

## TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

### MINUTES

SESSION NO. 016

May 27, 2019

The meeting of Council of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Council Chambers , Civic Centre on May 27, 2019 from 6:18 p.m. to 7:22 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor J. Caul, Chairperson; Councillors M. Behan, W. Brunetta, D. Judson, J. McTaggart and R. Wiedenhoeft.

ALSO PRESENT: D. Brown, CAO, E. Slomke, Clerk, D. Galusha, Treasurer, T. Rob, Manager of Operations & Facilities

### **1. COUNCIL MEETING**

(Session No. 016)

1.1 Call to Order at 6:18 p.m.

1.2 Prayer

1.3 Non-agenda items identified to be considered later in this meeting - None.

1.4 Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof.

Councillor Judson disclosed an interest in Item 8.3 from tonight's Committee of the Whole agenda as this is his per diem claim for attendance at NOMA's conference in 2019.

Councillor Judson disclosed an interest in Item 2.3 from this agenda as he is a Board Director of this organization.

Councillor Brunetta disclosed an interest in Item 8.1 from tonight's Committee of the Whole agenda as these are her personal expenses and travel per diem for NOMA Conference on Apr 23rd in Thunder Bay.

Councillor Brunetta disclosed an interest in Item 7.7 from this agenda as she is related to the successful bidder.

Councillor McTaggart disclosed an interest in Item 7.4 from tonight's Committee of the Whole agenda as he reports directly to one of the applicants as part of a work contract that he has.

### **2. Delegations/Deputations:**

2.1 A presentation from Marilyn Herbacz, CEO, Northwestern Health Unit re: proposed changes to public health, funding model and implications to municipalities was received.

151 Wiedenhoeft - Brunetta: THAT the presentation from Marilyn Herbacz, CEO on behalf of the Northwestern Health Unit re: Public Health Modernization be received with thanks.

CARRIED

2.2 A presentation from Robin Dennis, Board Chair and Caroline Goulding, CEO from Fort Frances Public Library and Technology Centre re: Annual Report was received.

152 Brunetta - Wiedenhoeft: THAT the presentation from Caroline Goulding and Robin Dennis on behalf of the Fort Frances Public Library and Technology Centre re: 2018 Annual Report be received with thanks.

CARRIED

2.3 A presentation from Trudy McCormick, Executive Director/Lawyer from Northwest Community Legal Clinic re: Legal Aid cuts was received. Council elected to consider a separate resolution.

Councillor Judson disclosed an interest in this item as he is a board director of this organization. He did not speak to the matter nor vote on either resolution.

- 153 Wiedenhoeft - Brunetta: THAT the presentation from Trudy McCormick on behalf of the Northwest Community Legal Clinic re: Legal Aid cuts be received with thanks.

CARRIED

- 154 Brunetta - Wiedenhoeft: **WHEREAS:**

1. The Northwest Community Legal Clinic (the “**Clinic**”) has delivered services in the Rainy River and Kenora Districts for over 40 years, including through an office in the Town of Fort Frances (the “**Municipality**”);
2. The Clinic assists area residents who cannot afford legal assistance due to financial hardship – including those on social assistance, pensioners, the unemployed, or those with low income;
3. The Clinic’s services are aimed at ensuring that people with low incomes are able to meet their most basic needs, which in turn gives them the ability to live with health and dignity as active members of their community;
4. The Clinic is committed to upholding the rights of the most vulnerable people of the Rainy River and Kenora Districts on issues that are most critical to them – including Ontario Works, the Ontario Disability Support Program, Canada Pension Plan, landlord and tenant issues, Criminal Injuries Compensation, powers of attorney, consumer and debt issues, Aboriginal Status Registrations, Birth/Death Certificates, name changes, and many other areas that impact low-income people;
5. Like other community legal clinics across the province, the Clinic carries out this work through funding provided by Legal Aid Ontario (“**LAO**”);
6. The provincial government’s 2019 budget cut funding to LAO by \$133 million – which is 30% of its budget – retroactive to April 1, 2019;
7. This significant cut will result in a loss of legal services to low income residents in our community, including a loss of critical legal clinic services – such as access to landlord-tenant law, consumer debt issues, legal interventions that ensure access to income supports, protection for injured workers, and public legal education;
8. The cut to the LAO budget has already had a direct negative impact on the Clinic and the services they provide, and in the near future, it will have a devastating impact on the Clinic’s ability to continue to provide legal services to our community’s most vulnerable citizens;
9. The absence of the Clinic’s services will have adverse social consequences for the Municipality and other communities served by the Clinic – including by increased homelessness resulting from avoidable evictions, and increased poverty resulting from lack of income supports and employment supports;
10. The absence of these services will have adverse economic consequences for the Municipality and surrounding communities as well – resulting from increased reliance on municipal services such as warming centres, shelters, and public housing, increased demand on our local court from unrepresented people appearing without legal assistance, and increased reliance on social assistance administration resulting from people being denied appropriate supports;
11. Full and effective access to the justice system is a fundamental right that should be accorded to all the people in our municipality, including our most vulnerable, many of which experience poverty or live on low incomes; and

12. The Council of the Municipality believes all levels of government should provide fair, economically-sound, and evidence-based programs and supports to help low-income residents, vulnerable people, and other equity-seeking individuals escape poverty, precarious housing, and systemic disadvantage, and realize their full potential by living healthy and safe lives.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Fort Frances:

13. Calls upon the Premier and the Attorney General to make a commitment to access to justice, to respect the commitment of their government to not decrease front line services; and to confirm that funding for community legal clinics will not be decreased;
14. Urges the province to restore funding to these critical services and ensure that all the residents of the Rainy River District have access to a fair and equitable justice system, regardless of their incomes; and
15. Directs that a copy of this resolution be issued forthwith to the MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, the Attorney General, and all Rainy River District municipalities.

CARRIED

### **3. Consent Agenda:**

#### **3.1 Items Referred from Committee of the Whole**

155 Brunetta - Wiedenhoeft: THAT the following Consent items be approved:

1. Committee of the Whole Consent items # 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, ~~7.4~~, 7.5, ~~7.6~~, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 7.10, 7.11, 7.12, 7.13 and ~~7.14~~.
2. Council Consent item # 3.2.

CARRIED

- 3.2 Letter dated May 14, 2019 from P. Fuselli, Interim CEO, Parachute re: Proclamation Request  
- will be advised of Council's proclamation

### **4. Approval of Council Minutes: \***

#### **4.1 Session No. 015 dated May 13, 2019.**

156 Wiedenhoeft - Brunetta: THAT the minutes of the Council meetings being Session No. 015 dated May 13, 2019 having been typed and distributed be approved.

CARRIED

### **5. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes: \***

#### **5.1 Session No. 016 dated May 13, 2019.**

157 Brunetta - Wiedenhoeft: THAT the minutes of the Council meetings being Session No. 015 dated May 13, 2019 having been typed and distributed be approved.

CARRIED

### **6. Resolutions from tonight's Committee meeting**

#### **6.1 Council considered the following resolutions:**

Councillor McTaggart disclosed a conflict with resolution 158 below as he reports directly to one of the applicants as part of a work contract that he has. He did not vote on the matter.

Councillor Brunetta disclosed a conflict with resolution 160 below as these are her personal expenses and travel per diem for NOMA conference on Apr 23rd in Thunder Bay. She did not vote on the matter.

Councillor Judson disclosed a conflict with resolution 162 below as this is his per diem claim for attendance at NOMA's conference in 2019.

- 158 Behan - Judson: THAT the report dated May 21, 2019 from P. Briere, By-law Enforcement Officer re: Letter from T&S Wrolstad re: Increase Fence Height be approved to agree with the recommendation of the Planning and Development Executive Committee to deny the request from T&S Wrolstad.

CARRIED

- 159 Behan - Judson: THAT the report dated May 22, 2019 from J. Kabel, Manager of Community Services re: Library Shed Request – Letter from Library Board Chairperson be approved to agree with the recommendation of the Community Services Executive Committee to endorse a meeting with Library personnel to advance the Library Storage Shed request as feasible.

CARRIED

- 160 Behan - Judson: THAT the report dated May 21, 2019 from D. Galusha, Treasurer re: Councillor Brunetta – NOMA Annual Meeting and Conference Travel Expense and Per Diem be approved to agree with the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Executive Committee to approve the Travel Expense and Per Diem Claims in the amount of \$691.80 as submitted by Councillor W. Brunetta for her attendance at the NOMA Annual General Meeting and Conference in Thunder Bay on April 23rd to 26th, 2019.

CARRIED

- 161 Judson - Behan: THAT the report dated May 21, 2019 from D. Galusha, Treasurer re: Councillor Hallikas – NOMA Annual Meeting and conference Travel Expense and Per Diem be approved to agree with the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Executive Committee to approve the Travel Expense and Per Diem Claims in the amount of \$660.00 as submitted by Councillor A. Hallikas for his attendance at the NOMA Annual General Meeting and Conference in Thunder Bay on April 23rd to 26th, 2019.

CARRIED

- 162 Behan - Brunetta: THAT the report dated May 21, 2019 from D. Galusha, Treasurer re: Councillor Judson – NOMA Annual Meeting and Conference Travel Expense and Per Diem be approved to agree with the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Executive Committee to approve the Travel Expense and Per Diem Claims in the amount of \$372.00 as submitted by Councillor D. Judson for his attendance at the NOMA Annual General Meeting and Conference in Thunder Bay on April 23rd to 26th, 2019.

