

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

COUNCIL MINUTES

SESSION NO. 043

APRIL 9, 2012

The meeting of Council of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre on Monday, April 9, 2012 from 6:40 p.m. to 7:16 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor R. Avis, Chairperson; Councillors J. Albanese, A Hallikas, K. Perry, G. Paul Ryan, S. Tibbs and R. Wiedenhoeft.

ALSO PRESENT: M. McCaig, Administrator (6:40 p.m. to 6:56 p.m. and 7:06 p.m. to 7:16 p.m.), G. Treftlin, Clerk; G. Bell, Manager, Community Services; D. Brown, Manager, Operations & Facilities; L. Witherspoon, Treasurer; J. Kabel, new Manager Community Services.

1. Verbal communications:

- 1) Mayor Avis congratulated Deputy Mayor Tibbs on the recent 50th wedding anniversary she and her husband Marty celebrated.
- 2) Luke Skaarup, Union Gas spoke to Council on the Ontario One Call system.
- 3) Mayor Avis spoke on the recent announcement by the government of Ontario to close the Ontario Tourist Information Centres in Ontario's Sunset Country, including the one in Fort Frances and referred to his letter to Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport on the topic.
- 4) Council acknowledged the high quality of the current museum programming and newsletter of the Fort Frances Museum.

2. Written communications as per the agenda attached.

3. Resolutions:

543 Perry-Wiedenhoeft: That the presentation from Luke Skaarup, Utility Services & Construction Manager, Satellites West Area NW District, Union Gas Limited re: Ontario One Call Inc. be received and further that a written submission be prepared setting out Fort Frances' experiences and benefits since being a member of Ontario One Call Inc. for distribution to all Ontario M.P.P.'s by the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance. CARRIED

544 Perry-Wiedenhoeft: THAT Fort Frances Council convey to the Province that Council is opposed to the recent decision of the Provincial Government to close all the Tourist Information Centres in Ontario's Sunset Country and invites the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the Honourable Minister Michael Chan to discuss with the Mayors of the region alternative methods that would provide on the ground information services while still cutting overhead costs. CARRIED

545 Perry-Wiedenhoeft: THAT the following Consent items be approved:

- 1) Committee of the Whole Consent items # 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 and 7.7
- 2) Council Consent Summary Report #3.1
- 3) Consent items 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5. CARRIED

7.2 approved adjustment to certain aviation fuel pump prices at the Fort Frances Municipal Airport.

7.3 approved entering into an agreement with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for Court Security Prisoner Transportation.

7.4 received Minutes of Settlement – Request for Reconsideration for property located at 840 Fifth Street West for 2009, 2010 and 2011.

- 7.5 approved the transfer of \$327,803.22 to the Waterworks Reserve Fund and \$163,870.55 to the Sanitary Sewer Reserve fund from their respective Water and Sewer Operating Funds for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2011.
- 7.6 approved receiving the Ontario Regulation 284/09 Disclosure Report for the 2012 Operating Budget as presented.
- 7.7 approved the installation of an underground sprinkler system at the Civic Centre at a cost of \$3,125.00.
- 3.3 referred a donation request from Fort Frances High School Grad Committee re: 2012 FFHS Chem Free Grad Party to Administration and Finance Executive Committee for recommendation.
- 3.4 received a letter of resignation from P. Loyie from the Fort Frances Public Library Board effective immediately.
- 3.5 proclaimed April 22-28, 2012 as “National Victims of Crime Awareness Week” in the Town of Fort Frances.

- 546 Perry-Wiedenhoeft: THAT the minutes of the Council meeting being Session No. 42 dated March 26, 2011 having been typed and distributed be approved. CARRIED
- 547 Perry-Wiedenhoeft: THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole of Council meeting being session No. 53 dated March 26, 2012 having been typed and distributed be approved. CARRIED
- 548 Hallikas-Ryan: THAT the letter dated March 30, 2012 from Derksen Professional Corporation re: Multiplicities of Litigation be received and further that the matter proceed as directed. CARRIED
- 549 Hallikas-Ryan: THAT the new proposal received March 28, 2012 from SkyPower Limited with regard to Town property at 1003 McIrvine Road - the Copperlight Project be supported in principle and referred to the Municipal Planner for processing and recommendation back to Council through the Planning & Development Executive Committee. CARRIED
- 550 Ryan-Hallikas: THAT the matter of sale and development of Town owned property at 625 Nelson Street proceed as now further directed by Council. CARRIED
- 551 Ryan-Hallikas: THAT the report dated April 4, 2012 from M. McCaig, CAO re: Moffat Family Fund – the Winnipeg Foundation 2012 Allocation - \$37,500 be approved. CARRIED
- 552 Ryan-Hallikas: THAT the report dated April 4, 2012 from G. Bell, Manager of Community Services re: Children’s Complex/Recreation Advisory Committee Status be approved and that an appropriate amending by-law be prepared. CARRIED
- 553 Hallikas-Ryan: That the report dated March 29, 2012 from Glenn Treftlin, Clerk re Resolution re: Heads & Beds provincial payments in lieu of taxes be approved. CARRIED
- 554 Ryan-Hallikas: Whereas in 1970 the rate of provincial payments in lieu of taxes for universities was arbitrarily set at \$25 per full time student; and

Whereas in 1973 the rate was doubled to \$50 per student and the payment was expanded to include hospitals and provincial correctional institutions; and

Whereas in 1987 the rate was again increased by 50%, still without apparent justification, to \$75 per student and bed; and

Whereas that rate as revised in 1987 has remained constant since that time despite the fact that inflation would in 2012 require almost doubling the payment (\$146); and
Whereas at least sixty-five communities have called for an increase in payments; and

Whereas heads of universities are supporting that call; and

Whereas Premier McGuinty has looked to the municipalities of the province to be the economic engine of Ontario; and

Whereas the payments in lieu of taxes do not meet the actual costs of municipalities to provide the necessary services for these various institutions, thus placing an unfair tax burden on their property tax payers, consequently jeopardizing these municipalities' ability to meet infrastructure demands, and weakening their ability to act as economic engines;

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Fort Frances calls on the government of the Province of Ontario to, effective January 1, 2012, increase the payments in lieu of taxes; and

Further be it resolved that the Town of Fort Frances calls on the Province of Ontario to meet with the host municipalities for the purpose of reviewing the basis for payments in lieu of taxes, and determining a stable foundation going forward for those payments that meets associated costs prior to the 2013 budget cycle; and

Further be it resolved that copies of this motion be forwarded to: Premier Dalton McGuinty; the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance; Sarah Campbell, MPP for Kenora - Rainy River; the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) for consideration of support; the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO); the Association of Municipal Tax Collectors of Ontario (AMTCO), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

CARRIED

- 555 Perry-Wiedenhoeft: 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:

15/12 A by-law to approve a funding agreement with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services under the Court Security Prisoner Transportation Program

16/12 A by-law to authorize capping parameters for commercial, industrial and multi-residential capped property classes and to establish a minimum tax level for certain eligible properties.

CARRIED

- 556 Perry-Wiedenhoeft: That the invitation letter dated March 20, 2012 from the Salvation Army to participate in the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner be received and further that the following be approved to attend: Deputy Mayor Sharon Tibbs.

CARRIED

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

CARRIED

R. Avis, Chairperson

G. Treftlin, Clerk