

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBALT

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING COBALT COMMUNITY HALL February 3, 2026 MINUTES

Present:

Deputy Mayor: Pat Anderson

Councillors: Rene Lafleur
Gary Hughes
Jim Starchuk
Doug Wilcox
Stephen Ward

Absent: Angela Adshead (with notice)

Staff: J. Allen, Interim Clerk-Treasurer
C. Beaudoin, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

1. Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 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. 2026-016

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the agenda of the Regular Meeting dated February 3, 2026 as presented

CARRIED

6. Adoption of Previous Council Minutes

RESOLUTION No. 2026-017

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

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

Regular Meeting of Council – January 13, 2026

CARRIED

7. **Staff Reports**

RESOLUTION No. 2026-018

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

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

7.1 Cobalt Public Library – Minutes of the December 6, 2025 Meeting

7.2 Staff Report 2026.02.03.01– By-Law 2026-07 to Delegate Authority During Lame Duck

CARRIED

8. **Items for Council consideration**

8.1 Classic Theatre Foundation Repairs

RESOLUTION No. 2026-019

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the foundation repair for the Classic Theatre, 30 Silver Street, in the amount of \$48,897.08 (including HST) as quoted by First General Temiskaming – Rivard Bros Ltd.

CARRIED

8.2 2025-26 Inspection Report for the Cobalt Drinking Water System

RESOLUTION No. 2026-020

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby acknowledges receipt of the 2025-26 Inspection Report for the Cobalt Drinking Water System as prepared by Ontario Clean Water Agency.

CARRIED

8.3 Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) – Bill 68

RESOLUTION No. 2026-021

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children’s aid societies, and electricity distribution companies;

AND WHEREAS the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS’ governance structure through Bill 68;

AND WHEREAS these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources;

AND WHEREAS the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are already under significant financial strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobalt does not support the legislative changes to the *OMERS Act* contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobalt Council supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain the current OMERS governance model, with two corporate Boards, as the structure that would best deliver on the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees and that this resolution be circulated to:

- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs;
- The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance;
- Timiskaming MPP John Vanthof; and
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

CARRIED

9. Items for Council information

RESOLUTION No. 2026-022

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Starchuk

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

9.1 City of Temiskaming Shores – Temiskaming Shores Area Transit OTIF Collaboration Framework

CARRIED

10. By-Laws and Agreements

10.1 By-Law 2026-07 to Delegate Authority during Lame Duck Period (Staff Report 2026.02.03.01)

RESOLUTION No. 2026-023

MOVED BY: Councillor Ward

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

WHEREAS Council received Staff Report 2026.03.02.01;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2026-07 being a By-Law to Delegate Authority during Lame Duck be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 3rd day of February, 2026;

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

CARRIED

10.2 By-Law 2026-08 - Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement - Fire Protection Grant

RESOLUTION No. 2026-024

MOVED BY: Councillor Hughes

SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2026-08 being a By-Law to authorize the execution of an Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement for the Fire Protection Grant be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 3rd day of February, 2026;

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

CARRIED

10.3 By-Law 2026-09 – Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement - Pothole Prevention & Repair Program

RESOLUTION No. 2026-025

MOVED BY: Councillor Lafleur

SECONDED BY: Councillor Wilcox

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2026-09 being a By-Law to authorize the execution of an Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement for the Pothole Prevention and Repair Program be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 3rd day of February, 2026;

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

CARRIED

11. **Unfinished Business**
Special Meeting February 10, 2026 at 2:30pm– Budget Meeting

12. **New Business**

12.1 Schedule of Accounts

RESOLUTION No. 2026-026

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

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

Schedule No. 2025-25 in the amount of \$65,614.02

Schedule No. 2026.02 in the amount of \$148,635.55

CARRIED

13. **Mayor's Report**

None

14. **Closed Meeting**

None

15. **Business Arising from Closed Meeting**

None

16. **Confirmation By-Law**

RESOLUTION No. 2026-027

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Lafleur

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law No. 2026-10 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 3rd day of February 2026;

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

CARRIED

17. **Adjournment**

RESOLUTION No. 2026-028

MOVED BY: Councillor Wilcox

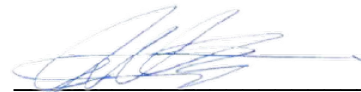
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hughes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regular Meeting of Council be adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

CARRIED



Pat Anderson, Deputy Mayor



Jaime Allen, Interim Clerk Treasurer