



#5 (a)

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, April 12th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room and via Teleconference call.

1. Opening of Meeting and Call to Order:

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

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

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

Clerk Treasurer – Karine Pelletier
Members of the audience present: 16

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

86/2022
Deputy Mayor

THAT Councillor Wendy K. Weller be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2022.

Carried

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

87/2022
Leave of Absence

THAT Council agrees to grant a leave of absence to Member Matt Reimer & Annie Toupin-Keft from the April 12th, 2022 Regular Meeting of Council due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum:

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

88/2022
Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of April 12, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest: None

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings :

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

89/2022
Regular Minutes

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

Carried

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

90/2022
Special Minutes

THAT the minutes for the Special Council meeting held on March 9, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations / Delegations: None

8. Correspondence / Information:

- a) Canadian Heritage – Canada Day Funding – Received and Read.
- b) Kirkland Lake Gold - Agnico Eagle – Completion of Merger – Received and Read.
- c) Ministry of Infrastructure – Broadband – Received and Read.
- d) Ministry of Energy – New Electricity Resources – Received and Read.
- e) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – 2020 Financial Return (FIR) – Received and Read.
- f) Minister of Canadian Heritage – Activities involving the Russian and Belarusian governments – Received and Read.
- g) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Status of Emergency order – Received and Read.

9. Members Update Reports :

Councillor Louanne Caza

Tourist Centre

- The Tourist Centre will be open on weekends beginning May 21st until the students begin. It will then be open 7 days a week.
- Clean up of the Tourist Centre will begin on April 26th at 9:00 a.m. All volunteers are welcome and any students who need their hours are also welcomed to help.
- Ten members of committees and public members have gone through the Time Capsule and documented all of the items. Everything was accounted for and the Time Capsule has been sealed by Public Works and taken to the Township Office to be stored until re-opening and it will be displayed at the Tourist Centre.
- The Tourist Committee do require more information regarding the McGarryopoly and are waiting for the information before advancing with the game.
- A Budget meeting is schedule for next week with the Committee.

Councillor Bonita Culhane

Recreation Committee

- On April 11th the Recreation Committee met at the Community Centre, there were two members in the audience and virtual attendance was also available. Plans for the Easter Egg Hunt were discussed. This will take place on Saturday, April 16, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and we are encouraging parents to come and attend as well.
- The Committee will meet again on April 20th to discuss ideas presented from the public at last night's meeting and we will go in camera to discuss the yearly budget at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room.
- March break had two days of activities, Thanks to Mayor Matt Reimer and Willie Reimer on instructed all the residents on the proper procedures of curling, which took place in the afternoon and was enjoyed by all. St-Patrick's day celebration was also enjoyed with crafts and cupcake decorating. It kept everyone busy. Thank you to the volunteers: Maggie Baker and Muriel Rose for the great help and thanks to the parents who stayed and participated. Thank you to the Committee for taking time to make this event successful. The attendance for the first day was 6 and the second day, counting the committee members and volunteers, was a total of 27.
- On Friday, April 18th, the children were entertained at our local Legion and we thank all who help. Public works supplied the snow for the slider.
- Regular monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Community Centre at 7:00 p.m. and the agenda are always posted by Township staff.

Fire Department

- The meetings are held on the last Sunday of each month but are not open to the public.
- Applications are available for volunteers to apply. Training and your firefighting gear is supplied. If you or someone you know is interested, you can make arrangements to pick up an application or have one delivered if you wish to your house. We are looking for more members to fulfill the brigade.

Councillor Wendy Weller

Strategic Planning Committee

- The Committee met on March 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Three items were discussed:
 - a) The McGarryopoly game – A letter was written by Chair person Wendy Weller of Strategic Planning to the Chair Louanne Caza of the Tourist Committee about the game. The letter asked the Tourist Committee if they would like to further proceed with the game. A small package of information was also included. It was suggested that the members of the Strategic Committee be involved with the game if the Tourist Committee decide to move forward with the idea.
 - b) Highway signs – More information is being collected and a decision will be forthcoming at the April meeting.
 - c) Loose Parts Park – A discussion took place between the committee members and further information must be collected and added to the Council Report before the committee approval to send to Council.
- The next Committee meeting will be on April 26th at 7:00 p.m in the meeting room. At the present time the committee has no openings.

10. New Business :

- a) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**91/2022
KLDCC**

THAT Council purchase an annual membership of \$200.00 with the Kirkland Lake District Chamber of Commerce.

Carried

- b) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**92/2022
Tourist Minutes**

THAT the minutes for the Tourist Committee meeting held on February 2, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

- c) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

**93/2022
Recreation Minutes**

THAT the minutes for the Recreation Committee meeting held on February 1, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

- d) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**94/2022
Bell Canada**

THAT Council have read and approve the 911 Service Agreement from Bell Canada.

Carried

- e) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

**95/2022
Centre de Sante exercices**

THAT Council agrees to grant the Centre de Sante Communautaire du Temiskaming access to the Community Centre and storage space for their exercise program free of charge.

Carried

- f) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

**96/2022
Knights of Columbus**

THAT Council grant the use of the gymnasium, the canteen and the kitchen at the Community Centre free of charge for Mother's Day Breakfast on May 6, 7 & 8, 2022 to the Knights of Columbus.

Carried

- g) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

97/2022
ESCEN Bursaries

THAT Council approve a donation for 2 bursaries of \$100.00 towards a bursary for students residing in the Township of McGarry pursuing post-secondary studies to Ecole Secondaire Catholique l'Envolée du Nord.

