

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

SESSION NO. 044

July 13, 2020

The meeting of Council of the Town of Fort Frances was held virtually on July 13, 2020 from 6:04 p.m. to 9:23 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor J. Caul, Chairperson; Councillors M. Behan, W. Brunetta, A. Hallikas, D. Judson, J. McTaggart and R. Wiedenhoeft (6:04-8:58pm).

ALSO PRESENT: D. Brown, CAO, E. Slomke, Clerk, T. Rob, Manager of Operations & Facilities (6:04-7:30), A. Bisson, Recreation & Culture Manager (6:04-8:32), J. Holliday, Deputy Treasurer (6:04-7:30), D. Galusha, Treasurer (6:04-7:30), J. Hughes, Information Technology Manager (6:04-7:30) and J. Forbes, Human Resources Manager (6:04-7:30).

1. COUNCIL MEETING

(Session No. 044) to immediately follow the Committee of the Whole

1.1 Call to Order at 6:04 p.m.

1.2 ~~Prayer~~ Silent Meditation

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 Wiedenhoeft disclosed an interest in Item 9.4 from this agenda as his son is a member of CUPE.

2. Delegations/Deputations:

2.1 Presentation from Widlake Properties Inc. re: Senior Housing in Fort Frances (6:06 to 6:28)

A presentation was made by Pete Sanderson and Norm Blackie representing Widlake Properties Inc. along with Hugh Dennis, Fort Frances Age Friendly Committee.

425 Hallikas - Judson: THAT the presentation from Widlake Properties Inc. re: Senior Housing in Fort Frances be received with thanks.

CARRIED

2.2 Presentation of Draft 2019 Audited Financial Statements by R. Gustafson and J. Evans, BDO Canada LLP (6:29 to 7:04)

A presentation was made by Rebecca Gustafson and Jon Evans from BDO Canada LLP.

426 Judson - Brunetta: THAT the presentation of the Draft 2019 Audited Financial Statements by R. Gustafson, C.A. and Jon Evans, C.A. from BDO Canada LLP be received.

CARRIED

427 Brunetta - Wiedenhoeft: THAT the Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances Draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 as prepared by BDO Canada LLP be hereby approved.

CARRIED

3. Consent Agenda:

3.1 Items Referred from Committee of the Whole

428 Behan - Brunetta: THAT the following Consent items be approved:

- 1) Committee of the Whole Consent items # 5.1.
- 2) Council Consent item # 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7.

CARRIED

- 3.2 Letter from E. Bliss, Miss Teenage Northern Ontario re: Sponsorship Opportunity
- will be referred to the Administration & Finance Executive Committee for recommendation.
- 3.3 Letter dated July 2, 2020 from M. Macklem, former Fort Frances resident re: Comments on Cemetery
- will be received with thanks.
- 3.4 Letter received June 29, 2020 from A. Bedard, Fort Frances resident re: Comments on Various Matters
- will be received with thanks.
- 3.5 Letter dated July 6, 2020 from R. Lundy, Fort Frances resident re: Request Permission for Well and Septic services
- will be referred to the Planning & Development Executive Committee for recommendation.
- 3.6 Letter dated July 9, 2020 from N. Proulx, Presidente, Association des francophones du Nord-Ouest de l'Ontario re: Franco-Ontarian Day
- will be advised of Council's proclamation and flag raising will be coordinated with the Mayor's Office.
- 3.7 E-mail from A. McEwen, Fifth Street East Resident re: Public Safety Enhancements
- will be referred to the Operations & Facilities Executive Committee for recommendation with additional input from the Traffic Safety Committee.

4. Approval of Council Minutes: *

- 4.1 Session No. 043 dated June 22, 2020

429 Judson - Brunetta: THAT the minutes of the Council meetings being Session Nos. 043 dated June 22, 2020 having been typed and distributed be approved.

CARRIED

5. Approval of Committee of the Whole Minutes: *

- 5.1 Session No. 044 dated June 22, 2020

430 Brunetta - McTaggart: THAT the report of the Committee of the Whole of Council meeting being Session No. 044 dated June 22, 2020 having been typed and distributed be approved.

CARRIED

6. Resolutions from tonight's Committee meeting

- 6.1 Council considered the following resolutions:

431 Judson - Wiedenhoeft: THAT the following be appointed to the Fort Frances Homelessness Committee for the remainder of the current term of Council:

- Councillor Andrew Hallikas
- Mayor June Caul

CARRIED

432 Wiedenhoeft - McTaggart: Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship
Improving the Quality of Life of Indigenous People Across Ontario's
Municipalities

Joint and Ongoing Commitment Between Signatories:
the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and
the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

1. WHEREAS in Ontario, over 85 percent of Indigenous people live in municipalities;
2. WHEREAS the growing percentage of Indigenous people living in municipalities and the Friendship Centres that serve them participate in and contribute to municipal community life;
3. WHEREAS the Friendship Centres have existed in Ontario municipalities for over half a century and have vital roles to play in community development, social cohesion, and improving the quality of life for Indigenous people living in urban and rural areas;
4. WHEREAS the Friendship Centres receive their mandate from their communities and are inclusive of all Indigenous people;
5. WHEREAS municipal governments have a growing and critical role in human and social services and community development and many have shown leadership in working in partnership with Indigenous organizations;
6. WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission defines reconciliation as "an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships";
7. WHEREAS strengthening relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is essential to municipal governments, Friendship Centres, and communities across Ontario;
8. WHEREAS municipal governments play an important role in providing and delivering valuable programs and services to meet the needs of their residents, as well as being responsible, in all or some part, for over two hundred and eighty (280) pieces of provincial legislation that impact daily life of all who live in Ontario;
9. WHEREAS many municipal governments and Friendship Centres have taken up the responsibility to collaborate on a variety of initiatives that improve Indigenous quality of life and have had tangible community impacts;
10. WHEREAS municipal governments are on the front-lines working directly with all individuals to support and determine social determinants of health, demonstrating a notion of direct responsibility contributing to community wellbeing and prosperity;
11. WHEREAS the AMO has developed the Indigenous Relations Task Force to advise the AMO Board of Directors on municipal-Indigenous relationship building;
12. WHEREAS the OFIFC was founded in 1971 and works to support, advocate for and build the capacity of member Friendship Centres across Ontario;
13. WHEREAS the Friendship Centre Movement is the largest Indigenous service network in the province supporting the vibrant and quickly-growing Indigenous population through programming, research, education, and policy advocacy;
14. WHEREAS AMO and OFIFC are partnering on a variety of initiatives to improve collaboration and information sharing amongst our membership, not limited to the work of the AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Relations Working Group and the AMO-OFIFC Memorandum of Understanding signed on date; AND
15. WHEREAS this declaration is a living document that municipal governments and Friendship Centres can sign onto or use as a framework for the development of local or regional declarations that can be added to this declaration;
THAT SIGNATORY MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZE:
16. THAT Indigenous people reside and build community and resilience in municipalities across Ontario;
17. THE value of Indigenous knowledge and expertise to design, plan, implement, and evaluate public policy and programs that impact the wellbeing of Indigenous people is paramount;
18. THE responsibility taken up by Indigenous Friendship Centres to meet Indigenous community need;
19. THE value of building relationships and partnerships with Friendship Centres to improve the quality of life of Indigenous people in their municipality; AND

20. THAT the exchange of information and skills within and between municipal governments and related associations contribute to improved understanding in the area of Indigenous relations.

THAT SIGNATORY ONTARIO INDIGENOUS FRIENDSHIP CENTRES
RECOGNIZE:

21. THAT they are and have been leaders in urban Indigenous community development and in reflecting and responding to the needs of Indigenous people in municipalities for over half a century;

22. THAT they are engaged in local and regional affairs and that they contribute to municipal life and that they lead the Indigenous social, community, economic, and cultural development of municipalities across Ontario;

23. THE responsibility taken up by municipal governments to meet and serve Indigenous communities;

24. THAT municipal governments provide essential services that Friendship Centre community members rely on to thrive;

25. THAT municipal governments are leaders in Ontario in meeting community needs through local programs, services and community development, be they in human and social services, public safety or public works/infrastructure, and are integral to community well-being and the social determinants of health;

26. THAT the development and maintenance of good relationships and partnerships with municipal governments is essential to achieving long-term positive impact on Indigenous communities; AND

27. THAT Friendship Centres acknowledge that they operate in a municipal landscape and rely on municipal governments.

ALL SIGNATORIES RECOGNIZE:

28. THAT we are uniquely positioned to improve community-wellbeing through local policy development, programs and services as we are well-equipped to be responsive to community needs;

29. THAT community-identified needs and priorities should provide the basis for policy and program development, and that we are uniquely positioned to improve the quality of life of Indigenous people living in municipalities;

30. THAT mutual respect, responsibility, trust, transparency and collaboration to meet common community priorities are key principles of relationship building between non-Indigenous and Indigenous organizations;

31. THAT the Friendship Centres and municipal governments play key roles in working against racism, inequality, discrimination, and stigma within and between communities;

32. THAT the goal of this declaration is to provide municipal governments and Friendship Centres with a framework for relationship-building to advance reconciliation in communities across Ontario;

33. THAT the goal of this declaration is to enhance social cohesion between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and support closer cultural, social and civic ties between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people;

34. THAT we can play a leadership role and set a standard by advancing reconciliation locally and regionally through partnerships and collaboration;

35. THAT fostering local and regional partnerships is integral to improving the quality of life for all communities; AND

36. THAT we establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue and working relationships at the local and provincial orders.

CARRIED

433 McTaggart - Brunetta: THAT Council of the Town of Fort Frances hereby approves the Rainy River District Municipal Association (RRDMA) 2020 Budget Estimate and per Capita Levy as presented.

CARRIED

7. Information Correspondence:

The following four items were received.

- 7.1 AMO Communications
- Watchfile dated June 25, 2020

- Watchfile dated July 2, 2020
- Policy Update: United Call for Emergency Municipal Financial Relief

- 7.2 Letter from Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re: Boundary Waters Forest
- 7.3 Letter from City of Sarnia requesting support for resolution (Long Term Care Home Improvements)
- 7.4 Letter from Kingsville requesting support for resolution (Rent Assistance Program)

8. Minutes:

The following four items were received.

- 8.1 Committee of Adjustment June 4, 2020
- 8.2 Planning & Development Executive Committee June 15, 2020
- 8.3 Operations & Facilities Executive Committee June 17, 2020
- 8.4 Fort Frances Public Library Technology Centre Board - Minutes from April 15, 2020, May 20, 2020 and June 17, 2020

9. In-Camera:

- 9.1 A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board: Expression of Interest (7:32-8:32 p.m.)
D. Brown, CAO, A. Bisson, Recreation & Culture Manager, E. Slomke, Clerk, R. Wright, Kiwanis Club, J. Beaton, Kiwanis Club, W. Derksen, Town Solicitor, C. Brunetta and P. Brunetta, Brunetta Law Office participated in the lengthy discussion. Council members were provided opportunity to ask questions and obtain additional clarification. A resolution will be considered in tonight's meeting.
- 9.2 Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose: Property Matter (8:33-8:36 p.m.)
D. Brown, CAO, E. Slomke, Clerk, W. Derksen, Town Solicitor, C. Brunetta and P. Brunetta, Brunetta Law Office all participated in the brief discussion.
- 9.3 Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board: Agency One Matters (8:37-8:52 p.m.)
D. Brown, CAO, E. Slomke, Clerk,
A verbal update was provided by Mayor Caul.
- 434 Behan - Judson: THAT Council now meet in-camera in order to address a matter pertaining to:
- a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board; more specifically Item 9.1 Expression of Interest and Item 9.5 Surplus Property Update
- labour relations or employee negotiations; more specifically Item 9.4 CUPE Pay Equity Update
- litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; more specifically Item 9.3 Agency One Matters
- advice that is subject to solicitor client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; more specifically Item 9.2 Property Matter

CARRIED

- 9.4 Labour relations or employee negotiations: CUPE Pay Equity Update
**This item was moved to the last in-camera item. Councillor Wiedenhoeft disclosed an

interest on this item as his son is a member of CUPE. He did not speak to the matter and disconnected from the virtual meeting at this point.

(8:58-9:17 p.m.)

J. Forbes, Human Resources Manager, D. Brown, CAO and E. Slomke, Clerk participated in this discussion. A resolution will be considered in tonight's meeting.

- 9.5 A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board: Surplus Property Update

(8:53-8:58 p.m.)

D. Brown, CAO and E. Slomke, Clerk participated in this discussion. Direction was provided to the Clerk.

10. Public Session Resumes at 9:17 p.m.

- 10.1 Council considered the following resolutions from tonight's in-camera session:

Councillor Wiedenhoeft disclosed an interest on resolution 436 below as his son is a member of CUPE. He was disconnected from the virtual meeting at this point, therefore did not vote on it.

- 435 Hallikas - Wiedenhoeft: THAT the report dated June 15, 2020 from A. Bisson, Recreation & Culture Manager re: Sunny Cove Expression of Interest Evaluation be received and further that Council pursue the development of a multi-year lease for Sunny Cove Camp with the Emo-Devlin United Church.

CARRIED

- 436 Judson - McTaggart: THAT the report dated July 9, 2020 from J. Forbes, Human Resources Manager re: Pay Equity and Internal Equity process with CUPE Local 65 be approved which will sanction administration to complete the Pay Equity maintenance payments, and internal equity adjustment identified herein upon reaching final agreement with the CUPE Local 65 Bargaining Unit.

CARRIED

11. ADJOURNMENT

- 11.1 The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

- 437 Judson - McTaggart: THAT this meeting of the Council of the Town of Fort Frances be now closed.

CARRIED

J. Caul, Mayor

M. Behan, Chairperson

E. Slomke, Clerk