

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

Administration & Finance Executive Committee

AGENDA - April 5, 2016

MEETING - Committee Room

Session # 28

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- 1 **Call to Order**
- 2 **Non-agenda items identified to be considered later in this meeting, both in-camera and in open meeting.**
- 3 **Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof**
- 4 **Approval of Previous Committee Minutes**
 - 4.1 Tuesday, March 22, 2016 Meeting Minutes 2 - 3
- 5 **In-Camera**
 - 5.1 Property Disposition Matter
- 6 **Items Referred from Council**
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- 8 **Non-agenda Items**
- 9 **Outstanding Items**
 - 9.1 Couchiching First Nations Water & Sewer Agreement
 - 9.2 Elected Officials Remuneration By-Law No. 02/10-C Review (Fall)
- 10 **Information**
- 11 **Adjourn / Next Meeting Date**
 - 11.1 Tuesday, April 19, 2016

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

MINUTES

SESSION NO. #27

March 22, 2016

The meeting of Administration & Finance Executive Committee of the Town of Fort Frances was held in the Committee Room on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ken Perry and Councillor Wendy Brunetta

ALSO PRESENT: Mark McCaig, CAO and Laurie Witherspoon, Treasurer

REGRETS: Councillor Paul Ryan and Mayor Roy Avis

1. Call to Order

2. Non-agenda items identified to be considered later in this meeting, both in-camera and in open meeting.

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof

- 3.1 Councillor Wendy Brunetta declared conflict of interest on Agenda Item #7.2 Councillor Wendy Brunetta Essential of Fire & Emergency Planning Per Diem as those were her expenses.

4. Approval of Previous Committee Minutes

- 4.1 The Committee considered the following resolution:
Brunetta/Perry: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 be approved as presented. CARRIED

5. In-Camera

6. Items Referred from Council

7. New Business

- 7.1 2015 Contributions to Reserve Funds - The Committee recommended to approve the Contributions to the Waterworks & Sanitary Sewer Reserve Funds in the amount of \$124,745.94, that the General Operating Surplus be transferred to Corporate Reserve Funds as follows Corporate Vehicle & Equipment Reserve Fund – 10%, Corporate Building Reserve Fund – 20%, Corporate Projects Reserve Fund – 65%, Corporate Contingency Reserve Fund – 5%. Further that the actual transfer amounts be reported to Council when the amounts are known.
- 7.2 Councillor Wendy Brunetta Essential of Fire & Emergency Planning Per Diem - Administration will recommend to approve the per diem claim in the amount of \$150.00 as submitted by Councillor Wendy Brunetta for her attendance at the Essentials of Fire & Emergency Planning held in Fort Frances on March 9, 2016.

8. Non-agenda Items

9. Outstanding Items

- 9.1 Couchiching First Nations Water & Sewer Agreement
- 9.2 Elected Officials Remuneration By-Law No. 02/10-C Review (Fall)

- 10. Information
- 11. Adjourn / Next Meeting Date
 - 11.1 Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Executive Committee Chair

M. McCaig, CAO

TO: Administration & Finance Executive Committee
FROM: Laurie Witherspoon, Treasurer
DATE: April 1, 2016
SUBJECT: FFHS Chem Free Grad Party Donation Request

BACKGROUND

At the March 29, 2016 Council Meeting the letter received from the FFHS Chem Free Grad Committee requesting a donation was referred to the Administration & Finance Executive Committee for their recommendation with input from Community Services Executive Committee.

The Fort Frances High School graduation and chem free grad party will take place on June 23, 2016 at the Memorial Sports Centre. As indicated in the attached letter, the FFHS Chem Free Grad Committee is requesting a donation equivalent to the cost of the rental fees for the arena and auditorium, totaling \$960.90.

In the past Council has approved financial donations to the FFHS to offset their cost of the arena and auditorium rental fees and the Rainy River District School Board submitted an HST rebate for the FFHS Chem Free Grad rental expense.



FFHS Chem Free Grad
Fort Frances High School

c/o Brian Gustafson

440 McIrvine Road

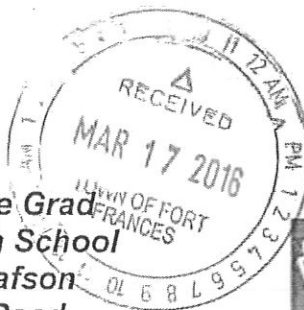
Fort Frances, ON

P9A 3T8

Phone: 807-274-7747

Fax: 807-274-5171

E-mail: brian.gustafson@mail.rrdsb.com



March 11, 2016

Fort Frances Mayor and Town Council
 320 Portage Avenue
 Fort Frances, ON
 P9A 3M5

Dear Mayor and Council:

It is my great pleasure to announce that planning is underway for the 2016 FFHS Chem Free Grad party. There is already a fantastic group of parents working to provide the best possible Chem Free Grad party for the graduates of Fort Frances High School. This will help guarantee a safe, alcohol and substance free environment in which to celebrate their children's high school accomplishments. As a committee, we rely on the support and generous contributions of the Fort Frances community and surrounding area. We thank the Town of Fort Frances for being one of these outstanding contributors year after year.

This year's FFHS Chem Free Grad Party will take place of Thursday, June 23. We are requesting a donation from the Town of Fort Frances equivalent to the cost of the rental fees for the arena and auditorium minus HST, totalling \$960.90. If there are specifics required regarding the Chem Free Grad Party in order to process this request, please contact me by e-mail, phone, or mail using the information given above.

We thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Brian Gustafson
 Staff Advisor – FFHS Chem Free Grad Committee

Administration & Finance Division
Planning & Development Division
Phone: 807-274-5323
Fax: 807-274-8479

Mailing Address for All Divisions:
Civic Centre
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3P9



Operations & Facilities Division
Phone: 807-274-9893
Fax: 807-274-7360

Community Services Division
Phone 807-274-4561
Fax: 807-274-3799

email: town@fortfrances.com
www.fort-frances.com

March 29, 2016

FFHS Chem Free Grad
Fort Frances High School
c/o Brian Gustafson
440 McIrvine Road
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 3T8

Dear Sir:

At their meeting March 28, 2016, Council referred the donation request dated March 11, 2016 from Fort Frances High School Chem Free Grad re: FFHS Chem Free Grad Party June 23, 2016 to the Administration and Finance Executive Committee for recommendation.

By copy of this letter, your request has been referred as directed.

Please direct any questions you may have to Laurie Witherspoon, Treasurer, at 274-5323, ext 248.

Yours very truly,

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION

Elizabeth Slomke, Clerk

ES/kl

c.c. Administration and Finance Executive Committee
Attn: L. Witherspoon, Treasurer

To: Administration & Finance Executive Committee
FROM: Laurie Witherspoon, Treasurer
DATE: April 1, 2016
Subject: Councillor Ken Perry – NOMA Executive Meeting Per Diem Claim

BACKGROUND

Attached is a copy of the Town of Fort Frances Schedule “F” Travel Statement – Mayor/Council Honorarium per diem in the amount of \$150.00 to attend a NOMA Executive Meeting held in Thunder Bay on March 30, 2016 as submitted by Councillor Ken Perry.

The per diem claim is in compliance with the Town of Fort Frances By-Law 02/10-B Schedule ‘A’.

TOWN OF FORT FRANCES - SCHEDULE "F"
TRAVEL STATEMENT – MAYOR / COUNCIL HONORARIUM

Attendee	Ken Perry
Conference / Seminar Attended	NOMA BOARD MEETING
Location	Victoria Inn Thunder Bay
Dates	Mar 30/16

Details of Per Diem

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
Date			Mar 30					
Amount			150.00					150.00

Name (Please Print) Ken Perry	Signature Ken Perry
Approved	Date

To be submitted to Payroll for processing when approved by Council

February 29, 2016

To Northwestern Ontario Municipalities

Re: Ontario Energy Board Consultation on Cost Recovery for Expansion of Natural Gas Services - EB-2016-0004

On February 22, 2016 the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), in conjunction with the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce (NOACC) and Common Voice Northwest (CVNW) requested Intervenor Status with the Ontario Energy Board in its proceeding to review alternative ratemaking approaches and frameworks to recover costs of expanding natural gas service to rural and remote communities in Ontario that do not currently have access to natural gas.

The decision to request intervenor status is based on three premises:

- In Northwestern Ontario there are 21 municipalities¹ and a number of First Nation Communities who do not have natural gas service and the cost to install natural gas is beyond the ability of the individual current and future customer to afford, and
- The residents and businesses in those communities pay significantly more for heating than those in communities with natural gas service
- The implications of cost recovery for natural gas expansion is no different than the issue that NOMA and its partners have been pursuing for a number of years – who should pay for the expansion of the electrical transmission system in Northwestern Ontario.

Although NOMA itself, along with every individual municipalities is not eligible to receive an “award of costs” for the expenses incurred in participating in the OEB deliberation. NOACC and CVNW have been deemed eligible in the past and we anticipate that a majority of the cost of the intervention will be reimbursed by the OEB. The initial phase of registering as an intervenor and in responding to a series of issue questions will be covered by NOMA.

¹ A list of communities not served is attached as Appendix B

The position of the coalition is that the current economic tests and policy employed by the OEB to approve expansion disadvantages Northwestern Ontario communities. The coalition will propose alternative approaches to recover revenue to expand natural gas service that would promote expansion into Northwestern Ontario communities, including that costs of expansion of the natural gas system should be shared amongst all natural gas customers in the province – both current and future. This is consistent with the position we all have taken with regards to the expansion of transmission lines to upgrade the service to existing communities connected to the electrical grid and to add new mining and forestry customers to the provincial system.

The Coalition is in the process of garnering the evidence we need to make our arguments before the Ontario Energy Board. One important element will be our ability to show the Board that there is wide spread support for our position. To that end we have attached a resolution² that we would ask that you adopt and forward to NOMA along with a covering letter. This material will be provided to the firm of Weiler, Maloney, Nelson, the legal firm we have engaged to work on this file.

In order for the resolution to be included in the evidence portion of this process we must receive it no later than midnight, Thursday, March 3. If your Council is not scheduled to meet prior to that date, a letter from the Head of Council in support of our initiative would be greatly appreciated. We would still encourage you to adopt the resolution at some point in the near future.

We have a second request for your consideration.

As one of the 22 municipalities that either does not have any natural gas service or is only partially serviced by piped gas, we are seeking your financial assistance to mount our case before the OEB. While we have a range of legal costs of \$37,504.50 to \$57,504.50 and a caution that these expenses do not include travel and accommodations or any fees associated with filing the evidence.

NOMA has committed to paying the first \$16,500 of the legal costs which will take us up to March 18, the date on which we have to file our written material.

Although NOMA itself, along with every individual municipalities is not eligible to receive an “award of costs” for the expenses incurred in participating in the OEB deliberation. NOACC and CVNW have been deemed eligible in the past³ and we anticipate that a large part of the cost of the intervention will be reimbursed by the OEB.

² Attached as Appendix A

³ Matters before the OEB regarding electricity planning etc.

As also noted above we anticipate being awarded "costs" meaning that approved expenditures will be reimbursed by the OEB. The problem we currently face is that we do not know if we will be approved for costs and to what extent will we be reimbursed. We expect to know that well before the first oral hearing on April 12.

We therefore request that your municipality adopt the attached resolution (B) which commits your municipality to a financial contribution of \$1,000. Should we be successful in obtaining OEB approval for all or partial costs, any amount received through this request will be reimbursed on a pro-rata basis based on the level of contribution. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our Vice President, Iain Angus c/o iainangus@tbaytel.net.

Thanks for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Canfield", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

David Canfield
President

Resolution Regarding the Expansion of Natural Gas Service

Whereas there are 21 rural and remote municipalities in Northwestern Ontario and a number of First Nation communities who do not have direct access to piped natural gas, and

Whereas the residents and businesses in those communities without natural gas service must pay significantly more to heat their buildings and homes than communities with natural gas service, and

Whereas we believe there is a public interest and benefit in extending natural gas services to rural and remote communities; and

Whereas we often hear from the residents and businesses expressing their interest in having access to natural gas and the limitations and barriers they face in not having access to natural gas causes; and

Whereas current economic tests and ratemaking mechanisms associated with new connections to the existing natural gas distribution system do not encourage utilities to expand in Northwestern Ontario, and Whereas currently natural gas expansion in Northwest Ontario requires the new customers to pay. In contrast the vast majority of the existing system was paid for by the rate payers as a whole, and

Whereas the Ontario Energy Board has initiated a hearing on its own motion to consider what mechanisms may be used to recover the costs of expanding natural gas service to Ontario communities that do not currently have access to natural gas, and

Whereas NOMA, NOACC and CVNW (the Coalition) have requested intervenor status on behalf of their member ratepayers (current and future) in Northwestern Ontario, and

Whereas the position of the Coalition is that the cost of expanding natural gas service to communities without it should be shared by all gas rate payers in the Province of Ontario and the OEB implement new ratemaking mechanisms including changes to current economic tests to expand natural gas distribution on such basis.

Therefore, be it resolved that _____ advises the Ontario Energy Board that it supports the position adopted by NOMA, NOACC and CVNW that the expansion of the natural gas distribution system should be paid for by all current and

future gas rate payers and the OEB implement new ratemaking mechanisms including changes to current economic tests to expand natural gas distribution on such basis.

Please forward the letter and resolution to:

admin@noma.on.ca

Appendix B: Resolution Re Contribution to OEB Legal Fund

Whereas there are 22 municipalities either without piped natural gas service or only has partial service in Northwestern Ontario, and

Whereas the cost of introducing natural gas service to these municipalities is beyond the financial capability of the individual household and business, and

Whereas the Ontario Energy Board has commenced a consultation on who should pay for any expansion, and

Whereas NOMA, NOACC and CVNW have registered as intervenors before the OEB, and are proposing a system whereby each existing and future rate payer should contribute to the cost of expansion, and

Whereas the cost to NOMA, NOACC and CVNW of such intervention may exceed \$60,000, and

Whereas the entire region will directly benefit from a positive decision by the OEB to require all rate payers in Ontario to contribute to any expansion through a reduced cost to the future ratepayers and a positive economic impact to the existing communities served by piped natural gas

Therefor be it resolved that _____ agree to contribute \$1,000 towards the Natural Gas Expansion Legal Fund.

Appendix B: List of Municipalities without Natural Gas Service

By District

Kenora

- Sioux Lookout
- Pickle Lake
- Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls

Rainy River

- Alberton
- Chapple
- Dawson
- Emo
- Fort Frances
- Lake of the Woods
- La Vallee
- Morley
- Rainy River

Thunder Bay

- Marathon
- Neebing
- Oliver Paipoonge
- Conmee
- Gillies
- Manitouwadge
- O'Connor
- Schreiber
- Terrace Bay
- White River

Also, only a portion of Shuniah receives natural gas service.

February 23, 2016

To the Municipalities of Northwestern Ontario

Re: Inter-Community Bus System

At the end of 2015 the Transportation Task Force of Common Voice Northwest published a report on what they saw as the future of inter-community bus service across our region. The report was prepared with key input from a regional bus service operator, the two area District Social Service Administration Boards, the one District Service Board, Superior North EMS, the Northwest LHIN and the Transportation Task Force.

It has been endorsed by NOMA, NOACC and the Common Voice Northwest Board. NOMA has presented it to Cabinet during their 2016 OGRA/ROMA multi-minister meeting and has formally forwarded it to Ontario's Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Steven Del Duca as well as being submitted directly to the MTO team developing the Multi-Modal Strategy for Northern Ontario.

The report examined the current reality of moving between communities in the Northwest and who is paying for that transportation today. More importantly it looked towards the future and offered a recommendation as to how best to meet the needs of the residents of our region when it comes to ground transportation. A copy of the report has been sent to each municipality and can be downloaded from www.noma.on.ca.

The key conclusions of the report are as follows:

- The Government of Ontario is already subsidizing inter-community transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area and in Northeastern Ontario.
- The Government of Ontario is already paying to move people between N.W.O. communities for health and social service reasons.
- It would cost approximately \$4 million a year to provide daily bus service to every community in the Northwest.

The system envisioned by the Transportation Task Force has two key components.

- The first is the backbone of the bus system providing service on both Highway 11 and 17. Designed to meet the requirements of the hours of work legislation, one route will run between Fort Frances and Longlac while a second route will connect Winnipeg to Marathon. All of the routes will cross through Thunder Bay at a time of the day where medical and other appointments will be feasible while allowing a return to home that evening.
- The second component will require the development of feeder services to the Highway 11 and 17 main line services. The service from these communities would be designed to connect to the scheduled passing of the highway bus service.

As noted earlier, the report has already been shared with the Government of Ontario. For the Government to recognize that this is an important issue for the Northwest, they need to hear a number of voices requesting the implementation of an inter-community bus system across the Northwest.

To this end NOMA is requesting that you consider adopting the attached resolution.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Canfield", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

David Canfield, President
Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

Inter-Community Bus Service Resolution

Whereas the communities of Northwestern Ontario have seen bus service to and from their communities reduced as well as eliminated over time, and

Whereas the study The Future of Inter-Community Bus Service in Northwestern Ontario produced by Common Voice Northwest and endorsed by the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association and the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce points out that the Ontario Government already provides ground transportation subsidies to Ontario residents residing in North Eastern Ontario and in the Greater Toronto Area, and

Whereas the study also identifies that the Ontario Government, through a variety of Ministries pays for individuals to be transported between communities for medical and social income support reasons, and

Whereas the study recommends that the Government of Ontario provide an annual subsidy to ensure that each community in the Northwest has access to regularly scheduled 7 day a week inter-community bus service

Therefore, be it resolved that _____endorse the findings and recommendations of the Common Voice Northwest report on The Future of Inter-Community Bus Service in Northwestern Ontario, and

Further be it resolved that the Ontario Government be requested to implement the concepts contained within the report, and

That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the following:

- Hon. Steve Del Duca, Minister of Transportation
- Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines
- Hon. Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
- Sarah Campbell, MPP Kenora Rainy River
- Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
- Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce
- Common Voice Northwest