

**THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Held at the Municipal Office  
On Wednesday, January 18, 2017

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

Rosalie A. Evans, Solicitor-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. 2017-01-001

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer  
Seconded by: Councillor Wright

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

- i) Add, as Item 4.11, a Report relating to a request from Gillies Township to renew the boundary road agreement;
- ii) Add, as Item 4.12, a request from the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to confirm that a resolution of Council, passed in 2014, is still relevant/applicable regarding dedication of Highway 593;
- iii) Add, as Item 4.13, information from Councillor Shott regarding the addition of federal tax to employer benefit plans; and
- iv) Add, as Item 5.4, the by-law to approve renewal of the Boundary Road Agreement with Gillies.

**CARRIED ✓**

(d) Declarations of Interest:

Councillors Shott and Coulson both declared interests in any of the payables in the Voucher Report (Item 3.4) that were made out to family members.

**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 Special Meeting of Council held on December 21, 2017**

Administration recommended that Council approve the minutes with any error corrections, as required.

**3.2 Minutes of the Open Session portion of the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 21, 2017**

Administration recommendation that Council approve the minutes for both the open session (Item 3.2) and the Closed Session (Item 7.1), with any error corrections, as required.

**3.3 Minutes of the meetings of the Neebing Recreation Committee held on December 12, 2017 and January 9, 2017**

Administration recommended that the Minutes be received.

**3.4 Voucher Report for December, 2017**

Administration recommendation approval of the vouchers.

**3.5 Variance Report: Year to date for 2017**

Administration noted year-end adjustments were not as yet complete, and recommended that the variance report be received for information.

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

Administration recommended that Council receive the report for information.

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

Administration recommended that Council receive the report for information.

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

Administration recommended that Council receive the report for information.

**3.9 Report from Solicitor Clerk Regarding Application for the Economic Development Advisory Committee**

Administration recommended that Council appoint the applicant and pointed out that the appointment by-law is Item 5.2 on this evening's agenda.

**3.10 Report from Solicitor Clerk Regarding resolution to schedule a series of special Council Meetings, as outlined in the Report**

Administration recommended passage of the resolution in the report.

**3.11 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Council Follow-Up Listings, as Requested December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Administration recommended that the report be received by Council for information.

- 3.12 Correspondence from Tom Gilham, received December 28th, Regarding Responses to Council's Questions after special Council meeting held on November 22, 2017  
Administration recommended that Council receive the correspondence for information.
- 3.12 Correspondence from the Town of Fort Frances, received January 12, 2017, Regarding taxation of railway corridors  
Administration recommended that Council pass and circulate a supporting resolution.
- 3.13 Information Correspondence List (Distributed at the Meeting)  
Administration recommended that the correspondence on the list be received for information.

Due to the declarations of Councillors Shott and Coulson, Item 3.4 was removed from the list to be voted on separately.

Res. No. 2017-01-002

Moved by: Councillor Coulson  
Seconded by: Councillor Shott

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 3.8, and Item 7.1, in the Closed Session portion of the agenda, with the exception of Item 3.4.

CARRIED ✓

Res. No. 2017-01-003

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen  
Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the recommendations from Administration with respect to Item 3.4 on the consent agenda portion of this evening's meeting.

CARRIED ✓

Due to their declarations of interest, Councillors Shott and Coulson abstained from voting on Resolution 2017-01-003.

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

4.1 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Bell Canada Attachment Agreement for Streetlights

Members present reviewed the report. Administration was directed to assemble project costs for budget discussions.

Res. No. 2017-01-004

Moved by: Councillor Coulson  
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and Solicitor-Clerk be authorized to execute an agreement, in form and substance substantively as appended to the Report.

CARRIED ✓

4.2 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Bill 41, the "Patients First Act, 2016"

Members present discussed the report. No resolutions were moved.

4.3 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Composition of the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board

Members reviewed the report. Positions taken by other Area One municipalities, as set out in the report, were noted.

Res. No. 2017-01-005

Moved by: Councillor McCooeye

Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report be tabled, to be lifted from the table at the next regular meeting of Council.

**CARRIED ✓**

4.4 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Ontario Good Roads Association Delegation Requests

Members present reviewed the report and the memorandum distributed this evening with additional information relating to delegation appointments for the upcoming Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference.

Res. No. 2017-01-006

Moved by: Councillor Coulson

Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the delegation request submitted to the ROMA conference with respect to requesting a meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources, be re-submitted for the OGRA conference prior to the delegation request deadline.

**CARRIED ✓**

4.5 Report from the Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Asset Management Policy

Members present reviewed the report. The Solicitor-Clerk responded to questions, noting the difference between the policy and the plan.

Res. No. 2017-01-007

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer

Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the draft Asset Management Policy presented by Administration be approved.

**CARRIED ✓**

4.6 Report from Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Regarding Draft Interim Tax Bill Insert Newsletter

Members present reviewed the newsletter.

Administration was directed to change the line relating to upcoming gravel projects to include Pardee Road from Larson to Cloud Lake Road. Administration was further directed to remove "in preparation for chip seal" in the Scoble Townline Road project, and to change "ditching" on that project to "ditching and gravel".

Res. No. 2017-01-008

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen

Seconded by: Councillor Coulsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2017 interim tax bill insert newsletter, as amended, be approved.

**CARRIED ✓**

4.7 Correspondence from the Thunder Bay District Municipal League regarding its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in 2017

Members present discussed the correspondence. Administration was directed to include information about the TBDML in some Neebing News articles. Administration was further directed to include in the 2017 draft operating budget, a financial contribution towards the celebrations. No resolution was moved.

4.8 Correspondence from Don Rusnak, MP, Regarding Infrastructure Priorities

Mayor Polkowski advised he will be attending the meeting referenced in the correspondence, and that the Solicitor-Clerk had suggested a resolution of Council to support his comments at the meeting would be of potential benefit. Members present discussed various infrastructure needs in Neebing.

Res. No. 2017-01-009

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer

Seconded by: Councillor Shott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, for the Municipality of Neebing, its top two 2017 infrastructure priorities are:

1. A new base fire station/hall for the Neebing Emergency Services volunteers; and
2. An additional fifty kilometers of chip seal, above the chip seal already planned in the Corporation's budget;

AND THAT the Federal Government be advised that neither of these priorities will be able to proceed without grant funding from other orders of government, and that any contribution from the Federal Government would be welcomed.

**CARRIED ✓**

4.9 Correspondence from the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge Seeking Support for a Grant Funding Request for 6 Senior's Housing Apartment Units in Kakabeka Falls

Members present discussed the correspondence. The Solicitor-Clerk advised that, should the request be approved, she would make sufficient non-substantive changes to the form letter to make it appear less as a "form". There was general support for the project. Councillor Shott expressed his disagreement solely on the grounds that the apartment units planned had single bedrooms.

Res. No. 2017-01-010

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen  
Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration is authorized to send a letter expressing Neebing Council's support for the project, substantively in the form appended to the correspondence.

**CARRIED ✓**

Councillor Shott requested that his "not in favour" vote be noted in the minutes.

**4.10 Omitted**

The Solicitor-Clerk erred when creating the agenda amending resolution and inadvertently skipped item 4.10 on the agenda.

**4.11 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Boundary Road Agreement with Gillies Township**

The Solicitor-Clerk advised that she had been contacted by the Gillies Township Clerk to advise that the Gillies Council had decided, at its meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>, not to seek any changes in a renewed agreement, and to seek a further 5 year term. They have another meeting prior to expiry of the contract on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Res. No. 2017-01-011

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen  
Seconded by: Councillor Shott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the boundary road agreement with The Corporation of the Township of Gillies be renewed without amendment for a further term of five years.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.12 Correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation relating to a resolution passed in 2014 Supporting the Dedication of Highway 593 as the "Dorothea Mitchell, Lady Lumberjack, Memorial Highway"**

The Solicitor-Clerk reviewed the correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation and read out the accomplishments of Dorothea Mitchell, as set out in a letter to the Council from the Silver Mountain & Area Historical Society in the summer of 2014.

Res. No. 2017-01-012

Moved by: Councillor Shott  
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Transportation be advised that The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing supports the dedication of Highway 593 as set out in the correspondence;

AND FURTHER THAT the format of the plaque, a sketch of which was appended to the correspondence, is acceptable to the Municipality.

**CARRIED ✓**

**4.13 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Correspondence Provided by Councillor Shott**

Councillor Shott advised that he had received the correspondence appended to the Report from a fellow member of the workforce team he participates in at the Workforce Planning Board. The issue relates to a move by the Federal Government to apply federal sales tax ("GST") to the purchase price of benefit packages that employers purchase for employees. These benefit packages (in Ontario) are currently subject only to provincial sales tax.

**Res. No. 2017-01-013**

Moved by: Councillor McCooeye  
Seconded by: Councillor Butikofer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing is opposed to the taxation of health care in any form, including health care benefit packages;  
AND FURTHER, THAT Administration is authorized to distribute this resolution to Federal Member of Parliament Don Rusnak, the Federal Minister of Health, and the Federal Minister of Finance.

**CARRIED ✓**

**5. TABLE BY-LAWS**

**5.1 By-law 2017-001 to Authorize Interim Tax Bills**

**Res. No. 2017-01-014**

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen  
Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2017-001, to authorize interim tax bills, be passed.

**CARRIED ✓**

**5.2 By-law 2017-002 to Appoint a Person to the Economic Development Advisory Committee**

Councillor Butikofer asked whether or not a by-law had been passed to appoint Mr. Gary Davies to the Economic Development Advisory Committee. The Solicitor-Clerk advised that one had not, and that, to her knowledge, Administration had not received an application from him in that regard. Councillor Butikofer advised that Mr. Davies had been attending the committee meetings and participating, and that he may have neglected to submit a formal application.

**Res. No. 2017-01-015**

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer  
Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2017-002, to appoint a person to the Economic Development Advisory Committee be amended to appoint two persons, and that Gary Davies be the second person.

**CARRIED ✓**

**Res. No. 2017-01-016**

Moved by: Councillor Shott  
Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2017-002, to appoint two persons to the Economic Development

Advisory Committee, as amended, be passed.

**CARRIED ✓**

**5.3 By-law 2017-003 to Amend the Reserve Fund By-law (By-law 2015-005)**

Some discussion took place as to whether the proposed ceiling for the Parks and Recreation Reserve could be lowered. No amending resolution was moved.

Res. No. 2017-01-017

Moved by: Councillor Shott

Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2017-003, to amend the Reserve Fund By-law (2015-005), be passed.

**CARRIED ✓**

**5.4 By-law 2017-004 to Authorize a Boundary Road Agreement with Gillies Township**

Res. No. 2017-01-018

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen

Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2017-004, to authorize a boundary road agreement with The Corporation of the Township of Gillies, be passed.

**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 indicated he had spoken to the Solicitor-Clerk with respect to the Council follow up report (Item 3.11), expressing his disappointment in the number of items that remain incomplete. Administration was directed to bring reports on the status of all follow up items to each meeting in future.

There was some discussion with respect to the pending report relating to allowing all terrain vehicles on municipal roads. Councillors will await the report prior to making any decisions.

Councillor McCooye advised that the budget for the Lakehead Rural Planning Board would be increasing slightly, but the increase would not impact Neebing's levy in 2017. He advised that there may be an Ontario Municipal Board hearing relating to a gravel pit. Hearings can be costly, and there may be a request for contribution if that hearing occurs.

Councillor Lankinen expressed concern that the issue of the closure of surplus fire halls has never been addressed. The Solicitor-Clerk suggested this be undertaken at the upcoming special meeting scheduled to discuss the Asset Management Plan (February 1<sup>st</sup>).



Councillor Butikofer let Council know that he had had some preliminary discussions with a consultant called "Blue Source" out of Calgary, which specializes in forest project carbon tax credits. He has been advised that the Ontario regime is not yet finalized nor understood. Councillor Butikofer advised him of some projects we feel the Municipality could benefit from, including vacant forested land and the Orion Eco Solutions Gassifier project. Councillor Butikofer had been advised that the Thunder Bay Field Naturalists have purchased more property (near Caldwell Lake) and that the group is working with a company in Chicago to obtain benefits (relating to carbon tax credits) for its conservation lands. More detail will be brought forward when it is available. Given that conservation lands are not taxed, Councillor Butikofer feels that the government should be approached to allow the municipality, rather than the land owner, to reap the benefit of any carbon tax credits relating to that land.

With respect to Landfill closure costs, Councillor Butikofer indicated that he had been advised by a Provincial representative that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has had to drill 10 holes at \$10,000.00 each for the purposes of monitoring the ground around landfill sites. Mayor Polkowski noted that the more modern theory is that no drilling should occur due to the possibility of cross-contamination between groundwater layers. Drilling is only done – and carefully so – where a problem is found.

Councillor Shott advised that the Thunder Bay District Health Unit was planning for a zero per cent budget increase this year. He is concerned, however, that the Province may be "clawing back" funding, which is currently supposed to be at a 75-25 ratio. Should that occur mid-year, it could have a budgetary impact.

The Solicitor-Clerk advised that she had followed up with Mr. DiGregario on his subdivision plan for Mink Mountain, and had been advised that the developer is still awaiting comment from the Ministry of Environment and Energy. She will review with the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition the possibility of having that issue added to the compendium of issues currently being prepared for the ROMA conference. The compendium will also need to be expanded to deal with development constraints in general. More information will be available after the LRMC meeting scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Solicitor-Clerk advised that the beaver dam blasting project is planned for Friday morning, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Solicitor-Clerk relayed to Council a conversation she had with the Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Committee relating to a payment to the Heart of the Continent project which involves training for the Committee. Payment will be made from the Committee's budget. Council re-iterated its desire for regular reporting from the EDAC, including the benefits being received from the Heart of the Continent program. Quarterly reports are planned for 2017.

The Solicitor-Clerk relayed some information she had received earlier in the day from the Working Roads Foreman. He had advised the Solicitor-Clerk that the mechanic who undertakes the Municipality's vehicle safety checks had indicated a wish to retire, so the Municipality should be looking elsewhere. Councillors Shott and Lankinen will be bringing more information to Council in this regard. The Working Roads Foreman had raised the issue that perhaps the designation of the garage should be considered on a cost-benefit basis. Councillors are adamantly opposed to giving up that designation. At present, there are several vehicles in the garage being repaired.

A brief recess was called at 8:15 p.m. to allow the chambers to clear prior to the Closed Session Agenda. Session resumed at 8:20 p.m.

**7. CLOSED SESSION:**

**Res. No. 2017-01-019**

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer  
Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 8:20 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); and  
Under paragraph 239(2)(b) to consider Item 7.2, involving personal matters about identifiable individuals; and  
Under paragraph 239(2)(c) to consider item 7.3, involving a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality.

**CARRIED ✓**

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

**Res. No. 2017-01-020**

Moved by: Councillor McCooeye  
Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 8:43 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 December 21, 2016**

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

**7.2 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Personnel Matters**

**Res. No. 2017-01-021**

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer  
Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed in closed session.

CARRIED ✓

7.3 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Potential Property Purchase

This report had been prepared for information. No resolution was necessary.

8. ADJOURN THE MEETING:

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Polkowski adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ziggy Polkowski  
MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rosalie A. Evans  
SOLICITOR-CLERK