CARRIED

- 163 Behan - Brunetta: **WHEREAS:**

- The Town of Fort Frances considers Public Libraries a vital service to communities across the province, particularly in smaller rural communities like Fort Frances;
- Public Libraries offer much needed assistance to every demographic in our community but in particular the most vulnerable members – including children, seniors, newcomers, unemployed residents, the homeless, lower-income citizens, and individuals from other equity-seeking groups;
- Ontario Library Services – North (OLS-N) provides essential services and support to all Public Libraries in the North, but in particular smaller stand-alone libraries and First Nation Libraries;
- The services provided by OLS-N allow Northern Libraries – including the Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre – to leverage the funding that they receive

from their municipalities, to realize efficiencies, and offer extra services in fulfillment of their mandate;

- The Ontario Government without notice, consultation, or rationale cut the budget of OLS-N by 50 percent;
- This drastic budget cut will dramatically reduce the services that OLS-N are able to offer Public Libraries in Northern Ontario;
- This cut will cause either a reduction in local Library services or an increase in the funding that already financially challenged municipalities must provide to maintain the same level of services by their Public Library;
- This cut will disproportionately affect small Northern communities; whose size and geographic distance create challenges in the delivery of resources and programming and
- This cut is a form of downloading of additional Library costs to Municipalities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- The Council of the Town of Fort Frances strongly urges the Ontario Government to restore funding to OLS-N, at a minimum to the previous 2018 funding level in order for this agency to continue its day-to-day support of Northern Ontario's public libraries, and to continue to maintain the base funding for Ontario Libraries; and
- This resolution be forwarded to Minister Greg Rickford, MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, Minister Michael Tibollo, Premier Doug Ford, Ontario Library Services-North, CUPE, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, The Northern Ontario Municipal Association, The Rainy River District Municipal Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

- 164 Brunetta - Behan: THAT the following members of Council be authorized to attend the Association of Municipalities of Ontario - August 18-21, 2019 in Ottawa, ON:

- Mayor Caul, Councillor Judson, Councillor Hallikas (Alternate – Brunetta)

On the basis as follows: travel expense and per diem allowed.

CARRIED

**7. By-Laws:**

- 7.1 By-law 37/18-A being a by-law to amend by-law 37/18, to adopt an Emergency Plan under the Emergency Management & Civic Protection Act.

- 165 Wiedenhoeft - Brunetta: THAT the following by-laws be introduced and read a first, second and third time, be finally passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Corporate Seal and become law forthwith:

- By-law 37/18-A being a by-law to amend by-law 37/18, to adopt an Emergency Plan under the Emergency Management & Civic Protection Act.
- By-law 38/18-A being a by-law to amend by-law 38/18, to adopt an Emergency Management Program for the Town of Fort Frances pursuant to the Emergency Management & Civic Protection Act.
- By-law 17/17-A being a by-law to amend 17/17, to approve an extension agreement with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) for funding for an Asset Management Plan Coordinator Intern.
- By-law 14/19 being a by-law to authorize the levy and collection of taxes for all municipal purposes in the Town of Fort Frances for the year 2019.
- By-law 15/19 being a by-law to adopt the estimates of all sums required for all municipal purposes during the year 2019.
- By-law 16/19 being a by-law to approve an agreement with Bay City Contractors awarded through a tender process (19-OF-03).
- By-law 60/18-A being a by-law to amend certain user fees in 2019.

CARRIED

- 7.2 By-law 38/18-A being a by-law to amend by-law 38/18, to adopt an Emergency Management Program for the Town of Fort Frances pursuant to the Emergency

- 7.3 By-law 17/17-A being a by-law to amend 17/17, to approve an extension agreement with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) for funding for an Asset Management Plan Coordinator Intern.
- 7.4 By-law 14/19 being a by-law to authorize the levy and collection of taxes for all municipal purposes in the Town of Fort Frances for the year 2019.
- 7.5 By-law 15/19 being a by-law to adopt the estimates of all sums required for all municipal purposes during the year 2019.
- 7.6 By-law 16/19 being a by-law to approve an agreement with Bay City Contractors awarded through a tender process (19-OF-03).
- 7.7 By-law 17/19 being a by-law to approve an agreement with Ed Kaun & Sons Ltd. awarded through a tender process (19-OF-04).

Councillor Brunetta disclosed an interest in this item as she is related to the successful bidder. She did not speak nor vote on the matter.

- 166 Behan - Wiedenhoeft: THAT by-law 17/19 being a by-law to approve an agreement with Ed Kaun & Sons Ltd. awarded through a tender process (19-OF-04) be introduced and read a first, second and third time, be finally passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Corporate Seal and become law forthwith.

CARRIED

- 7.8 By-law 60/18-A being a by-law to amend certain user fees in 2019.

## **8. Information Correspondence:**

- 8.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Watchfile dated May 9th, May 16th, and May 23, 2019.  
Received.
- 8.2 Request from Township of McNab/Braeside re: support resolution E-Learning  
  
Pulled by Councillor Judson, would like to support district Municipalities if they write the government about this matter. A brief discussion took place.
- 8.3 Request from Township of Bonnechere Valley re: Bill C-68 Fisheries Act Amendment  
Received.

## **9. Minutes:**

The following four items were received.

- 9.1 Administration and Finance Executive Committee dated May 7, 2019.
- 9.2 Planning and Development Executive Committee dated May 6, 2019.
- 9.3 Operations and Facilities Executive Committee dated April 17, 2019.
- 9.4 Community Services Executive Committee - May 6, 2019

## **10. Non-agenda Items - None.**

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

11.1 The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

167 Wiedenhoeft - Brunetta: THAT this meeting of the Council of the Town of Fort Frances  
be now closed.

CARRIED

J. Caul, Mayor

E. Slomke, Clerk