

REGULAR MINUTES
TOWNSHIP OF MACDONALD, MEREDITH & ABERDEEN ADDITIONAL
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 6, 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, Parker Brockelbank, (Shelly Bailey absent -vacation)

Staff: Lacey Kastikainen, Catie Stevens, Cody Jarrell

1. Call Meeting to Order

#24-46

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

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

CD.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

3. Adoption of Agenda

#24-47

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we adopt the agenda as presented.”

CD.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

#24-48

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that the Minutes of Council held on January 23, 2024, be accepted as presented.”

CD.

5. Delegations/Public Presentation

6. Staff & Committee Reports

a) Road Supervisor

- Winter Works

- 12-5 truck blew a hydraulic hose from the pump to the valve bank repair completed in house, will look at having this hose replaced during next safety.
- Winter sand 345 tonnes as of Jan 31st – down 305 tonnes from last year at this time
- Cottage Road has been plowed and sanded 10 times this winter season.

- EARS Meeting

- Jan 11th meeting was held in Bruce Mines in preparation for the upcoming amalgamated tender. Surface treatment tender will be re-written to follow new OPSS standards. Discussion for fog seal application with benefits that include stone retention, winter maintenance benefits & public relations (less dust & flying debris after application)

- Amalgamated Tender – Due February 14th – Surface treatment to include singles layer application on Echo Lake Road from 638 to Gordon Farm (3300m) and a double layer from Gordons to Iron River Road (1600m). Culvert replenishment and calcium also included in the amalgamated tender. Council opted to invest in the Fog Seal application for this years surface treatment as it has the potential to add additional years in useful life. Echo Lake Road will be a good test area for this use as we have a single layer and a double layer, and the entire application will be contiguous.

#24-49

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Road Superintendent to submit the 2024 Amalgamated tender as presented.” See attached.

CD.

- Lake Street/Office Parking Lot Asphalt – The 2024 Asphalt tender will include Lake Street north will include options to add in the Office Parking lot and Echo Bay Hall.

#24-50

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESVOLED that we authorize the Clerk to send out Asphalt Tender 2024.”

CD.

- Landfill – Continued discussion regarding a piece of machinery to address the pushing and covering requirements at the landfill. Discussed the possibility of entering into a long-term lease agreement vs. a purchase. Road Super to investigate the possibility of renting vs. purchasing or even hiring a private company to provide these services. A cost analysis will be prepared and presented to council once more information is received.
- Budget Discussion (Item E in New Business) – Road Super would like commitment from Council on what roads we will be surface treating next year so surface treatment preparations can be completed this year. McCarrels’ Lake Road is due to be completed this year but is being bumped due to Echo Lake Road Stabilization project extensions. Road Super is recommending that we do a re-build of this road including grinding and re-gravelling to prepare for surface treatment. This discussion will continue into remaining budget discussions for 2024.

b) Leisure Services Coordinator

- Sportsplex – January ice rental revenue up \$1,430.00 over 2023 with a total of \$15,630.00 total house booked up 12 hours over last season. Youth hockey program going well with positive feedback.
- Part-Time Arena Care-Taker Position

#24-51

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we hire Nicholas McClelland as our part-time arena caretaker, to begin Monday February 5, 2024.”

CD.

#24-52

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we accept the bid from Kyle Paat in the amount of \$300.00 for the old skate sharpener.”

CD.

- Sylvan Valley Hall – Furnace repairs in progress
- Request letter for use of SV hall for Sylvan Valley Retro Ride

#24-53

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we authorize the use for the Sylvan Valley Hall on February 24, 2024, for the Sylvan Valley Retro Ride, no charge.”

CD.

- 2024 Calendar Of Events:
 - Winter Carnival – Feb 19th
 - Youth Softball & Soccer Registration – Open March 2024 – April 30th
 - Summer Student Job Applications – March – April 12th
 - Easter Egg Hunt with Elks – March 30th
 - Echo Bay’s for Sale – May 4th
 - Family Fest – June 7th
 - Bike Rodeo – June 10th (PD Day)
 - Extravaganza – July 14th
 - Farmers Fall Fun Run – September 22nd.
 - Treats in Your Trunk – October 27th
 - Parade of Lights – December 7th
- Summer Camps: July 15-19, July 22-26, August 12-16, August 19-23
- Swim Program - TBD
- LSC Conference Opportunities – LSC not attending the PRO Expo. Will gather information for possibility of attending the NEORA conference.
- Operation Actively Aging: Hounds Game – Feb 25th, Book Club – Feb 14th, Seniors Bingo – Feb 21st, Games Day – Feb 28th.

c) Fire Chief

- Emergency Calls – No call since last report
- Fire Hall Maintenance – Man doors have been changed.

- Equipment Maintenance – All equipment in working order.
- Training – January training will focus on Auto extraction and chimney fire operations. February will move into more advanced medical and first aid training.
- Personnel – Nothing new to report.
- New Business – SCBA upgrades – Fire Chief to reach out to surrounding municipalities to see if they have any interest in our older equipment.

#24-54

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“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 – Next Meeting February 27th

g) Police Services Board

- January 29th Meeting – Report – Staff Sgt. Graham attended and presented her report on crime in our municipality for November & December. Overall crime has declined. As part of the Victim Service Grant the OPP will be hosting a training conference in March, all members of the Police Services Board & Secretary-Treasurer are invited to attend.

