

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

## SPECIAL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL January 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. MINUTES

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**Present:**

**Mayor:** Mita Gibson

**Councillors:** Pat Anderson  
Harry Cooper  
Gary Hughes  
Angela Hunter  
Jim Starchuk  
Doug Wilcox

**Staff:** S. Dalley, Town Manager/Clerk-Treasurer  
D. Taylor, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer  
C. Beaudoin, Administrative Clerk  
A. Williams, Public Works Superintendent

1. **Call to Order:**

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

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

Nil

3. **Approval/Amendment of the Agenda**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-27**

**MOVED BY:** H. Cooper

**SECONDED BY:** D. Wilcox

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approve the agenda of the Special Meeting dated January 25, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

4. **Closed Session**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-28**

**MOVED BY:** A. Hunter

**SECONDED BY:** H. Cooper

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council convene in Closed Session in order to address matters pertaining to the Town of Cobalt Public Library in accordance with Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*, subsections:

- i. (2)(f) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- ii. (3.1) Education or training session – Council training

CARRIED

The open portion of the meeting resumed at 8:19 p.m.

**5. Business Arising from Closed Session**

Nil

**6. Special Business**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-29**

**MOVED BY:** Nil

**SECONDED BY:** Nil

**WHEREAS** Council for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt established a Public Library by adopting By-Law 1148 in 1961 in accordance with the *Public Libraries Act* which was amended by By-Law 89-18 to establish the composition of the Library Board;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Municipal Act* and the *Public Libraries Act* have been updated since the establishing provisions were set;

**AND WHEREAS** Council for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt has adopted a By-Law endorsing a Move Forward Strategy having determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to modernize in an effort to become more effective and efficient in its delivery of service;

**AND WHEREAS** Council believes it is in the best interest of the Town to update the By-Law establishing the Library Board;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council for the Town of Cobalt directs as follows:

- 1. That the Town Manager draft an updated By-Law establishing a Library to be presented to Council at the February Committee of the Whole meeting which shall include:
  - i. The composition of the Library Board be an odd number (minimum of 5, maximum of 9) members, up to three (3) of whom shall be members of Council;
  - ii. All services the Town will provide to the Library;
  - iii. Ethical and administrative practices required of the Board and the employees and volunteers of the Library;
  - iv. Reporting relationship between the Library and the Town; and
  - v. The process Council will undertake to appoint Library Board members.

2. That the Library Board appointed for the 2018-2022 term of Council remain in place until the new Library Board is struck and that this will be a period of transition;
3. That the Library Board Chair prepares a report for Council outlining all urgent matters currently under consideration by the Library Board;
4. That Council will undertake the following process for the appointment of the new Library Board:
  - i. Candidates who have already submitted their name will be interviewed by Council at an open meeting using predetermined questions;
  - ii. Questions will be circulated to Candidates prior to the meeting for them to prepare their responses;
  - iii. Candidates will be rated on their response to each question by each member of Council;
  - iv. The Town Manager shall record each of the ratings and then calculate the average for each Candidate; and
  - v. The top Candidates will be appointed as the Library Board for the 2022-2026 Council Term.

The motion was not tabled and therefore not voted on.

Council agreed to have item #2 appointing the members read as a separate motion.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-30**

**MOVED BY:** D. Wilcox

**SECONDED BY:** A. Hunter

**WHEREAS** Council for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt established a Public Library by adopting By-Law 1148 in 1961 in accordance with the *Public Libraries Act* which was amended by By-Law 89-18 to establish the composition of the Library Board;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Municipal Act* and the *Public Libraries Act* have been updated since the establishing provisions were set;

**AND WHEREAS** Council for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt has adopted a By-Law endorsing a Move Forward Strategy having determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to modernize in an effort to become more effective and efficient in its delivery of service;

**AND WHEREAS** Council believes it is in the best interest of the Town to update the By-Law establishing the Library Board;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council for the Town of Cobalt directs as follows:

1. That the Town Manager draft an updated By-Law establishing a Library to be presented to Council at the February Committee of the Whole meeting which shall include:

- i. The composition of the Library Board be an odd number (minimum of 5, maximum of 9) members, up to three (3) of whom can be members of Council and must be less than the required quorum.
  - ii. All services the Town will provide to the Library;
  - iii. Ethical and administrative practices required of the Board and the employees and volunteers of the Library;
  - iv. Reporting relationship between the Library and the Town; and
  - v. The process Council will undertake to appoint Library Board members.
2. That an Interim Board of Directors shall be appointed and that this will be a period of transition;
  3. That the Library Board conducts regular routine business only during the transition period and specifically that:
  4.
    1. There will be no hiring or dismissal of any employee prior to passing the updated By-Law;
    2. There will be no disposition of any real or personal property which has a value exceeding \$500.00 at the time of dismissal;
    3. There will be no expenditures or incurring any other liability which exceeds \$500.00
  5. That the Library Chair prepares a report for Council outlining all urgent matters currently under consideration by the Library Board.

CARRIED

8:25 Mayor Gibson asked a member of the audience to leave the Council Chambers.

8:38 Mayor Gibson asked a member of the audience to leave the Council Chambers.

Councillor Anderson apologized to the audience on behalf of Council for the current situation.

Mayor Gibson and Councillor Starchuk declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion and did not participate in the vote.

Mayor Gibson appointed Deputy Mayor D. Wilcox as Chair.

9:19 Deputy Mayor Wilcox asked a member of the audience to leave the Council Chambers.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-31**

**MOVED BY:** G. Hughes

**SECONDED BY:** P. Anderson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the original Cobalt Public Library Board be reinstated.

All members of the original Board declined to be reinstated.

The motion was withdrawn, and no vote was taken.

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Mayor Gibson and Councillor Starchuk declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in the discussion and did not participate in the vote.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-32**

**MOVED BY:** A. Hunter  
**SECONDED BY:** G. Hughes

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council for the Town of Cobalt directs as follows:

That an Interim Board of Directors composed of (5) members be appointed and that this will be a period of transition.

- 1. Sabrina Somersall
- 2. Jennifer Pereira
- 3. Doug Wilcox, Council representative
  - C. McNaught - declined
  - J. Beeson - declined
  - M. Johnson – declined

No vote was taken.

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-33**

**MOVED BY:** H. Cooper  
**SECONDED BY:** G. Hughes

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Cobalt Public Library remain under the supervision of the Municipal Town Manager until such time as Council is able to fill the positions on the Library Board.

CARRIED

**7. Adjournment**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-34**

**MOVED BY:** H. Cooper  
**SECONDED BY:** J. Starchuk

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Special Meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

CARRIED

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk