

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held at the Municipal Office
On Monday, December 11, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Ziggy Polkowski
Councillor Mike McCooeye
Councillor Roger Shott
Councillor Bill Lankinen
Councillor Erwin Butikofer
Councillor Curtis Coulson
Councillor Brian Wright

Rosalie Evans, Solicitor-Clerk

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

- (a) Call to Order: Mayor Polkowski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- (b) Attendance: Attendance was recorded.
- (c) Declarations of Interest:

No pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. PRESENTATION FROM TBAYTEL:

Mayor Polkowski welcomed TBayTel representatives, Simone Laatu (Vice President, Chief Technology and Information Officer), Timo Hiiback (Director, Business Development) and Ken Prout (O.P.E. Network Planner – Networks and Technology) to the meeting.

Ms. Laatu distributed a confidential power point presentation in print format. The TBayTel representatives reviewed the information in the presentation with Council.

Confidentiality of the document is claimed in accordance with Subsection 239(2)(i) of the Municipal Act, 2001 and under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, as the document contains commercially sensitive information, being trade secrets and commercial information, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of TBayTel. During the presentation, Ms. Laatu circulated a large copy map of the existing wire services by TBayTel within the Municipality of Neebing. Confidentiality of this map document is claimed for the same reasons as those stated regarding the power point slide deck.

Challenges experienced by residents of Neebing in getting access to high speed internet are similar to those experienced by rural residents across Canada. Funding programs available to service providers like TBay Tel are focused on northern remote communities or on improvements where a "business case" can be established (typically requiring urban level

population densities). This leaves a large percentage of Canadians in the position where the service providers cannot afford to install service delivery infrastructure and there is no option for those residents.

Installation costs for new fiber optic service lines involve a large amount of money that TBayTel is required to pay to the owner(s) of utility poles on which they wish to attach the new cable. Some engineering fees must be paid up front just to determine whether or not a planned installation is financially feasible. This creates challenges in terms of applying for any grant funding available.

Some may be able to be serviced via satellite service providers. Others may be able to utilize “canopy” wireless service. Many do not have either option.

3. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

In response to a question from Councillor Shott, TBayTel representatives advised that the cost of burying underground cable, rather than utilizing utility poles for aerial applications may, in some circumstances, be lower. However, this is very circumstance-dependant, and the difference in cost is not always significant.

In response to questions from Councillors Butikofer, Shott and Lankinen, TBay Tel representatives reviewed their ability to “partner” with other service providers in some circumstances.

In response to a question from Mayor Polkowski as to how the Municipality can assist with all of these challenges, Ms. Laatu replied that letters to Provincial and Federal representatives to make the grant funding programs more relevant, and to increase the amount of funding available would be of assistance. Northern Ontario is vastly different from Southern Ontario in terms of population density and challenging terrain.

Councillor Shott commented that high speed internet is essential infrastructure – as important as roads in our modern era.

In response to a question from the Solicitor-Clerk, TBayTel representatives agreed that a funding application to create a community-hub internet service provision area may be well received by other orders of government, and they would be pleased to work with the Municipality if such a project moves beyond conception stage.

The Solicitor-Clerk suggested that Council may wish to pass a resolution to amend the resolution passed at its last Regular Meeting (December 6th) in terms of providing feedback to MP Don Rusnak regarding the 2018 Federal budget.

A brief recess was held at 11:30 a.m. to allow TBayTel representatives to leave the chambers.
Session resumed at 11:35 a.m.

Res. No. 2017-12-292

Moved by: Councillor McCooye
Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Resolution 2017-12-285, passed on December 6, 2017, be amended to add the following paragraph:


In recognition of the fact that high speed internet is extremely important infrastructure,
and in recognition of the significant costs associated with expanding fiber optic cable to rural municipalities to enable the provision of high speed internet to their residents,
that the Federal budget include a significant expansion to the grant funding programs available to internet service providers to allow for realistic expansion projects for their rural customers,
and that grant funding programs expressly provide for those rural residents of Canada that are neither in remote areas, nor in areas where population densities can provide for a "business case" for expansion of service.

CARRIED ✓

4. ADJOURN THE MEETING:

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Polkowski adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL



Ziggy Polkowski
MAYOR



Rosalie A. Evans
Solicitor-Clerk

