

The Corporation of the
Township of Billings
Regular Meeting
Minutes

September 1, 2020

Park Centre Upper
39 Henry Dr. Kagawong

Present: 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; Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk; Arthur Moran, Health and Safety/By-law Officer; Kim Neale, Climate Change Coordinator

Media: Tom Sasvari

Members of the General Public

Regrets: none

1. Opening of Meeting

2020-259 Barker – Alkenbrack

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

2020-260 Jackson – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda for the September 1, 2020 regular meeting of council be accepted as amended.

Carried

An item, the Central Manitoulin resolution regarding OPP detachment boards contained within the Manitoulin Municipal Association agenda materials, was moved from Information to New Business I).

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

I, Councillor Michael Hunt, declare a potential pecuniary interest on agenda item no. 6375 item title Accounts for Payment for the following reason: I am the Postmaster where the postage was purchased.

4. Adoption of Minutes

2020-261 Barker – Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the minutes of the August 4, 2020, regular meeting as presented.

Carried

5. Delegations

None.

6. Committee Reports

Councillors Alkenbrack and Jackson and Mayor Anderson reported on their attendance at the online AMO Conference (see reports appended to these minutes).

7. Old Business

a) 2020-24 Dog by-law

2020-262 Barker – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that by-law 2020-24, being a by-law to provide for the control of dogs, be given second and third readings and enacted.

Carried

b) Investing in Infrastructure Program Community Culture & Recreation stream application

Council received the information provided in the agenda package.

8. New Business

a) COVID-19 response update

Council received the information provided in the agenda package.

b) reThink Green/Smart Green Communities Regional Energy and Emissions Plan

2020-263 Alkenbrack – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves the stepping back of Billings from the reThink Green REEP project and directs staff to request the removal of Billings' municipal energy and emissions data from the REEP and instead reference local planning processes.

Carried

c) Waterfront Project update

The Economic Development Officer (EDO) provided an update on this project as noted in the agenda package.

d) Main Street Hill Project update

The Economic Development Officer (EDO) provided an update on this project as noted in the agenda package.

e) Broadband

The Economic Development Officer (EDO) provided an update on this file as noted in the agenda package.

f) Business Town Hall

The EDO was directed to circulate potential dates (September 14-18 range) and agenda items to Council and staff

g) Digital Main Street application

2020-264 Barker – Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes staff to engage with the Municipality of Central Manitoulin in an application for \$25,000.00 from the “Digital Main Street” program – to jointly hire a *Digital Service Squad* trained specialist on a short-term contract to assist our respective business communities in digital business transformation.

Carried

h) Cemetery survey

2020-265 Alkenbrack – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the quotation from Surveyors On Site and Sutton Inspection Services for survey/mapping of the Kagawong Cedars Cemetery in the amount of \$9,432.11.

Carried

i) Waste Reduction Week 2020

Councillor Jackson will work with the Climate Change Coordinator to develop a plan for observing Waste Reduction Week in Billings and will bring forward with a proclamation for Council’s consideration next meeting.

j) Citizen of the Year planning

Council discussed holding a ‘volunteer social’ if possible, deferred the item to a future agenda for further discussion.

k) 2020-33 Fire Communications (dispatch) by-law

2020-266 Barker – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that by-law 2020-33, being a by-law to authorize the Head of Council and the Clerk to execute an Agreement for Fire Communication (call taking, call alerting and/or dispatching) Services, be given first, second and third readings and enacted.

Carried

l) OPP Detachment Boards

2020-267 Barker – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Billings Township supports the concept of two Police Services Boards for the Manitoulin Island detachment area.

Carried

9. Correspondence

Council received the listed correspondence.

10. Information

Council received the listed information.

11. Accounts for Payment

Councillor Hunt declared a pecuniary interest for this item (see Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest).

2020-268 Jackson – Barker

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

General Accounts \$505,827.21

and that cheques number 6374 to 6406 be authorized for signing as described in the attached register.

