

The Corporation of the
Township of Billings
Regular Meeting

November 16, 2020

Park Centre, Upper Level
39 Henry Drive, Kagawong

Present: Mayor Ian Anderson, Councilors Sharon Alkenbrack, Michael Hunt and Sharon Jackson
Staff: Megan Bonenfant, Deputy Clerk; Todd Gordon, Economic Development Officer; Arthur Moran, By-law Officer/Health & Safety Coordinator; and Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk
Media: Tom Sasvari
Regrets: Councilor Bryan Barker

1. Open

2020-324 Hunt – 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

2020-325 Alkenbrack – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda for the November 16, 2020 regular meeting of council be accepted as presented.

Carried

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

I, Councilor Sharon Alkenbrack, declare a potential (deemed) pecuniary interest on Agenda Item No. 8n Item Title 2020-43 by-law to authorize lease agreement 91 Main St. for the following reason: the person wanting to rent the space is a friend.

4. Adoption of the Minutes

a) October 19, 2020

2020-326 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the minutes of the October 19, 2020, regular meeting as presented.

Carried

5. Delegations

None.

6. Committee Reports

a) Billings Library Board – October 20, 2020

Councilor Hunt reported on the October 20, 2020, Billings Library Board Committee meeting.

b) Parks, Recreation and Wellness – October 26, 2020

Councilor Jackson reported on the October 26, 2020, Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee meeting.

c) Billings Museum Committee – November 2, 2020

Councilor Hunt reported on the November 2, 2020, Billings Museum Committee meeting.

7. Old Business

a) Enabling Accessibility Fund application

2020-327 Jackson – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs staff to complete an application to the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility's Inclusive Community Grants program for accessibility improvements (ramp) at the Old Mill Building.

Carried

b) FCM MAMP Fund application

Council received the update on this application.

c) Kagawong River warning signage

2020-328 Alkenbrack – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the quote from Beacon Images for three (3) warning signs for the Kagawong River mouth with amending language, and directs staff to install the signs as soon as possible.

Carried

d) 2020-39 Council remuneration

2020-329 Alkenbrack – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that by-law 2020-39 be given second and third readings and enacted.

Carried

8. New Business

a) COVID-19 Response

2020-330 Alkenbrack – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council will resume an electronic format for all council and committee meetings, effective November 23, 2020.

Carried

b) Fire Chief resignation

2020-331 Alkenbrack – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts, with regret, Merv Gilchrist's resignation as Fire Chief of the Billings volunteer fire department.

Carried

2020-332 Alkenbrack – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs staff to start the process of advertising internally for the position of Fire Chief.

Carried

c) COVID ICIP funding

2020-333 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs staff to prepare and submit an application for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure stream for shoreline stabilization in the vicinity of the Kagawong water distribution system low-lift station southerly along Main Street.

Carried

d) By-law report - October

Council received the report.

e) Health and Safety report – September/October

Council received the report.

f) Billings Museum Committee annual report

2020-334 Jackson – Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the 2020 annual report from the Billings Museum Committee.

Carried

g) Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee annual report

2020-335 Hunt – Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the 2020 annual report from the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee.

Carried

h) Economic Development Committee annual report

2020-336 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the 2020 annual report from the Economic Development Committee.

Carried

i) Comprehensive township promotion strategy

2020-337 Alkenbrack – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the recommendation of the Billings Economic Development Committee and directs staff to begin developing a comprehensive Township of Billings promotion strategy, with staged implementation beginning for the tourist season of 2021.

Carried

j) Old Church on the Hill feasibility

2020-338 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the recommendation of the Billings Economic Development Committee and directs staff, through the CAO, to investigate development and community usage of the Old Church on the Hill including, but not limited to, the following:

- Potential uses for the building and property
- Needed improvements related to a given usage
- Costs associated with usage and improvements
- Impacts and implications of usage on municipal operations and community/economic development; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council directs staff to prepare a report to Council providing an overview of the research, presentation of alternatives and recommendations, and that the report be presented to Council by the first regular meeting in April 2021.

Carried

k) Paint Night event

2020-339 Jackson – Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes the use of the Park Centre by the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee free of charge to hold a 'paint night' event on December 5, 2020, to be limited to a maximum of 9 participants with COVID protocols in effect.

Carried

l) Children's Santa event

2020-340 Jackson – Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee to host a children's Christmas event with a budget of \$400, to be limited to 25 persons at a time with COVID protocols in effect.

Carried

m) 2020-42 by-law to authorize property tax payments

2020-341 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that by-law 2020-42 be given first, second and third readings and enacted.

Carried

n) 2020-43 by-law to authorize lease agreement – 91 Main St.

Councilor Alkenbrack declared a pecuniary interest for this item (see Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest).

2020-342 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that by-law 2020-43 be given first, second and third readings and enacted.

Carried

o) ROMA conference 2021

2020-343 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes the following persons to attend the 2021 ROMA conference January 25-26, 2021: Bryan Barker, Sharon Alkenbrack, Sharon Jackson.

Carried

p) Manitoulin Family Resources Christmas basket request

2020-344 Jackson – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council approves a \$500 contribution to the Manitoulin Family Resources 2020 Christmas Food Basket campaign.

Carried

q) Manitoulin Student Aid Fund request

2020-345 Jackson – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes a \$400 award for the Manitoulin Student Aid Fund for 2020.

Carried

r) 2021 council meeting schedule

2020-346 Alkenbrack – Hunt

BE IT RESOLVED that Council accepts the 2021 council meeting schedule as presented.

Carried

s) Municipal office holiday closure

2020-347 Alkenbrack – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that Council authorizes the closure of the municipal office from December 24, 2020 – January 3, 2021 inclusive.

Carried

9. **Correspondence**

a) Anglican Church re: parking lot light

Correspondence received by Council.

b) Tania Espinola re: fire department

Correspondence received by Council.

c) Township of Huron-Kinloss re: *Municipal Elections Act*

Correspondence received by Council.

d) Prince Edward County and City of Belleville re: *Municipal Elections Act* changes 2020-348 Jackson – Hunt

WHEREAS municipalities in Ontario are responsible for conducting the fair and democratic elections of local representatives; and,

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario, with Bill 218, *Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020* is proposing changes to the *Municipal Elections Act* of 1996

- to prohibit the use of ranked ballots in future Municipal Elections, and
 - extend nomination day from the end of July to the second Friday in September;
- and,

WHEREAS each municipal election is governed by the *Municipal Elections Act* which was amended in 2016 to include the option to allow Municipalities to utilize ranked ballots for their elections and shorter nomination periods; and,

WHEREAS London, Ontario ran the first ranked ballot election in 2018 and several other municipalities since have approved bylaws to adopt the practice, or are in the process of doing so; and,

WHEREAS the operation, finance and regulatory compliance of elections is fully undertaken by municipalities themselves; and,

WHEREAS local governments are best poised to understand the representational needs and challenges of the body politic they represent, and when looking at alternative voting methods to ensure more people vote safely, it becomes more difficult to implement these alternatives with the proposed shorter period between Nomination day and the October 24, 2022 Election day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Corporation of the Township of Billings urges the Government of Ontario to continue to respect Ontario municipalities' ability to apply sound representative principles in their execution of elections; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council for the Corporation of the Township of Billings recommends that the Government of Ontario support the freedom of municipalities to run democratic elections within the existing framework the Act currently offers; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, MPP Michael Mantha, AMO, Prince Edward County and the City of Belleville.

Carried

**e) Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board re: rent freeze funding
2020-349 Jackson – Alkenbrack**

BE IT RESOLVED that Council supports the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board's request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for funding to offset revenue losses resulting from the provincial policy on rent freezes; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP Michael Mantha and the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board.

Carried

10. Information

Council received the listed information.

11. Accounts for Payment

2020-350 Alkenbrack – Hunt

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

General Accounts \$838,926.03

And that cheques number 6470 to 6503 be authorized for signing as described in the attached register.

Carried

12. Closed Session

None

13. Confirming By-Law

2020-351 Hunt – Jackson

BE IT RESOLVED that by-law 2020-44, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of council, be given first, second and third readings and enacted.

Carried

14. Adjournment

2020-352 Hunt – Alkenbrack

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of council be adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Carried

Ian Anderson, Mayor

Kathy McDonald, CAO/Clerk