

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEEBING

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held using GoToMeeting Web Conference System

On Wednesday January 19, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Erwin Butikofer
Councillor at Large Gordon Cuthbertson
Crooks Councillor Brian Wright
Scoble Councillor Brian Kurikka
Pearson Councillor Gary Gardner
Blake Councillor Mark Thibert
Pardee Councillor Curtis Coulson

STAFF: Erika Kromm, Clerk-Treasurer
Laura Jones, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
Vanessa Manherz, Cashier/Receptionist

1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

(a) Call to Order: Mayor Butikofer called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

(b) Attendance: Attendance was recorded.

(c) Accept/Amend the Agenda:

Res. No. 2022-01-001

Moved by: Councillor Thibert

Seconded by: Councillor Cuthbertson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THAT the agenda for this regular meeting of Council be approved as presented.

CARRIED ✓

(d) Declarations of Interest:

No declarations of pecuniary interests under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act were brought forward.

2. HEAR DEPUTATIONS FROM AUDIENCE MEMBERS

No Deputation Requests were received for this Meeting.

3. CONSENT AGENDA: MINUTES, REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 3.1 Minutes of the Open Session portion of the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 1
Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on December 15, 2021
(Recommendation to approve the minutes for, with any error corrections, as required.)

- 3.2 Minutes of the Open Session portion of the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 15, 2021
(Recommendation to approve the minutes for both the open session (Item 3.1) and the Closed Session (Item 7.1), with any error corrections, as required.)
- 3.3 Minutes of the meeting of the Roads Board Committee/Board held on September 7, 2021
(Recommendation to receive the minutes)
- 3.4 Voucher Report for the previous month
(Recommendation to approve the vouchers.)
- 3.5 Report from Clerk-Treasurer Regarding Administrative Activity
(Recommendation to receive the report for information)
- 3.6 Report from Working Roads Foreman Regarding Departmental Activity in the preceding month
(Recommendation to receive the report for information)
- 3.7 Report from Fire Chief Regarding Departmental Activity in the preceding month
(Recommendation to receive the report for information)
- 3.8 Correspondence from Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, received January 6, 2022, Regarding New Legislation in Force
(Recommendation to receive the correspondence for information.)
- 3.9 Correspondence from Heart of the Continent, received December 22, 2021, Regarding Thank You for 2021 Contributions
(Recommendation to receive the correspondence for information.)

Res. No. 2022-01-002

Moved by: Councillor Coulson
Seconded by: Councillor Kurikka

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the recommendations from Administration with respect to all of the items on the consent agenda portion of this evening's meeting, being Items 3.1, through 3.9, and the closed session minutes being item 7.1.

CARRIED ✓

4. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING DIRECTION:

- 4.1 Report from Clerk-Treasurer Regarding Health & Safety Policy
Members present reviewed the report.

Res. No. 2022-01-003

Moved by: Councillor Wright
Seconded by: Councillor Kurikka

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the Health and Safety Policy as appended to the report.

CARRIED ✓

4.2 Report from Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Regarding Interim Tax Bill Insert

Members present reviewed the report.

Res. No. 2022-01-004

Moved by: Councillor Coulson

Seconded by: Councillor Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the 2022 tax bill inserts, as appended to the report.

CARRIED ✓

4.3 Report from Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Regarding Penalties on Overdue Taxes

Members present reviewed the report. No resolution was passed.

4.4 Report from Clerk-Treasurer Regarding Kakabeka Primary Care Clinic

Members present reviewed the report. There was some discussion regarding the Province's responsibility for health care. On consensus it was determined to wait until a decision was made on the provincial funding before Council made a decision on this matter.

4.5 Report from Clerk-Treasurer Regarding Propane Pricing

Members present reviewed the report. There was some discussion regarding price fluctuations and regulated pricing. Administration was directed bring forward a draft letter to local MPs to the next regular Council meeting.

4.6 Correspondence from Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy, received December 16, 2021, Regarding 2021 Highlights and Request for Funding

Members present reviewed the correspondence.

Res. No. 2022-01-005

Moved by: Councillor Wright

Seconded by: Councillor Thibert

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs Administration for provide financial support to the Thunder Bay and Area Food Strategy in the amount of \$1,000.

CARRIED ✓

4.7 Correspondence from Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, received January 12, 2022, Regarding Proposed Regulatory Changes related to Excess Soils

Members present reviewed the correspondence. Administration was directed to provide feedback from the Roads Foreman at a future Council meeting.

4.8 Correspondence from AMO, received January 5, 2022, Regarding Joint and Several Liability

Members present reviewed the correspondence.

Res. No. 2022-01-006

Moved by: Councillor Coulson

Seconded by: Councillor Kurikka

WHEREAS municipal governments provide essential services to the residents and businesses in their communities; and

WHEREAS the ability to provide those services is negatively impacted by exponentially rising insurance costs; and

WHEREAS one driver of rising insurance costs is the legal principle of 'joint and several liability,' which assigns disproportionate liability to municipalities for an incident relative to their responsibility for it; and

WHEREAS, the Government of Ontario has the authority and responsibility for the legal framework of 'joint and several liability;' and

WHEREAS the Premier of Ontario committed to review the issue in 2018 with a view to helping municipal governments manage their risks and costs; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario on behalf of municipal governments has provided recommendations in this source document to align municipal liability with the proportionate responsibility for incidents and capping awards;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT The Corporation of the Municipality does hereby support AMO's recommendations; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Corporation of the Municipality does hereby call on the Attorney General of Ontario to work with municipal governments to put forward a plan of action to address "joint and several liability" before the end of the government's current term so that municipalities can continue to offer high quality services to their communities.

CARRIED ✓

4.9 Correspondence from Heart of the Continent, received January 4, 2022, Regarding Renewal of Annual Dues

Members present reviewed the correspondence.

Res. No. 2022-01-007

Moved by: Councillor Kurikka

Seconded by: Councillor Gardner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs Administration to provide annual dues to the Heart of the Continent, in the amount of \$1,000.

CARRIED ✓

5. BY-LAWS

5.1 By-law 2022-001 to authorize Interim Tax Billing

Res. No. 2022-01-008

Moved by: Councillor Coulson

Seconded by: Councillor Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2022-001 to authorize Interim Tax Billing, be passed as presented.

CARRIED ✓

5.2 By-law 2022-002 to Trailer Licensing By-Law

Res. No. 2022-01-009

Moved by: Councillor Cuthbertson

Seconded by: Councillor Gardner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2022-002 to authorize Trailer Licensing, be passed as presented.

CARRIED ✓

6. NEW BUSINESS - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Coulson noted that both the rinks and the skate sheds are open.

Councillor Thibert noted that the hospital has upgraded their COVID status and moved into lockdown. Elective surgeries are being post-phoned, which is creating bottleneck in term of care.

Councillor Kurikka noted that our Roads Crew have done great work with all the snow clearing that has been required.

Councillor Wright stated that he would like to see activity occur on the strategic objective related to the development of a senior's complex in the Municipality. The Clerk-Treasurer was asked to bring a formal resolution to the next meeting.

7. CLOSED SESSION

There were no Closed Session items for this meeting.

7.1 Minutes of the Closed Session portion of the Regular Meeting of Council held on December 15, 2021

This item was approved as a part of the Consent Agenda.

8. CONFIRMATION BY-LAW

8.1 By-law 2022-003 to Confirm the Proceedings of the Meeting

Res. No. 2022-01-010

Moved by: Councillor Wright

Seconded by: Councillor Kurikka

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2022-003, to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting, be passed as presented.

CARRIED ✓

9. ADJOURN THE MEETING:

There being no further business to attend to, Mayor Butikofer adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL


Erwin Butikofer
MAYOR


Erika Kromm
CLERK-TREASURER