Carried

12. Closed Session

a) Identifiable individual

2020-269 Barker – Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 239(2)b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. Chapter 25*, this Council proceed to a Closed Session at 9:32 p.m. in order to discuss an item involving an identifiable individual.

Carried

Resolutions 2020-270, 2020-271, 2020-272, and 2020-273 were passed in camera to accept the minutes from previous closed session meetings.

Resolution 2020-274 was passed in camera to provide direction to the CAO/Clerk.

2020-275 Jackson – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council move out of Closed Session at 9:52 p.m. and resume their regular, open meeting.

Carried

13. Confirming By-Law

2020-276 Alkenbrack – Barker

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law 2020-34, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council be given first, second, third reading and enacted.

Carried

14. Adjournment

2020-277 Barker – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of council be adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Carried

Ian Anderson, Mayor

Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk

09/02/2020:mb

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Report to Council on AMO
Virtual Conference
August 17, 2020

COVID 19 Response - Early
Lessons from The Municipal
Front - Wines

Presenter: Mathew Pegg
Fire Chief - City of Toronto.

- Mathew was the lead in Toronto's emergency control group.
- Started work in January before COVID-19 came to Canada
- now the largest and longest emergency in Toronto's history and in Canada.
- extremely demanding personally (spent 63 consecutive days away from his family).
- Toronto had potentially the environment for 100,000 or more cases and thousands of deaths if steps were not taken quickly to limit the potential for spread.
- Their methodology was

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simple;

- save lives
- do not overwhelm their medical capacity or to protect their economy the best that could.

- COVID-19 present by mid March.
Problems encountered

- Personal protection equipment (P.P.E) availability in a global market was a huge problem or still is, fraudulent P.P.E ^{was} everywhere

- Had to form a separate team to seek P.P.E.

- Shutting down services became necessary and easy, planning or implementing the re-start was much more difficult.

- Handling media demand was very challenging, mis-information was a huge problem, particularly on social media

- Getting people to recognize how to stay safe proved challenging (ie, had to paint circles on the grass in a park to keep people safely apart)

- long term Health Care homes, very challenging

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early in the pandemic coupled with the homeless.

Lessons learned

- Need at least a six month inventory of P.P.E. equipment in stock or available
- Front line workers all have a best before date, all need time off to recover.
- will need to start planning for a transition to more remote workplaces in the future ie) working from home.
- some people resisted lockdowns, now some are resisting the restart!

What Worked

- Toronto Public Health's forecasts were incredibly accurate as to Toronto's eventual infection numbers.
- success depended on how well residents followed the guidelines.
- people quickly went from working together in a work site to working from home.
- public service sector stepped up incredibly to get things done

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- over-whelming majority of the general public supported the direction from their municipality, province or country & flattened the curve quickly.

Observations

- Matthew Pegg believes a second wave is likely as a result of Stage 3 re-opening
- success (or failure) will largely depend on how residents follow the guidelines
- learn to live with the virus
- recognize the most vulnerable are at the highest risk.

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Report to Council on AMO
Virtual Conference.
August 17, 2020

Rural Broadband

Presenter: Joe Hickey, Rock Network

- True broadband is not available in rural Ontario/Canada
- 25 megabits is required for virtual meetings/Netflix etc.
- Need at least 10 mega bits to do much of anything
- Business, Healthcare, Education, Tourism, Agriculture. Future growth will all depend on broadband enhancement.
- Economic growth - for every increase in broadband megabites there is an increase in economic growth.

Community Broadband Networks
(Mr Hickey's vision)

- Affordable & high quality
- Municipality Owned/Operated

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- Open access networks.
Potential Sources of Financing.

Federal Government
Provincial Government
Municipalities.
Banks.

- Specific studies exist from Europe on how the Gross Domestic Product will increase from increased broad-band.

For more info: joe.wickey@vodnets.com

Footnote.

Via Net has erected a new tower this summer near the east end of 4th concession road, Billings Township (Billings Street) coming on line soon!

Via Net will contact me when the tower comes into service.