

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF COUNCIL  
COBALT COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
TUESDAY MARCH 3, 2020  
MINUTES**

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**PRESENT:**

**Mayor** George Othmer

**Councillors:** Angela Adshead  
Pat Anderson  
Joe Dube  
Bill Gabbani  
Matthew Johnson  
Doug Wilcox

**Staff:** Brian Walker, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer  
Dale Taylor, Deputy 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 Section 9 (9.4) – Downtown Revitalization Fund as his company has provided a quote.

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-042**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Wilcox  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council agree to waive procedure in order to allow presenter 7.1 EXP, as well as, MMAH to present after Section 3 Approval/Amendment of the Agenda as requested by those presenters due to travelling requirements after their respective presentation to Council.

CARRIED

**3. Approval/Amendment of Meeting Agenda****RESOLUTION No. 2020-43**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Johnson  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dube

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approve the agenda of the Committee of the Whole meeting dated March 3, 2020 as amended.

CARRIED

7.1 EXP

Alex O’Beirn was present to provide an update on the status of the Water Plant Project. Due to technical difficulties, the 3D model of the Water Plant was not presented and will be brought to the next meeting. Alex provided quotes for 2 issues that need to be addressed as that could be covered under the contingency.

- 1) the licence upgrade from 25 to 100 screens for the chart recorder - EXP \$1,850.00
- 2) pipe supports as recommended by Public Works staff – EXP \$1,250.00, Pedersen - \$6,080.00

He further stated the gaskets that were installed were not as NSF-61 rated as per plan specifications and would be replaced by the installer at no cost to the Town.

Council will review the quotes and get back to Mr. O’Beirn.

7.2 MMAH (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing)

Lise Roy and Liana Bacon were in attendance to present Council with the Financial Indicator Review (FIR) for the year ending 2018. They explained that the FIR is a data collection document for all Municipalities and is used as an assessment tool for monitoring the financial condition of the Municipality as well as assessing funding such as OMPF. They reviewed all 7 financial indicators showing Cobalt’s level of risk as compared to the average of other similar sized Municipalities. They indicated that the tax receivable level is rated high but that the staff are using the recommended tools for collections and are achieving success in collecting arrears. The Municipality is in the low risk level for net assets/net debt and has been for some time. The Ministry would like The Municipality to adopt a Reserve/Reserve Funds Policy which would state, where possible, a specific dollar amount or a % would be allocated to the Reserve fund. Building up to a \$60,000 reserve fund would move the Municipality out of the high risk level for Reserve indicators. They listed a series of training sessions on various topics that could be presented to upon request.

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-044**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dube

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council request Lise Roy from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) attend a Special Meeting of Council to provide a Council and Staff Roles and Responsibility Training presentation on April 15, 2020.

Recorded Vote:	F	A
Councillor Johnson		X
Councillor Adshead		X
Councillor Anderson	X	
Councillor Dube	X	
Councillor Gabbani	X	
Councillor Wilcox		X
Mayor Othmer	X	

F – 4 A – 3

CARRIED

CAO Walker stated he will review the prior training sessions presented by Wishart and craft the course content to avoid overlap. Mayor Othmer stated sessions from the MMAH are provided to the Municipality at no cost.

#### 4. Approval of the Minutes

##### RESOLUTION No. 2020-45

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Gabbani

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dube

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

Regular meeting of Council – February 18, 2020

CARRIED

#### 5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- 5.1 Partnership with University of Guelph and Temiskaming Rift Valley Aspiring Geopark  
re: Geopark Geothermal Study

##### RESOLUTION No. 2020-46

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Johnson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council express interest in partnering with the University of Guelph and Temiskaming Rift Valley Aspiring Geopark for the purpose of applying for NSERC funding for a two (2) year geothermal feasibility study of the water energy resource found in the abandoned mine workings under the Town of Cobalt and will review agreement once received.

DEFERRED

- 5.2 Financial Assistance Policy for Sustaining and other Grants – for non-profit organizations only

##### RESOLUTION No. 2020-47

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Dube

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

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

DEFERRED

#### 6. Inquiries – Members of the General Public

None

#### 7. Delegations and Presentations

7.3 Kyle Audette re: Update on Recreation programs and coming events – rescheduled to later date  
Councillor Johnson requested that in the future, Council receive notice before the public notice of the launch of a partnership event involving the Town. CAO Walker explained that notice was not given on the previous agenda as the item did not make the agenda deadline. Councillor Wilcox said the CAO could consider waiving the timelines in those situations.

7.4 David Brydges – Dr Dummond Memorial Park proposal, Spring Pulse Poetry Festival  
David updated Council on the status of the proposed Dr Dummond Memorial Park and the encouragement and support he is receiving from the poet community on a National level.  
In order to move forward he is requesting:

- 1) A lease arrangement with the Municipality so he can apply for grant funding
- 2) Confirmation the Municipality will administer the project. He will act as Project Manager.

Staff was directed to:

- 1) contact the Municipal Insurer to inquiry about liability responsibility for leased Municipal land
- 2) if no issues, create a 10 year lease with an opt out option with a lease rate of \$1.00 per year
- 3) submit a staff report to Council with respect to Project Administration and the impact on Administration

Spring Pulse Poetry Festival – CAO Walker informed Council that the request from the Poetry Festival to accept the Temiskaming Foundation funds as a flow through and request Public Works set up a tent was the same as in previous years and is easily accommodated. Council agreed with the request.

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-48**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Johnson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council receive the delegations and presentations items 7.1 to 7.4 as presented.

CARRIED

**8. Business Arising from Delegations and Presentations**

None

**9. Staff and Committee Reports**

9.1 Draft Newsletter

Council review the draft newsletter and provided input.

9.2 Amendment to fee structure for Fire Permits

Council reviewed the proposed fee structure that allows for a reduced fee for applications for fire permits received between Jan 1st and May 15th of each year. This should reduce the congestion of applications that the Fire Chief needs to process during the summer months and improve efficiency for the residents. Inspections would occur when the season allows. Council requested the current By-law be circulated for their review.

9.3 Property tax collection arrears notice – presented for Council review

9.4 Main Street Revitalization Fund report

Councillor Joe Dube declared a conflict of interest, left the meeting during the discussion and returned after the discussion.

Council reviewed the staff report from the OMAFRA Main Street Revitalization Grant of \$38,643.00.

To date the Grant has been expensed on Christmas Lights and installation for the downtown park, accessible doors for various Municipal buildings and themed metal benches for various locations in Town. The balance of funds remaining to be spent are at approximately \$4,000.00. CAO Walker reminded Council that the Grant was conditional upon funds being spent prior to March 31, 2020. In keeping with the theme previously discussed, Council reviewed the quote of \$2,251.76 from Profile Plus Metal Arts for 10 themed metal plant hangers and the fabrication a metal 100 Mines Sign. Council agreed to accept the quote and to expense the items and associated installation materials to the Grant. A resolution will be presented at the next Council meeting.

9.5 Animal Control monthly report – Roxanne St. Germain reported that the Fundraising Dinner collected \$2,200.00 which will go towards spay/neuter fees. They have also implementation a program at Extendicare which has been very well received. She suggested the PAWS (Animal Cruelty) number should be posted on the Town's website as enforcement has changed hands.

9.6 By-law Enforcement monthly report – A report was not received.

9.7 Public Works monthly report – Councillor Wilcox reviewed the monthly report with Council. The Department is requesting a credit card and an Esso fleet card. Both requests are to provide efficiency with completing their tasks. CAO Walker stated he was working on developing a Policy. Staff was directed to provide a report on both requests for Council consideration. Public Works requested approval to contract a triaxle for 2-3 days to haul snow to prevent flooding issues. Staff was directed to ensure that an RFP for this service would be posted as per the Purchasing Policy.

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-49**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Johnson  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dube

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council receive Staff and Committee reports items 9.1 to 9.7 as presented.

CARRIED

**10. Correspondence**

- 10.1 Chamber of Commerce - Growth and Change in 2020 – for Council information
- 10.2 Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum – request for donation – deferred
- 10.3 Golden Age Club – request for Bocce Ball Court – Council approved the request and directed Staff to prepare a resolution for the next meeting.

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-50**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Wilcox  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council receive correspondence items 10.1 to 10.3 as presented.

CARRIED

**11. Other Business**

- 11.1 Review of draft Business Licensing Policy – for Council review
- 11.2 Review of draft Property Tax Policy – for Council review

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-51**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Johnson  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dube

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council reviewed items 11.1 and 11.2 as presented and direct staff to prepare the necessary By-laws.

DEFERRED

**12. Closed Session**

None

**13. Business Arising from Closed Session**

None

**14. Confirmation By-Law**

**RESOLUTION No. 2020-52**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Adshead

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** By-Law No 2020-08 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole meeting of Council be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 3<sup>rd</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

**15. Adjournment**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-53**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Adshead

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

CARRIED

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk