



#5 (a)

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. via Teleconference call.

**1. Opening of Meeting and Call to Order:**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

**2. Roll Call:** Mayor took a roll call:

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Matt Reimer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Annie Toupin-Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Wendy K. Weller	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Members of the audience present: 13

**3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum:**

Moved by Bonita Culhane  
Seconded by Wendy K. Weller

**09/2022**  
**Adoption of Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of January 18, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

**4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest:** None

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings :**

Moved by Bonita Culhane  
Seconded by Louanne Caza

**10/2022**  
**Regular Minutes**

THAT the minutes for the Regular Council meeting held on November 16, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

Moved by Annie Toupin-Keft  
Seconded By Bonita Culhane

**11/2022**  
**Special Minutes**

THAT the minutes for the Special Council meetings held on November 24, 2021 and on December 22, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

6. **Matters arising from the minutes:** None
7. **Deputations / Delegations:** None
8. **Correspondence / Information:**
  - a) MPAC – Continued postponement of the province-wide assessment – Received and Read.
  - b) MPAC – Property Assessment Notice have been sent. - Received and Read.
  - c) MPAC – Voter look up – Received and Read.
  - d) Tribunals Ontario – Ontario Portal launched – Received and Read.
  - e) Ministry of Infrastructure – Building Broadband Faster Act Guidelines and Regulations – Received and Read.
  - f) Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks – Update on noise methods – Received and Read.
  - g) MPAC – Partnership Report – Received and Read.
  - h) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing / Extension of Emergency Orders and Provincial Response to the Omicron Variant – Received and Read.
  - i) Health Unit – Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy coming to Timiskaming District – Received and Read.
9. **Members Update Reports :**

**Councillor Bonita Culhane :**

**MVFD :**

Good evening,

I will be attending the monthly meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 unless we are restricted from attending. The meetings are not open to the public. Applications are available for those who would like to request to join a very dedicated and committed team of volunteers. “Keep right for a green flashing light. The home they are rushing too maybe yours.”

**Recreation Committee:**

The monthly meeting for McGarry Recreation Committee will be held on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 6pm. Meetings are being held virtually for all to attend. We can only make plans to move forward for our Spring and Summer Seasons and hope we can carry out the activities. Ideas are always welcomed. Rules & Regulations change daily. Looking forward to being able to use our facility soon.

**Councillor Annie Toupin-Keft:**

**Public Works:**

Snow Removal according to By-Law - relocation of snow within the street in such a manner as not to encroach in already cleared portion of the street intended for vehicles and pedestrians or results in obstruction of vehicles and pedestrian traffic.

If snow absolutely needs to be pushed across the street, the street must be cleared of large snow stripes, large snowballs and or simply be cleared.

No snow deposit on or within 1 meter of the fire hydrants.

No snow deposited into neighboring or adjacent properties.

Please be mindful of your surroundings.

The old highway 66 - Cautions as per Hydro One and Gold Candle working. Please slow down and watch for obstacles.

Last reminder: If your pipes freeze, please let your water run as to avoid future financial expenses.

Stay warm and safe

Thank you

**Councillor Wendy K. Weller:**

**Strategic Planning Committee:**

Good evening,

I will be reporting on the Strategic Planning Committee. The last meeting was held in November 2021, the next meeting will be the third Tuesday of February 2022.

The committee has requested a presentation at the next Tourist Committee Meeting in February 2022. On the topic of a fund raiser opportunity. The Strategic Committee will partner up with the Tourist Committee.

The committee has also requested an audience at the next Recreation meeting about a loose parts park for children, to partner with Strategic Committee.

The committee is also moving forward with new welcome signs and a business sign along highway 66. The committee is waiting for the consultant's progress of the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law. So, the committee can move forward on properties that have been acquired in the past couple of years.

The meetings are open to the public and held on the third Tuesday of the month. At present time the committee is full.

Thank you

Wendy K. Weller

**Councillor Louanne Caza**

The next Tourist Committee Meeting will be on February 2, 2022. Hope to see everyone there.

**10. New Business :**

Moved by Louanne Caza  
Seconded by Wendy K. Weller

**12/2022  
Strategic Minutes**

That the minutes for the Strategic Committee meetings held on August 31, 2021 and September 28, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

Moved by Annie Toupin-Keft  
Seconded by Louanne Caza

**13/2022  
FONOM**

THAT Mayor Reimer attend the FONOM Conference from May 9 to 11, 2022 in North Bay.

Carried

Moved by Louanne Caza  
Seconded by Wendy K. Weller

**14/2022  
NORDS**

That Council direct the Clerk to apply for the Northern Ontario Resources Development Support (NORDS) Fund to help offset the cost of the Township portion for the existing Green Stream Infrastructure project – Virginiatown Collection and Distribution Upgrades for the improvement to the drinking water and distribution and wastewater collection system in Virginiatown.

Carried

Moved by Annie Toupin-Keft  
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**15/2022  
Library Minutes**

THAT Council approve the minutes received from the McGarry Public Library Board for the meetings held on August 23, 2021, September 13, 2021 and October 25, 2021.

Carried

Moved by Bonita Culhane  
Seconded by Wendy K. Weller

**16/2022  
Cleaning Contract**

THAT Council hire Linda Picotte for the contract position of Cleaning Services starting December 27, 2021 with a six-month probationary period.

Carried

Moved by Annie Toupin-Keft  
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**17/2022**  
**Summer Jobs**

THAT Council approve the submission of an application for the 2022 Canada Summer Jobs Program to hire a minimum of 10 summer students.

Carried

**11. Passing of Accounts:**

Moved by Louanne Caza  
Seconded by Annie Toupin-Keft

**18/2022**  
**Accounts**

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

**NOVEMBER 2021**

Payroll: \$ 25,182.60  
General: \$ 188,426.73

**DECEMBER 2021**

Payroll: \$ 37,424.07  
General: \$ 218,812.87

**12. Passing of By-Laws:**

Moved by Bonita Culhane  
Seconded by Wendy K. Weller

**19/2022**  
**By-Law 2022-02**

THAT a By-Law to hire a By-Law Officer be read three times and passed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January and numbered By-Law 2022-02.

Carried

**13. a) Submitted Questions :**

- Line Lamontagne asked: I would like to know the cost of the report done by the consultant regarding the clerical errors related to the water billing?

The Mayor answered: \$6,102.00

- I was wondering if the town will actually be reimbursing some dollars to citizens, or is this just a correction on paper?

The Mayor answered: Yes, the Town has reimbursed a total of \$21,665.60

- From my understanding of the report, these credits are for citizens whose accounts were already in arrears, so no actual dollars will be paid out. Is this correct?

There was 302,374.71 of adjustments made to accounts that were in arrears. The 2018, 2019 and 2020 arrears were showing much higher than they should have been and the budgets for those years were incorrect. All of the accounts are now correct and the audits for 2018 and 2019 are finalized.

- Francine Plante asked: As per my request at the last Council meeting, I was informed to make my request in writing as well. I am requesting that all lawyers' fees that were incurred by the municipality be made public at the next January Council meeting. The fees per year would suffice starting from 2018 to 2021.

The Mayor answered: Here is a breakdown of the lawyers' fees per year as Council direction to the Clerk.

2018 - \$ 12,501.48

2019 - \$17,426.27

2020 - \$13,946.37

2021 - \$ 44,837.61 – Council did budget 40,000.00 the year 2021 for legal fees.

This includes legal fees and includes the following:

1. security of the property of the municipality or local boards;
  2. personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal board or local board employees labour relations or employee negotiations;
  3. litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local boards;
  4. advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communication necessary for that purpose;
  5. acquisition of land.
- Muriel Rose asked: The former Property Standards Committee was important to the community. It played a vital role in identifying properties within the Township that were not in compliance with By-Law 2016-17 (The Clean Yards By-Law). It worked with the Municipal By-Law Enforcement Officer to ensure delinquent property owners were notified to comply and it kept Council as a whole updated on the status of delinquent properties. There seems to be a disconnect since this committee was dissolved. It appears Council as a Whole is not informed of what is happening with regards to properties that are in breach of the provisions of this By-Law. Would Council consider reinstating the former Property Standards Committee under a different name; i.e. Community Clean Yards Committee or McGarry Township Clean Yards Committee? It would be a benefit to the community to have such a committee. Afterall, the appearance of a community is reflective of how strong a Council it has:

The Mayor answered: The Property Standards Committee change their name to Property By-Law Committee back in 2020. In June of 2021 the name was reverted back to its original name "Property Standards Committee" in order to comply with all rules and regulations set out by the Building Code Act.

The Property Standards Committee still exists. This Committee acts with the current Township By-Laws and the Building Code Act. It consists of three residents. In order to act under the Building Code Act, the Committee must be a Property Standards Committee. The Committee is only there to hear and deal with appeals. If an owner wishes to appeal an order, a meeting will be called for this reason. The Committee will then make a decision. The Committee can also deal with vacancies or appoint a secretary for their meetings.

The By-Law Officer is the person in charge of ensuring that delinquent property owners are notified and comply to the rules and regulations. Orders can be issued for violations. The Committee and Council should not be guiding the By-Law Officer as this could be a breach in the code of conduct. The By-Law officer should be bringing forward a monthly report to Council. The Township has hired a new By-Law Officer that started on January 18, 2022. He is now training.

**b) Audience Questions:**

- Muriel Rose asked when did Council change the time of meetings from 7:00 to 6:00 p.m. – The Clerk answered that it was passed by Council at a meeting in December 2021 in the new Procedural By-Law.

**14. Closed Meeting:** None

**15. Confirmation By-Law:**

Moved by Louanne Caza  
Seconded by Annie Toupin-Keft

**20/2022**  
**Confirmation**

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January and numbered By-Law 2022-03.

Carried

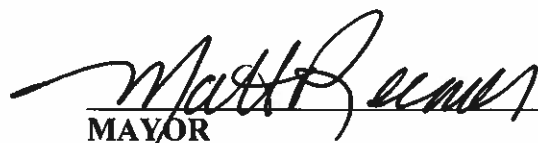
**16. Adjournment:**

Moved by Annie Toupin-Keft  
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**21/2022**  
**Adjournment**

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Carried

  
MAYOR

  
CLERK-TREASURER