

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

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

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**Present:**

**Mayor:** Angela Adshead

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

**Staff:** S. Dalley, Town Manager/Clerk-Treasurer  
D. Taylor, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

1. **Call to Order**

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

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

None

3. **Public Meetings**

None

4. **Deputations/Delegation**

4.1 Graham Gambles – Geo Exchange

Mr. Gambles was present to explain the concept of Geo Exchange using the trapped waters in the workings below the Town to heat and cool buildings. He stated Cobalt could be the site of a pilot project to participate in proving out the value.

If Council is interested, he urges them to correspond with the Environmental staff at Agnico as well as Northern College or Laurentian, which would add an educational component and possible access to some funding.

He offered to assist the Committee, but the concept is now at the stage that it needs to be a Council initiative to move forward.

5. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-263**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Cooper

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hughes

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

CARRIED

6. **Approval of Previous Council Minutes**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-264**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Starchuk

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

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

- Regular Meeting of Council – October 17, 2023
- Special Meeting of Council – October 24, 2023
- Committee of the Whole Meeting – November 7, 2023

CARRIED

7. **Items for Council consideration**

**7.1 Council Stipend**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-265**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Cooper

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Starchuk

**WHEREAS** at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on November 7, 2023, Council received Staff Report 2023.11.07.03;

**AND WHEREAS** Council was presented with 3 options:

- Option 1 – Freeze Council stipend at the current rate for the entire term;
- Option 2 – Increase Council stipend by an amount equivalent to the percentage of the Union contract;
- Option 3 – Adjust stipend by an annual economic increase;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council proceed with option 1 to freeze Council stipend at the current rate for the remainder of the 2022-2026 council term.

NOT VOTED ON

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-266**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Cooper

**THAT** Draft Motion 7.1 Council Stipend, be deferred to the next meeting.

CARRIED

**7.2 Community Engagement Initiative**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-267**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hunter

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council endorse a Community Engagement Initiative as proposed by Mayor Adshead. Expenses and donations will be tracked through the Recreation accounts in the General Ledger. Mayor Adshead will bring proposed events before Council with estimated costs and available balances in the account so that Council is aware that Municipal Funds will not be used for this initiative.

CARRIED

**7.3 Ad-Hoc Committees Name Change**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-268**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Hughes  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**WHEREAS** Council received Staff Report No. 2023.11.07.05 at the Committee of the Whole meeting, November 7, 2023, with a recommendation to change the name of the Ad-Hoc Committees to the “Town Advisory Groups”;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approve the name change for the Sharpe Lake Property, Budget, Procedural and Procurement Committees.

Recorded Vote:

|                     |   |       |       |
|---------------------|---|-------|-------|
| Councillor Cooper   | A |       |       |
| Councillor Anderson | F |       |       |
| Councillor Hughes   | F |       |       |
| Councillor Hunter   | F |       |       |
| Councillor Starchuk | F |       |       |
| Councillor Wilcox   | A |       |       |
| Mayor Adshead       | F | F = 5 | A = 2 |

CARRIED

**7.4 Timiskaming Health Unit – Municipal Expense Allocation Method**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-269**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hughes

**WHEREAS** the method of allocation for Board of Health expenses is governed by Ontario Regulation 489/97 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act;

**AND WHEREAS** the Board of Health of the Timiskaming Health Unit currently uses the most recent enumeration conducted by the Municipal Property and Assessment Corporation to allocate expenses;

**AND WHEREAS** the Board of Health of the Timiskaming Health Unit feels that changing the method of allocation to utilize the most recent Census conducted by Statistics Canada allows for a more accurate and equitable distribution of expenditures;

**AND WHEREAS** any change in allocation method must be agreed to by all obligated municipalities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves the recommendation by the Board of Health of the Timiskaming Health Unit to move to Census based allocation for board of health expenditures effective January 1, 2024.

