

The Corporation of the  
Township of Billings  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

May 5, 2020

Electronic Meeting

Present (electronically): Mayor Ian Anderson, Councillors Sharon Alkenbrack, Bryan Barker, Michael Hunt and Sharon Jackson  
Staff: Floyd Becks, Public Works Superintendent; Megan Bonenfant, Deputy Clerk, Todd Gordon, Economic Development Officer; Kristin Koetsier, Climate Change Coordinator; Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk; Bruce Mercer, Treasurer  
Media: Tom Sasvari  
Members of the General Public  
Regrets: none

**1. Opening of Meeting**

**2020-142 Hunt – Barker**

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

Carried

Councillor Jackson made a statement recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of local volunteers Sabine Huege, Marcel Beneteau, and Bill Concannon.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**2020-143 Alkenbrack – Jackson**

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda for the May 5, 2020 regular meeting of council be accepted as presented.

Carried

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**2020-144 Barker – Alkenbrack**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the minutes of the April 20, 2020, regular meeting as presented.

Carried

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations presented.

## 6. Committee Reports

None.

## 7. Old Business

### a) 2020-16 Open Air Burning By-law

This item was deferred to the next regular council meeting.

## 8. New Business

### a) Waterfront Project – wastewater treatment materials quotation

#### 2020-145 Alkenbrack – Barker

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the quotation from Brooklin Concrete for the materials for the Waterfront Project wastewater treatment system, dated March 25, 2020, in the amount of \$33,684.86 + HST.

Carried

### b) Waterfront Project – contract administration

#### 2020-146 Jackson – Barker

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accept the cost estimate from exp Services Inc for contract administration, as detailed in their cost proposal dated April 22, 2020, in the amount of \$52,920 + HST.

Carried

### c) Truck tender

#### 2020-147 Alkenbrack – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes staff to retender for a 4-wheel drive double cab half-ton truck.

Carried

### d) Sweeper

#### 2020-148 Hunt – Barker

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accept the sweeper quote from Creighton at a cost of \$16,806.25 + HST.

Carried

### e) Streetlights

#### 2020-149 Hunt – Barker

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorize staff to proceed with the streetlight replacement project, up to \$25,000, as approved in the 2020 budget.

Carried

Councillor Hunt requested that staff investigate including the installation of a new light in the Anglican Church parking lot in this project.

### f) Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan deadline extension

Council was informed that the deadline for completing this plan has been extended due to the COVID-19 crisis.

g) **Manitoulin Emergency Response research**

**2020-150 Barker – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorize staff to send a letter of support for this project.

Carried

**9. Correspondence**

a) **Mapleton Township re: Farm Tax**

**2020-151 Barker – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of Billings joins Mapleton Township in requesting:

1. The Province of Ontario undertake a review of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme to determine:

- a. The appropriateness of the cost of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme falling disproportionately amongst rural residential and business property owners when the benefit of an economically competitive agricultural industry and affordable food and agricultural products is a provincial objective that should be shared amongst all taxpayers in Ontario;
- b. The adequacy of funding being provided to rural municipalities to offset the cost of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme;
- c. The differences between the amount of property taxes paid in rural and urban municipalities and the root causes of those differences;
- d. Economic competitiveness concerns with disproportionately higher average property taxes being paid in rural municipalities;
- e. Other methods of delivering the farm tax rebate programme to farmland owners where the cost can be shared province-wide; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be sent to Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, MPP Mike Mantha, Mapleton Township, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Carried

b) **Armour Township re: high-speed internet connectivity**

**2020-152 Barker – Alkenbrack**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of Billings supports the letter, dated April 15, 2020, from Township of Armour Councillor Rod Ward, on the need to make substantial investments in high-speed internet connectivity in rural areas; and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Township of Armour, MP Carol Hughes and MPP Mike Mantha.

Carried

**10. Information**

None.

**11. Accounts for Payment**

**2020-153 Alkenbrack – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes the following accounts for payment:

General Accounts \$37,425.92

and that cheques number 6233 to 6241 be authorized for signing as described in the attached register.

Carried

**12. Closed Session**

None.

**13. Confirming By-Law**

**2020-154 Alkenbrack – Barker**

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law 2020-19, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council be given first, second, third reading and enacted.

Carried

**14. Adjournment**

**2020-155 Barker – Hunt**

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of council be adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Carried

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Ian Anderson, Mayor

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Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk

05/08/2020:mb