

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 11, 2023**

Call to Order, Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; Nil

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Neil Scarlett, Blair Flowers and Pearl Ivens. Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney and Administrative Assistant Taylor Boden.

Guest scheduled: Sherri Hawthorne, Sean Cunningham, John Gunn and Chris Bevan, Partner, Kennedy Insurance Brokers.

Guest observing: Marvin Nolan, Nancy Thrall, Mary Gunn, John Kelly, John Mowat, Elizabeth Bradley, Bob Alexander, Mark Smuck and Mark Savill.

GUESTS

6:30-6:45 pm Sherri Hawthorne, pickleball resurfacing request

Ms. Hawthorne began by telling Council that she had brought her request to the Village of South River's Council the previous meeting on Nov 27th and continued that 43% of the 40 names on her letter are from Machar. The tennis courts (120' x 120') were installed in 1987 and need refurbishment, but in order to do that an assessment needs to be done by a qualified specialist. Pickleball has really picked up in the area, it's been a great way to meet new people and it promotes senior health & wellness. Hawthorne noted the upgraded playground equipment at the Narrows, the support of the Skate Park in South River, and the activities at the Coughlin's has shown the Township's support of recreation and now it's time for a project for the "big kids". Community/recreation grants could be sourced, service clubs could be invited to contribute as they have in the past and fundraising could be done. Hawthorne and her group are hoping that the Township will consider their proposal and let them know in the next month. Next spring the plan is to seal the existing cracks as a temporary measure in 2024 until a permanent solution is found, according to The North Bay Nugget, Dec 7, 2023.

Mayor Carleton expressed interest in the project, that Council will have to look at it with the Arena budget and we are already facing some high priced priorities in 2024. Councillor Scarlett noted the soccer nets are also in poor shape, he would like the whole area done. Hawthorne advised that a contractor has already approached S.R. after seeing the article in the North Bay Nugget.

6:45-7:00 pm Sean Cunningham, Short Term Rental Accommodation

Mr. Cunningham introduced himself and explained the Cunningham's history on Eagle Lake, as detailed in his 2 page letter to Council with 6 page appendix. Cunningham noted his understanding of the pressure that Council is under and would like Council to follow a process of open consultation, asking both sides in order to figure out what's relevant for our area. He asks for a community consultation in the summer of 2024 to include seasonal residents. Cunningham notes the low number of traditional accommodations, that this would greatly affect extended families' visitation. Mr. Cunningham went on to say the costs of enforcement and legal fees other municipalities are facing since enacting their own By-Laws, suggesting to at least wait to see how those settle and in the meantime, work with existing By-Laws and work with Fire and Police Depts. As the By-Law stands now, the Cunningham's "legal non-conforming" accommodation would be disqualified because there are two accommodations on one property. They have two separate septic, one of which was just updated 2 years ago. He understands the results may not be what everyone is looking for, but the process should be open and the public consulted.

7:00-7:15 pm John Gunn, Short Term Rental Accommodation

Mr. Gunn introduced himself and his property's "Everything happens at Gunn Point" catch phrase. Gunn explained that in reviewing the March 2023 petition it was hard for him to ascertain it's intent: STR

regulating or Septic systems review? Gunn references the Ontario Building Code and the Environmental Protections Act, suggesting there are remedies and legal consequences to faulty or inadequate septic tanks already in place therein. Gunn asks the pointed question “is there a problem with the lake water quality? If not, why are we fixing a problem that isn’t there?” Gunn agrees noise is a very valid concern, but one that is addressed in the existing Noise By-Law and suggests improving response time on enforcement. Gunn questions parking and garbage concerns in his presentation and asks who’s to say that STRs are solely responsible? Gunn suggests 37 properties listed on AirBnB are in Machar that accommodate over 2 guests, what percentage in Machar does this represent and is this as big an issue as some individuals would have us believe? There are currently just 4 properties listed that accommodate over 12 guests and 1 is a commercial operation with many cabins, are these the target of the By-Law? Gunn points out the risk the Township could be taking on.

