

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

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

Present:

Mayor: Angela Adshead

Councillors:

Pat Anderson
Gary Hughes
Angela Hunter
Rene Lafleur
Jim Starchuk
Doug Wilcox

Staff:

S. Dalley, Town Manager
C. Beaudoin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer (absent with notice)

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 Anderson declared a pecuniary interest with item 9.1 Integrity Commissioner Report – Deputy Mayor Pat Anderson

3. Public Meetings

None

4. Deputations/Delegation

None

5. Adoption of Meeting Agenda

RESOLUTION No. 2024-198

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

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

CARRIED

6. **Adoption of Previous Council Minutes**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-199

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

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

CARRIED

7. **Staff Reports**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-200

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

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

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 2024.11.12.03 – By-Law 2024-40 – Council Vacancy Procedure

CARRIED

8. **Items for Council consideration**

8.1 Request for Proclamation – Pavilion Women’s Centre

RESOLUTION No. 2024-201

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

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.

CARRIED

8.2 2024 Holiday Schedule (Staff Report 2024.11.12.01)

RESOLUTION No. 2024-202

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

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.

CARRIED

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

RESOLUTION No. 2024-203

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

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.

CARRIED

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

RESOLUTION No. 2024-204

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

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.

CARRIED

8.5 Request for In-Kind Assistance – 5 Dunning Drive

RESOLUTION No. 2024-205

MOVED BY: Councillor Anderson

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council will 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.

DEFEATED

9. Items for Council information

9.1 Integrity Commissioner Report – Deputy Mayor Pat Anderson

Deputy Mayor Pat Anderson left the meeting and did not participate in the discussion or vote.

RESOLUTION No. 2024-206

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

Mayor Adshead read the Integrity Commissioner Report.

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

CARRIED

9.2 DTSSAB 2024 Refund

RESOLUTION No. 2024-207

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the DTSSAB 2024 Refund as presented.

CARRIED

10. By-Laws and Agreements

10.1 By-Law 2024-42 to Renew an Agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police for the Provision of Primary Public Safety Answering Point Services (9-1-1) (Staff Report 2024.11.12.02)

RESOLUTION No. 2024-208

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2024.11.12.02 with a recommendation to adopt By-Law 2024-42;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2024-42 being a By-Law to renew an agreement between the Town of Cobalt and the Ontario Provincial Police for 9-1-1 Primary Public Safety Answering Point Services at a per capita cost of \$0.561, estimated to be \$554.83 for 2025, be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 12th day of November 2024;

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

CARRIED

10.2 By-Law 2024-40 – Council Vacancy Procedure (Staff Report 2024.11.12.03)

RESOLUTION No. 2024-209

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2024.11.12.03 with a recommendation to adopt By-Law 2024-40;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2024-40 being a By-Law to provide for the filling of Council vacancies during a term of Council be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 12th day of November 2024;

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

CARRIED

11. Unfinished Business

None

12. New Business**13.1 Schedule of Accounts****RESOLUTION No. 2024-210****MOVED BY:** Councillor Lafleur**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Starchuk**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

CARRIED

13. Mayor's Report

Mayor Adshead spoke of the tragic occurrence in Cobalt on the evening November 3rd, 2024. Expressed her appreciation on how Cobalt came together and supported the family. Mayor Adshead spoke how proud she is to be a "Cobalter".

14. Closed Meeting**RESOLUTION No. 2024-211****MOVED BY:** Councillor Starchuk**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Anderson**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

CARRIED

15. Business Arising from Closed Meeting

Direction was given to Staff on Closed Session matters.

16. Confirmation By-Law**RESOLUTION No. 2024-212****MOVED BY:** Councillor Wilcox**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Lafleur**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.

CARRIED

17. **Adjournment**

RESOLUTION No. 2024-213

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

CARRIED



Mayor



Clerk