

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL April 29, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. MINUTES

Present:

Mayor: Angela Adshead

Councillors:

Gary Hughes
Angela Hunter (via Zoom)
Rene Lafleur
Jim Starchuk
Doug Wilcox (via Zoom, arrived late at 7:15 p.m.)

Pat Anderson (absent with notice)

Staff: S. Dalley, Town Manager
C. Beaudoin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

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

None

3. Public Meetings

3.1 Planning Application 2025-01 - Zoning By-Law Amendment for 34 Cobalt Street pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act.

No Pecuniary Interest was declared.

There were no comments or concerns received from members of the public.

4. Deputations/Delegation

4.1 Danielle Girard – Kemp Elliot & Blair - presentation of the 2024 Audit

Ms. Girard reviewed the 2024 Financial Statements for the Town of Cobalt which showed an operational deficit of \$40,883 and a net debt position of \$1,364,656.00 (after adjusting for the unfinanced asset retirement obligation).

RESOLUTION No. 2025-053

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the 2024 Financial Statements for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt and the Cobalt Public Library as presented by Kemp Elliott & Blair LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants.

CARRIED

5. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

RESOLUTION No. 2025-054

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated April 29, 2025 as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Adoption of Previous Council Minutes**

RESOLUTION No. 2025-055

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

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

Regular Meeting of Council – April 1, 2025

CARRIED

7. **Staff Reports**

RESOLUTION No. 2025-056

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

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

7.1 By-Law Enforcement – March 2025

7.2 Canada Day Preparations

7.3 Staff Report 2025.04.29.01 – 2017 Trackless MT7

7.4 Staff Report 2025.04.29.02 – Zoning By-Law Amendment (Planning Application 2025-01)

7.5 Staff Report 2025.04.29.03 – By-Law 2025-10 Hiring By-Law

CARRIED

8. **Items for Council consideration**

8.1 Northeastern Public Health – Proclamation - Mental Health Week May 5th to 11th

RESOLUTION No. 2025-057

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS all people have an equal right to the highest attainable standard of mental well-being, which is inseparable from their right to social protection, an adequate standard of living and freedom from discrimination;

AND WHEREAS 1 in 5 Canadians experience mental illness or a mental health issue in any given year, but 5 in 5 of us, have mental health;

AND WHEREAS Government, Indigenous leadership, health authorities, businesses and community organizations have a shared opportunity to improve the lives and health of people living in Ontario by providing the basic supports that lay the foundation for mental well-being and delivering the services that enable recovery and provide the opportunity for all people to thrive;

AND WHEREAS the Northeast Mental Health Committee calls for the public to become informed about mental health and to focus collective efforts on the protective factors that enable people to achieve their highest standard of mental well-being; these include initiatives that range from poverty reduction, stable and affordable housing, attainable education to wrap-around health services;

AND WHEREAS Mental Health Week provides a unique opportunity to affirm our shared commitment to building public awareness of the importance of mental well-being;

AND WHEREAS the Northeast Mental Health Week Committee has collaborated among its members (Northeastern Ontario Family and Child Services, Canadian Mental Health Association Cochrane Timiskaming, Northeastern Public Health, District School Board Ontario North East, North Eastern District Catholic School Board, Conseil scolaire du distrique des Grandes-Rivières, Conseil scolaire publique du Nord-est, Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services, Mushkegowuk Council, Misiway Community Health Centre) to host many activities and initiatives this year in communities across the districts of Cochrane and Timiskaming to help raise awareness and educate the public on the importance of social connection in bolstering mental well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Angela Adshead, Mayor of The Corporation of the Town of Cobalt, do hereby proclaim the Week of May 5th to May 11th, 2025 as: "MENTAL HEALTH WEEK" in The Corporation of the Town of Cobalt.

CARRIED

8.2 Moose Hide Campaign Day (Prevent Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) - Proclamation – May 15, 2025

RESOLUTION No. 2025-058

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

WHEREAS, the Moose Hide Campaign is an Indigenous-led, grassroots movement of men, boys and all Canadians standing up to end violence against women, children and all those along the gender continuum and;

WHEREAS, the Moose Hide Campaign was founded along the 'Highway of Tears' in British Columbia in response to the injustices and violence faced by many women and children in Canada, particularly those who are Indigenous;

WHEREAS, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is at epidemic proportions across Canada with more than 4 in 10 women having experienced it in their lifetime, and this reality is worse for Indigenous women who are twice as likely to experience violence from their current or former partners;

WHEREAS, the Moose Hide Campaign has distributed over six million moose hide pins that each spark five conversations about issues of violence against women, children and all those along the gender continuum;

WHEREAS, wearing the moose hide pin demonstrates a commitment to honour, respect and protect the women and children in your life, end gender-based violence and take meaningful action towards reconciliation with Indigenous peoples;

WHEREAS, participation in the Moose Hide Campaign is a concrete action for all citizens to address the legacies of colonization, residential schools and the reality of more than 1,200 missing or murdered women in Canada;

WHEREAS, engagement with the Moose Hide Campaign aligns with the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S+);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Angela Adshead, Mayor of The Corporation of the Town of Cobalt, do hereby proclaim May 15th, 2025 as Moose Hide Campaign Day in The Corporation of the Town of Cobalt.

CARRIED

8.3 Opposition to Strong Mayor Designation for the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt

RESOLUTION No. 2025-059

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur
SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed to designate the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

WHEREAS many municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

CARRIED

8.4 2017 Trackless MT7 (Staff Report 2025.04.29.01)

RESOLUTION No. 2025-060

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2025.04.29.01 with a recommendation to purchase a 2017 Trackless MT7;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the purchase of the 2017 Trackless MT7 in the amount of approximately \$50,000 (including taxes, license and delivery).

CARRIED

9. **Items for Council information**

RESOLUTION No. 2025-061

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

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

9.1 Animal By-Law Discussion – Staff Report 2025.04.29.04 – Animal By-Law

CARRIED

10. **By-Laws and Agreements**

10.1 By-Law 2025-13 – Zoning By-Law Amendment No. 3 – 34 Cobalt Street (Staff Report 2025.04.29.02 – Planning Application 2025-01)

RESOLUTION No. 2025-062

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt has received planning application 2025-01 to adopt Amendment No. 3 to Zoning By-Law 2022-24 for 34 Cobalt Street;

AND WHEREAS authority is provided pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P. 13 to pass this By-Law;

AND WHEREAS Council of the Town of Cobalt held a Public Meeting in accordance with the requirements of Section 34 of the Planning Act;

AND WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2025.04.29.02 with a recommendation to adopt By-Law 2025-13;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2025-13 being a By-Law to adopt Amendment No. 3 to Zoning By-Law 2022-24 to allow for a site-specific exception to the Institutional (I) zoning of the property to allow for the conversion of the former Cobalt United Church building into a fitness facility on the property be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 29th day of April 2025;

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

CARRIED

10.2 By-Law 2025-10 to Adopt a Recruitment, Selection and Hiring Policy for the Town of Cobalt
(Staff Report 2025.04.29.03)

RESOLUTION No. 2025-063

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

WHEREAS Section 270 of the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, states that a municipality shall adopt and maintain policies with respect to the hiring of employees;

AND WHEREAS at the Special Meeting of Council on February 12, 2025, Council for the Town of Cobalt directed staff to bring forward a new hiring By-Law;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Town of Cobalt reviewed Staff Report 2025.04.29.03;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cobalt adopts a Recruitment, Selection and Hiring Policy for the Town of Cobalt;

TAKEN AS READ a third and finally passed this 29th day of April, 2025.

Recorded Vote:

Councillor Hughes	F	Councillor Starchuk	F
Councillor Hunter	F	Councillor Wilcox	A
Councillor Lafleur	F	Councillor Anderson	Absent
Mayor Adshead	F		

For – 5	Against – 1	Absent 1	CARRIED
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11. Unfinished Business

12. New Business

12.1 Schedule of Accounts

RESOLUTION No. 2025-064

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

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

Schedule No. 2025-06 in the amount of \$223,281.03

Schedule No. 2025-07 in the amount of \$5,664.47

CARRIED

13. Mayor's Report

14. Closed Meeting

RESOLUTION No. 2025-065

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council convene in Closed Session as per Section 239 of the Municipal Act,
April 29, 2025

2001 as amended, in order to address a matter pertaining to subsection:

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

CARRIED

15. **Business Arising from Closed Meeting**

None

16. **Confirmation By-Law**

RESOLUTION No. 2025-066

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2025-14 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 29th day of April, 2025;

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

CARRIED

17. **Adjournment**

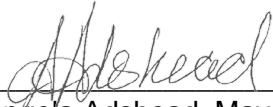
RESOLUTION No. 2025-067

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

CARRIED



Angela Adshead, Mayor



Steven Dailey, Clerk