

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Held at the Municipal Office  
On Wednesday, December 20, 2017

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

Erika Kromm, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk

**1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:**

- (a) Call to Order: Mayor Polkowski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- (b) Attendance: Attendance was recorded.
- (c) Accept/Amend the Agenda:

Res. No. 2017-12-296

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen  
Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for this regular meeting of Council be approved as distributed.

**CARRIED ✓**

- (d) Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest were brought forward.

**2. HEAR DEPUTATIONS FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS:**

**2.1 Representatives from the Neebing Economic Development Advisory Committee will present its 4th Quarter Report**

Mayor Polkowski introduced Dawne Kilgour and Gary Davies from the Neebing Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Mrs. Kilgour and Mr. Davies discussed the direction that the committee would like to go in the future. They believe that a focus on attracting new residents to Neebing will bring new business. In addition, they feel that greater involvement in the agricultural community will help to open new opportunities.

There was some discussion about past economic development activities and the possibility of applying for a grant to hire an intern to carry out some of the committee's recommendations.

Mayor Polkowski thanked Mrs. Kilgour and Mr. Davies for their presentation and they left the chambers.

### **3. CONSENT AGENDA: MINUTES, REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**3.1 Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on December 6, 2017**

Administration had recommended approval of these minutes, with any error corrections, as required. No errors were noted.

**3.2 Minutes of the Open Session portion of the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 6, 2017**

Administration had recommended approval of these minutes, together with those presented at Item 7.1 of the Closed Session portion of the agenda, with any error corrections, as required. No errors were noted.

**3.3 Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held December 11, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**

Administration had recommended approval of these minutes, with any error corrections, as required. No errors were noted.

**3.4 Minutes of the Open Session portion of the Special Meeting of Council held on December 11, 2017 at 11:37 a.m.**

Administration had recommended approval of these minutes, together with those presented at Item 7.2 of the Closed Session portion of the agenda, with any error corrections, as required. No errors were noted.

**3.5 Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Advisory Committee held on October 16, 2017, 2017**

Administration had recommended that the minutes be received.

**3.6 Voucher Report for the previous month**

Administration had recommended that the vouchers be approved.

**3.7 Variance Report: Year to date as of the end of the previous month**

Administration had recommended that the report be received for information.

**3.8 Report from Working Roads Foreman Regarding Departmental Activity in the preceding month**

Administration had recommended that the report be received for information.

**3.9 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Administrative Activity**

Administration had recommended that the report be received for information.

**3.10 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Wedding Enquiry**

Administration had recommended to allow use of the property as requested, subject to appropriate insurance being purchased.

- 3.10A Correspondence from the District Health Unit seeking Resolutions and Letters from Member Municipalities  
Administration had recommended to provide the supporting resolution and letters.
- 3.11 Correspondence from The Corporation of the City of Clarence-Rockland, received December 12, 2017, requesting support for its resolution opposing a Fire-Medic model as proposed by Bill 160  
Administration had recommended to pass a supporting resolution.
- 3.12 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding MLDAO Conference attended Dec. 1  
Administration had recommended that the report be received for information.
- 3.13 Minutes of the meeting of the Neebing Recreation Committee held December 11th, 2017  
Administration had recommended that the minutes be received.
- 3.14 Information Correspondence List (Distributed at the Meeting)  
Administration had recommended that the correspondence be received for information.

Res. No. 2017-12-297

Moved by: Councillor Coulson  
Seconded by: Councillor Wright

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 3.14.

CARRIED ✓

**4. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING DIRECTION:**

4.1 Report from Treasurer Regarding Insurance Policy Renewal

Members present reviewed the report. Councillor Shott summarized the discussions of the Insurance Quotation Review Team.

Res. No. 2017-12-298

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer  
Seconded by: Councillor Shott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the quotation from JLT Canada for comprehensive insurance coverage for the municipality in 2018, including all of the optional coverages quoted, except for the volunteer fire fighter accident insurance.

CARRIED ✓

4.2 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Police Services Board Resolution

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-12-299

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen

Seconded by: Councillor McCooey

WHEREAS the Lakehead Police Services Board was formed in 2017 as a joint police services board for the Municipality of Neebing and the Townships of Gillies, O'Connor and Conmee;

AND WHEREAS the Police Services Act provides for joint police services boards, but does not expressly provide for the composition of the membership on a joint police service board;

AND WHEREAS the application of the Police Services Act sections relating to single municipality police services board composition to the joint municipal police services board model would result in some municipalities being unable to appoint members of their councils to the board;

AND WHEREAS the Province requires transparency and accountability of municipal councils to their constituents;

AND WHEREAS transparency and accountability in relation to the operation of a joint police services board would be difficult for any participating municipality without a council member with a seat at the board table;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities who share responsibility for the joint police services board are responsible to pay 100% of the costs of the board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing respectfully requests that the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services process a regulation providing that, in circumstances where a Police Services Board represents more than one incorporated municipality, that each incorporated municipality be entitled to appoint a member of its council to the board;

AND FURTHER, if the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services is not prepared to process a general regulation in this regard, that the Minister process a regulation providing that the composition of the Lakehead Police Services Board, which serves the Municipality of Neebing and the Townships of Gillies, O'Connor and Conmee, include, as a minimum, one representative member of the council for each of the municipalities served by the board.

**CARRIED ✓**

4.3 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy 2018-19 funding request

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-12-300

Moved by: Councillor Shott

Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration is authorized to renew the membership with the Thunder Bay Area Food Strategy for 2018 and that a contribution of \$650 be made for 2018 – 2019.

**CARRIED ✓**

Res. No. 2017-12-301

Moved by: Councillor McCooeye

Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council appoints Councillor Butikofer as a member of the Food Strategy Council.

CARRIED ✓

4.4 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding VFIS Insurance for Fire Fighters

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-12-302

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer

Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration is authorized to renew the VFIS insurance policy for Volunteer Fire Fighters in 2018.

CARRIED ✓

4.5 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding OGRA Delegation Requests

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-12-303

Moved by: Councillor Coulson

Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration is authorized submit delegation requests for the same issues submitted to ROMA, with the exception of those that have received appointments at ROMA.

CARRIED ✓

4.6 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding 2-Way radio Issue

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-12-304

Moved by: Councillor McCooeye

Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

WHEREAS the Municipality of Neebing is geographically large and topographically varied, including cliffs, valleys, and rock;

AND WHEREAS large segments of the municipality's territory have no cell phone coverage;

AND WHEREAS the Roads Crew employees and/or contractors of the Municipality must drive into these areas on a daily basis;

AND WHEREAS communication by two-way radio is the only form of reliable communication available to the Municipality of Neebing;

AND WHEREAS communication between Roads Crew employees and/or contractors is critical from a health and safety perspective as well as essential for business efficacy;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 366/09 provides an exemption for Municipal Staff from the

general prohibition against the Highway Traffic Act's prohibition against the use of hand-held communication devices while driving;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing was advised on December 7th, by MPP Ernie Hardeman that the exemption in Ontario Regulation 366/09 would expire on January 1, 2018;

AND WHEREAS research by Neebing staff confirms this to be the case;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Good Roads Association advised on December 8, 2017 that the Office of the Minister of Transportation confirmed that the exemption will be extended,

AND WHEREAS a mere extension of this exemption is insufficient to protect the health and welfare of staff and contractors of the Municipality of Neebing,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing respectfully requests that the exemptions provided in Sections 11 and 13 of Ontario Regulation 366/09 be made permanent by the deletion of subsections 11(3) and 13(2);

AND FURTHER, that the Minister of Transportation ensure in future that proper communication of such pending regulatory changes be communicated to all municipalities well in advance of the pending change;

AND FURTHER, that this resolution be sent to the Honourable Ministers of Transportation and of Municipal Affairs; the Thunder Bay District Municipal Board; the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.7 Report from Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Regarding Vesting Tax Sale Property**

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-12-305

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen

Seconded by: Councillor Shott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration is authorized to vest title to the property with tax roll number 58-01-180-001-00800-0000 in the Municipality's name.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.8 Correspondence from Heart of the Continent Partnership, Regarding renewal of Membership**

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-12-306

Moved by: Councillor Coulson

Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration is authorized to renew the membership with Heart of the Continent Partnership at the \$100 level.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.9 Report from Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Regarding AMO Conference – summer 2018**

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-12-307

Moved by: Councillor McCooeye

Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration is authorized to register Mayor Polkowski, Councillor McCooeye, Councillor Wright and one member of Administration for the 2018 AMO Conference.

**CARRIED ✓**

**5. TABLE BY-LAWS**

No by-laws were presented for passage at this meeting of Council

**6. NEW BUSINESS - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Lankinen commented that the roads crew is doing an excellent job with road maintenance and feels the municipal roads are in better shape than the provincial roads.

Councillor Shott advised that during a trip to Duluth, MN, he visited a market held in one of their parks. The Municipality had provided custom built cubicles for the vendors. He suggested that the Neebing Economic Development Advisory Committee may want to look into something like this for Neebing.

Councillor McCooeye advised that the Lakehead Rural Planning Board approved one new lot in Gillies.

Councillor Butikofer advised that there seems to be an increasing push to phase out wood and gas stoves and furnaces.

Mayor Polkowski advised correspondence was received indicating that a production company wishes to film some background footage at Oliver Lake, for the show "Vikings", which is broadcast on the History Channel. Filming is expected to take four hours and will take place sometime between January 10 and 11, 2018. Drones will be used to capture the footage and the crew will use the West Oliver Lake Boat Launch for parking (3 vehicles and a snowmobile). Area residents will receive a notice through Canada Post. Members present discussed the correspondence. The consensus was that Council supports the project and has no concerns.

Councillor Shott advised that he had invited the Medical Officer of Health to attend a meeting with Council. Mayor Polkowski suggested that Gillies be invited to attend the meeting as well.

The Treasurer/Deputy Clerk advised that a report has been distributed regarding the Highway 61 construction in 2018. Comments are due by January 15, 2018.

The Treasurer/Deputy Clerk advised the contractor will be back at the Blake Hall from January 1 – 5 to refinish the floor and correct the outstanding deficiencies.

The Treasurer/Deputy Clerk advised that the draft Amended Blue Box Program Plan was released and comments are due by January 15, 2018.

The Treasurer/Deputy Clerk advised that two quotes had been received for the fire hall construction drawings and a third is expected. The consensus was that the quotes could be reviewed at the budget meeting.

The Treasurer/Deputy Clerk advised that a 5-year warranty had been received for the new fence installed at the municipal office. The contractor will be back in the spring to correct any issues resulting from frost in the ground.

The Treasurer/Deputy Clerk advised that the real estate transaction for the Buchanan property closed. In addition, the Municipality received title to a section of Sturgeon Bay Road along the property at 621 Sturgeon Bay Road.

**7. CLOSED SESSION:**

There were no items for closed session on this agenda, apart from the prior minutes, which had been approved with the Consent Agenda resolution. Council did not enter closed session.

**8. ADJOURN THE MEETING:**

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Polkowski adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

  
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Ziggy Polkowski  
MAYOR

  
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Erika Kromm  
TREASURER/DEPUTY CLERK