#24-55

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we authorize all member of the Police Services Board & Secretary Treasurer to attend the OPP Conference “Breaking the Silence...Time for Change” on March 20, 2023, from 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. in Sault Ste. Marie.”

CD.

- Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 – Coming into force April 1, 2024
 - No exact details on what effect this will have on how our current board operates. It is expected that our current Police Services Board will no longer be in existence and the new detachment boards will replace them. More information will be provided as it’s received.

h) Algoma District Services Administration Board

- January 25th Meeting – Report – Budget has been passed and details will be provided to Council once received, including the 2024 municipal levy. Wawa is currently in dispute with how they are allocated their municipal share of the ADSAB fees. If successful in their dispute this could affect how the ADSAB budget is distributed amongst municipalities.

i) Algoma District Municipal Association

j) Landfill/Recycling

k) Sewer and Water

- OCWA Quarterly January 31, 2024, Meeting – Report
 - Recommended Capital & Maintenance Expenditures for 2024 – Kevin Spec from OCWA provided a capital budget forecast for Council consideration highlighting the prioritized project. These items will be included for 2024 budget discussion.
 - Water Tower Fall Arrest Upgrades – Tender Discussion

#24-56

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Clerk to tender for the Water Tower fall arrest upgrades.”

CD.

7. By-Laws - #24-2208 Interim Taxes By-law

#24-57

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we give By-law #24-2208 its third and final reading.”

CD.

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

a) Professional Engineering Services (Bridges)– Request for Proposal Discussion

#24-58

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we rescind resolution #23-350 authorizing the Clerk Administrator to send out a Request for Proposal for engineering services for the replacement of the Echo River Bridge.”

CD.

#24-59

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Clerk to send out a Request for Proposals for engineering Services for the municipality, to include the day-to-day functions of the municipality, including engineering analysis and advice as well as the design and contract administration of municipal infrastructure projects as may be requested by the municipality.”

CD.

b) AMP it Up 3.0 Asset Management Workshops

#24-60

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Clerk to participate in six half day training sessions for asset management as follows: O. Reg 588/17 Compliance for Non-Core Assets with Marmak February 27th & 29th, Levels of Service: Meeting the 2024 Requirements with KPMG March 26th & 28th and Determining Lifecycle Activity and Cost to Maintain Current Levels of Service with Hemson February 22nd & 23rd, no registration fee.”

CD.

c) Highway 638 Notice of Study Commencement – Detail design and class environmental assessment study for the rehabilitation of Bar River Bridges on highway 638, Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional, District of Algoma. – Questions & Comments being accepted until February 23, 2024.

- Clerk to reach out to the Project Engineers completing the study to set up a meeting to discuss potential issues with these bridge replacements. Issues with the proposed detours that will be re-routed onto our municipal roads include wear and tear on our roads, speed limits, damages to our roads, time frame. Council would like a detailed project plan and would like explanation on options as to whether these replacements can be completed one lane at a time.

d) Joint Meeting with Laird Township – Setting up time for March or April of this year.

- Proposed date of April 23rd at the Echo Bay Hall. Clerk to discuss with Laird Township. Special Council meeting will be scheduled once a date has been selected.

e) 2024 Budget Discussions

- Went over last years numbers for all items received to date. Overall, we came in really close to last years budgeted amounts except for Hurley Park as the remainder of the equipment won’t be installed until this spring so the equipment and landscaping expenditures will be reflected in this year’s budget. There is also the completion of the landfill ditching project that will resume this spring that was budgeted for in 2023. The final journal entries are completed with the audit and will be presented by the Auditors later in 2024.

f) Building Permits

#24-61

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we acknowledge the Chief Building Official approved a building permit for Courtney Askin to renovate cottage.”

CD.

10. Presenting, Referring or Passing of Account

11. Closed Session-Permissive

12. Correspondence

- a) Algoma Power – RE: Tree Planting Initiative – Clerk to reach out for more information.
- b) Gillian Richards – RE: Impact of planned generation, distribution, and storage of electricity on municipalities in the Algoma District. – Received as information
- c) Enbridge – RE: Ontario Energy Board decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application – Received as information.
- d) FONOM – RE: Social & Economic Prosperity Review

#24-62

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility, and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need

WHEREAS the province can and should invest more in the prosperity of communities

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the **Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional** asks the Province of Ontario to commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Leaders of the Opposition, and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.”

CD.

e) FONOM – RE: Lobbying for more Housing Dollars from Federal Government

#24-63

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we support the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities in their resolution to lobby for more housing dollars from the Federal Government.” See attached resolution

CD.

f) Algoma Public Health – RE: Potential Merger of the Algoma & Sudbury District Health Units – Received as information

g) Algoma Public Health – Minutes from October 25, 2023, Meeting

#24-64

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we accept the Algoma Public Health Minutes from the October 25, 2023, meeting as presented.”

CD.

h) ADSAB – Minutes from November 23, 2023, Meeting

#24-65

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we accept the Algoma District Services Administration Board meeting minutes from November 23, 2023, as presented.”

CD.

13. Mayor & Councillors Comments

14. Passing of Confirmatory By-law

#24-66

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we pass By-law #24-2210 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on February 6, 2024.”

CD.

15. Adjournment

#24-67

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that this Council shall now adjourn to February 20, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. or until the call of the chair.”

CD.

THAT we accept the minutes this 20th day of February 2024.

MAYOR

CLERK ADMINISTRATOR