

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR**  
**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, January 22, 2024**

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

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Blair Flowers, Neil Scarlett, and Pearl Ivens. Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney, Finance Intern Jadah McLaren, and Superintendent of Public Works Clint Main.

Guests Scheduled: Tim Bryson, Tim Bryson Forestry Services, Mayor, Township of Strong.

Guests observing: Mark Savill, Justine Leveque, Mayor, Village of Sundridge, Wendy Whitwell, Councillor, Township of Armour, Jennifer Farquhar, Director, Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

**GUESTS**

**6:30-6:45 pm Tim Bryson presenting the case for Machar to become a participating member of the Almaguin Community Economic Development Association**

Mr. Bryson thanked Council for the opportunity to speak, that he was reaching out to Machar as it was fundamental in Central Almaguin Economic Development Association (CAEDA) and there is much to be celebrated through ACED, it runs very efficiently and brings lots of money into our community. He proceeded to read the provided brochure:

ACED represents the first regionally focused, collaborative economic development services department in Almaguin. Approximately \$9.4M has been invested in to economic development led projects and operations since 2014. 64% represents senior level government & partner contributions through grants. ACED promotes regionally inclusive and collaborative action that reduces duplicated efforts, lowers shared costs, and delivers shared benefits to all partners. IE: More partners = less costs + shared value. One department + three specialized staff members + shared direction from all member municipalities = maximum efficiency.

ACED is integrated into the network of support agencies that helps communities and businesses achieve their goals. Logos included: Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario, Prov of Ontario, NECO, The Labour Market Group, the business centre, Innovation Initiatives Ontario North, North Bay & Area Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot, Explorers EDGE, Women's Own Resource Centre, Discovery Routes, Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Employment North.

Major focus areas for the ACED Department include: Business support and development, Community development support, Economic development & strategy, Regional marketing, promotion, and tourism support, and Approved special events & projects.

A copy of the 2024-2027 ACED budget and projections has been included in the deputation package.

Current operational supports include: FedNor CIINO @ \$400,000 over 3 years, NOHFC Internship until Jun 2024. 2019-2023 Departmental Activities Highlights provided.

Mr. Bryson expressed the difficulty in showcasing all ACED has to offer due to client confidentiality agreements, but it's a very integrated approach with all members, that becoming a member allows you to know what's going on. Municipalities can't exactly help with zoning, but what are you doing for businesses? There are tangible and intangible outcomes here. Life doesn't abide by township boundaries, he stated, as Mayor Carleton would understand sitting on the FONOM board. ACED is really working on their Almaguin Region branding (80 committed brand ambassadors). FedNor and NOHFC attend every meeting and are very supportive. Other regions like Timmins and Espanola have reached out for advice based on ACED's success. ACED offers a specialized dept, saving each municipality staff time and money. They are reviewing a fee for service schedule for non-member users, so if Councillors get feedback from residents and businesses as they come looking for help with grant applications, that may be why. Mayor Carleton expressed concern about Magnetawan and Powassan leaving, and FedNor funding ending in 2027 leaving member prices to go up. Bryson suggested a misunderstanding with Powassan that is cleared up now, and he sees real support in the new Magnetawan Council. Paying by donation is an option, but it doesn't get you a seat at the table that full membership does. We all need to start thinking regionally. Councillor Scarlett was concerned about the heavy wages and the 10-20%

increase each of the next 3 years. Ms. Whitwell explained that's 3 employees with full time benefits, and as many budgets do, it's based off worse case scenarios. Mayor Carleton suggested that any extra funds we may be hoping for this year should go to healthcare. Mr. Bryson indicated ACED is helping with healthcare and housing. Ms. Leveque chimed in that support from the outlining townships is crucial in the villages. The villages do not have the same tax base the townships have and residents are using the village services. Council were further concerned if Machar's local businesses have any interest in the program, and suggest the program's budget could benefit from some reductions and/or capping. Further comparisons were made to the CAEDA experience. As a comparison, the budgeted cost for Strong is projected to go from \$21,145 in 2023 to \$66,468 in 2027.

## **BUSINESS**

### **1. Adoption of Jan 8, 2024 minutes, Resolution**

#### **13-24 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we adopt Jan 8, 2024 minutes. CARRIED

### **2. Annual By-Laws; Interest, Penalty, Interim Taxes, Resolution**

#### **14-24 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings and finally pass annual by-laws as follows: 2-24 to provide for interest to be added to Tax Arrears, 3-24 to establish a penalty charge for non payment of Current Taxes, 4-24 to provide for an Interim Tax Levy. CARRIED

### **3. Consent Application 5-093, Resolution**

#### **15-24 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we receive the Planning Report dated Jan 18, 2024 regarding the proposed Consent Application for the subject lands located at 73 Stone House Rd, Lot 22 and Part of Lot 21, Con 7 (File 5-093) and that Council recommend the following to the Central Almaguin Planning Board:

- 1) That the Application for Consent (to sever 1 new lot) on the subject lands located as described above be provisionally approved, subject to conditions listed in the report, including but not limited to:
  - a) That the ability of the lots to accommodate a septic be confirmed by the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority,
  - b) Confirmation from a licenced Sewage Disposal Business that they have the ability to accommodate hauled sewage from the 1 additional lot,
  - c) The standard conditions of provisional Consent be included in the decision as follows: the Township requires a copy of the decision, 3 copies of the registered survey or a digital copy of the survey, and a Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland payment in the amount of \$2,500 + HST per lot created = \$2,825.

### **4. Almaguin Highlands Health Council inquiry on OTN replacement contribution**

Mayor Carleton suggested donating it to MAHC. TDC advised that the unused \$2,500 held by the AHHC for the Ontario Telemedicine Network replacement is with a separate entity than Muskoka Almaguin Healthcare (MAHC) and would require requesting a return on the funds in order to donate it to MAHC. Mayor Carleton expressed concern that no other contributing municipality had requested a refund.

### **5. Pay List by Fund for Dec, Resolution**

#### **16-24 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we approve List of Approved Payments for Dec 2023: \$253,060.68 Grand Total. CARRIED

## **COMMITTEES**

### **6. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Dec, Arena and Fire**

Items provided: Fire Chief's monthly report for Jan 2024 (2 Assembly Occupancy inspections completed, Licensed marijuana grow operation inspection completed, Developing Pre-Incident plan for multi residential building, 2<sup>nd</sup> dispatch workstation set up...), Income Statement for Dec (Revenue 274.13%, Total Expenses 180.29%), AP Ledger for Dec \$13,960.89 Total Expenditures. Arena Chief Operator report for Dec 2023 (A plate of sheet metal in dehumidifier rusting out causing a loud hum when running, to be replaced if it stops running with the hope that the unit lasts until the new unit can be installed, hall has been used for hockey teams between games, a spaghetti dinner for minor hockey, a Christmas dinner for a local church and a couple birthday parties), Income Statement for Dec (Revenue at 109.08% and Expenses 95.04%), AP Ledger for Dec \$12,541.91 Total Expenditures.

#### **7. Shared Services Arena and Fire Budget Meetings, Joint Meeting**

Admin will forward Budget Worksheets when received. Councillors to check their schedules regarding the suggested Wed, Mar 13 for Joint Council meeting.

##### **17-24 Ivens, McLaren**

THAT we appoint Pearl Ivens and Ron McLaren to attend the Joint Arena and Fire Budget Meetings on Wed, Jan 24 and Wed, Feb 21, 2024. CARRIED

#### **8. Machar Public Works minutes of Jan 11, 2024, Resolution**

##### **18-24 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Jan 11, 2024. CARRIED

##### **a. Grader breakdown discussion**

The transmission on the 2007 grader has gone, SPW has sourced a quote to rebuild it plus some anticipated repairs over the next year as well a quote for a new and used grader replacement. It was felt the grader is pretty key in daily operations, the difference in price between repairing, replacing with used or new, that purchasing new was the most reliable and cost-effective route. Provider allows for a 3-6 month rental option that rolls into the purchase.

##### **19-24 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to execute Rental Agreement for a 2023 John Deere 770G Motor Grader c/w Wing, Front Lift Group, Straight Blade 11, date 01/18/2024, FURTHER THAT we instruct Administration to update and ensure insurance coverage. CARRIED

#### **9. Machar Recreation; Family Fun Day 2024**

Sun, Feb 18, 2023 from 3-7 pm. Council is happy to donate hot chocolate to the event. Public Works Dept has cleared the snow that was piled in the parking lot at the park's entrance ramp. SPW will gather the fire pit and benches for installation that day. Councillor Scarlett would like the "no pets" on the poster to be more pronounced.

#### **10. FONOM (Fed of N ON Munic) 2024 Conference, City of Greater Sudbury May 6-8**

Mayor Carleton and Pearl Ivens to attend the full conference, Councillor Scarlett to advise prior to registration cut off Apr 7.

#### **11. FONOM GoNorth Video Project showcasing a company from the Algoma District**

Showcasing SIS Manufacturing in Sault Saint Marie. [facebook.com/watch/?v=1053620522565760](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1053620522565760)

#### **12. DPSSSAB (Distr of Parry Sound Social Serv Admin Bd) area rep, CAO Report Jan 2024**

Available.

#### **13. Joint Building 2023 Reports and Permit Summaries, Resolution**

Councillor Scarlett advised that Twp of Strong is requesting a rent increase for JBC, now that Twp of Joly is no longer in the building. JBC is looking for \$6,000 to put towards a new website, independent of the Twp Strong website. This one would have the functionality to book appointments online.

**20-24 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we accept Joint Building 2023 Reports and Permit Summaries. CARRIED

**INFORMATION**

- 14. Township of Alnwick/Haldimand Resolution**, in support of Resolution from the County of Prince Edward for the Province to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to certain water taking activities, waste management systems and storm water management systems
- 15. Township of Larder Lake Resolution**, regarding a request for the province to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of “employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project
- 16. Town of Mono Resolution**, declaring a Road Safety Emergency calling on the province to take action to address traffic safety through measures including public education, increased Highway Traffic Act fines and expanded use of Automated Speed Enforcement
- 17. Almaguin Adult Learning Centre**, Our South River centre will be staying open until 7 pm on Tue, beginning Jan 16
- 18. Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) Resolution**, looking for support to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course
- 19. N Bay Parry Sound Distr Health Unit**, Project and Consent Information Strategic Planning Focus Groups, invite community partners to answer questions through a focus group setting, will help the Health Unit develop strategic priorities that will be implemented over the next 3-5 years
- 20. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) News Release, MAHC Recognized for Role in Organ and Tissue Donation**, MAHC is proud to be recognized with two awards from Ontario Health (Trillium Gift of Life Network) for its outstanding efforts to integrate organ and tissue donation into quality end-of-life care
- 21. MAHC News Release, Join MAHC for a Community Chat about the Future of Made-in-Muskoka Healthcare**, MAHC is hosting a series of community chats across the region, both in-person and virtually, starting Jan 29, 2024, to introduce the Made-in-Muskoka Healthcare system of the future
- 22. MAHC News Release, Help Shape Made-In-Muskoka Healthcare by Joining the Hospital Board**, Get involved in your local hospital by submitting your application to join the skills-based, community-oriented team of volunteer directors at MAHC as a board member or a committee appointee member of a standing committee
- 23. Desrochers, Pierrette (OMAFRA)**, Pesticide Safety Courses 2024
- 24. Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC)**, Invitation from Minister Greg Rickford, Minister Vic Fedeli, and the NOHFC Board of Directors for Wed Jan 24, 2024 – Please RSVP
- 25. AMO Events**, Book Your AMO 2024 Conference Hotel Tomorrow!
- 26. AMO Policy Update**, Social and Economic Prosperity Review
- 27. AMO Events**, Education, Register Today for Feb Workshops!
- 28. AMO Watchfile Jan 4, In This Issue**
  - AMO has moved!
  - New Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund
  - Data Standards for Planning and Development Applications
  - IESO Procurement #2 – Feedback on Proposed Process
  - Register for the IESO’s Energy Webinar
  - Renewal of Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan
  - Public Safety Personnel Mental Health Support
  - Applications Open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
  - ROMA Conference 2024: Pre-Register by Jan 15
  - AMO Hotel Release – Tue, Jan 9 at 10 am
  - Free webinar – Check out the latest version of RETScreen Expert!
  - Future of Aging Summit in May 2024
  - Careers: AMO, County of Frontenac and City of Thunder Bay
- 29. AMO Watchfile Jan 11, In This Issue**
  - AMO has moved!

- Survey: Help advance Ontario's modular housing sector
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
- ROMA Conference 2024: Pre-register by Jan 15
- AMO Education 2024
- Come to the City of Orillia for the 2024 OSUM Conference and Trade Show
- Blog: Three Strategies to Streamline Ontario Municipal FOI Programs
- Free webinar – Check out the latest version of RETScreen Expert!
- Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents
- Data standards for planning and development applications
- IESO Procurement #2 – Feedback on proposed process
- Register for IESO's energy webinars
- Future of Aging Summit in May 2024
- Careers: AMO, The Nation Municipality and City of Peterborough

**30. AMCTO Advocacy Update, MFIPPA Modernization**

**31. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Jan 10**, Conference Registration Opens Tomorrow – Thu Jan 11, Winter & Spring Education Correspondence Course Registration Ends Fri Jan 12, Welcome to the AMCTO Members Discussion Forums, Notice Requirements Without A Local Newspaper, Fundraising initiated/organized by Municipal Departments for Municipal Purposes, City of Toronto and CreateTO announce development partners for one of Ontario's largest co-operative and affordable housing projects, Ontario cities needs help – and cash – to meet 2025 accessibility deadline, advocates say, City of Ottawa moving to improve heritage protections for 19<sup>th</sup> century Water Works, Ford minister defends northern investments in mental health and addictions supports, Council defeats motion asking province to repeal strong mayors, building homes act, Concerns remain as London gets ready to roll out new green bin program, Province Releases Final Report of 4<sup>th</sup> Independent Review of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, Province Seeking Input on Modular Homes

**32. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Jan 17**, Assoc Program Highlights, AMCTO Spring Forums now open, Latest Member Discussions, Identifying Items for Separate Council Discussion, Industry News, Guelph getting \$21.4 M for housing in agreement with federal government, Auditor general – aggregate industry not in compliance, ministry not providing oversight, New Ontario cannabis rules could have Amazon effect on industry, Uber Canada looks to correct the record as Toronto mulls reinstating rideshare licence cap, Councillors push for EV chargers in new London apartment buildings, Ontario launches long term care home investigations...

**33. ROMA, Conference 2024: Register by Jan 15**

**34. Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario, MFOA Messenger**

**35. EV ChargeOn Program**, Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) Electric Vehicle (EV) ChargeON Program Update, to expand EV charging infrastructure, application deadline is Jan 31, 2024

**36. Pierrette Desrochers**, Sudbury East, Nipissing & Parry Sound Newsletter Jan 2024

Forwarded to Councillor McLaren

#### **ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE**

**Mikisew Provincial Park plowing compliment** – Curtis Cameron of Mikisew Prov Park expressed appreciation to the Public Works Dept for continuing to plow the front gate drive of the Park to allow the public to park while enjoying the winter trails maintained by the Park staff.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

**21-24 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; security of the property of the municipality or local board; personal matters about identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; labour relations or employee negotiations. Time 8:00 pm. CARRIED

**22-24 McLaren, Ivens**

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:35 pm. CARRIED

#### **ADJOURN**

**23-24 McLaren, 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, Feb 12, 2024. CARRIED

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Mayor Lynda Carleton

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Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney

**BP/AL/tb**