

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**MARCH 17, 2020**  
**MINUTES**  
**COBALT BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTRE (SECONDARY LOCATION)**

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**Present:**

**Mayor** George Othmer

**Councillors:** Pat Anderson  
 Joe Dube  
 Bill Gabbani  
 Matthew Johnson  
 Doug Wilcox  
 Angela Adshead (via telephone)

**Staff:** Brian Walker, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Othmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

Councillor Dube declared a conflict of interest with item 5.6 – Downtown Revitalization Fund as he has provided quotes.

**3. Approval/Amendment of Meeting Agenda****RESOLUTION No. 2020-54**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Dube

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Johnson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated March 17, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

**4. Approval of the Minutes****RESOLUTION No. 2020-55**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Council approve the following minutes as presented:

4.1 Committee of the Whole Meeting – March 3, 2020

4.2 Special Meeting of Council – March 9, 2020

CARRIED

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**5.1 Partnership with University of Guelph and Temiskaming Rift Valley Aspiring Geopark re: Geothermal Study Update. (For information)**

CAO Walker presented to Council an email update from Professor Mostafa Elsharqawy outlining the timeline for preparation of a proposal and when NSERC grant will be submitted. Councillor Wilcox suggested that a proposal be prepared by May 2020, to give time for review by Council.

**5.2 Financial Assistance Policy for Sustaining and Other Grants - for non-profit organizations only**

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-56**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gabbani

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approve the Financial Assistance Policy for Sustaining and Other Grants and directs staff to present the corresponding By-law.

CARRIED

**5.3 Property Tax Collection Arrears Notice.**

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-57**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Dube

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Johnson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council accept the staff recommendations from the Administrative Report on Property Tax Collection Arrears Notice as presented to Council on March 3, 2020 and directs staff to give public notice of the implementation beginning April 1, 2020.

CARRIED

**5.4 David Bridges re: Dr. Drummond Memorial Park proposal Update**

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-58**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Johnson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approve the partnership with Mr. David Brydges in order to develop the Dr. Drummond Memorial Park to be located at 38 Lang St in Cobalt.

CARRIED

**5.5 Amendment to Fee Structure for Fire Permits**

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-59**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gabbani

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council accept the staff recommendations from the Administrative Report on Amendment to the Fee Structure for Fire Permits as presented to Council on March 3, 2020 and directs staff to give public notice of the implementation as of January 1, 2020 and adjust the rates as follows: January 1 to May15 - \$20.00 and May 16 to December 31 - \$30.00

CARRIED

## 5.6 Main Street Revitalization Expenditure

### RESOLUTION No. 2020-59

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

Councillor Joe Dube declared a conflict of interest, left the meeting during the discussion, did not participate in the vote, and returned after the discussion.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council reviewed the Main Street Revitalization report and approve the following expenditures. (all invoices are + HST)

1. Profile Plus Invoice # COB-001: Outdoor 3 Outdoor Charcoal BBQ Pits in the amount of \$764.55
2. Profile Plus Invoice # COB-002: 10 Plant box Hangers in the amount of \$259.20
3. Profile Plus Invoice # COB-003: One Hundred Mines Signage in the amount of \$1,742.71

AND THAT the costs be placed under the funding for the Main Street Revitalization Fund.

CARRIED

## 6. Inquiries – Members of the General Public

None

## 7. Delegations and Presentations

None

## 8. Business Arising from Delegations and Presentations

None

## 9. Correspondence

None

## 10. By-Laws

### 10.1 By-Law No. 2020-10 Financial Assistance Policy for non-profit entities

#### RESOLUTION No. 2020-60

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Dube

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Johnson

*WHEREAS the Town of Cobalt does not have a policy to assess the requests from non-profit entities for financial assistance,*

*AND WHEREAS Council requested a policy be drafted to gather information in which to make an informed decision and a draft policy was presented for Council review at the March 3, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting,*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law No. 2020-10 being a By-law to adopt the Financial Assistance Policy for Sustaining and Other Grants, attached as Schedule A - Policy and Schedule B - Application and Post Grant Report as be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020,*

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

CARRIED

## 11. General Business

### 11.1 Approval of the Schedules

#### RESOLUTION No. 2020-61

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dube

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Council receives the following Schedules as presented:

- 1) Schedule No. 2020-04 in the amount of \$420,368.94
- 2) Schedule No. 2020-05 in the amount of \$240,911.75

CARRIED

### 11.2 COVID-19 Emergency Management Plan

Council discussed measures to be taken in response to COVID-19 pandemic in the current state we are in. Concerns about the Food Bank being operated by a volunteer group comprised of Seniors and measures that can be taken to help protect them, also adjustment to office policies to ensure critical services are still being delivered to the Town, challenges acquiring PPE and the protection of staff while working during this pandemic, preparing to conduct Town Council meetings via video/tele conferencing and posting video online afterwards.

#### RESOLUTION No. 2020-62

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gabbani

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt Wishart LLP's Coronavirus Policy as the first step in the Town of Cobalt Emergency Management plan and direct staff to distribute it to everyone in the organization.

CARRIED

### 11.2 Staff Report re Use of Corporate Credit Card

#### RESOLUTION No. 2020-63

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** Council approve the request by the Public Works department be provided with a Town Corporate Visa card to improve efficiencies in making purchases below spending thresholds as laid out in the Towns procurement policy.

CARRIED

## 12. Motion for which prior notice has been given

None

**13. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Othmer spoke about concern for Town staff and all members of the community and public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Othmer acknowledged the staff's efforts and working together to stamp out the spread of the virus in Cobalt. Mayor Othmer spoke to the importance of closing public access to all Municipal buildings.

**14. Notices of Motion**

None

**15. Councillor Updates**

**15.1** Councillor Gabbani inquired about motions at the C.O.W. meetings and Special meetings of Council.

**15.2** Councilor Johnson spoke of vulnerable members of the community coming into his shop to express concerns about the current pandemic.

**16. Question and Answer**

Councillor Gabbani requested the consequence for those that are overloading garbage bins. CAO Walker stated that further education may be required and that matters should be referred to the By-law Officer for action.

Councillor Wilcox requested an update on the towing authority as there is an issue where a resident is impeding snow removal services. CAO Walker stated he is sending a letter to that resident and is working with the By-law Officer to complete the updates on the By-law.

**16. Closed Session**

Closed session was postponed until the next meeting of Council.

**17. Business Arising from Closed Session**

None

**18. Confirmation By-Law****RESOLUTION No. 2020-64**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gabbani

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** By-Law No 2020-11 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March,

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

CARRIED

**19. Adjournment****RESOLUTION NO. 2020-65**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Andersen

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dube

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Regular meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

CARRIED

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Mayor

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Clerk