Carried

- h) Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

98/2022
KLDCS Bursaries

THAT Council approve a donation for 2 bursaries of \$100.00 towards a bursary for students residing in the Township of McGarry pursuing post-secondary studies to KLDCS.

Carried

- i) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

99/2022
XYZ Storage Space

THAT Council grant the space beside the entrance door to the McGarry & District XYZ Seniors Club to install equipment for an office in order to update their services to their members.

Deferred

- j) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

100/2022
Strategic Minutes

THAT the minutes for the Strategic Committee meeting held on February 22, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

- k) Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

101/2022
Library Board Minutes

THAT the minutes for the McGarry Public Library Board meeting held on February 28, 2022 be adopted.

Carried

11. Passing of Accounts:

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

102/2022
Accounts

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

MARCH 2022

Payroll: \$ 37,852.20
General: \$ 346,003.02

12. Passing of By-Laws: None

13. a) Submitted Questions :

Question #1 - Submitted by Evelyn Smith: To Mayor and Council, I would like to submit a question for the next regular Council Meeting and I would like a written reply of Council's answer.

Council is continually trying to find a way to raise money to fund community projects. One way to do this would be to charge property owners for work done on their properties by town employees and summer students such as cutting grass, trees, etc. Instead of spending taxpayer dollar, the money generated (money that is rightfully owed to the township) could fund projects that benefit the community.

When will Council instruct township staff to charge for all work done on private properties, the same way they charge work to fix water breaks that are on privately owned land? Respectfully, Evelyn Smith.

Council reviewed the question and a discussion took place. Council advised the Clerk to look into a schedule of fees to charge the homeowners for the services provided to their property by the Township Staff. They have directed the Clerk to bring this matter back to Council for further review at the next meeting. The Clerk mentioned that if this is passed it would have to be the same across the board for everyone.

Question #2- Submitted by Muriel Rose: To Mayor and Council. I attended the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on March 22nd. McGarryopoly was on the agenda but I didn't hear any discussion on this project. Before Council votes on whether to approve it or not, I would be interested in having answers to the following questions, which I am hereby submitting for the next regular Council meeting. I am also requesting a written reply of the answers.

- A. Where is the money coming from to upfront the project?
- B. Who will be responsible for promoting and managing this fundraising project?
- C. Will there be a periodic report made public so residents know how much has been collected and where it was spent?
- D. How often will the financial reports on this project be published, And,
- E. Why are committees having fundraisers?

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Wendy K. Weller) replied that the Chair of the Strategic Committee had sent a letter to Mrs. Rose prior to the meeting on behalf of the Strategic Committee.

Question #3 - Submitted by Muriel Rose: To Mayor and Council, I would like the following questions to be answered at the next regular Council meeting and I am requesting a written reply of the answers.

Throughout 2021 Kirkland Lake Council was transparent with its residents reporting in newspaper articles the community's standing with regards to the total number of properties in tax arrears and the total monetary value of non-collectable taxes. Will this Council be as transparent and share with the residents of McGarry answers to the following public information questions?

- A. What are the total number of properties, excluding mining claims, in tax arrears?
- B. What is the total monetary valued of non-collectable taxes? And,
- C. When will the list for Sale of Land for Tax Arrears by Public Tender be published?

The Clerk presented a Chart showing information on Tax Arrears. She explained that these numbers change on a daily basis. The Clerk has been communicating with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and with the Auditor regarding the arrears. A Tax Arrears and Collection Policy has been brought to Council for review and is being finalized. Once finalized, this policy will be brought forward at a future Council Meeting for approval. Council has also approved to hire Real Tax. This company specializes in Tax Collection and will be a great asset in helping to change these numbers positively.

The Clerk explained that they have been focusing on Tax Arrears and in the past month, we have been able to collect over \$150,000.00, and many other arrangements have been made.

b) Audience Questions:

Question #1 - Merdy Armstrong asked if Council would be communicating with MPAC to see if they could physically come to the Township of McGarry to look into everyone assessment in person instead of doing it remotely.

A discussion took place and it was mentioned that the prices of housing have gone up substantially and the assessment is often based on the price of sale for surrounding houses. The Clerk also mentioned that everyone is able to request a reconsideration if they feel their assessment is too high. Council will look into having MPAC come to the Township in person.

Question #2 – Muriel Rose addressed the Chair of the Strategic Committee regarding the letter that was sent to her in response to her questions she submitted to Council. She felt her questions were not answered and that the letter and response should come from Council on letterhead and not from the Chair of the Committee.

A discussion took place and Council advised the Clerk to send a response on letterhead on behalf of the Council.

14. Closed Meeting:

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

103/2022
Closed

THAT Council goes into closed session at 8:06 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

104/2022
Out Closed

THAT Council come out closed session at 9:03 p.m.

Carried

Moved by Louanne Caza
Seconded by Bonita Culhane

105/2022
Pay Grid – Clerk Typist

THAT the Clerk-Typist Receptionist be moved to Step 3 of the pay grid.

Carried

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

106/2022
Pay Grid - Bookkeeper

THAT the Bookkeeper be moved to Step 2 of the pay grid.

Carried

15. Confirmation By-Law:

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

107/2022
Confirmation

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 12th day of April and numbered By-Law 2022-13.

Carried

16. Adjournment:

Moved by Bonita Culhane
Seconded by Louanne Caza

108/2022
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Carried



DEPUTY MAYOR

CLERK-TREASURER