

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL February 20, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. MINUTES

Present:

Mayor: Angela Adshead

Councillors:

Harry Cooper
Gary Hughes
Jim Starchuk
Pat Anderson – via zoom
Angela Hunter – via zoom
Doug Wilcox – via zoom

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

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

Nil

3. Public Meetings

None

4. Deputations/Delegation

4.1 Cobalt Public Library – 2024 Budget

Mary Church and Molly Ward, representing the Cobalt Library Board, were in attendance to present the Library's 2024 Budget and to request an Operating Grant of \$25,000. Council deferred a decision to the 2024 Town Budget discussions.

4.2 Cobalt Fire Department – Chief Hearn – Fire Truck Discussion

Chief Hearn and Deputy Chief Cooper of the Cobalt Fire Department were in attendance to answer questions regarding the purchase of a new fire truck. Council agreed present a motion to move forward with the purchase.

5. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

RESOLUTION No. 2024-025

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council agree to waive procedure to amend the agenda as follows:

February 20, 2024

- Correct Item 6 –Regular Meeting Minutes date
- Add item 7.9 – Purchase of Fire Truck

CARRIED

6. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes

RESOLUTION No. 2024-026

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes
SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

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

Regular Meeting – January 23, 2024
Committee of the Whole Meeting – February 6, 2024

CARRIED

7. Items for Council consideration

7.1 Temiskaming Municipal Services Association (TMSA) – Planner Opt In

RESOLUTION No. 2024-027

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobalt will opt in to the Temiskaming Municipal Services Association (TMSA) expansion of a Municipal Planner.

CARRIED

7.2 Notice of Motion – Councillor Wilcox (Staff Report 2024.02.20.01)

RESOLUTION No. 2024-028

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper
SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

WHEREAS pursuant to Procedural By-Law 2022-25, Article 6.3.5:
“Closed Meeting materials shall be provided to Council in confidence, no later than 24 hours before the hour appointed for the holding of such meeting”;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the Procedural By-Law 2022-25, Article 6.3.6:
“Only Closed Meeting materials related to Human Resources may be handed out at the table, must be printed on coloured paper and returned to the Clerk immediately following the meeting”;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED all Closed Meeting materials not related to Human Resources be provided to Council with the regular meeting package of materials.

DEFERRED – to obtain legal opinion.

7.3 Temiskaming Shores and Area Physician Recruitment and Retention Initiative – Letter for Five-Year Commitment.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-029

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobalt will continue to support the Temiskaming Shores and Area Physician Recruitment and Retention Initiative with an annual contribution of \$2,967.00 over a five-year period.

CARRIED

7.4 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – Resolution – Promote Stability of Municipal Finances

RESOLUTION No. 2024-030

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addiction crisis;

WHEREAS inflation, rising cost of interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution program for those most in need;

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be directed to the Premier of Ontario; and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

CARRIED

7.5 Cobalt Public Library Board Member Appointment

RESOLUTION No. 2024-031

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox
SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

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 one application was received by the deadline of January 26, 2024;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Catherine Lafoy be appointed to the Cobalt Public Library Board.

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Cobalt continue advertising to fill the vacancy with a deadline of March 22, 2024 at noon.

CARRIED

7.6 Cobalt Day December 29th

RESOLUTION No. 2024-032

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT December 29th will be recognized as Cobalt Day as proposed by Councillor Anderson.

CARRIED

7.7 Negotiating Committee Appointment

Council agreed to amend the original resolution to remove Councillor Hughes who expressed that he could no longer commit to the meetings. Mayor Adshead asked for another appointment and Councillor Anderson volunteered.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-033

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Councillor Anderson and Councillor Starchuk be appointed to the 2024 CUPE Collective Agreement Negotiating Committee along with the Town Manager.

CARRIED

7.8 Frequency of Meetings

RESOLUTION No. 2024-034

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 6, 2024, Council received Staff Report 2024.02.06.04 with a recommendation to pause Committee of the Whole Meetings with the effect of having a Regular Council Meeting once every 4 weeks;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2024-06 being a By-Law to regulate smoking and vaping within the Town of Cobalt;

BE TAKEN AS READ a first, second and third time this 20th day of February, 2024;

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

CARRIED

9.2 By-Law 2024-07 – Amendment No. 2 to Procedural By-Law 2022-25

RESOLUTION No. 2024-037

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hunter

WHEREAS at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on February 6, 2024, Council received Staff Report 2024.02.06.04 with a recommendation to pause Committee of the Whole Meetings with the effect of having a Regular Council Meeting once every 4 weeks;

AND WHEREAS Staff Reports are only presented at the Committee of the Whole Meetings as per Section 6.1 and 6.2 of Procedural By-Law 2022-25 which outlines the Order of Business for both Regular Council Meetings and Committee of the Whole Meetings;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2024-07 being a By-Law to Amend Section 6.1.1 of Procedural By-Law 2022-25 to include Staff Reports on the Schedule of Meetings (Order of Business) – Regular Council Meeting;

BE TAKEN AS READ a first, second and third time this 20th day of February, 2024;

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

Recorded Vote:

Councillor Wilcox: A	Councillor Hughes: F
Councillor Anderson: F	Councillor Hunter: F
Councillor Cooper: A	Councillor Starchuk: F
Mayor Adshead: F	

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CARRIED

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. New Business

11.1 Schedule of Accounts

RESOLUTION No. 2024-038

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

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

Schedule No. 2024-02 in the amount of \$353,043.32.

Schedule No. 2024-03 in the amount of \$106,769.61.

CARRIED

12. **Closed Meeting**
None

13. **Business Arising from Closed Meeting**
None

14. **Confirmation By-Law**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-039

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cooper

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2024-08 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 20th day of February 2024;

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

CARRIED

15. **Adjournment**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-040

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

CARRIED



Mayor



Clerk