

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held at the Municipal Office

On Wednesday, May 3, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Ziggy Polkowski
Councillor Erwin Butikofer
Councillor Mike McCooeye
Councillor Roger Shott
Councillor Bill Lankinen
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 6:30 p.m.
- (b) **Attendance:** Attendance was recorded.
- (c) **Accept/Amend the Agenda:**

Res. No. 2017-05-108

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) Add, as Item 4.6, a request from the Norwest Mobile Health Clinic for an increase to the time for clinics at Neebing;
- b) Add, as Item 4.7, a review of a letter proposed to be sent by the Neebing Economic Development Advisory Committee;
- c) Add, as Item 4.8, a brief discussion relating to policies for payment of staff when the office is closed due to weather;
- d) Add, as Item 4.9, a discussion relating to the fuel tank replacement project for the Municipal Garage;
- e) Add, as Item 4.10, a discussion relating to the annual general meeting for the Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Cities Initiative;
- f) Add, as Item 7.4, in closed session, information relating to one of the committee volunteers;
- g) Add, as Item 7.5, in closed session, information relating to a potential legal issue;
- h) Add, as Item 7.6, in closed session, discussion relating to three potential property purchases; and
- i) Add, as item 7.7, in closed session, discussion relating to personnel matters.

CARRIED ✓

(d) Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of interest were brought forward.

2. HEAR DEPUTATIONS FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS:

2.1 John Rafferty Regarding Canada 150 Celebrations

Mr. Rafferty addressed Council with respect to suggestions for events to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. The idea is to have all events during the week leading up to July 1st, and then a large "Canada Day" celebration on July 1st. He brought forward the following suggestions from the community, and asked for Council's suggestions as well:

- a) Car rally around Neebing (tentatively planned for "later" due to the number of volunteers required);
- b) "Old Time" dance (planned for June 23rd);
- c) Pardee school "open house" (firmly planned for Sunday, June 25th);
- d) A "living in Neebing" luncheon (tentatively planned for Tuesday, June 27th; help from the Neebing Recreation Committee will be required);
- e) A "paddle/bike/hike" day (planned for Wednesday, June 28th; a rain date will be scheduled); and
- f) A Neebing "market day" (planned for Thursday, June 29th).

Some events may not occur due to a lack of the number of volunteers that would be required, however, these are the ideas that have been discussed.

Other ideas brought forward by those in attendance included:

- a) Fee waiver for a Canada Day wedding; and
- b) Historic, "funny", Neebing by-laws.

He has been writing relevant articles in the Neebing News on a regular basis.

Mr. Rafferty also wished to address Council with respect to a budget for these events. Mrs. Evans advised Mr. Rafferty that the budget was not as yet finalized, and further, that Administrative staff at the office could provide copying services, etc., so that these things need not be purchased externally. Mayor Polkowski asked Mr. Rafferty to provide some numbers in terms of what is being sought in funding from the Municipality.

There was discussion of the location for these events, given that Blake Hall will be undergoing some renovations over the summer. If outdoor events are being planned, there may be a need to look into rental of an outdoor tent. There was discussion about the possibility of adding fireworks to the Canada Day celebration.

Mayor Polkowski thanked Mr. Rafferty for his presentation. Mr. Rafferty left the meeting at 7:04 pm.

3. CONSENT AGENDA: MINUTES, REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

3.1 Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on April 18, 2017

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

3.2 Minutes of the Open Session of the Regular Meeting of Council held on April 19, 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 Report from the Neebing Recreation Committee Regarding the Easter Egg Hunt

Administration had recommended receipt of the minutes.

3.4 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Administrative Activity

Administration had recommended that Council receive the report for information.

3.5 Report from Treasurer/Deputy clerk Regarding Properties eligible for registration of certificate of tax arrears (per policy)

Administration had recommended that Council receive the report for information.

3.6 Correspondence from Lincoln County, received April 25th, Seeking support for its request of the Ministry of Education to change the Review guidelines relating to School Closures

Administration had recommended that Council send a supporting resolution.

3.7 Correspondence from Lanark County, received April 27th, Seeking support for its request of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to Take Specific action Relating to Opioid Overdose Deaths

Administration had recommended that Council send a supporting resolution.

3.8 Correspondence from the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, Seeking support for its request of the Federal and Provincial governments to waive taxes payable on Flag purchases in support of Canada's 150th Anniversary.

Administration had recommended that Council send a supporting resolution.

3.9 Information Correspondence List (Distributed at the Meeting)

Administration had recommended that Council receive the correspondence for information.

Res. No. 2017-05-109

Moved by: Councillor Coulson
Seconded by: Councillor McCooney

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

CARRIED ✓

4. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING DIRECTION:

4.1 Report from Tender Review Committee Regarding Proposals for Blake Hall Renovations

Councillor Shott reviewed for Council the Tender Review Committee's perusal of the two proposals that had been received. The proposals were from Aegus Inc. (in Thunder Bay) and PC Construction (in Thunder Bay). The PC Construction proposal price totalled \$63,181 and the Aegus Inc. proposal price totalled \$71,194.52. The Review Committee is recommending the more expensive proposal. The proposal was far more detailed in presentation, leading the Committee members to believe that the work would result in fewer requests for clarification and/or "extras".

The Solicitor-Clerk was requested to discuss project timing with the contractor. Some of the Canada Day events, particularly outdoor ones, could still be scheduled for the hall grounds.

Res. No. 2017-05-110

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the proposal submitted by Aegus Inc. in Thunder Bay;

AND THAT the Solicitor-Clerk is directed to notify the proponents of the results;

AND THAT the budget be amended to increase the project cost to the price submitted in the proposal.

CARRIED ✓

4.2 Correspondence from the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition received April 22nd, requesting a resolution to Appoint Mayors Holland (Conmee) and Kloosterhuis (Oliver Paipoonge) to represent Area One at the TBDSSAB Table

Members present discussed the report.

Res. No. 2017-05-111

Moved by: Councillor Shott
Seconded by: Councillor Wright

WHEREAS the Province has agreed with a proposal approved by the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board, and by its member municipalities (via double majority consent) to increase the size of the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board with an additional two seats at the Board table;

AND WHEREAS the additional seats are to be held by representatives of "Area One" of the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board;

AND WHEREAS The Corporation of the Municipality of Neebing, together with The Corporations of the Municipalities of Shuniah and Oliver Paipoonge, and The Corporations of the Townships of Gillies, Conmee, and O'Connor, comprise the "Area One" municipalities of the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in the event that the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board is expanded by an additional two seats for Area One within this term of Council, the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Conmee concurs with the appointment of Mayor, Kevin Holland (of Conmee) and Mayor Lucy Kloosterhuis (of Oliver Paipoonge) to fill those two seats.

CARRIED ✓

4.3 Correspondence from a Ratepayer Seeking Relief from Landfill Fees

Members present reviewed the correspondence.

Res. No. 2017-05-112

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen

Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council waives \$15.00 from the \$25.00 fee charged to the constituent for each of January 7th and February 11th, 2017;

AND THAT Administration so advise the constituent.

CARRIED ✓

4.4 Correspondence from the Chronicle Journal, received April 28th, Regarding Canada 150 Magazine

Members present reviewed the correspondence. The Solicitor-Clerk provided additional information received from the Chronicle-Journal indicating that it was intending to include the rural municipalities around Thunder Bay and that Neebing would receive copies for local distribution.

Res. No. 2017-05-113

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer

Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Neebing purchase ½ page display in the magazine;

AND THAT Administration provide a design to the publisher in time for its deadline.

CARRIED ✓

4.5 Request from Councillor Butikofer to have a Verbal Discussion Relating to Social Media

Councillor Butikofer relayed to Council comments made at the Northwest Emergency Response Forum, held in mid-April, in Dryden, about the important role that social media sites have played in other communities during emergencies. Information from the Fort McMurray fire, in particular had been extremely persuasive. Councillor Shott, who also attended the forum, agreed. The modern world turns more and more to social media for information. Having a site to display timely messages would be extremely useful.

Councillor Butikofer recommended that attention be given to Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's social media site.

There was discussion about the administrative burden of monitoring "comments" on a social media site. It was unknown whether an option exists for a site on which no one but the Municipality can add comments.

Administration was directed to look into options and provide a report. No resolution was passed.

4.6 Request from NorWest Mobile Health Clinic for Additional Hours/Days in Neebing due to Popular Demand

Members present reviewed the correspondence. There was discussion about the importance of these clinics to the residents, but the fact that the fire training nights are also Tuesdays.

Res. No. 2017-05-114

Moved by: Councillor Shott
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the request from the NorWest Mobile Health Clinic for additional clinic hours in Neebing be approved;

AND THAT Administration so advise the Clinic.

CARRIED ✓

4.7 Review/Approve Draft Letter from Neebing Economic Development Advisory Committee

Members present reviewed the draft correspondence. Councillor Butikofer provided information brought forward at the NOMA conference with respect to the movement to tax railway corridors differently – and suggested something similar be done for conservation lands. There was discussion of the letterhead used for the Neebing Economic Development Advisory Committee. Mrs. Evans indicated that, in past, she had developed letterhead for NEDAC which is similar to the Municipality's letterhead, but clearly indicates that it is the Committee, and not the Council, who is corresponding.

Councillor Butikofer wanted assurance that all members of NEDAC had reviewed the letter. If all have done so, he has no issue with sending it.

Res. No. 2017-05-115

Moved by: Councillor Lankinen
Seconded by: Councillor Shott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, subject to confirmation that the Committee members have approved the letter, Neebing Council approves that it be send.

CARRIED ✓

4.8 Policy for Payment of Staff when Weather Closures Occur

Mrs. Evans advised that, in historic weather events, staff have come to the office, and then been sent home early – and had been paid for the full day. The recent ice storm was somewhat different, however, in that, on the first day, Wednesday, April 26th, in consultation with Mayor Polkowski, the Solicitor-Clerk had directed that staff not attempt to attend the office – and the office had been closed for the full day. The Employment Standards Act does not provide mandatory rules around this subject matter for employers. The Ministry of Labour’s website provides that it expects employers to be “fair” in such circumstances. As time sheets had to have been approved prior to this meeting, in consultation with Mayor Polkowski, all staff had been paid. The Solicitor-Clerk will bring forward a policy for future.

Councillor Shott indicated that with remote access available, staff should be expected to work, albeit from home, on such occasions, as much as possible.

It was clarified that the payment of staff on the day the office was closed related only to full-time office staff. Part time/casual staff were not paid, nor were the landfill site attendants (although the landfill site was closed that day as well).

Res. No. 2017-05-115a

Moved by: Councillor Butikofer
Seconded by: Councillor McCooeye

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration bring forward a policy for staff payment when the office is closed for weather-related reasons.

CARRIED ✓

4.9 Fuel Tank Installation at Garage

Members present reviewed the information provided by the Treasurer. There was discussion about the need for filters to be added to the tanks.

Res. No. 2017-05-116

Moved by: Councillor Coulson
Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration arrange for purchase and installation of two tanks, including the filters discussed, to occur in 2017, from Lakehead Energy;

AND THAT the 2017 draft budget be amended accordingly.

CARRIED ✓

4.10 Correspondence from Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual Meeting

Members present discussed the correspondence. Mayor Polkowski has already been registered to attend. It was confirmed that no other members of Council will be attending. No resolution was passed.

5. TABLE BY-LAWS

No by-laws were presented at this meeting.

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 a meeting is scheduled on Monday, May 15th with Oliver Paipoonge to discuss the McCluskey hill project as well as re-construction of Boundary Drive.

Mayor Polkowski noted that the advertisement for summer Roads crew staff had been published with "AZ" licence requirements rather than "DZ". Administration was directed to note the change on the municipal website, but not to re-advertise in the Chronicle-Journal.

Administration was requested to have a report on the replacement of the septic system at the municipal office on the next Council meeting agenda.

Councillor McCooye advised of a complaint he had received regarding the lack of grader attention to Willowdale Road. Other councillors relayed similar messages received regarding other roads, including: Farm, Boy Scout, Falls, Copper Cliff, etc. There was discussion about the manner in which grader repairs are undertaken. Councillor Lankinen indicated he would contact the Working Roads Foreman in this regard.

Councillor Butikofer reminded those present about the economic development "fair" happening May 6th at Blake Hall. Although Council would not have a "table" at the event, some members of Council would be there in other capacities. Administration was directed to provide a comment form and collection box so that members of the public could provide information at the fair.

Councillor Butikofer indicated he had attended the inauguration of Chief Collins at Fort William First Nation. He suggests that a congratulatory letter be sent to Chief Collins, and that we suggest a joint meeting for co-operation on future projects.

Mrs. Evans advised that more correspondence had been sent regarding the three requests for information sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry relating to reports submitted in support of 3 properties being accepted into the Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program.

She further advised that Gillies Township Council had approved the Police Services Board recommendations at a special meeting held on Friday, April 28th, so the applications will now be sent to Toronto.

Mrs. Evans advised that the agenda packages for the two Committee of the Whole meetings scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday next week would be available on Thursday, May 4th.

A brief recess was called at 8:25 p.m. Session resumed at 8:30 p.m.

7. CLOSED SESSION:

Res. No. 2017-05-117

Moved by: Councillor McCooye
Seconded by: Councillor Coulson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 8:30 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 items 7.1 and 7.2 (minutes of the Closed sessions of the prior Council meetings); under paragraph 239(2)(c) to consider Item 7.3, involving a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality; and under paragraph 239(2)(b) to consider Item 7.4, involving personal matters about identifiable individuals.

CARRIED ✓

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

Res. No. 2017-05-118

Moved by: Councillor Coulson
Seconded by: Councillor Wright

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 9:22 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 April 19, 2017

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

7.2 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Offer Received on one of the Lots for Sale

Res. No. 2017-05-119

Moved by: Councillor McCooye
Seconded by: Councillor Butikofer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the offer for the purchase of Lot 23, Plan M555, from Tracie Dee Olson and Gunther Troy Zotter, be accepted as submitted, and that Administration is authorized to sign the offer.

CARRIED ✓

7.3 Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Committee Appointments

Res. No. 2017-05-120

Moved by: Councillor McCooye
Seconded by: Councillor Butikofer

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

CARRIED ✓

7.4 Verbal Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Illness of a Volunteer

This report had been provided for Council's information. No resolution was passed.

7.5 Verbal Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding a Legal Issue

Res. No. 2017-05-121

Moved by: Councillor Shott
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

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

CARRIED ✓

7.6 Verbal Report from Solicitor-Clerk Regarding Potential Property Purchases

This report had been provided for Council's information. No resolution was passed.

7.7 Discussion with Respect to Roads Crew Construction Season Vacation

Res. No. 2017-05-121

Moved by: Councillor Shott
Seconded by: Councillor Lankinen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration be 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 9:25 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL



Ziggy Polkowski
MAYOR



Rosalie Evans
SOLICITOR-CLERK

