



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, March 8th, 2022 at 7:00 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Clerk Treasurer – Karine Pelletier
Members of the audience present: 9

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

59/2022
Leave of Absence

THAT Council agrees to grant a leave of absence to Member Wendy K. Weller from the March 8, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum:

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

60/2022
Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of March 8, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:

- Councillor Bonita Culhane declared a conflict of pecuniary interest on item# 10 (e) Municipal Insurance Renewal with MIS Insurance.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings :

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

**61/2022
Regular Minutes**

THAT the minutes for the Regular Council meeting held on February 8, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations / Delegations: None

8. Correspondence / Information:

- a) AMCTO – Strategic Plan Survey – Survey to provide thoughts on the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan - Received and Read
- b) Timiskaming Health Unit – Ontario moving to the next phase of reopening - Received and Read
- c) Tribunals Ontario Assessment Review Board – Appeals Resolution Strategy – Received and Read
- d) District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) – DTSSAB cost for the year – Received and Read.

9. Members Update Reports :

Councillor Caza

Tourist Committee

Good evening, everyone. Our last Tourist Committee meeting was held on Tuesday March 2, 2022. The time of our monthly meeting has now been returned to the original time of 7:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

It was decided at our last meeting that this year we are going to open the Tourist Centre a little earlier than usual. It will be open on weekends starting May 21st, 2022 and it will be run by volunteers until the students start in the summer.

Also discussed was the time capsule. The committee members as well as others will be doing an inventory list, after the inventory list is complete the capsule will be resealed and brought to the town office for storage.

We also discussed a long “to do” list for the spring and summer months.

Also, fundraiser ideas were discussed and the committee will decide at our next meeting which one we will do.

The next Tourist meeting will be held on Wednesday April 6, 2022.

Councillor Bonita Culhane :

Recreation Committee:

Good evening,

With the Community Centre slowly opening and Covid Restrictions we are now able to enter following the guidelines.

At the February 8 Council meeting, Council passed a resolution to re-open the building and the minutes are now accepted to move forward.

The XYZ Club should be able to meet. The Recreation Committee will post a flyer after the meeting March 9th, 2022 announcing the plans for March break.

Family Day weekend was not a great choice for a snow or ice sculpture. The judges could not find winners. Will we try again? Yes, we will be moving forward. Activities and plans for easter and spring are underway.

Thank you

McGarry Fire Department

McGarry Volunteer Fire Fighters held their monthly meeting February 27th, 2022. I was not available to attend. I will be in attendance for the next meeting March 27th, 2022.

Please remember to be careful. Keep outside vents cleared of snow and be courteous when removing blaze from wood burning stoves.

Councillor Annie Toupin-Keft:

Public Works:

With the much-welcomed warmer weather and spring in sight we still have more winter to come. Public Works has been busy with snow removal to make more room for more snow and to minimize the mess of the melting snow.

Snow melt brings deep slush, water puddles running water down streets and more residents out enjoying the weather.

Please be mindful to stay clear from areas where Public Works is clearing snow or working. Please slow down when driving near pedestrians. Also be on the lookout for treasures not picked up by fur baby owners.

Friendly reminder... Winter parking is still in effect. Vehicles may not be parked on township streets for more than one hour between the hours of 2:00 am to 7:00 am. This impacts the street plowing leaving behind unwanted snow causing hazards for drivers. Its also an offence to put snow from your property onto township streets.

Last but not least, for those starting early on spring cleaning, until April 30th the municipal dump is open Thursday from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Please make sure you have your dump pass.

Have a pleasant and safe end of winter,

Thank you

Mayor Matt Reimer

He advised the public that the Township has received funding from Canada Heritage in the amount of \$1,370.00 to be put towards Canada Day Celebration.

The Mayor talked about a program/project from KDCDC and FedNor regarding tourism and advised Council that he send a letter of support from the Township. More information to come.

He also stated that he will be presenting a request to Council to allocate funding for projects that would be created by the residents and overseen by Council. There would be a limit for each project.

10. New Business :

- a) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**62/2022
TEMAG**

Whereas developments known as “Boreal Forest Medieval Villages” are being proposed in unincorporated townships within the District of Timiskaming; and

Whereas the developers of these “villages” are promoting the fact their developments are not subject to zoning by-laws, building permits, planning policies or other municipal/provincial regulations; and

Whereas the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 states “in territories without municipal organization the focus of development activity shall be related to the sustainable management or use of resources and resource-based recreational uses”; and

Whereas the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 further states that the development of new permanent townsites within territories without municipal organization shall not be permitted; and

Whereas matters relating to territories without municipal organization are under the sole jurisdiction of the Province of Ontario; and

Whereas the scale of these developments in the unincorporated townships poses a significant concern for the incorporated municipalities in the District of Timiskaming including;

- Demand for services such as landfill, fire protection, police protection and social services;
- Increase demand on our emergency and medical services such as EMS and local hospitals (who are already dealing with capacity issues);
- Environmental impacts to watersheds and groundwater sources.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Township of McGarry hereby petitions the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to immediately enact a Minister's Zoning Order under the Planning Act for each of the proposed "Boreal Forest Medieval Village" developments in order to ensure proper planning principles are being adhered to by the developers and that their developments are consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020; and

Further that a copy of this resolution be forward to the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of the Environment, Conservation & Parks; the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Mines Natural Resources & Forestry; John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane; the Temiskaming Municipal Association; the Temiskaming Mayors' Action Group; and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

- b) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

63/2022
Library Minutes

THAT Council approve the minutes received from the McGarry Public Library Board for the meetings held on November 29, 2021.

Carried

- c) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

64/2022
Tourist Minutes

THAT Council approve the minutes received from the Tourist Committee for the meeting held on November 3, 2021.

Carried

- d) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

65/2022
Recreation Minutes

THAT Council approve the minutes received from Recreation Committee for the meeting held on November 2, 2021.

Carried

- e) Councillor Bonita Culhane declared a Conflict of Interest on Item #10 (e) and left the room.

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Annie Toupin-Keft

66/2022
MIS

THAT Council has read the report regarding Municipal Insurance and has received an annual insurance renewal proposal.

AND WHEREAS the proposed total annual premium is 4.8% higher than last year.

NOW THEREFORE Council wishes to renew the 2022 Municipal Insurance with MIS Municipal Insurance Services at cost of 80,169.00 plus applicable provincial tax and authorizes the Clerk-Treasurer to accept the renewal proposal.

AND FURTHER that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry directs staff to seek proposals in hopes of finding lower insurance rates

Carried

- Councillor Culhane returned to the room.

- f) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

67/2022
Emergency Minutes

THAT Council approve the minutes received from the Emergency Management Planning Committee for the meeting held on February 18, 2022.

Carried

- g) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

68/2022
Strategic Minutes

THAT Council approve the minutes received from the Strategic Committee for the meeting held on November 23, 2021.

Carried

- h) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

69/2022
OCWA Annual/Summary
Report

THAT Council has read and accepts the 2021 Annual/Summary Report from Ontario Clean Water Agency.

Carried

- i) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

70/2022
OCWA

THAT Council has read and accepts the proposal for the Consolidated Linear Environmental Compliance Report Approval (CLI-ECA) Application from Ontario Clean Water Agency at a cost of 10,800 plus HST.

Carried

11. Passing of Accounts:

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

471/2022
Accounts

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

FEBRUARY 2022

Payroll: \$ 27,696.18

General: \$ 138,285.31

Carried

12. **Passing of By-Laws:** None

13. **a) Submitted Questions :**

Question #1 submitted by Francine Plante

Can the mayor and Council explain as to why in 2021 the municipality held 17 Special meetings close to the public, and the number 17 does not include the closed session in the regular council meetings.

According to the Ombudsman Open meeting guide for municipalities it clearly states that (A municipal or local board meeting, or part of a meeting, MAY be closed to the public If the subject of the meeting falls within one of the 14 exceptions set out in section 239 of the Act. Further down the guide it states: Must meeting be closed if they fall within those exceptions...NOT ALWAYS, in fact, 12 of the 14 exceptions are DISCRETIONARY, meaning that whenever possible, municipalities should opt to discuss these subjects in public, in the interest of transparency. The legislation leaves them the flexibility to keep the doors open.

The Mayor replied: Thank you for your question: Council held Regular and Special Council meeting which are all open to the Public and posted on our website, some of those meetings require a Close Session. Meetings are necessary in order for Council to make important decisions while always keeping the best interest of the residents in mind and for business to continue to move forward. Due to unforeseen circumstances and some very complex issues this past year or so, Council required to meet more than the normal.

In 2019, there was some changes made to the Municipal Act, under Section 270 (5). Council must try to ensure that they are accountable to the public for their actions and the municipality must try to ensure that its actions are transparent to the public. Council is also required to conform to confidentiality within certain matters. For these reasons, extra Special Meetings and some closed sessions were necessary. These closed sessions include various subjects that fall under section 239 of the municipal act such as but not limited to : security of the property of the municipality or local boards; personal matter about an identifiable individual, including municipal board or local board employees, labour relations or employee negotiations, litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local boards; advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communication necessary for that purpose, acquisition of land etc....

Council has a duty to be transparent to the public and this is why Council and Committee meetings take place regularly. The Township of McGarry encourages and welcomes our residents to attend. The meeting dates and times are always posted on our website in advance.

Anyone wishing to make a complaint should first seek resolution through the Township's internal complaint process. If you are not happy with the outcome of your complaint, you can submit a complaint with the Provincial Ombudsman's Office or with the Integrity Commissioner.

The Mayor also mentioned that Council does not want to be liable for breaching confidentiality as this could result in a lawsuit.

Question #2 submitted by Francine Plante

Can the Mayor and Council explain the approval of \$40,000.00 in the 2021 budget for lawyers' fees when in previous years the amounts varied between \$12,000.00 to \$14,000.00. That is quite a dramatic increase for taxpayers.

The Mayor replied: The Mayor and Council were aware that the legal fees would be increasing in 2021, and made sure to budget accordingly in order for the budget to read as accurate as possible. Again, due to the special circumstances outlined in Question #1, the required legal fee budget was increased. This was an extraordinary year and Mayor and Council dealt with everything to the best of their abilities, again always keeping in mind the best interest of the residents.

He also mentioned that legal advice is required to deal with certain issues and to avoid liabilities that could bring extra cost to the taxpayers.

b) Audience Questions:

No questions were asked. Colette Tardif did make a comment to the Mayor about the agenda.

14. Closed Meeting:

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

72/2022
Closed

THAT Council goes into closed session at 7:49 p.m. Under the Ontario Municipal Act 239 (2) (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board; (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;

Carried

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

73/2022
Out Closed

THAT Council come out closed session at 9:10 p.m.

Carried

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Annie Toupin-Keft

74/2022
Water Damage

THAT Council has read the report on water damage and are not in agreement in allocating any cost associated with this request.

Carried

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Annie Toupin-Keft

75/2022
Laneway

THAT Council has read the report on the laneway between Townsley avenue and Kea4rns Avenue and directs the Clerk to get more information.

Carried

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Annie Toupin-Keft

76/2022
Arrears

THAT Council has read the report on Tax Arrears sand Water Arrears and direct the Clerk hire Real Tax recovery Specialist to act on behalf of the Township for the tax arrears and for the tax registration collection process.

Carried

15. Confirmation By-Law:

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Annie Toupin-Keft

77/2022
Confirmation

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 8th day of March and numbered By-Law 2022-11.

Carried

16. Adjournment:

Moved by Annie Toupin-Keft
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

78/2022
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Carried


DEPUTY MAYOR


CLERK-TREASURER