Council reassured Mr. Gunn, Mr. Cunningham, and those in the gallery that it’s never been Council’s intent to pass the By-Law’s 3rd and final reading without first giving time to review feedback sent to the Office. Council confirmed the STRA By-Law would not be passed in Jan and suggested those interested visit the website on Friday afternoon prior to Council meetings to review the agendas in the new year.

7:15-7:30 pm 2024 Insurance Renewal, Resolution

Mr. Bevan attended to walk us through the 2024 insurance renewal proposal. Bevan suggested the insurance spike is starting to soften. The overall premium increase for the 2024 term is below the average increase within the intact Public Entities Municipal Program and indicated by other Municipalities across Ontario. The Townships property policy is getting back to loss ratio after the Landfill building’s snow load remedy to avoid collapse.

235-23 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we accept Insurance Renewal for Jan 1, 2024- Jan 1, 2025 from Intact Public Entities Inc in the amount of \$61,879 representing a 9.9% increase. CARRIED

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Nov 27, 2023 minutes, Resolution

236-23 Ivens, Scarlett

THAT we adopt Nov 27, 2023 minutes. CARRIED

2. Short Term Rental By-Law comments received

Councillor Pearl noted some good comments, both for and against the licensing.

3. Pay List by Fund for Nov, Resolution

237-23 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we approve Pay List for Nov 2023: \$250,081.45. CARRIED

COMMITTEES

4. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Nov, Arena and Fire

Items provided: Arena Chief Operator report for Nov 2023 (decorated for Christmas in the Village), Income Statement for Nov (Revenue 104.54% and Expenses 85.07%), AP Ledger for Nov \$16,686.65 Total Expenditures, Refrigeration Upgrades at the South River-Machar Community Centre (FRP 01-2023). Fire Chief’s monthly report for Dec 2023, Income Statement for Nov (Revenue 263.0% and Expenses 157.42%), AP Ledger for Nov \$11,088.00 Total Expenditures, email fr. Ministry of the Solicitor General: Next Generation 9-1-1 Transition Support Funding: 2023-24 \$137,000.

5. Machar Public Works minutes of Nov 23, 2023, Resolution

a) Park Rd Culvert engineering quotes, Resolution

238-23 Ivens, Flowers

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Nov 23, 2023,
FURTHER THAT we approve Park Rd Culvert Replacement Engineering quote from Tatham Engineering in the amount of \$64,785 plus HST. CARRIED

6. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of Nov 21, 2023, Resolution

Mayor Carleton requested Councillor Flowers look into the location of the blood clinic's schedule, someone had said it was posted inside the building and not visible from the locked door.

239-23 Flowers, McLaren

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes as follows: adopt the minutes, install new sound proofing, Pay Lists/Budgetary Control, adjourned until Jan 16, 2024... CARRIED

7. Haunted Halloween Walk Thank you, Resolution

Councillor Scarlett has had businesses approach him about setting up a treat site along the candy trail like Stan Darling Insurance and Jesse's Kwik Way had. Councillor Scarlett also wishes to encourage those interested in setting up on the scare trail to get in touch, as more would be appreciated.

240-23 Scarlett Flowers

THAT we approve Haunted Halloween Walk volunteer thank you. CARRIED

8. POA (Provincial Offences Act) meeting Nov 23, 2023

Reviewed. Information received: 2023 Municipal Partners Distribution Q3, 2023 POA General Ledger (draft), and Court Manager's Report Q3 2023.

9. N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Dr. Carol Zimbalatti appointed as Medical Officer of Health & minutes of Sep 27, 2023 posted to website

10. N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Letter to Premier: Modernizing Alcohol Marketplace and Product Sales, Resolution

The 2019 regulatory changes that have led to the relaxation of alcohol control policies have already placed Ontarians at an increased risk of harm and health related outcomes and may have contributed to alcohol related emergency room and hospital visits in Ontario. Increased availability and affordability of alcohol has particularly negative impact on school-aged Ontarians, for whom the risk of adverse outcomes from drinking is greater than adults. As alcohol retail density increases, especially near schools, youth are more likely to adopt or maintain high risk drinking behaviors. The Board of Health respectfully urges the Provincial Government to implement policy measures that reduce access to alcohol and help to prevent negative health outcomes and healthcare costs associated with alcohol use.

241-23 Flowers, Scarlett

THAT we support North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's Resolution #BOH/2023/11/05 re: Modernizing Alcohol Marketplace and Products Sales. CARRIED

11. FONOM (Fed of N ON Munic), Learning Opportunity for Municipal Elected Officials: Approaches to Homelessness and Encampments

Learning session will be held on Mon, Jan 15th from 9-11 am in a hybrid event with in-person attendance in Ottawa and a virtual option.

12. FONOM Dec Media Release to recognize and thank Chief Daniel Foy and Chief Scott Tod for their commitment to Bail Reform and the impacts of Property Damage in Northern Communities

Mayor Carleton recognised Chief Daniel Foy's positive impact on Bail Reform and Property Crime Taskforce (Previously Catch n Release).

13. Joint Building Committee permit summaries for Nov, Resolution

242-23 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we accept Building Permit summaries for Nov, 2023. CARRIED

INFORMATION

14. Resolution Endorsation Polices ATTACHED

Council agreed that they don't need to see all municipalities support letter, and that our support Resolutions need only be sent to the originating municipality so they can be dispersed appropriately.

- 15. Town of Amherstburg Resolution**, Support of amending legislation to ensure cigarette manufacturers are responsible for the collection, recycling, and proper disposal of cigarette waste
- 16. Township of Puslinch**, Council has previously passed a resolution regarding illegal land use and enforcement, Council direct staff to connect with the Town of Cobourg and other municipalities with similar concerns on the possibility of a joint delegation to AMO lead by the Town of Cobourg
- 17. Municipality of Tweed Resolution**, Requests support regarding Federal and Provincial funding partnerships
- 18. Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)**, Requests support for Resolutions received regarding declaring Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic
- 19. Town of Plympton-Wyoming Resolution**, Supports the attached resolution from the Municipality of Wawa regarding Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06 (2) & 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters)
- 20. Town of Plympton-Wyoming Resolution**, Supports the attached resolutions from the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus regarding Support to Revoke Strong Mayor Powers and Increase in the Leave to Construct Threshold
- 21. Township of Loyalist Resolution**, Support Prince Edward County's resolution dated Nov 14, 2023, urging the province to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, stormwater management systems, and certain water taking activities
- 22. Municipality of Chatham-Kent Resolution**, Prepare a letter addressed to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, as well as local MPP's to strongly recommend that accommodation rates of social assistance payments increase to the Average Market Rent (for all types of rentals) for the recipients of Ontario Works Assistance and the Ontario Disability Support Program
- 23. Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC)**, Dec Calendar of Events
- 24. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce**, Dec Newsletter
- 25. AMO Communications, Policy Update**, Strengthening Public Health Webinar: Focus on Voluntary Mergers of Local Public Health Authorities
- 26. AMO Communications**, Office of the President, AMO President's Board Update – Dec 2023
- 27. AMO Watchfile Nov 23, 2023, In This Issue**
 - AMO survey: Mapping Diverse Experiences Running for Municipal Office
 - Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan
 - Community Emergency Preparedness Grant
 - Pilot vehicle questionnaire now open
 - Webinars: Funding for EV charging stations
 - Volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention
 - New federal waste diversion resource document
 - ROMA Conference: Plenary program announcement
 - Important new training: Understanding Competing Human Rights, Dec. 12
 - Save the date: OSUM 2024 Conference
 - Blog: How Technology is Transforming FOI Programs in Ontario Municipalities
 - Don't get caught in the dark!
 - ClearRisk webinar for AMO members!
 - SaveOnEnergy Energy Management and Efficient Electrification webinars

