

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL June 25, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. MINUTES

Present:

Deputy Mayor: Pat Anderson

Councillors:

Harry Cooper
Gary Hughes
Angela Hunter
Jim Starchuk
Doug Wilcox

Staff: C. Beaudoin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Absent: Angela Adshead (with notice)
S. Dalley, Town Manager (with notice)

1. **Call to Order**
Deputy Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**
None
3. **Public Meetings**
None
4. **Deputations/Delegation**
None
5. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-121

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated June 25, 2024 as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Adoption of Previous Council Minutes**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-122

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cooper

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

Regular Meeting of Council May 28, 2024

CARRIED

7. **Staff Reports**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-123

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

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

7.1 Public Works Department – June 2024

7.2 By-Law Enforcement – May 2024

7.3 Cobalt Public Library Minutes – April 27, 2024

7.4 Staff Report 2024.06.25.01 – 2024 Projects Update

7.5 Staff Report 2024.06.25.02 – 2024 Insurance Renewal

7.6 Staff Report 2024.06.25.03 – Resolution of Support – Asset Retirement Obligations

7.7 Staff Report 2024.06.25.04 – By-Law 2024-23 - Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy

7.8 Staff Report 2024.06.25.05 – By-Law 2024-24 – Gas Tax Funding Agreement

CARRIED

8. **Items for Council consideration**

8.1 2024 Insurance Renewal

RESOLUTION No. 2024-124

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2024.06.25.02 outlining the 2024-2025 municipal insurance coverage provided by MIS Municipal Insurance Services with an annual premium of \$124,643.00, an overall premium increase of 16% over the expiring term;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs Staff to enter into an agreement with MIS for insurance services on behalf of the Town of Cobalt;

AND FURTHER THAT Council directs Staff to decline the optional cyber security insurance coverage.

CARRIED

8.2 Township of Harley, Coleman Township, Township of Larder Lake, Township of Casey, Township of Hudson & Township of Kerns – Letter of Support - Asset Retirement Obligation

RESOLUTION No. 2024-125

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) establishes accounting standards for the public sector which must be followed by all Ontario municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001, section 294.1 states that a municipality shall, for each fiscal year, prepare annual financial statements for the municipality in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments as recommended, from time to time, by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada;

AND WHEREAS PS3280 is a new accounting standard covering asset retirement obligations (ARO) that was approved by PSAB in March 2018;

AND WHEREAS the standard must be applied by all public sector entities who prepare their financial statements under PSAB, including all Canadian municipalities;

AND WHEREAS many small municipalities do not have accountants or engineers on staff to complete the ARO obligations and this major accounting changes will force small municipalities to hire consultants to complete this work and cause a significant financial burden to municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt supports the resolutions from the Township of Harley, Coleman Township, Township of Larder Lake, Township of Casey, Township of Hudson & Township of Kerns and hereby calls upon the province of Ontario to provide financial assistance to municipalities to complete the ARO;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), the Timiskaming Municipal Association (TMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) and all municipalities within the District of Timiskaming.

CARRIED

9. Items for Council information

9.1 Cobalt Historical Society – Invitation to the Dedication of the John Calder Memorial Trail
 Deputy Mayor Anderson invited Council to attend the dedication ceremony on June 29, 2024 at 10am.

9.2 Councillor Anderson – Canada Day Update

Deputy Mayor Anderson provided a Council with the Canada Day poster which included the itinerary for the day. She also thanked Angie Larabie for organizing the day's event.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-126

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hunter

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

CARRIED

10. **By-Laws and Agreements**

10.1 By-Law 2024-23 – Workplace Violence & Harassment Policy (Staff Report 2024.06.25.04)

RESOLUTION No. 2024-127

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Cooper

WHEREAS municipalities must comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* R.S.O. 1990, as amended, and more specifically Section 32 which requires employers to adopt a policy and establish a program with respect to Workplace Violence and Harassment;

AND WHEREAS Section 25(2) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires that an employer takes every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of the worker;

AND WHEREAS Section 217.1 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* states that everyone who undertakes or has the authority to direct how another person does work or perform a task is under a legal duty to take reasonable steps to prevent harm to that person, or any other person, arising from that work or task;

AND WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2024.06.25.04 recommending the adoption of By-Law 2024-23 being a By-Law to adopt a Workplace Violence & Harassment Policy and Program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 2024-23 being a By-Law to Adopt a Workplace Violence & Harassment Policy and Program;

BE TAKEN AS READ a first and second time this 25th day of June 2024.

CARRIED

10.2 By-Law 2024-24 – Canada Community-Building Fund (Staff Report 2024.06.25.05)

RESOLUTION No. 2024-128

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Cobalt deems it desirable to enter into a funding agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for the transfer of Canada Community-Building Fund under the Canada-Ontario-AMO-Toronto Agreement;

AND WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2024.06.25.05 recommending the adoption of By-Law 2024-24 being a By-Law to enter into an agreement with AMO for the transfer of Canada Community-Building funds;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law 2024-24 being a By-Law to Authorize the execution of a municipal funding agreement for the transfer of Canada Community-Building Fund;

BE TAKEN AS READ a first, second and third time and passed this this 25th day of June 2024.

CARRIED

11. **Unfinished Business**

None

12. **New Business**

12.1 Schedule of Accounts

RESOLUTION No. 2024-129

MOVED BY: Councillor Hunter

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

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

Schedule 2024-10 in the amount of \$180,701.31.

Schedule 2024-11 in the amount of \$142,848.95.

CARRIED

13. **Mayor’s Report**

None

14. **Closed Meeting**

None

15. **Business Arising from Closed Meeting**

None

16. **Confirmation By-Law**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-130

MOVED BY: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2024-25 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 25th day of June, 2024;

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

CARRIED

15. **Adjournment**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-131

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

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

CARRIED



Mayor



Clerk