

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL March 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. MINUTES

Present:

Mayor: Mita Gibson

Councillors: Pat Anderson
Gary Hughes
Jim Starchuk
Doug Wilcox

Absent: Harry Cooper (with notice)
Angela Hunter (with notice)

Staff: S. Dalley, Town Manager/Clerk-Treasurer
D. Taylor, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
C. Beaudoin, Administrative Clerk

Media Moderator**1. Call to Order**

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

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Nil

3. Public Meetings

Nil

4. Deputations/Delegation

Integrity Commissioner Report Presentation re: Mayor Gibson by E4M IC Consultant Colleen Hannigan

Ms. Hannigan presented her report and recommendations in response to the 5 complaints she received regarding Mayor Gibson's letter to the former Cobalt Public Library Board.

The report will be made public and will be presented at the next meeting for Council's consideration.

5. **Approval/Amendment of Meeting Agenda**

RESOLUTION No. 2023-70

MOVED BY: D. Wilcox

SECONDED BY: J. Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated March 21, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Approval of Previous Council Minutes**

RESOLUTION No. 2023-71

MOVED BY: P. Anderson

SECONDED BY: J. Starchuk

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

Regular Meeting of Council – February 21, 2023

Special Meeting of Council – March 1, 2023

Committee of the Whole Meeting – March 7, 2023

CARRIED

7. **Items for Council consideration**

7.1 **Motion to accept Procedural By-Law re: meeting February 21, 2023**

RESOLUTION No. 2023-72

MOVED BY: P. Anderson

SECONDED BY: D. Wilcox

WHEREAS motions were tabled at the Regular meeting of Council on February 21, 2023, which were not properly filed in accordance with section 9.1 of By-Law 2022-25 being a By-Law to Govern The Procedures of Council;

AND WHEREAS adding and considering such motions are contrary to the process adopted by Council and may also be seen as contravention of section 239 of the *Municipal Act* related to the open meeting rules;

AND WHEREAS said motions being moved, seconded, debated and decided without suspending section 9.1 of the Procedure By-Law to allow the motions to be properly introduced and considered by Council put the Town at risk of complaints made to the office of the Ontario Ombudsman as well as other legal challenges;

AND WHEREAS in the interest of transparency and accountability to the ratepayers of the Town of Cobalt it is recommended that section 9.1 be suspended with respect to the addition of items 10.2 and 10.3 and the passing of resolutions 2023-58 and 2023-59 at the February 21, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council;

AND WHEREAS Council can pass such a motion retroactively;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt hereby suspend section 9.1 of By-Law 2022-52, commonly known as the Procedure Bylaw, with respect to actions taken at the Regular Meeting of Council on February 21, 2023 to formally allow the addition, consideration and debate of items 10.2 and 10.3 as were added to the Agenda without proper notice;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the result of the vote on items 10.2 and 10.3 be deemed to be legal and binding on the Corporation as if they had been passed in accordance with the provisions established in By-Law 2022-52.

CARRIED

7.2 Motion to accept Township of Coleman – notice of Council appointment to the Cobalt Public Library Board.

RESOLUTION No. 2023-73

MOVED BY: G. Hughes

SECONDED BY: J. Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council supports the Township of Coleman’s Resolution 2023-82 – Appointment of Councillor Marilyn Lubbock as Coleman Township’s representative to the Cobalt Public Library Board;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Township of Coleman and the Cobalt Public Library Board

DEFERRED

7.3 Motion for support for the Town of Kirkland Lake’s Motion – Bill 42 Gender Affirming Healthcare Act

RESOLUTION No. 2023-74

MOVED BY: P. Anderson

SECONDED BY: D. Wilcox

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council supports the Town of Kirkland Lake’s Motion – Bill 42 Gender Affirming Healthcare Act;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of the resolution be forwarded to Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario.

CARRIED

7.4 Motion for support for the Township of Evanturel – Request for Phlebotomy Services in North End of the District of Timiskaming

RESOLUTION No. 2023-75

MOVED BY: G. Hughes

SECONDED BY: P. Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council supports the Township of Evanturel’s Motion – Concerns Limited Phlebotomy Services – North End – District of Temiskaming;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health Province of Ontario.

CARRIED

Items for Council information

RESOLUTION No. 2023-76

MOVED BY: D. Wilcox
SECONDED BY: P. Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the items for Council consideration and information as presented.

CARRIED

8. By-Laws and Agreements

8.1 By-Law No. 2023-09 Electronic Signing of Documents

RESOLUTION No. 2023-77

MOVED BY: P. Anderson
SECONDED BY: J. Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2023-09 being a By-Law to authorize the electronic signing of documents for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt be taken as read a first, second and third time and passed this 21st day of March 2023;

AND FURTHER THAT said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

9. Unfinished Business

Nil

10. New Business

10.1 Schedule of Accounts

RESOLUTION No. 2023-78

MOVED BY: G. Hughes
SECONDED BY: D. Wilcox

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

Schedule No. 2023-04 in the amount of \$129,035.65.

Schedule No. 2023-05 in the amount of \$149,622.84.

CARRIED

10.2 Ad-Hoc Committee to review Draft Budget for 2023

RESOLUTION No. 2023-79

MOVED BY: D. Wilcox

SECONDED BY: J. Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an Ad-Hoc Committee be formed to create a Budget Working Group comprised of 2 Councillors and staff as required.

The 2 Councillors selected are: Councillor Cooper and Councillor Anderson.

CARRIED

11. Closed Meeting

Nil

12. Business Arising from Closed Meeting

Nil

13. Confirmation By-Law

RESOLUTION No. 2023-80

MOVED BY: D. Wilcox

SECONDED BY: P. Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2023-10 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 passed this 21st day of March 2023;

AND FURTHER THAT the said By-Law be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk.

CARRIED

14. Adjournment

RESOLUTION No. 2023-81

MOVED BY: D. Wilcox

SECONDED BY: G. Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor

Clerk