

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 27, 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.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Feb 13, 2023 minutes, Resolution

37-23 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we adopt Feb 13, 2023 minutes. CARRIED

2. Consent Agreement 6-031, Resolution

Reviewed. Agreement is a Condition of Consent to implement the recommendations of the Environmental Impact Study and Lake Capacity Review; Bray Lake, Riding Ranch Rd, Lot 18, Con 12.

38-23 McLaren, Flowers

THAT we authorize the Mayor and Clerk Administrator to sign Consent Agreement 6-031. CARRIED

3. South River Machar Agricultural Society 142nd Fall Fair financial request

Reviewed. Discussed. Council are concerned about 2023 Budget. Approved \$1,679 for the wall.

4. South River Machar Agricultural Society proposal to jointly purchase an LED sign

Reviewed. Discussed. Proposes to jointly purchase an LED sign between 4 (Machar, South River, South River Lions, and Agricultural Society). Sign, cost, placement, annual costs, etc are unknown. Council expressed it's a good idea, but we simply don't have the time to participate in the research required right now, and request Agricultural Society come back when the proposal is further along.

COMMITTEES

5. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Jan; Arena and Fire

Reviewed. Items provided: Arena Chief Operator report for Jan 2023 (Ice plant running few hours with the reduced ice usage and colder temperatures, Condenser was ordered Jan 31), AP Ledger for Jan \$19,572.60 Total Expenditures, Income Statement for Jan (Salaries Full & Part Time Staff \$91.27, Revenue \$8,749.88 and Expenses \$3,149.46), Fire Chief's monthly report for Feb 2023 (Calls for Service: Rescue 2, Medical 2, Public Hazard 1, Other Response 4 = 9, submitted order for training text books through Fire Marshal Public Fire Safety Council Certification Grant), AP Ledger for Jan \$29,108.98 Total Expenditures, Income Statement for Jan (Revenue 0, Total Expenses \$11,478.06).

6. Shared Services; Arena and Fire 2022 Unaudited Year End Results

Preliminary (pre-audit) 2022 Arena deficit and Fire surplus provided for our Audit purposes. Arena reflects an amount owing for 2022 of \$5,581.54 (this is additional to the \$25,795.23 payment sent per Council Resolution 20-23 passed on Jan 20, 2023 which specified to ensure actual figures are for Arena only and to please remove any Tebby Park or similar costs). Fire reflects a Surplus of \$45,666.79 pending transfer to Reserve = \$165,255.05 Reserve + \$100,000 Funds held in Trust (Special Reserve). Arena Reserve = \$5,000. Further to Council inquiry at our last meeting, the Clerk Administrator followed up on Tebby Park or similar costs for our Audit. South River Clerk Administrator replied "The Arena budget and expense are calculated the same way, to the best of

my knowledge, as they were prior to my arrival in 2019 and when committee meetings were happening monthly. The history I show on Tebby Park indicates maintenance costs should be included in the joint budget. However if Councils agree that that is not correct I am not opposed to do the research to determine what Machar's credit should be. I suggest Machar may want to raise this as a Joint Council Agenda item." We've been unable to get South River to remove Tebby Park costs from Arena since discovering Park costs charged to Arena in Apr 2021, despite our continuous requests and our specifying payments were conditional upon this happening, our payments are for Arena. We don't pay towards each other's Park. We believe South River is in breach of the \$25,795.23 payment made by Machar on Feb 2, 2023 and in breach of the Shared Services Agreement which specifies Arena costs. To be addressed per SR Clerk Administrator's reply.

7. Shared Services; Joint Agenda items for Mar 6

Reviewed. Discussed. Council noted the purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss the draft budgets...(Oct 11, 2022 Shared Services Agreement, Section 4). Council feel the budgets should remain as the focus of the meeting, and the additional items can be reviewed at a later date.

