

#5(a)



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday October 8th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber via in person or by phone.

1. Opening of Meeting and call to order:

Mayor Culhane called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call: The Mayor took a roll call

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Elaine Fic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Francine Plante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Also Present

Clerk-Treasurer Karine Pelletier
Superintendent: Mark Brown
Members of the audience present: 4

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum.

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

301/2024
Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on October 8, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest:

- Councillor Louanne Caza has declared Conflict of Pecuniary Interest on item #14 (c) .

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- a) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **302/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Regular Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on September 10, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **303/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Special Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held September 19, 2024, and on September 23, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **304/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Closed Session Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular and Special Meetings of Council held September 10, 2024, September 19, 2024, and on September 23, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters Arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations, Delegations, and Petitions:

- Jorge VanSlyke, President and CEO of Blanche River Health gave an update on Health System.

8. Correspondence, Information:

- a) Ministry of Natural Resources – New government funding for Ontario Imagery
- b) Timiskaming Health Unit – Perspectives from Northern Ontario for the Public Health Funding Review

9. Members Update Report:

- Mayor and Council gave a verbal report.

10. New Business:

- a) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **305/2024**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Tourist Monthly Meeting**

THAT Council agrees with the recommendation received from the Tourist Centre Committee to change their monthly meeting to the third Tuesday of the month instead of the first Wednesday of the month, beginning in November 2024.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

306/2024
Recreation Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on August 12, 2024 and September 3, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

307/2024
Tourist Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Tourist Committee Meeting held on August 7, 2024, be approved.

Carried

- d) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

308/2024
Strategic Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on August 27, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- e) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

309/2024
Shared Resources

WHEREAS the Township of McGarry is a community that is home to various resource-based community partners which include mining and forestry; and

WHEREAS the Township of McGarry, as a resource-based community, faces many challenges resulting from having such resource-based industries located and operating within and in proximity of the Township such as localized heavy truck traffic which increases demands on local road infrastructure, traffic congestion, and delays, and general safety concerns for pedestrians and other forms of active transportation users; and

WHEREAS the demands caused by these resource-based industries have created additional costs for the Township of McGarry to maintain the local infrastructure required to service these industries adequately; and

WHEREAS the current assessment-based taxation system does not provide significant funding to the Municipality to meet these demands and needs; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has adopted a critical minerals strategy to position Ontario as a global leader in responsibility sourced critical minerals which aims to see more resources extraction and processing in the North; and

WHEREAS the future housing demand on the Township of McGarry as mining is further developed in Northern Ontario will expand the current infrastructure funding gap locally as new housing and development-related infrastructure is required to support and facilitate future mining operation; and

WHEREAS the Township of McGarry acknowledges that it is a recipient of the Northern Ontario Resources Development Support (NORDS) Fund but maintains that the amount received is inadequate to support the demands on local infrastructure caused by the resources-based industries in the area nor is it proportionate to the revenues being for the province by said industries;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry hereby petitions the Province of Ontario to create a Provincial funding model, in addition to the NORDS fund which is set to expire in 2026-2027, to provide revenues to all resource-based communities in Northern Ontario that are proportionate to the revenues leaving our region in an effort to offset the additional burdens placed on resource-based communities to provide municipal services to these industries; and

FINALLY THAT a copy of this motion be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal affairs and Housing, Minister of Northern Development, Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP, Minister of Mines, Association of Municipalities (AMO), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), North (Western) Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), all district of Timiskaming municipalities, City of Timmins, Municipality of Red Lake, and Township of Dubreuilville.

Carried

- f) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

310/2024
Municipal elections Act Resolution

WHEREAS, elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and votes in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

WHEREAS, legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

WHEREAS, the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrator can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

WHEREAS, the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

WHEREAS, the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

WHEREAS, with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses , there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill.

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administration to enforce,

WHEREAS, while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges;

WHEREAS, to keep public trust and improve safeguard the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

WHEREAS, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and treasurer of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

WHEREAS, AMCTO, put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of McGarry calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and ahead of the 2030 elections; and be it further

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal affairs and Housing (ministermah@ontario.ca) , the Minister of Education(minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca), the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), Sylvia Jones MPP (sylvia.jones@ontario.ca) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com).

Carried

11. Passing of Accounts:

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

311/2024
Accounts

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

SEPTEMBER 2024:

Payroll: \$ 25,056.20
General: \$ 142,697.01

Carried

12. Passing of By-Laws: None

13. a) Submitted questions:

- Evelyn Smith – Question on National Day for Truth and reconciliation and Remembrance Day
- Muriel Rose – Question on land encroachment

b) Audience Question:

A question period was held.

14. Closed Meeting:

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

312/2024
Closed Session

THAT Council goes into closed session at 7:05 p.m. under the Municipal Act 2001, C25, s 239, Section (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees., 239 (3) (b) an ongoing investigation respecting the municipality, a local board or a municipality-controlled corporation by the Ombudsman appointed under the *Ombudsman Act*, an Ombudsman referred to in subsection 223.13 (1) of this Act, or the investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1). 2014, c. 13, Sch. 9, s.22.

Carried

- Councillor Louanne Caza declared a conflict of interest on item #14 (c) and left the room. Council held a discussion, once the discussion was done Councillor Louanne Caza returned to the Council Chambers.

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

313/2024
Out of Closed Session

THAT Council come out of closed session at 7:47 p.m.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

314/2024
NORDS

THAT Council directs the Clerk-Treasurer to transfer the NORDS funds in the amount of \$195,000.00 into the general fund and to transfer the investment fund in the amount of \$255,000.00 into the general fund.

Carried

15. Confirmation By-Law:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

315/2024
By-Law 2024-55

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 8th day of October 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-55.

Carried

16. Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

316/2024
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Carried



MAYOR



CLERK-TREASURER