

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held at the Municipal Office  
On Wednesday, June 21, 2017

**PRESENT:** Mayor Ziggy Polkowski  
Councillor Mike McCooney  
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. 2017-06-145**

Moved by: Councillor Shott  
Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda circulated for this regular meeting of Council be amended to:

- a) Delete Item 4.8, a report from Solicitor-Clerk regarding Approvals of Health & Safety Protocols;
- b) Add Item 4.9, a report from Solicitor-Clerk regarding a request from Northern Policy Institute;
- c) Add Item 4.10, a report from Solicitor-Clerk regarding OPP Billing Survey; and
- d) Delete Item 5.4, a by-law to amend Building Permit Fees.

**CARRIED ✓**

(d) **Declarations of Interest:**

No declarations of interest were brought forward.

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

No deputation requests were received for this meeting.

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

**3.1 Minutes of the Open Session portion of the Regular Meeting of Council held on June 7, 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.

**3.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Neebing Recreation Committee held on June 12, 2017**

Administration had recommended that the minutes be received.

**3.3 Voucher Report for the Previous Month**

Administration had recommended approval of the vouchers.

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

Administration had recommended that the report be received.

**3.5 Report from Fire Chief Regarding Departmental Activity in the preceding month**

Administration had recommended that the report be received.

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

Administration had recommended that the report be received.

**3.7 Quarterly Activity report from Neebing Economic Development Advisory Committee**

Administration had recommended that the report be received.

**3.8 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Administrative Activity – 2nd quarter CBO stats**

Administration had recommended that the report be received.

**3.9 Report from Solicitor-Clerk regarding Posting on EBR Registry for the "Landfill gas Offset Protocol"**

Administration had recommended that the comments submitted be approved retroactively.

**3.10 Report from Solicitor-Clerk regarding Posting on EBR Registry of the "Excess Soil Management Regulatory Proposal"**

Administration had recommended that the comments be approved and submitted by the deadline.

**3.11 Information Correspondence List (Distributed at the Meeting)**

Administration had recommended that the correspondence be received.

**Res. No. 2017-06-146**

Moved by: Councillor McCooeye

Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

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 3.11 as well as Item 7.1 in the Closed Session portion of the agenda.

**CARRIED ✓**

There was some discussion regarding what should be stated as a small population for Item 3.10. By consensus, it was determined that the proposed resolution would be approved with the statement "populations less than 50,000" as stated in the report.

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

**4.1 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Budget**

Members present discussed the report. There was some discussion regarding a request from Path of the Paddle for a contribution towards signage. Some concerns were raised about the level of site service that would be expected by Path of the Paddle. Administration was directed to request confirmation from Path of the Paddle regarding expectations for future funding, services and use of the property.

Hiring a summer student for a reduced period to help in the municipal office was discussed, along with the upcoming work to update the asset management plan. The Treasurer advised that any future costs related to asset management planning will be brought forward as a budget amendment.

Res. No. 2017-06-147

Moved by: Councillor McCooye

Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes Administration to hire a summer student for the term set out in the report and that the budget appended to the report be approved.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.2 Report from Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Regarding Draft Tax Bill Insert Newsletter**

Members present reviewed the report. Administration was requested to simplify the first paragraph of the Message from Council.

Res. No. 2017-06-148

Moved by: Councillor Coulson

Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the tax bill insert be approved with the amendment to the first paragraph.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.3 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Christmas Closure**

Members present reviewed the report.

Res. No. 2017-06-149

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen

Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the municipal office will be closed December 23, 2017 through to January 1, 2018 and that the first regular Council meeting in January 2018 will be cancelled.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.4 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding July 1<sup>st</sup> Holiday**

Members present reviewed the report.

Res. No. 2017-06-150

Moved by: Councillor Wright

Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the landfill sites will be closed on Saturday, July 1, 2017.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.5 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Delegation Requests for AMO Meeting**

Members present reviewed and discussed possible deputation requests and discussion topics.

Res. No. 2017-06-151

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen

Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Councillor Butikofer will attend the AMO Conference in Mayor Polkowski's place and that Administration request delegation appointments with:

- a) The Ministry of Finance, to discuss ongoing concerns related the CLTIP program, including the recent suggestion of a "flat rate" compensation, and to discuss making fire department infrastructure eligible for provincial funding;
- b) The Ministry of Infrastructure, to discuss the potential costs to develop and maintain asset management plans under the proposed regulations;
- c) The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, to discuss landfill closure costs, landfill gas offset credits and excess soil regulations; and
- d) The Ministry of Community and Social Services, regarding the review of Social Services Administration Boards.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.6 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Resolution to Submit for AMP Regulations**

Members present reviewed the report.

Res. No. 2017-06-152

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen

Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

WHEREAS Posting 013-0551 on the Environmental Bill of Rights, entitled "Proposed municipal asset management planning regulation", is posted for public comments until July 24, 2017;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing is a small, northern, rural municipality with extremely finite (and diminishing) financial resources and very few staff persons;

AND WHEREAS the Municipalities staff and Council appreciate the value of Asset Management planning, and sees Asset Management Planning as an appropriate tool to assist municipal councils in making wise purchase and maintenance decisions relating to its capital and infrastructure assets, addressing both current and future needs and expectations;

AND WHEREAS the costs associated with preparing, maintaining and reporting on the detailed information set out in the proposed regulation exceed the financial capacity of the Municipality, and, it is suspected, that of any other small rural municipality;

AND WHEREAS the level of detail, monitoring and professional consultant involvement mandated by the proposed Regulation is sufficient to cause an Asset Management Plan for a small, rural municipality to become a financial and workload burden rather than a financial management tool;

AND WHEREAS the level of detailed reporting being demanded by the Asset management regulation represents significant micro-management of municipalities by the Province and provides a level of information not required for appropriate rural infrastructure and asset management at the rural municipal level, although it may well be appropriate for urban infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Province has not seen fit to impose similar obligations on its own Ministry operations, which are not required to have or report on Asset Management Plans;

AND WHEREAS the creation, monitoring, data recording and reporting requirements are such that small, rural municipalities would need to engage consultants and/or hire additional staff in order to participate, which defeats the purpose of the financial efficiency and effectiveness that Asset Management Plans are supposed to represent;

AND WHEREAS the Province has stressed, since the introduction of asset management planning for municipalities, the need for community and Council buy-in to the merits of asset management planning;

**AND WHEREAS rural residents see no value to them or to their municipalities in the level of detail (and related expenditure) required by these regulations;**

AND WHEREAS regulations and onerous and expensive requirements such as those contained in the proposed regulations are putting a strain on any support that the Municipal Council had to the concept of Asset Management Plans as they were first introduced, and making it impossible for them to convince rural residents of the merits of the plan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing strongly urges the Province to exempt small, rural municipalities from the onerous and unnecessary requirements contained in the proposed Asset Management Plan Regulation;

AND FURTHER, if the Province is unwilling to exempt small, rural municipalities from all of the requirements contained in the proposed Asset Management Plan Regulation, that it provide the exemption to the proposed regulations as posted and then engage in meaningful discussion with small, rural municipalities on *appropriate and manageable* requirements to be contained in a separate asset management regulation applicable only to small, rural municipalities;

AND FURTHER, THAT the Council for The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing provide these comments to the Province during the review period.

CARRIED ✓

4.7 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Quotations/Bids Received for Roadside Gras Cutting and Trail Cameras

Members present reviewed the report.

Res. No. 2017-06-153

Moved by: Councillor Coulson  
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be authorized to award the roadside grass cutting contract to Dan Vanlenthe Mechanical.

CARRIED ✓

Administration was directed to review the work completed last year with Dan Vanlenthe and to bring forward pricing for trail cameras once it is received.

4.8 Report from Solicitor Clerk on Approvals of Health & Safety Protocols for the WSIB Program

This item was removed from the agenda.

4.9 Report from Solicitor Clerk Regarding Request from Northern Policy Institute

Members present reviewed the report.

Res. No. 2017-06-154

Moved by: Councillor Shott  
Seconded by: Councillor Butikofer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the letter appended to the report be approved and sent to the Northern Policy Institute.

CARRIED ✓

4.10 Report from Solicitor Clerk Regarding OPP Billing Report

Members present reviewed the report.

Res. No. 2017-06-155

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen  
Seconded by: Councillor Butikofer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be authorized to submit responses to the OPP billing survey in a manner that supports the removal of suggested property and structure codes from the billing formula.

CARRIED ✓

## 5. TABLE BY-LAWS

### 5.1 By-law 2017-017 to Approve Tax Ratios

Res. No. 2017-06-156

Moved by: Councillor Shott  
Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2017-017, to approve tax ratios, be passed as presented.

**CARRIED ✓**

### 5.2 By-law 2017-018 to Set Tax Rates

Res. No. 2017-06-157

Moved by: Councillor Coulson  
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2017-018, to set tax rates, be passed as presented.

**CARRIED ✓**

### 5.3 By-law 2017-019 to Approve the Budget

Res. No. 2017-06-158

Moved by: Councillor McCooney  
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2017-019, to approve the budget, be passed as presented.

**CARRIED ✓**

## 6. NEW BUSINESS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members present had the opportunity to raise other items of new business at this point in the meeting.

Mayor Polkowski advised that the border staff asked if they could borrow an AED from the Municipality. The Fire Chief had confirmed that there is an AED in one of the trucks that can be spared. The consensus was to lend the AED machine to the border staff.

The Treasurer/Deputy Clerk asked, on behalf of a developer, whether Council would be willing to approve the development of recreational property lots that can be accessed solely by water. There were some concerns regarding services to those properties over the long term. At this time, members are not ready to approve this type of development.

The Treasurer/Deputy Clerk asked if Council is interested in cluster fly spraying in any of the municipal buildings. Administration was directed to schedule spraying at the municipal office and Blake Hall.

Councillor Wright advised that the new trees have been planted at the cemetery, but they will need to be watered regularly until they are more established. Administration was directed to work with Public Works and the Fire Department to ensure the trees are watered.

Mayor Polkowski suggested that the municipality may want to train staff with a view to having them approved to use explosives for beaver dam removal in the municipality. Administration was directed to look into the requirements to become certified.

A brief recess was called at 7:19 p.m. Session resumed at 7:22 p.m.

**7. CLOSED SESSION:**

**Res. No. 2017-06-159**

Moved by: Councillor Coulson  
Seconded by: Councillor Butikofer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 7:22 p.m., Council close the next portion of the meeting to the public, under the authority of those paragraphs of Subsection 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001 for which the meeting was closed, to consider item 7.1 (minutes of the Closed session of the prior Council meeting); under paragraph 239(2)(b) to consider items 7.4, involving personal matters about identifiable individuals; under paragraph 239(2)(c) to consider items 7.2 and 7.3, involving proposed or pending acquisitions or dispositions of land by the municipality; and under paragraph 239(2)(d) to consider item 7.4, involving labour relations or employee negotiations.

**CARRIED ✓**

Members reviewed the item scheduled for closed session. During closed session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

**Res. No. 2017-06-160**

Moved by: Councillor Coulson  
Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 7:52 p.m., Council rise from closed session and report in open session.

**CARRIED ✓**

**7.1 Minutes of the Closed Session portion of the Regular Meeting of Council held on June 7, 2017**

The approval of the minutes was included in the consent agenda resolution.

Items 7.2 through 7.4 were dealt with in a single resolution.

**7.2 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Listing Municipal Property for Sale**

**7.3 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Correspondence from Constituents Requesting to Purchase Municipal Property**

**7.4 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Personnel Matter**



Res. No. 2017-06-161

Moved by: Councillor Coulson  
Seconded by: Councillor Shott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, with respect to Items 7.4 through 7.6 on this evening's Closed Session agenda, Administration is authorized to proceed as directed in Closed Session.

CARRIED ✓

**7. ADJOURN THE MEETING:**

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Polkowski adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

  
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Ziggy Polkowski  
MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Erika Kromm  
TREASURER/DEPUTY CLERK