8. Shared Services; Arena and Fire 2023 Budget updates

Reviewed. South River has provided 3rd drafts. The proposed cost to Machar for these services has been reduced \$8,971 from Draft 2 to Draft 3 (Arena -\$2,000 and Fire -\$6,971). This adjusts the tax impact from 4.5% to 4.2% to our taxpayers from Draft 2 to Draft 3. We believe the tax impact at 4.2% to our taxpayers for just these 2 services is too much. We still have several other Budgets and increases to consider, which will be added on top of the 4.2% tax impact. The proposed municipal share for Arena for Machar in 2023 is \$173,856 (an increase of 49% \$82,949.23 for Machar over what we budgeted 2022). The proposed municipal share for Fire for 2023 is now \$215,913 each (an increase of 13% ea/\$24,808 ea). Our own departments have come in at 1.98% and 1.67% for 2023.

We've just received the 2023 levy amounts from the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board which is up 2.6%, Eastholme Home for the Aged which is up 3.3%. and Ambulance Emergency Medical Services which is up 6.3%. We're mandated to pay these levies and these increases also get passed down to our taxpayers. We continue to encourage South River and the Departments for Arena and Fire to refine the Shared Services 2023 budgets. The Township feels an increase to the Fire Prevention Officer position unfortunately isn't possible at this time. Council remains concerned at the proposed increase amounts for both municipalities and we're reaching out to our taxpayers to get some input. Communication to be sent to SR and put on our website.

9. Machar Public Works minutes of Feb 16, 2023, Resolution

39-23 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Feb 16, 2023; including 2023 Budgets for Landfill at 1.67% increase and Roads at 1.98% increase, and 2023 Contracts for Parks at \$16,200 + HST and Cemeteries at \$7,905.91 + HST. CARRIED

10. Joint Building minutes of Feb 16, 2023, Resolution

40-23 Scarlett, Flowers

THAT we acknowledge JBC minutes of Feb 16, 2023. CARRIED

11. FONOM 2023 Conference; Connecting the North, Parry Sound, May 8-10

Awaiting agenda. Early bird registration deadline is by Apr 7.

12. FONOM joins with Police Depts and Assoc to discuss Catch and Release

During a FONOM meeting in Jul 2022, Sault Ste Marie's Police Chief Hugh Stevenson shared the current catch-and-release procedures. FONOM membership committed to create a Northern Task Force to focus on the issue. The 1st meeting of the task force was Feb 16, 2023. The FONOM 4 recommended amendments for Bill C-75 are: 1. Create a designation of a chronic persistent

offender, 2. Allow community impact statements at bail and at bail hearings, 3. Create reverse onus in bail for all firearm offences, and 4. Ensure bail-related firearm charges go to the superior court for bail hearing. Cyclical issues continue to cost municipalities, in staffing and financial resources.

13. FONOM Conference; Executive Award call for nominations

The purpose of this award is to honour an individual member of FONOM who has contributed in a special and meaningful way toward the enrichment and betterment of the lives of the residents of Northeastern Ontario and who has exerted tireless efforts over a period of years in promoting the objectives of FONOM regionally and provincially. Recipients must have served in an elected office in one of the municipalities within the FONOM membership district. Deadline is Apr 7, 2023.

14. N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; 2023 Municipal Levy

The Province provided mitigation funding to eliminate the 2022 increase for municipalities. 2023 Annual Levy is \$27,060.82 (down from \$28,232.54 in 2022). There is no indication at this time that there will be further transitional funding in 2024, so it would be prudent for municipalities to plan for an approximate 50% increase in 2024 on a similar shareable base of \$17,160,804.

15. N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; Finance and Property Committee/Board of Health meeting

Agendas can be viewed online. Board members are provided their complete agenda packages.

16. Armour Mayor Rod Ward update on MAHC Hospital Local Share

Updated overview slide deck provided with slightly changed numbers. The good news is they've now included the Township of Georgian Bay to get the full picture, and the overall numbers have dropped slightly. Per their updates, the total Almaguin share is about \$11.2 m total over 12 yrs. Mayor Ward indicates "All we can do as individual municipalities is look at our own situations to see what is feasible from a financial perspective"... "it's not a case of one size is going to fit all. We can only do what we can do. Just to be clear, however, if MAHC is unable to state by the Fall of 2023 that they will be able to meet the Local Share estimate and raise those funds, the hospital build project ends." Slide 12 suggests \$182,250 for Machar (\$15,187.50 per year). Mayor Ward has reached out to Mayor Carleton indicating "Although South River and Machar are not currently part of the Almaguin Highlands Health Council, there is an open invitation for you to take part. With respect to the Local Share, we would just be appreciative of anything your Council might be able to do in support of the MAHC hospital build, recognizing that you tend to affiliate more to the north."