- Canoe Fall Webinar: Uncrewed Vehicles(Drones - that is!)
 - Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications: Terminology
 - Future of Aging Summit - Register today!
 - Funded assistance for accessibility and disability management
 - Fleming College seeking municipal partnership projects
 - Careers: Welland, Toronto and Simcoe County
- 28. AMO Watchfile Nov 30, 2023, In This Issue**
- AMO survey: Mapping Diverse Experiences Running for Municipal Office
 - Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan
 - Community Emergency Preparedness Grant
 - Volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention
 - New! Advanced training for AMO members in 2024
 - ROMA 2024 Conference: Closer to Home programming
 - Still time to register: Understanding Competing Human Rights, Dec 12
 - Save the date: OSUM 2024 Conference
 - Thinking road needs study in 2024? Contact LAS
 - SaveOnEnergy Energy Management and Efficient Electrification webinars
 - Canoe Fall webinars: Uncrewed Vehicles (Drones – that is!)
 - Municipal climate internship recruitment
 - Must attend: ORFRA’s Outdoor Ice Symposium
 - Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications: Terminology
 - Fleming seeking municipal partnership projects
 - Careers: MOECP, Brampton, DNSSAB and London
- 29. AMO Communications, Policy Update, New Study Shows Economic Benefits of Community Housing, Housing Forum, Ontario and Toronto Reach a New Deal, Locate Fee Changes Proposed in New Legislation, On-Site and Excess Soil Management Regulation Proposals**
- 30. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Nov 29, Superior Court sides with encampment, city loses request for injunction, Ontario and Toronto reach a new deal, Thunder Bay food bank says it’s stretched to ‘tipping point’ as food bank use in Ontario soars, Who should decide highway closures? St. Catharines strengthens emissions reductions targets after surpassing previous goals, Thunder Bay considers action on short-term rentals, Toronto welcomes first of 60 new trams to transform public transit, An Ontario town struggled for years with illegal trucking, did the fight just turn deadly? Environment committee asks for feasibility study on incinerator for Ottawa’s garbage, Ontario is one of the angriest places in Canada: Study, Campaign to add diversity to Council table important: say current and former councillors, Ontario could save \$1.1B a year if it adapts public infrastructure for climate change: fiscal watchdog, Stratford Council to consider hefty parking fine increases**
- 31. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Dec 6, ‘Unique’ Toronto gets special deal with the province, Other municipalities want one too, Napanee Council supports gas plant expansion despite emission concerns, Ontario activates disaster recovery assistance program in response to Aug thunderstorms, West Perth taking steps to mitigate eventual loss of provincial grants, Guelph identifies 50 heritage sites as designation priorities in 2024, Wasaga Beach CAO makes allegations of a cover-up by the previous administration, Sudbury Council Oks \$65M city hall-based library/art gallery project, What should Doug Ford’s government do about developers who go years without building homes? Dryden’s OPP costs continue to go up, Barrie Council hot to trot on accelerating fairgrounds project, Renewable energy storage projects snubbed by rural councillors, Golf course subdivision extension to 2029 gets Tay approval**
- 32. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Dec 6, Unique Toronto gets special deal**
- 33. Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Inclusive Communities ad campaign 2023-2024**
- 34. The Labour Market Group, Labour Focus Publication for Nov 2023, Jobs Report for Oct 2023**
- 35. Elections Ontario, Register to Vote communications toolkit now available in the Election Portal**
- 36. Blue Sky Net, Nov Tech-Talk**
- 37. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Release of Decision Regarding Technical Bulletin: Data Survey and Mapping Specifications**
- 38. Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA), Cottage Country Policy & Environmental Updates**
- 39. Ombudsman Ontario, New: Resources about municipal integrity commissioners**
- 40. Ombudsman Ontario, Annual Report 2022-2023**

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

Website update Councillor Ivens requested an update. AA explained the new website is in a draft testing stage where we are looking at how everything looks together and catching typos. Councillor Ivens inquired after a possible mail out option in the upcoming website update. TDC advised that an email registry option has not been included in the scope so far, that we could inquire. *Staff workload is at capacity, any additional mail outs would add to that, and would need to pass the AODA test.

CLOSED SESSION

243-23 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employee; labour relations or employee negotiations; the meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members. Time 8:10 pm. CARRIED

244-23 Ivens, Scarlett

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:26 pm. CARRIED

ADJOURN

245-23 Flowers, Scarlett

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Jan 8, 2024. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney

AL/tb