

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COBALT COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m.
MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Mayor Tina Sartoretto
Councillors Gary Bigelow
Mike Harrison
Sue Nielsen
Rochelle Schwartz

ABSENT:

Councillors George Othmer (with reason)
Perry Wuest (with reason)

Staff: Michelle Larose, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tina Sartoretto welcomed and wished everyone a Happy New Year and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF – NIL

3. APPROVAL/AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA

Resolution # 18-01

MOVED BY: Councillor Mike Harrison

SECONDED BY: Councillor Gary Bigelow

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the regular meeting for January 9, 2018, as amended.

CARRIED

Items added: 10.8 Sidewalk Issue – Councillor Rochelle Schwartz
10.9 Transit Snow Issue – Councillor Rochelle Schwartz
10.10 Absence – Councillor Gary Bigelow

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution # 18-02

MOVED BY: Councillor Gary Bigelow

SECONDED BY: Councillor Mike Harrison

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting of December 1, 2017 and the Committee of the Whole minutes of December 4th, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - NIL

6. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Josée Noël of Agnico Eagle and Ken Korman of Story Environmental made a presentation of the Cobalt Lake Beaches Rehabilitation. Ms. Noël explained that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) identified Cobalt Lake tailings as a potential exposure area since it is open to the air. They have monitored the water levels and have found that the best way to limit exposure and oxidation would be to have the material under water. A weir will be installed to act like a beaver dam to maintain the water levels in these areas without affecting the rest of the lake.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Council directed staff to prepare a motion for the next council meeting in support of the project.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Action List

Council reviewed the Action List.

8.2 2018.ML.001.DR – CAO/Clerk-Treasurer Staff Report for December 2017

Council reviewed the report.

8.3 2018.ML.001.ISS – Tax Collection Policy

CAO, Michelle Larose, introduced the Tax Collection Report regarding registering properties that have fallen into tax arrears for 3 years. Legislation has changed where Municipalities may now register tax certificates after 2 years of being in arrears. Council concurred with the recommendation to change the period for 3 years to 2 years and directed the CAO to bring it back to the next council meeting for formal approval.

9. CORRESPONDENCE – FOR INFORMATION

Items 9.1-9.10 were received for information.

CORRESPONDENCE – FOR ACTION

9.11 Letter from Maurice Dupuis re: Purchase of 140 Lang Street, Cobalt, Ontario

Council reviewed the letter and directed the CAO to put it on the agenda for the next Council Meeting.

9.12 Email from Anthony Rota, MP regarding Canada Summer Jobs

CAO, Michelle Larose indicated that the Town would be applying for funding.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Fraser Building – Update

The CAO reported that there were no major issues at the Fraser building. Council discussed parking at the medical clinic. This has yet to be resolved as Dr. Sears had not sent anything directly to the Town. Ms. Larose indicated that she would contact Dr. Sears.

10.2 Silver Inventory – Mining Museum

Councillor Sue Nielsen questioned whether the Mining Museum had an inventory of the collection as it belongs to the Town.

Direction was given to staff to follow up on the matter.

10.3 Code of Conduct – Workplace Safety and Security

Councillor Sue Nielsen addressed Council regarding the incident that took place at the December 2017 meeting of Council as well as past occurrences that indicate a level of behaviour that lowers the standards by which this Council should operate.

She said that "Yelling, bullying and harassing behaviour directed at fellow councillors, the mayor and towards staff cannot be tolerated nor accepted as the norm."

Councillors' job is to come to the table and discuss matters as it is the workplace of Council. It is the staff's workplace, so it must be a safe and secure place to conduct business.

Councillor Nielsen pointed out that to her knowledge, there has not been a code of conduct violation issued for the events that occurred in December 2017. The parameters of good behaviour are set by the code of conduct that all municipalities have at their disposal.

Councillor Nielsen asked why we have a code of conduct if it isn't being used. She requested that the Mayor enforce the code of conduct.

10.4 Medical Office

Mayor Sartoretto indicated that Dr. Sears Office has now moved to the new offices at 24 Prospect Avenue. Council discussed options for the vacant space. It was determined that it was too small to house the Hoist Room. Council directed staff to determine the market rate for renting the space.

10.5 Sale of Arena

Mayor Sartoretto indicated that the sale of the arena will be finalized by the end of January 2018 for a price of \$100,000.

10.6 Hoist Room/ Arena Equipment

Mayor Sartoretto discussed the Hoist Room and arena equipment. Direction was given to staff to get an inventory of the arena and Hoist Room equipment.

10.7 Cobalt Solar Park

Mayor Sartoretto advised that the park is now connected and generating power as of December 18, 2017.

10.8 Sidewalk Issue – Councillor Schwartz

Councillor Rochelle Schwartz indicated that the sidewalks from her home to the meeting were not cleared and wanted to know why.

Staff was directed to follow up on the matter.

10.9 Transit Snow Issue – Councillor Schwartz

Councillor Rochelle Schwartz indicated that a transit bus was stuck on Cobalt Hill on November 18th, 2017. She asked why the CAO was contacted and not the Public Works staff and why it took so long for the CAO to respond.

The CAO replied indicating that it did not take until 12:00 p.m. to get back to Temiskaming Shores as everything was taken care of by approximately 10:30 a.m. CAO, Michelle Larose advised that she received an email at 7:23 a.m. and responded to Mr. Lafreniere at 10:11 a.m. Ms. Larose also indicated that she had contacted the Public Works Lead Hand and the crew were aware and were going to spread more sand on the hill for the bus.

Mayor Sartoretto added that after the Transit Committee Meeting, she followed up with the Lead Hand who indicated that the weather was particularly bad that day, and staff had already been around with the plow sander and were on their second run when the bus got stuck. She also noted that no one else had difficulty negotiating Cobalt Hill that day.

10.10 Absence – Gary Bigelow

Councillor Gary Bigelow indicated that he would be away from January 10th, 2018 for one month and would call in for meetings.

11. CLOSED SESSION – NIL

12. BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION - NIL

13. CONFIRMATION BY-LAW

Resolution # 18-03

MOVED BY: Councillor Gary Bigelow

SECONDED BY: Councillor Sue Nielsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2018-01, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt, be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 9th day of January 2018;

AND FURTHER THAT the said by-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and recorded in the by-law book.

CARRIED

14. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution # 18-04

MOVED BY: Councillor Gary Bigelow


SECONDED BY: Councillor Sue Nielsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

CARRIED



Mayor



Clerk