17. District of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd; 2023 Apportionment Billing

2023 Municipal Levy per Apportionment = \$117,107 for Machar (up 2.6% from \$114,141 in 2022).

18. District of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd; CAO Report Feb 2023 AVAILABLE

INFORMATION

19. Almaguin Adult Learning, 2022 In Review, Bright Futures

20. Almaguin Highland Chamber of Commerce, Influential Women in Almaguin 2023

21. N Bay Parry Sound District News Release, National Kids and Vaccines Day! new opportunities to get your children up to date on their routine vaccinations; North Bay Mar 15, Parry Sound Mar 16

22. The Friends, Development of a Homeshare program across the region, Homesharing is a simple idea where two or more people share a home for mutual benefit

23. AMO Communications, AMO Policy Update, Release of Plan for Connected and Convenient Care, Phase II Regulations for Fixing Long-Term Care Act, and Provincial Emergency Management Plan

24. AMO Watchfile Feb 16, 2023 In This Issue

- AMO releases pre-budget submission
- AMO member resolution campaign on homelessness
- AMO housing and homelessness webinar on Feb 28
- 2023 PJ Marshall Municipal Innovation Award, Call for submissions

- 2023-2024 Seniors Community Grant applications
- New Community Transit Technology Guide available
- Intake open for Rural Economic Development funding
- OSUM Conference: Registration and accommodations are open
- OSUM Conference: Exhibitor information
- 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
- Save the date for AMO-LAS 2023 Energy Symposium: Nov 2-3
- New dates available for AMO's Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials training
- Canoe vendor spotlight: Rosenbauer
- Book your road/sidewalk survey today
- Talking ambulances with the Canoe webinar series
- Blog: Win your Excel Battle
- Careers: ONE, Cambridge, Simcoe, Brampton, and Thames Centre

25. AMCTO The Municipal Experts, Advocacy Update: 2023 Pre-Budget Submission

26. AMCTO The Municipal Minute Feb 15, 2023, Northern MPs not happy with redrawn federal electoral boundaries, Ontario releases first-ever emergency management and action plan, Judge orders Elliot Lake not to fill Mayor's position until appeal is heard, 'A growing movement:' Ontario town make 4-day work week permanent, Dryden debating changing trustee election process, Norfolk's aging system losing \$333,000 clean water annually, Kingston to lease its blue box sorting plants when curbside service shifts to waste producers, Toronto City Council approves CafeTO program changes and support for small businesses, Waterloo puts \$68M reconstruction project for housing on hold, blames Ontario legislation

27. AMCTO The Municipal Minutes Feb 22, 2023, What to expect when the Ontario legislature resumes sitting, OSWCA asks province to operate wastewater systems on full cost recovery model, Judge orders city council not to fill vacant seat, Do Ontarians want political parties in municipal elections, Developers are asking to build on more sections of Ontario's Greenbelt, Northwestern Ontario communities get policing discounts from province-say more needed, Proposed 160 bed Mississauga long term care facility to seek MZO support from Council, Cities explore the potential of ChatGPT, Practice empathy as a team, 3 powerful ways to reset a bad day and turn it into a good day- according to a social psychologist

INFORMATION – COVID-19

28. N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Public Service Announcement, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics This Week, the following clinics this week include: Parry Sound Feb 21, Sundridge Feb 22, N Bay Feb 23, Sturgeon Falls Feb 27

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

CLOSED SESSION

41-23 Flowers, Scarlett

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. Time 8:40 pm. CARRIED

42-23 McLaren, Flowers

THAT we come out of Closed Session with agreement as follows: close the Municipal Office from 12 – 1 pm for Mar 2023 due to staffing limitations, and recruit for a Finance Intern. CARRIED

ADJOURN

43-23 Ivens, Scarlett

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-law and that we adjourn until our Joint Shared Services meeting scheduled for Mon, Mar 6, 2023. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton
BP

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT