

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

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

Present:

Mayor: Angela Adshead

Councillors:

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

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

Peggy Young-Lovelace, E4m

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

Councillor Starchuk declared a pecuniary interest with item 7.5 and 10.1 City of Temiskaming Shores – Cobalt Temiskaming Shores Transit MOU.

Councillor Cooper declared a pecuniary interest with item 8.1 Council Discussion of Integrity Commissioner Report.

3. Public Meetings

None

4. Deputations/Delegation

None

5. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

RESOLUTION No. 2024-078

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated April 30, 2024 as presented.

CARRIED

6. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes

Councillor Wilcox requested an update on the request for legal opinion on item 7.2 from the February 20, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council. Clerk Dalley responded that it would be provided at the next meeting.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-079

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cooper

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

Regular Meeting of Council - February 20, 2024

Special Meeting of Council - April 2, 2024

Regular Meeting of Council – April 2, 2024

CARRIED

7. Staff Reports

RESOLUTION No. 2024-080

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cooper

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the staff reports as presented.

7.1 Public Works – April 2024

7.2 By-Law Enforcement – April 2024

7.3 Canada Day Preparations – Councillor Anderson

Councillor Anderson provided a summary of anticipated Canada Day activities including the Mayor's Breakfast and a parade. Funding has been received from Celebrate Canada in the amount of \$1,320.

7.4 Staff Report 2024.04.30.01 – 2024 Amnesty Weeks

Recommendation: proceed with staff recommendation to postpone amnesty week for 2024 as per draft motion section 8.2.

7.5 Staff Report 2024.04.30.02 - By-Law 2024-15 - Cobalt Temiskaming Shores Transit MOU

Councillor Starchuk left the meeting and did not participate in the discussion.

Recommendation: proceed with staff recommendation to execute the agreement as per draft By-Law in section 10.1.

7.6 Staff Report 2024.04.30.03 - By-Law 2024-16 - Disposal of Surplus Properties Policy

Recommendation: defer the draft By-Law until the next Regular Meeting of Council on May 28, 2024 to review the original copy of the By-Law and to discuss further.

7.7 Staff Report 2024.04.30.04 - By-Law 2024-17 – Amendment No. 2 to User Fee By-Law 2023-33 – Planning Fees

Recommendation: proceed with staff recommendation to implement the planning fees and to increase the administration fee as per draft By-Law under section 10.3.

CARRIED

8. Items for Council consideration

8.1 Council Discussion of Integrity Commissioner Report
Councillor Cooper left the meeting and did not participate in the discussion or vote.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-081

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS Council accepts the Integrity Commissioner Response to Request for Inquiry – Councillor Cooper at the Regular Council Meeting April 2nd, 2024;

AND WHEREAS the Integrity Commissioner recommends the suspension of remuneration for up to 90 days;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the Integrity Commissioner’s recommendation of the 90 days suspension of remuneration for Councillor Cooper.

Recorded Vote:

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

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DEFEATED

RESOLUTION No. 2024-082

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS Council accepts the Integrity Commissioner Response to Request for Inquiry – Councillor Cooper at the Regular Council Meeting April 2nd, 2024;

AND WHEREAS the Integrity Commissioner recommends the suspension of remuneration for up to 90 days;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves a 60-day suspension of remuneration for Councillor Cooper.

Recorded Vote:

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

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CARRIED

8.2 2024 Amnesty Weeks (Staff Report 2024.04.30.01)

RESOLUTION No. 2024-083

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS Council received the staff report 2024.04.30.01 on 2024 Amnesty Weeks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council postpone the 2024 Amnesty Week Program and review a new Amnesty Program for 2025.

CARRIED

9. Items for Council information

9.1 2024 Spring Pulse Poetry Festival Invitation

Mayor Adshead indicated that she would be attending on behalf of the Town and would be reading a poem.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-084

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

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

CARRIED

10. By-Laws and Agreements

10.1 By-Law 2024-15 – to Authorize the Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Operating Agreement with the City of Temiskaming Shores for Transit Services “Temiskaming Transit” (Staff Report 2024.04.30.02)

Councillor Starchuk left the meeting and did not participate in the discussion or the vote.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-085

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2024.04.30.02 with a recommendation to enter into an memorandum of understanding and an operating agreement with the City of Temiskaming Shore for transit services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2024-15 being a By-Law to authorize the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding and Operating Agreement with the City of Temiskaming Shores for transit services be read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 30th day of April, 2024;

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

CARRIED

10.2 By-Law 2024-16 - Disposal of Surplus Properties Policy (Staff Report 2024.04.30.03)

RESOLUTION No. 2024-086

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2024.04.30.03 with a recommendation to adopt a disposal of surplus property By-Law;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2024-16 being a By-Law to govern the disposal of real property;

BE TAKEN AS READ a first, second and third time this 30th day of April, 2024;

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

NO VOTE

RESOLUTION No. 2024-087**MOVED BY:** Councillor Cooper**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Wilcox

BE IT RESOLVED that Council defer By-Law 2024-16 being a By-Law to govern the disposal of real property to the next Regular Council Meeting on May 28, 2024.

CARRIED

10.3 By-Law 2024-17 – Amendment No. 2 to User Fee By-Law 2023-33 (Staff Report 2024.04.30.04)**RESOLUTION No. 2024-088****MOVED BY:** Councillor Cooper**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson

WHEREAS Temiskaming Municipal Services Association board has adopted a schedule of fees for Planning Services;

AND WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2024.04.30.04 with a recommendation to amend Schedule “C” and “D” of User Fee By-Law 2023-33;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2024-17 being a By-Law to adopt Amendment No. 2 to User Fee By-Law 2023-33 be read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 30th day of April, 2024;

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

CARRIED

11. Unfinished Business

Peggy Young-Lovelace informed Council that the legal opinion would be shared in closed session.

11.1 Resolution from E4m**RESOLUTION No. 2024-089****MOVED BY:** Councillor Anderson**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS Peggy Young-Lovelace on behalf of E4m, the Town of Cobalt appointed Integrity Commissioner, addressed Council at their meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

AND WHEREAS she expressed concern about repeat offences of attempted direction of staff by Councillor Wilcox utilizing email which is contrary to his role as a member of Council and has led to complaints to the Integrity Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS Ms. Young-Lovelace requested that Council assist in the prevention of further complaints to the Integrity Commissioner as well as allegations of workplace harassment from Town Employees;

AND WHEREAS she recommended Council could prevent further complaints by directing that Councillor Wilcox only communicate with the Town by email and that all email communication be

addressed to a specific email address for that purpose and not the Town Manager or other municipal employees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council hereby directs that Councillor Wilcox shall not email Town Employees

AND FURTHER THAT should Councillor Wilcox need to communicate with Town employees that he shall email Mayor Adshead at aadshead@cobalt.ca who then will liaise with the Town Manager and respond to Councillor Wilcox accordingly.

DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER CLOSED SESSION

12. New Business

12.1 Schedule of Accounts

RESOLUTION No. 2024-090

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

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

Schedule No. 2024-06 in the amount of \$183,489.75.

Schedule No. 2024-07 in the amount of \$127,905.70.

CARRIED

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Adshead attended the TMA meeting last week. She also noted that the Classic Theatre will be having a showing of the Jack Munroe documentary on May 26, 2024. Mr. Munroe has been inducted into the Order of the North.

14. Closed Meeting

RESOLUTION No. 2024-091

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hunter

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.

(2)(f) Advice that is subject to solicitor/client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

CARRIED

15. Business Arising from Closed Meeting

RESOLUTION No. 2024-092

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS Peggy Young-Lovelace on behalf of E4m, the Town of Cobalt appointed Integrity Commissioner, addressed Council at their meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

AND WHEREAS she expressed concern about repeat offences of attempted direction of staff by Councillor Wilcox utilizing email which is contrary to his role as a member of Council and has led to complaints to the Integrity Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS Ms. Young-Lovelace requested that Council assist in the prevention of further complaints to the Integrity Commissioner as well as allegations of workplace harassment from Town Employees;

AND WHEREAS she recommended Council could prevent further complaints by directing that Councillor Wilcox only communicate with the Town by email and that all email communication be addressed to a specific email address for that purpose and not the Town Manager or other municipal employees;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council hereby directs that Councillor Wilcox shall not email Town Employees

AND FURTHER THAT should Councillor Wilcox need to communicate with Town employees that he shall email Mayor Adshead at aadshead@cobalt.ca who then will liaise with the Town Manager and respond to Councillor Wilcox accordingly.

Mayor Adshead called for a 5 minute recess prior to the vote.

CARRIED

Direction was given to Staff on other Closed Session matters.

16. **Confirmation By-Law**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-093

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hunter

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2024-18 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 finally passed this 30th day of April 2024;

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

CARRIED

15. **Adjournment**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-094

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

CARRIED



Mayor



Clerk