**AND THAT** a copy of the resolution be sent to Timiskaming Health Unit – Board of Health.

CARRIED

**7.5 Cobalt Public Library Board Appointment**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-270**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Cooper  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Starchuk

**WHEREAS** as a result of two vacant seats on the Cobalt Public Library Board, Council advertised for interested persons to apply to fill the vacancies;

**AND WHEREAS** two applications were received by the deadline of October 20, 2023;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Suzanne Othmer and Mary Church be appointed to the Cobalt Public Library Board.

CARRIED

**7.6 Surplus Lots – Pyrite Street**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-271**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hughes

**WHEREAS** at the Regular Council Meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> 2023, Council declared the following lots as surplus;

**AND WHEREAS** both lots were evaluated by a realtor;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following lots be advertised for sale with the estimated current value of the property and all transferable legal fees will be the responsibility of the purchaser.

|    |                           |            |                    |
|----|---------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | 32 Pyrite Street North    | vacant lot | \$16,000.00        |
| 2. | 35-39 Pyrite Street North | vacant lot | <u>\$20,000.00</u> |
|    |                           |            | \$36,000.00        |

Recorded Vote:

|                     |   |       |       |
|---------------------|---|-------|-------|
| Councillor Wilcox   | A |       |       |
| Councillor Anderson | F |       |       |
| Councillor Cooper   | F |       |       |
| Councillor Hughes   | F |       |       |
| Councillor Hunter   | F |       |       |
| Councillor Starchuk | F |       |       |
| Mayor Adshead       | F | F = 6 | A = 1 |

CARRIED

8. **Items for Council information**

None

9. **By-Laws and Agreements**

**9.1 By-Law 2023-33 - To Adopt a User Fee By-Law for 2024-2026**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-272**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Cooper

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hughes

**WHEREAS** Council received Staff Report No. 2023.11.07.01 at the Committee of the Whole meeting, November 7, 2023 with a recommendation to adopt a 2024-2026 User Fee By-Law;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** By-Law No. 2023-33 being a By-Law to Adopt a User Fee By-Law for the Town of Cobalt;

**BE READ** a first, second and final time and passed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 2023;

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

CARRIED

**9.2 By-Law 2023-34 - To Adopt Amendment No. 2 to By-Law 2020-32 Municipal Property Tax Policy**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-273**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Starchuk

**WHEREAS** Council received Staff Report No. 2023.11.07.02 at the Committee of the Whole meeting, November 7, 2023 with a recommendation to adopt Amendment No. 2 to By-Law 2020-32 Municipal Property Tax Policy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** By-Law No. 2023-34 being a By-Law to Adopt Amendment No. 2 to By-Law 2020-32 Municipal Property Tax Policy;

**BE READ** a first, second and final time and passed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 2023;

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

CARRIED

10. **Unfinished Business**

None

11. **New Business**

**11.1 Schedule of Accounts**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-274**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Cooper

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

Schedule No. 2023-20 in the amount of \$148,860.53.

Schedule No. 2023-21 in the amount of \$113,915.81.

CARRIED

**11.2 Mayor's Report**

Mayor Adshead read aloud the 3 submissions she received to her Community Engagement Initiative challenge. She thanked them for their response, and each will receive a gift certificate.

12. **Closed Meeting**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-275**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Cooper

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hughes

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council convene in Closed Session as per Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, in order to address a matter pertaining to subsection:

(2)(c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

CARRIED

13. **Business Arising from Closed Meeting**

Direction was given to Staff on a Closed Session matter.

14. **Confirmation By-Law**

**RESOLUTION No. 2023-276**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Hughes

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Starchuk

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** By-Law No. 2023-35 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 this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2023

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

CARRIED

15. **Adjournment**


**RESOLUTION No. 2023-277**

**MOVED BY:** Councillor Starchuk

**SECONED BY:** Councillor Hughes

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

CARRIED

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Mayor 

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk 