

Council of the Corporation of
The Township of Billings
Regular Meeting
August 6, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Anderson, Sharon Alkenbrack, Bryan Barker, Michael Hunt, Sharon Jackson
Staff: Floyd Becks, Megan Bonenfant, Kathy McDonald and Arthur Moran
Media: Tom Sasvari
Members of the general public

2019-221 Alkenbrack – Barker

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

2019-222 Barker – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the August 6, 2019 regular meeting of council be accepted as presented.

Carried

Councillor Sharon Jackson declared a potential indirect pecuniary interest in agenda item 8.b) for the following reason: As an employee at Manitoulin Transport, the location of its Head Office and proximity to the Gore Bay-Manitoulin Airport are directly related due to the high volume of traffic generated by and for its employees. If the airport were to cease to exist at its current location, it could impact the future of Manitoulin Transport.

2019-223 Alkenbrack – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts the minutes of the July 15, 2019 regular meeting as presented.

Carried

Councillor Hunt reported on the July 29, 2019 Museum Committee meeting.

Councillor Jackson reported on the July 22, 2019 Parks, Recreation and Wellness committee meeting.

Councillor Jackson reported on the July 24, 2019 Go Green Committee meeting.

Councillor Alkenbrack reported on the preparations for the Senior of the Year event.

Councillor Alkenbrack reported on Summerfest.

2019-224 Alkenbrack – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts Tulloch Engineering's proposals dated August 1, 2019 for mould abatement protocols, post-abatement mould assessment and structural design of the replacement floor system for 15 Old Mill Road, at a combined estimate cost of \$18,300 + HST; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council authorizes the CAO/Clerk to execute any paperwork necessary to initiate the projects.

Carried

2019-225 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the slogan proposed by the Rebranding Committee, Come Experience Billings...Exceptional.

Carried

2019-226 Alkenbrack – Barker

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby confirms the appointment of the following members of the public to the Lake Kagawong Resource Committee:

Bob Clifford, Brian Foreshow, John Hoekstra, Stan Pierce, Rob Seifried and Steve Webber.

Carried

Councillor Jackson left the room for the discussion and vote for the following resolution, due to an indirect pecuniary interest.

2019-227 Alkenbrack – Barker

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the following donations in 2019:

Gore Bay Town (Arena)	\$3,500
Manitoulin Fine Arts	\$ 100
Manitoulin 4H	\$ 100
Manitoulin Navy League	\$ 250
Manitoulin Special Olympics	\$ 250
Gore Bay – Manitoulin Airport	\$5,000
Manitoulin Cycling Advocates	\$ 500
Manitoulin Student Aid	\$ 400
Manitoulin Streams	\$2,500
Manitoulin Family Resources	\$ 250 (Christmas Food Basket)
Gore Bay Fish and Game Club	\$1,000

Carried

2019-228 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT by-law 2019-38, being a by-law to set tax ratios for the 2019 taxation year, be given first, second third reading and enacted.

Carried

2019-229 Jackson – Barker

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves an increase to the Kagawong Fitness Centre membership fees effective September 1, 2019, as follows

Billings Resident fee increase to \$30/month

Non-resident fee increase to \$35/month

Carried

2019-230 Hunt – Alkenbrack

WHEREAS there are 444 municipalities in Ontario that are very efficient and well-governed, and who respond quickly to ratepayers' needs; and,

WHEREAS in the 1990's the Conservative Government forced many municipalities to amalgamate on the guise they would become more efficient, effective, save money, lower taxes and ultimately reduce the provincial deficit; and,

WHEREAS there has never been a valid, evidence-based study that supported these outcomes; and,

WHEREAS forced amalgamation actually accomplished just the opposite: ill feelings, increased animosity and mistrust, job losses, higher local taxes and an increase in the provincial deficit; and,

WHEREAS there are many positive examples of small rural and northern municipalities working together in a collaborative and cooperative manner via shared service agreements that respond to local needs without amalgamation and provincial interference; and,

WHEREAS the provincial government has a large deficit due to their own decision-making; and,

WHEREAS the same provincial government recently reduced one large regional municipal government by 50% without consultation; and,

WHEREAS this same provincial government is presently reviewing other regional governments through a purported consultative approach with a view to reduce or eliminate them; and,

WHEREAS the provincial government should investigate all other internal ways of reducing their deficit and becoming more fiscally responsible over time rather than downloading to the one level of government that is the most efficient, has the lowest cost and is the closest to the electorate which will not put a dent in the provincial deficit; and,

WHEREAS the provincial government could look at what other provinces have done to reduce the debt with one singular education system, organizing unorganized municipalities, controlling OPP costs, substantially increase fines, and find a way to collect millions and million of dollars in unpaid fines and instead, invest in the north and create jobs and stimulate and enhance economic development;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of Billings request that, before the provincial government forces amalgamation in any of the 444 municipalities in Ontario, our AMO organization go beyond requesting 'consultation' and 'demand' that the provincial government do the following:

1. Hold a local referendum letting the citizens decide to amalgamate or not;
2. Conduct an evidence-based study to show that amalgamation actually saves costs, jobs, lowers taxes and reduces the provincial deficit;
3. Allow those municipalities to work out their own local collaborative agreement that best suits their local needs and to be permitted to do so on their own time and volition;
4. Ensure that there is absolutely no conflict of interest in this consultative process; and,
5. Emphasize the political reality of forcing amalgamation on the many rural and northern municipalities across Ontario; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford; Deputy Premier Christine Elliott; Minister of Municipal Affairs Steve Clark; Leader of the Opposition Andrea Horwath; all MPPs in the province of Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA); the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA); the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); the Manitoulin Municipal Association (MMA); and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

Carried

2019-231 Hunt – Barker

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

General Accounts \$110,518.30

and that cheques number 5318 to 5342 be authorized for signing as described in the attached register.

Carried

2019-232 Alkenbrack – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT in accordance with Section 239(2)(d) of the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. Chapter 25, this Council proceed to a Closed Session at 8:50 p.m. in order to discuss a matter pertaining to employee negotiations.

Carried

2019-233, 2019-234, 2019-235 were passed in closed session.

2019-236 Alkenbrack – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council move out of Closed Session at 9:40 p.m. and resume their regular, open meeting.

Carried

2019-237 Barker – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law 2019-39, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council be given first, second, third reading and enacted.

Carried

2019-238 Barker – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adjourns from this regular meeting at 9:50 p.m. until the regular meeting of Council on September 3, 2019 or Call of the Chair.

Carried

Ian Anderson, Mayor

Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk

08/07/19:km

These minutes have been prepared but are not considered official until approved by Council at a subsequent meeting.