

The Corporation of the
Township of Billings
Regular Meeting

May 4th, 2021 7:30 p.m.

Electronic Meeting

Present: Mayor Anderson, Councillors Sharon Alkenbrack, Bryan Barker, Michael Hunt and Sharon Jackson

Staff: Todd Gordon, Economic Development Officer; Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk; Tiana Mills, Deputy Clerk; Megan Bonenfant, CEMC; Arthur Moran, By-Law Officer

Media: Tom Sasvari

Members of the General Public

1. OPEN

2021- 149 Barker - Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of Council be opened with a quorum present at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Anderson presiding.

Carried

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2021-150 Alkenbrack - Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda for the, 2021 regular meeting of Council be accepted as amended (defer item 8 (l) until the next regular council meeting.

Carried

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Sharon Alkenbrack made the following declaration:

I, Councillor Sharon Alkenbrack, declare a potential direct pecuniary interest on Agenda item No. 8 h. Item Title: New Business – Marina Rental for the following reason: I will have product for sale there.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a) April 15th, 2021

2021-151 Hunt - Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the April 15th, 2021 meeting be accepted as presented.

Carried

b) April 19th, 2021

2021-152 Barker - Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the April 19th, 2021 meeting be accepted as presented.

Carried

- c) **April 27, 2021**
2021-153 Alkenbrack - Hunt
BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the April 27th, 2021 meeting be accepted as presented.

Carried

5. DELEGATIONS
None

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) **Economic Development Committee Report**
Council received report.
- b) **Library Committee Report**
Council received report.
- c) **Lake Kagawong Resource Committee Report**
Council received report.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a) **OPP Detachment Boards**
2021-154 Barker - Alkenbrack
BE IT RESOLVED that Council supports the appointment of a Billings Township representative for a Police Services Board.

Carried

- b) **Main Street Construction Update**
Council received report.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **COVID 19 Update**
Megan Bonenfant, CEMC, presented Council with a COVID-19 update.
- b) **Broadband Update**
Council received update from Todd Gordon, Economic Development Officer.
- c) **Road Management on Invasive Phragmites**
2021-155 Jackson - Hunt
WHEREAS Phragmites australis (Phragmites) is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS Phragmites australis grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short

amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighboring plant species; and

WHEREAS *Phragmites australis* results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches; and

WHEREAS invasive *Phragmites* has been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada; and

WHEREAS the Ontario government has made it illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade invasive *Phragmites* under the Invasive Species Act; and

WHEREAS volunteers, non-governmental organizations, and various municipalities have invested tens of thousands of dollars in investments and labour annually for more than eight years in executing management plans to control invasive *Phragmites* on roads, coasts, shorelines and in wetlands; and

WHEREAS roads and highways where *Phragmites* that are left untreated become spread vectors that continually risk new and treated wetlands and coastal shoreline areas; and 2

WHEREAS according to "Smart Practices for the Control of Invasive *Phragmites* along Ontario's Roads" by the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group, best road management practices for *Phragmites australis* include early detection, and cutting; and

WHEREAS these best management practices are most effective when used in a multi-pronged approach as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures; and

WHEREAS mother nature does not recognize political boundaries. Therefore, it is imperative that Municipalities, Districts, the Province, and the Federal government work together in collaboration to eradicate Canada's worst invasive plant species *Phragmites australis*;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of Billings directs its staff to implement best management practices to promote early detection of invasive *Phragmites*, and to implement best management practices for invasive *Phragmites*, and to join the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group to collaborate on the eradication of *Phragmites* in Ontario.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council for the Township of Billings directs staff to insert clean equipment protocols into tenders and that there is oversight that the protocols are followed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council for the Township of Billings requests the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to map and treat invasive Phragmites annually on all its highways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation communicates the strategy on mapping (detecting sites) and controlling invasive Phragmites on provincial highways, the specific highway management plans and results by each MTO region and each highway in the region and work in coordination with the Township of Billings; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Council for the Township of Billings requests all levels of government to consider funding support to aid the Township of Billings in managing invasive phragmites; and directs staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Carried

**d) Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan
2021-156 Alkenbrack - Jackson**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Billings participate in a joint Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan and provide the necessary portion of funds for the township to do so.

Carried

**e) Manitoulin Island Cycling Association (MICA) E-Bike Rack and Charger
2021-157 Alkenbrack - Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct staff to seek more technical information from MICA regarding the charger installation and do more research to determine the preferred location.

Carried

f) Aus Hunt Marina & Small Craft Basin

Council received update from Todd Gordon, Economic Development Officer.

**g) Flywheel Art Submissions
2021-158 Barker - Alkenbrack**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct staff to issue a Call to Artists - Request for Quote (RFQ) - for services in creating a new image on the flywheel at the Old Mill Heritage Centre/Municipal Office.

Carried

h) Marina Rental

2021-159 Jackson - Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that the vacant portion of the Aus Hunt Marina be rented to Deb Flaxman for a fee of \$225/month + HST with a completed and signed rental agreement on file. The hours of operation cannot exceed the normal operating hours of the Aus Hunt Marina and they cannot sell products that are available for sale at the marina. Insurance is required naming the Township of Billings as insured.

Carried

i) Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA) Stantec Support

2021-160 Alkenbrack - Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council support the Stantec Consulting study recommendation for a Little Current Swing Bridge west of the existing Swing Bridge and to circulate this resolution to the Minister of Transportation, Honorable Caroline Mulroney, MPP Michael Mantha, MP Carol Hughes, and to all the Manitoulin Municipality Association members.

Carried

j) Parks, Recreation and Wellness Game Board Pieces Purchase

2021-161 Barker - Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves the purchase of a large LED set of game board pieces for the outdoor game board.

Carried

**k) Invitation from Minister Clark Re: Consultations to Strengthen
Municipal Codes of Conduct**

2021-162 Jackson - Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that Councillor Bryan Barker will participate in the June 10th presentation regarding strengthening accountability for municipal council members.

Carried

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Mary Buie RE: Garbage at Bridal Veil Falls

Council received letter from Mary Buie.

10. INFORMATION

a) Manitoulin Planning Board 2021 Municipal Requisition for Funding

Council received report.

**b) Manitoulin Island Cycling Advocates: Opening Seasonal Roadside
Facilities**

Council received report.

- c) **Norfolk County Letter of Support: the application of the carbon tax on primary agriculture producers**
Council received report.
- d) **Lake Kagawong Resource Committee April 22, 2021 Minutes**
Council received report.
- e) **Parks, Recreation & Wellness Committee April 26, 2021 Minutes**
Council received report.
- f) **Branford- Request to Withdraw Prohibition of Golf**
Council received report.
- g) **Climate Action Committee Meeting April 28, 2021 Minutes**
Council received report.

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

2021-163 Alkenbrack - Barker

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council Authorizes the following accounts for payment:

General Accounts \$51,056.58

and that cheques numbers 6714 to 6732 be authorized for signing as described in the attached register.

Carried

12. CLOSED SESSION

a) **Identifiable Individual**

2021-164 Alkenbrack - Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 239(2)(d) of the *Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations*, this Council proceed to a Closed Session at 8:53 p.m. in order to discuss an item involving an identifiable individual.

Carried

2021 – 166 Alkenbrack - Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council adjourns from the closed session at 8:58 p.m. and resumes the regular meeting.

Carried

13. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

2021-167 Alkenbrack - Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law 2021-19, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council be given first, second, third reading and enacted.

Carried

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

2021-168 Barker - Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of Council be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Carried



Ian Anderson, Mayor



Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk