

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL November 12, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**
3. **Public Meetings**
None
4. **Deputations/Delegation**
None
5. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

DRAFT MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated November 12, 2024 as presented.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

**DISCUSSION
VOTE**

6. **Adoption of Previous Council Minutes**

DRAFT MOTION

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

Regular Meeting of Council – October 15, 2024
Special Meeting of Council – October 29, 2024

Moved by:

Seconded by:

**DISCUSSION
VOTE**

7. Staff Reports

Draft Motion

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

Moved by:

Seconded by:

DISCUSSION

7.1 Animal Control – June 2024

7.2 By-Law Enforcement – September 2024

7.3 Cobalt Public Library Minutes – September 18, 2024

7.4 Staff Report 2024.11.12.01 – 2024 Holiday Schedule

7.5 Staff Report 2024.11.12.02 – By-Law 2024-42 – For the Provision of 9-1-1 Services

7.6 Staff Report 2021.11.12.03 – By-Law 2024-40 – Council Vacancy Procedure

VOTE

8. Items for Council Consideration

8.1 Request for Proclamation – Pavilion Women’s Centre

DRAFT MOTION

WHEREAS violence continues to be the greatest gender inequality rights issue for women, girls and gender-diverse individuals;

AND WHEREAS November is Woman Abuse Prevention Month; and

AND WHEREAS November 25th the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women;

AND WHEREAS Femicide rates are on the rise in Ontario, with over 62 femicides occurring in Ontario in 2023.

AND WHEREAS Our community is committed to ending femicide and all forms of gender-based violence;

AND WHEREAS Indigenous, Black, South Asian and South East Asian women and girls continue to experience higher rates of violence, including femicide;

AND WHEREAS last year in Ontario, on average every 6 days a woman or child lost their life due to femicide;

AND WHEREAS in five of the last six years, at least one person from the District of Timiskaming was the victim of femicide;

AND WHEREAS this month and throughout the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we acknowledge our community’s support of the Wrapped in Courage campaign and commitment to ending gender-based violence;

AND WHEREAS there is an urgent need for greater investment and action to end gender-based violence in our community and throughout Ontario;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that the courage of a woman alone is not enough, it takes an entire community to end gender-based violence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobalt proclaim and declare that November 25th, 2024 shall be known as “The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women” and urge all citizens to recognize this day by acting to support survivors of gender-based violence.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

**DISCUSSION
VOTE**

8.2 2024 Holiday Schedule (Staff Report 2024.11.12.01)

DRAFT MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts Staff Report 2024.11.12.01 as presented and approves the Holiday schedule for the Municipal Office and Public Works Department and that public notice be given.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

**DISCUSSION
VOTE**

8.3 Request for Support – Municipality of Tweed - Ontario Provincial Policy Costs

DRAFT MOTION

WHEREAS it is apparent that the Ontario Government has overlooked the needs of small rural Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Ontario’s small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads, bridges, water/ wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities, libraries and other tangible capital assets:

AND WHEREAS small rural Ontario’s operating needs consume the majority of property tax revenue sources;

AND WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

AND WHEREAS in 2015 the provincial government moved to standardized billing for all non-contract D.P.P. (5.1) locations;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway; and \$534 million to Ottawa for the repatriation of Hwy 174;

AND WHEREAS the annual cost of the Ontario Provincial Police, Municipal Policing Bureau for small rural non-contract (5.1) municipalities is approximately \$428 million;

AND WHEREAS this annual cost is significantly less than the repatriation costs of the Gardiner Express Way, the Don Valley Parkway and Highway 174 (Ottawa Region) but provides a greater impact to the residents of the Province overall;

AND WHEREAS this will afford relief to small rural municipalities for both infrastructure and operating needs while having a minimal impact on the provincial budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Municipality of Tweed call on the Ontario Government to immediately implement sustainable funding for small rural municipalities by reabsorbing the cost of the Ontario Provincial Police Force back into the provincial budget with no cost recovery to municipalities:

AND FURTHER that Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to Premier Doug Ford (premier@ontario.ca), Minister of Solicitor General, Minister of Finance, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca) and all Municipalities in Ontario.

8.4 Request for Support – Town of Aurora – Request to Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

DRAFT MOTION

WHEREAS municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development;

AND WHEREAS the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs;

AND WHEREAS redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers;

AND WHEREAS a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobalt's Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Cobalt's Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and

AND FURTHER THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and also forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

**DISCUSSION
VOTE**

8.5 Request for In-Kind Assistance – 5 Dunning Drive

DRAFT MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council _____ (will / decline to) provide in-kind assistance to use the Public Works machinery and labour to remove the demolished material at 5 Dunning Drive, formally known as the Cobalt Public School and to transport it to the Temiskaming Shores Landfill. Landfill charges will be the responsibility of the owner.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

**DISCUSSION
VOTE**

9. Items for Council information

9.1 Integrity Commissioner Report – Deputy Mayor Pat Anderson

DRAFT MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the Integrity Commissioner Report – Deputy Mayor Pat Anderson as presented.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

**DISCUSSION
VOTE**

11. **Unfinished Business**

12. **New Business**

12.1 **Schedule of Accounts**

DRAFT MOTION

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

Schedule No. 2024-20 in the amount of \$223,322.62

Schedule No. 2024-21 in the amount of \$190,921.44

Moved by:

Seconded by:

DISCUSSION

VOTE

13. **Mayor’s Report**

14. **Closed Meeting**

DRAFT MOTION

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(a) Security of the property of the municipality or local board

(2)(i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board

Moved by:

Seconded by:

VOTE

15. **Business Arising from Closed Meeting**

16. **Confirmation By-Law**

DRAFT BY-LAW

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2024-43 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 12th day of November, 2024;

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

Moved by:

Seconded by:

VOTE

17. **Adjournment**

DRAFT MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at _____ p.m.

Moved by:

Seconded by:

VOTE