADJOURN THE MEETING

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Butikofer adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL


Erwin Butikofer
MAYOR


Rosalie A. Evans
SOLICITOR-CLERK