

REGULAR MINUTES
TOWNSHIP OF MACDONALD, MEREDITH & ABERDEEN ADDITIONAL
TUESDAY JANUARY 9, 2024
7:00 P.M. –Council Chambers

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, and the Historic Metis Council.

Mayor: Lynn Watson

Council: Derek Hansen, Adam Chevis, Shelly Bailey

Staff: Lacey Kastikainen

Observer: Michael Cote

1. Call Meeting to Order

#24-1

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we open our Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.”

CD.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

3. Adoption of Agenda

#24-2

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we adopt the agenda as presented.”

CD.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

#24-3

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that the Minutes of Council held on December 12, 2023, be accepted as presented.”

CD.

5. Delegations/Public Presentation

6. Staff & Committee Reports

a) Road Supervisor

- Equipment Maintenance – all equipment in good working order
- Landfill Ditching – Hoping to meet with Phillips to have remainder of the perimeter ditching project completed as soon as possible.
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#24-4

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we authorize payment to Phillips Haulage for 75% of the Landfill Perimeter ditching project.”

CD.

- Winter Works – All equipment running well. 244 tonnes of sand have been used to date. With the exceptional winter we’ve been having all roads employees were able to enjoy time off over the Christmas break.
- Hurley Park Pump Station – Dec 12/23 roads crew assisted OCWA with removal of a pump in the Hurley Park lift station. The pump was completely plugged with rags and a carpet type material. Blockage was removed and pump back in service.
- 2024 Surface Treatment – This years amalgamated tender is due on February 14th – Road Super would like to start early discussion on what we will be surface treating this year as well as summer 2025 so roads crew can begin preparation work (ditching, culverts and gravel) this year. Road Super is recommending single surface treatment for Echo Lake Road from 638 to Gordon farm (3400m) and double surface treatment to Iron River Bridge (1600m). There are some sections of Bar River Road that are due this year as well that we will need to coordinate with Laird Township. We would also like to look into asphaltting Lake Street North, the Office parking lot and Echo Bay Hall parking lot. Councillor Chevis would like to see the numbers for the cost effectiveness of asphalt vs. surface treatment to see if the upfront investment required for asphaltting has a good return on investment.

- Echo Lake Road Stabilization

#24-5

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we accept the report titled “21-1167 Echo River Bank Stabilization Audit Survey of River Bank” from Tulloch Engineering as presented and issue payment to Phillips Haulage for the Statutory Holdback as per progress payment recommendation #4 from Tulloch Engineering.”

CD.

b) Leisure Services Coordinator

- Sportsplex – Holiday rentals went really well with 25-45 skaters for public skating. Canteen is open on a reduced hour basis. The new Sparks skate sharpening machine arrived and is now in service. The field at the Sportsplex was vandalized over the holidays and will require some repair in the Spring.
- The winter carnival will take place on Monday February 19th
- Loon Dollar Monument – We have decorated the Loon Dollar in blue for “Light it up Blue” for Alzheimer’s recognition for the month of January.
- Hall Caretakers

#24-6

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Clerk Administrator to fill the part-time hall caretaker position(s).”

CD.

- Operation Actively Aging – The funding for this program is wrapping up in the new year. Many of the programs will continue without the need for municipal resources. Leisure Services Coordinator will be continuing some of the social activities such as the morning social and bingos for 2024.

c) Fire Chief

- Emergency Calls – Chimney Fire – Echo Bay
- Fire Hall Maintenance – repairs will be moved to this years budget due to contractors scheduling conflicts.
- Equipment Maintenance – All equipment in working order
- Training – January training will focus on completing advanced first aid and getting all personnel re-certified. Safe operations around ice and water supply through ice will also be covered this month.
- Personnel – Nothing new to report
- New Business – SCBA Upgrades – received 216 cylinders in 2023 budget as sale price was received with cost savings and we will be going forward with the upgrade of our SCBA system to the new operating pressure.
- Trotter Fire Agreement – Council reviewed the Trotter fire agreement and will have the Fire Chief weigh in before finalizing for 2024.

#24-7

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we accept the reports from the Road Superintendent, Leisure Services Coordinator and the Fire Chief as presented.”

CD.

d) Treasurer’s Report

e) Cemetery Board

f) Planning Board

g) Police Services Board

h) Algoma District Services Administration Board

- Next meeting Thursday January 25th

i) Algoma District Municipal Association

- Next meeting April 20, 2024 in Blind River

j) Landfill/Recycling

- Non-hazardous waste disposal requests

#24-8

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement to accept up to 75 triaxle loads of contaminated non-hazardous soil at our landfill, conditional to all requirements being met.”

CD.

k) Sewer and Water

7. By-Laws

#24-2205 Borrowing By-law

#24-9

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Clerk to draft By-law #24-2205 being a by-law to authorize temporary borrowing to meet expenditures of the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen additional for the year ending December 31, 2024.”

CD.

#24-10

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we give By-law #24-2205 its first and second reading.”

CD.

#24-11

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we give By-law #24-2205 its third and final reading.”

CD.

#24-2206 Enbridge Gas Franchise Agreement

24-12

Moved By: Adam Chevis

Seconded By: Shelly Bailey

“BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that:

1. This Council approves the form of draft by-law and franchise agreement attached hereto and authorizes the submission thereof to the Ontario Energy Board for approval pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the *Municipal Franchises Act*.

2. This Council requests that the Ontario Energy Board make an Order declaring and directing that the assent of the municipal electors to the attached draft by-law and franchise agreement pertaining to the Corporation of the Township of MacDonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional is not necessary pursuant to the provisions of Section 9(4) of the *Municipal Franchises Act*.”

CD.

#24-13

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Clerk Administrator to draft By-law #24-2206 being a by-law to authorize a franchise agreement between the Corporation of the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional and Enbridge Gas Inc.”

CD.

#24-14

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOVLED that we give By-law #24-2206 its first and second reading.”

CD.

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

- a) Procedural By-law - Council & Budget Meeting Dates for 2024 – Council dates will remain on the first the third Tuesday of each month with the exception of August and December that will have one meeting. All regular meetings will begin at 7pm. Council will be discussing budget items during regular council meetings and will advertise when budget items are being discussed. Additional special meetings will be added as required.

#24-15

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we approve the Council meeting schedule for 2024 as presented.”

CD.

b) Huron North Community Economic Alliance – 2024 Membership – Council has opted not to support this initiative in the 2024 budget.

c) 2024 OMPF Allocation - \$617,000.00 (down \$8,800.00 from 2023)

d) 2024 OCIF Allocation - \$112,816.00 (down \$17,081.00 from 2023)

e) J.L. Richards Strategic Planning Workshop with Full-Time Staff – January 30th 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

#24-16

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOVLED that we authorize an office closure on January 30th from 1:00-4:00p.m. to enable full-time staff to participate in a strategic planning staff engagement meeting with J.L. Richards.”

CD.

f) Ontario Trillium Foundation – Capital Grant Stream – Open February 7-March 6, 2024.

- Council discussed a few ideas regarding soccer fields and baseball fields. Staff will continue discussions during the workshop for the Strategic Plan.

g) OGRA – Letter of Thanks & offer to host future roads courses.

#24-17

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Clerk Administrator to send a letter of thanks to the Ontario Good Roads Association for allowing our Road Superintendent to attend the TJ Mahoney courses locally in Sault Ste. Marie, and to offer to be a host community for future roads courses.”

CD.

h) Municipal Garbage Pickup – Resignation from Janice Catling – Council will not proceed with hiring an external contractor for municipal garbage pickup at this time and we will work this into current staff schedules.

#24-18

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we accept Janice Catling’s resignation from providing waste pickup services at our municipal properties.”

CD.

10. Presenting, Referring or Passing of Account

11. Closed Session-Permissive

#24-20

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that this Council proceed into Closed Session at 8:05 p.m. to consider the following subject matter in accordance with the Municipal Act Section 239(2):

- b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- d) labour relations or employee negotiations;”

CD.

-Discussed staff wage increases for 2024

-Discussed results of Pay Equity Review Completed by Ironside Consulting.

#24-21

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we come out of Closed session at 9:00 p.m. and continue our Regular Council Meeting.”

CD.

#24-22

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we accept the amended Pay Equity Plan from Ironside Consulting as presented.”

CD.

#24-23

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that after review of the current salary scale of the Clerk Administrator position, we amend the 5-Step pay scale to a range of \$42.98-\$48.38 hourly, retroactive to September 18, 2023.”

CD.

#24-24

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that after review of the current salary scale of the Treasurer position, we amend the 5-Step pay scale to a range of \$36.20-\$40.74 hourly, retroactive to September 18, 2023.”

CD.

#24-25

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOVLED that we authorize a Full-Time Staff wage increase of 3% effective January 1, 2024.”

CD.

#24-26

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOVLED that we authorize a Part-Time Staff wage increase of 3% effective January 1, 2024.”

CD.

#24-27

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOVLED that we authorize a Council remuneration increase of 3% effective January 1, 2024.”

CD.

#24-28

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we change the Clerk Administrator title to Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk effective January 1, 2024.

CD.

12. Correspondence

- a) MPAC – Assessment Change Summary – Received as information.
- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing – RE: Financial Indicator Review – Received as information.
- c) Greater Sudbury – RE: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of “Employer”

#24-19

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we support Greater Sudbury in calling for an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of “Employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project.”

CD.

- d) St. Mary’s River Remedial Action - Administrative Controls Guidance Document – Received as information.

13. Mayor & Councillors Comments

- Mayor Watson was contacted by a gentleman from Southern Ontario that is just finishing his schooling to become a pharmacist. This individual was inquiring about real-estate opportunities in our area to provide this service as areas in the North that are currently under-served would be a good place for him to begin his career.

14. Passing of Confirmatory By-law

#24-29

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we pass By-law #24-2207 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on January 9, 2024.”

CD.

15. **Adjournment**
#24-30
Moved by: Derek Hansen
Seconded by: Shelly Bailey
“RESOLVED that this Council shall now adjourn to January 23, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. or until the call of the chair.”

CD.

THAT we accept the minutes this 23rd day of January 2024.

MAYOR

CLERK ADMINISTRATOR