

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, April 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, Pearl Ivens, and Blair Flowers. Staff present: Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul and Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney.

Staff scheduled: Fire Chief Risto Maki. Guest scheduled Almaguin Highlands Secondary School Principal Heather Hickey. Guest observing: Mark Savill.

**GUESTS**

**PSAP NG911 Transition Funding**

Presentation received. The existing 911 system has been in place for more than 30 years and has reached its end of life. Currently the SRMFD is self dispatched managing its own stand alone secondary PSAP (Public Safety Answering Points) which helps the Fire Dept reduce its overall response time significantly. Until recently the technology available and cost associated to with migrating to NG911 made it infeasible for the Fire Dept to continue to manage its own PSAP. By dissolving our PSAP we'd be required to contract our call handling to our backup communication center which is North Bay Ambulance Communication Center. With the \$620,000 funding from the Solicitor Generals Office and recent technology upgrades, it's now feasible for the Fire Dept to meet the Next Gen 911 requirements by the Mar 4, 2025 deadline.

**AHSS Hockey Canada Skills Academy**

Presentation received on the proposed Hockey Canada Skills Academy to be offered at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School for the Sep 2023 school year. HCSA programs enhance the confidence, self-esteem, and opportunities for students in both academics and athletics beyond the primary, intermediate and secondary school system, while making efficient use of arena facilities during school-day hours. The program is open to Grades 9-12, and also incoming Grade 8s. It's part of a Specialist High Skills Major certification for Health and Wellness, which will accompany the other 2 Specialist High Skills Major programs already offered at AHSS; Information and Communications Technology (Media Arts) and Outdoor Education (Environment). The SHSM is a secondary school program, which allows students in all pathways (apprenticeship, college, university, workplace) to focus on the specialized knowledge and skills relevant to a specific economic sector of interest, while meeting the requirements of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and gain a special red seal on their diploma. These programs enable students to gain sector-specific skills and knowledge in engaging, career-related learning environments, and prepare in a focused way for graduation and post secondary education, training, or employment. Requirements/achievements of the program include CPR, First Aid and the HCSA will provide Level 1 Referee. The NNDSB (Near North District School Board) has already entered into an Agreement for the SSJ Arena at no cost for the use ice time which is consistent for similar programs with the Town of Parry Sound, Township of Seguin and Town of Mattawa. The NNDSB are requesting a similar use agreement or discounted ice rental rates with South River proposing 20 hours donated and 20 hours paid (which is over the term of the course Sep-Jan) to keep the program affordable for students, and noting that the AHSS Boys and Girls Hockey Teams already rent ice in South River. On ice sessions would be Tue or Thu first thing in the morning or right after lunch. AHSS is fundraising, and the biggest costs to provide the program are bussing and ice rental. Council were supportive of the proposal for AHSS and using the SRM Arena.

**BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of Mar 27, 2023 minutes, Resolution**

**67-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we adopt Mar 27, 2023 minutes as amended. CARRIED

**2. Pay List by Fund for Mar, Resolution**

List of Proposed Payments provided. Pay List by Fund is not available due to software updates.

**68-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we approve List of Proposed Payments \$221,458.87 Grand Total. CARRIED

**a. Almaguin Highlands Secondary School request for contribution to Graduation Awards**

Approved \$200.

**COMMITTEES**

**3. Shared Services; Arena and Fire 2023 proposed Budgets, Resolutions**

Further to Shared Services Joint Meeting, and our last Council meeting:

**69-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we accept Draft 3 proposed 2023 Budget for Fire in the amount of our share \$215,913 subject to overall Township budgetary requirements. CARRIED

**70-23 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we appoint 2 members of Council per Shared Services Agreement, Section 10. to an Ad Hoc Committee for review of 2023 proposed Arena budget,  
FURTHER THAT the 2 members of Council are: Neil Scarlett and Pearl Ivens, with Lynda Carleton as alternate. CARRIED

Additional information provided: New Virtual Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection Sessions added, and HOC Summer Camp Cancellation, posted to HOC and South River websites.

**4. Machar Public Works; Drainage Easement 4-052-32, Resolution**

Further to Public Works meeting and progress to date:

**71-23 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we agree to release of Blanket Easement 4-052-32 subject to replacement with Partial Easement 4-052-32 consisting of 4 m both sides of drainage area on the applicant's lot,  
FURTHER THAT all costs are the responsibility of the applicant/property owner. CARRIED

**5. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of Mar 21, 2023, Resolution**

Reviewed and questions asked: 4 Year Plan for use and condition, Loan Cupboard/spare suite.

**72-23 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay Lists/Budgetary Control, adjourned until Apr 18, 2023..

**6. ARI (Almaguin Recycling Initiative) Hazmat minutes of Jan 11, Resolution**

Reviewed, upcoming Hazmat is Sat, May 27 from 10-2, Council volunteers and EORLA requested.

**73-23 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we acknowledge ARI minutes of Jan 11, 2023. CARRIED

**7. District of Parry Sound EMS (Emergency Medical Services) minutes of Mar 30, 2023, Resolution**

Reviewed. Area rep Councillor Ivens provided stats: 1045 calls South River, 154,000 km, 1/3 of the EMS Municipal Surplus Reserve Fund moved to EMS Equipment/Capital Reserve Fund and moved 1/3 of the EMS Municipal Surplus Reserve Fund to the Land Ambulance Severance Reserve Fund.

Alternate area rep discussed. Terms of Reference for Advisory Committee should be reviewed.

**74-23 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we acknowledge EMS minutes of Mar 30, 2023. CARRIED

**8. JBC (Joint Building Committee) new DCBO appointment, Resolution**

**75-23 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we read a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> time and finally pass By-Law No. 6-23; to appoint a Deputy Chief Building Official: Brad Shadlock. CARRIED

**9. JBC (Joint Building Committee) Special meeting Apr 6, 2023, Resolution**

Committee rep Councillor Scarlett requested deferral to Closed Session for discussion.

**INFORMATION**

- 10. Questions re Council Machar 5-253**, cc Council ATTACHED. Reviewed and answered.
- 11. City of Owen Sound Resolution**, Council direct staff to send a letter to all other municipalities in Ontario supporting the Municipality of Chatham-Kent calling for action to reduce insurance costs and, the City Manager have staff participate in any groups that may be formed through the AMO or directly with other municipalities to support this effort
- 12. Township of Strong**, Notice of a Public Meeting for a Zoning By-Law Amendment Apr 11 at 7pm to authorize a lot frontage of 81 m rather than the minimum required lot frontage RU zone of 90 m
- 13. Fondation Emergence**, Proclaim May 17 as the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, asking all municipalities in Canada to raise the rainbow flag and adopt a resolution to recognize this day by the municipal Council
- 14. Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) Mar 2023 In Touch**, New School Support Online Portal Launches, Farm Forestry SANs Have Been Mailed, The Latest from our Municipal Liaison Group Meeting, Property Insights on Self-Storage Facilities, In case you missed it: Farm Tax Incentive Program Overview, MPAC 101 Our Role in the Property Tax and Assessment System
- 15. FONOM**, Conference Call for Executive Award Nominations
- 16. FONOM**, AMO's Regional Energy Planning Webinar Apr 17 from 1:30-3:30
- 17. FONOM**, Ontario Increasing Minimum Wage to \$16.55 an Hour
- 18. AMO Events**, Register for AMO's 2023 Ending Homelessness Symposium May 3-4
- 19. AMO Communications, Office of the President**, AMO's President's Board Update Mar 2023
- 20. AMCTO Advocacy Update**, 2023 Provincial Budget
- 21. AMCTO**, Municipal Monitor Q1 2023 Digital Edition, Read Now!
- 22. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Mar 29**, As Ontario rolls in tax dollars, why are its cities so crash-strapped? 'Dystopian' landscape: Council mulls multimillion-dollar plan to end chronic homelessness in Hamilton, Internet boost coming to rural areas, Pickering first Ontario municipality to share gaming revenue with regional government, Here's the really annoying thing about speed cameras: they work, Provincial budget paves the way for university veterinary program, City of Mississauga rejects applications for 2 residential towers because proposed buildings are too tall, 5 ways to boost creativity on your team, What makes for an effective leadership style?
- 23. AMO Watchfile Mar 23, 2023 In This Issue**
  - Enbridge Gas' Integrated Resource Planning activities underway
  - AMO member resolution campaign on homelessness
  - AMO responds to Minister's reporting regulation on planning matters
  - Call for nominations for 2023 OSUM Executive Committee
  - Amendments proposed for floating accommodations regulations
  - Applications now open for 2023-24 Inclusive Community Grants
  - NG9-1-1 Transfer Payment Program
  - Proposed updates to Normal Farm Practices Protection Board due April 3
  - Community Transit Technology Guide available
  - Drainage advocacy to Minister of Transport and CN
  - OSUM Conference: Registration and accommodations are open
  - OSUM Conference: Exhibitor information
  - Register for AMO's Ending Homelessness Symposium May 2-3

- Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
- AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information
- New dates available for AMO's Land Use Planning training
- Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Councillor Training
- Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials and Human Rights & Equity - new dates
- AMO LAS 2023 Municipal Energy Symposium: Call for Proposals
- 4S Webinar: WSIB double rebates for Municipal Health & Safety Programs
- Building municipal capacity to analyze energy trends
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Johnson Controls
- Get a free quote for your 2023 road and sidewalk assessment
- Ontario Bike Summit returns April 30
- Careers: Town of Caledon and City of Toronto

**24. AMO Watchfile Mar 30, 2023 In This Issue**

- AMO member resolution campaign on homelessness
- AMO responds to Minister's reporting regulation on planning matters
- Call for nominations for 2023 OSUM Executive Committee
- Submit your entry for the 2023 PJ Marshal Awards
- Amendments proposed for floating accommodations regulations
- Applications now open for 2023-24 Inclusive Community Grants
- NG9-1-1 Transfer Payment Program
- Proposed updates to Normal Farm Practices Protection Board due April 3
- Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) announced
- Drainage advocacy to Minister of Transport and CN
- Register for Regional Energy Planning webinar - April 17
- OSUM Conference: Registration and accommodations are open
- OSUM Conference: Exhibitor information
- Register for AMO's Ending Homelessness Symposium May 2-3
- Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
- AMO 2023: Opening keynote announcement
- AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information
- AMO's Land Use Planning training: fall dates
- Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Councillor Training
- Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials and Human Rights & Equity - new dates
- AMO LAS 2023 Municipal Energy Symposium: Call for proposals
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Eppendorf
- Waterloo Innovation Summit returns to Toronto
- Ontario Bike Summit returns April 30
- Careers: Lakeshore, Orillia, Central Elgin, and Ministry of Labour

**25. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Response to the 2023 Federal Budget**

**26. FCM, Responds to update from the Government of Canada on the issue of retroactive RCMP costs**

**27. FCM, Important update about FCM's Board of Directors**

**28. FCM, 2023 Federal Budget analysis**

**29. FCM Voice, Retroactive RCMP costs, Annual Conference 2023 and more**

**30. Ontario Honours and Awards, Nominations for the 2023 Ontario Senior of the Year Award, the deadline for nominations is Apr 30, 2023**

**31. Ius Laboris Canada, Global HR Lawyers Mathews Dinsdale, Employers Advisor Mar 2023, Workplace Relationships: Lessons from the Mayor's Office, Healthy Remedy: Former NB Health CEO Awarded Hefty Damages after Public Firing, Employers Beware: June 23, 2023, Wage-Fixing and No-Poaching Agreements are Outlawed**

**32. Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC), Apr Calendar, Your Skills for Success Checklist**

**33. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC), News Release, Join Us at a Capital Redevelopment Community Information Session, MAHC is looking forward to hosting a second series of community information sessions across our region, both in-person and virtually starting Apr 17, to update the community on our capital redevelopment project**

**34. Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), News from ROMA, March ROMA Board Meeting Highlights**

**35. Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA), AGM recap, UHT update, early Spring water safety updates & more**

**36. Pierrette Desrochers, Sudbury, East Nipissing & Parry Sound AG Newsletter, Apr 2023**

- 37. **Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO)**, LifeLine: Northern funeral homes; Increased fees for OCC transfers by funeral homes and transfer services
- 38. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release, Recognizing Canadian Public Health Week Apr 3-7**, A week that aims to highlight the contributions of public health and its workforce while highlighting issues that are vital to improving the health of Canadians
- 39. **Tanya Liehs**, 2023 South River Outdoor Show & Market Exhibitor Package, May 20-21, 2023
- 40. **Tribunals ON**, Introduction to Mobile Access Terminal Service, for parties who have technology related challenges by expanding the availability of access terminal from the current 5 to almost anywhere in the province

**INFORMATION – COVID-19**

- 41. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Public Service Announcement, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Return for Spring**, Upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics: Mattawa Apr 13, N Bay Apr 18, 20, Parry Sound Apr 6, 21, Sturgeon Falls Apr 26, Sundridge Apr 11
- 42. **Muskoka Algonquin Health Care (MAHC) News Release, COVID-19 Assessment Centre Closing on Mar 31**, In response to lower rates of COVID-19 and reduced testing eligibility, MAHC is closing the COVID-19 Assessment Centre in Bracebridge effective Mar 31

**ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION**

**43. 2023 Budget Package**

Reviewed. Budget as input (per levies and amounts approved) = 10.8555% overall levy change, Budget with \$10k Arena and \$50 k Parks from Reserve = 8.5372% overall levy change (dependant on Eagle Lake Narrows retaining wall project proceeding in 2023 within cost estimated), Budget removing additional \$45,524 to Succession Reserves = 6.7782% overall levy change. Per our Communication on Shared Services, we anticipated 2023 Budget would be challenging. The increase for these 2 services alone is \$100,000+ (Fire \$24,808 and Arena \$76,238) over our 2022 Budget for these 2 services. Other known 2023 municipal budget increases were noted: 6.7% Hamilton, 7.5% Burlington, 5.5% Toronto, 7.6% Callander, and 4.61% North Bay. 2023 Tax Impact on a Median/Typical Property reviewed: Single Family Home = \$103.09 Tax Change, Seasonal Recreational Dwelling = \$148.68 Tax Change and Farm House = \$132.83 Tax Change. Comparison of 2022 Residential Tax Rates reviewed: \$4,009.40 South River, \$3,794.35 Sundridge, \$2,234.02 Strong, and \$2,105.84 Machar. The lowest overall levy change is the preferred option, and pending results of the Ad Hoc Committee meeting(s) for review of the proposed 2023 Budget for Arena. A Micro Surface Treatment should be applied to Eagle Lake Rd in 2024. Estimated cost is \$560,000.

**44. Website Upgrade Report Proposal**

We've researched different municipal websites and reached out to website development companies to obtain quotes. This is further to the proposal obtained in May 2019 negotiated to \$9,887 + HST.

**76-23 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we accept Website Upgrade proposal from VS Marketing in the amount of \$19,950 + HST.  
CARRIED

**Broadband One Window (BOW) platform**

BOW is a secure, log-in only platform, leveraging ESRI ArcGIS Online technology. As the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) moves to the construction and delivery phase, BOW continues to serve as a GIS platform, an enhanced document management system, a permit application status tracker, and a repository for infrastructure and other data. This expansion of BOW introduces a new Central Hub page for AHSIP resources and announcements allowing delivery partners to stay connected, and expands the Support Request feature to municipalities for enhanced co-ordination and communication. Users can submit requests for support from the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) through this feature to expedite the delivery of broadband infrastructure. In addition, 2 live BOW training/Q&A sessions will be held on Apr 19/20. Treasurer Deputy Clerk will plan to attend.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**77-23 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 employees; labour relations or employee negotiations; a meeting of a council or local board or of a committee of either of them may be closed to the public if the following conditions are both satisfied: 1. The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members. 2. At the meeting, no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 103 (1). Time 8:28 pm. CARRIED

**78-23 McLaren, Ivens**

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:58 pm. CARRIED

A Resolution was read with respect to the JBC Special meeting: THAT we acknowledge Building minutes of Apr 6, 2023; including recommend a wage increase for the CBO in the amount of \$25,000 effective Apr 13, 2023, and an annual increase of 4%. The Resolution couldn't achieve a seconder, and failed.

**ADJOURN**

**79-23 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Apr 24, 2023. CARRIED

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Mayor Lynda Carleton

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Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

**BP/tb**