



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
6:30 p.m. - Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Council Chambers – 1669 Arthur Street, Richards Landing**

Present

Council	Mayor Jody Wildman Councillor Steven Adams Councillor Bryon Hall Councillor Cameron Ross Councillor Greg Senecal
Staff	Amanda Richardson, Clerk Administrator
Delegations	Carla Buckner, PUC

1. Call to Order

Mayor Wildman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Moment of Silent Reflection

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

4. Adoption of the previous minutes

- a. Regular Council Meeting – February 21, 2024

Resolution #2024-58

Moved By: Greg Senecal

Seconded By: Bryon Hall

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

5. Accounts

Resolution #2024-59

Moved By: Steven Adams

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Cheque Register dated March 6, 2024, in the amount of \$69,780.28 be approved as presented.

Carried.

6. Presentations

- a. PUC – 2023 Annual Review

Carla Buckner of the PUC presented Council with a review of the annual report for water and wastewater services for Richards Landing. Future capital expenditures were also discussed, and staff will work with the PUC to include the necessary items in the 2024 budget.

7. New Business and Discussion Items

a. Short Term Rental Draft By-Law

Resolution #2024-60

Moved By: Cameron Ross

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorized staff to begin the public notification process regarding a zoning by-law amendment for Short-term residential rentals, and

That a public meeting be set for April 3, 2024, to consider adoption of the proposed by-law amendment.

Carried.

b. Public Health Ontario (PHO) Lab Closure

Resolution #2024-61

Moved By: Steven Adams

Seconded By: Bryon Hall

WHEREAS on December 6, 2023, the Ontario Auditor General's report and recommendations for Public Health Ontario (PHO) recommends that six PHO labs, including the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab, be closed, and

WHEREAS the Auditor General only visited one lab in Northern Ontario (Sudbury) and only four labs altogether, and only interviewed medical officers from eight out of 34 of Ontario's public health units, and

WHEREAS the Auditor General did not take the opportunity to hear from Northern Ontario residents and communities that would be impacted by its recommendations about the health care inequities already faced by northern Ontarians, and

WHEREAS the title of the Auditor General's report "Value for Money Audit", clearly indicates that the primary objective of its recommendations are financial and are not focussed on addressing existing inequities of health care services in Northern Ontario, and WHEREAS testing has been gradually removed from the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab meaning that the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab has had to send these samples elsewhere to be tested, and

WHEREAS this has resulted in skewed statistics being considered by the Auditor General and published in its report as justification for its recommendation to close the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab, and

WHEREAS the staff employed at the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab have the expertise, experience and knowledge to perform more testing for Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding region which would result in improved testing turnaround times for residents, and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has provided a prime example of the inequities faced by residents of the Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma region when they had to wait 10+ days for their COVID-19 test results even though there was the experience and expertise in the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab to run the tests if the PCR COVID testing was added to the Sault Ste. Marie lab, and

WHEREAS timely testing is key to identifying and confirming dangers to public health and preventing the growth of outbreaks and the spread of infection and the prevention of widespread outbreaks, and

WHEREAS many rural residents in the Algoma region rely on the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab to test the private well water, and

WHEREAS the closure of the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab would mean longer wait times in getting results from beach water, hotel and recreation centre spas/pools and provincial park water sampling for the region, or even the cessation of sampling altogether due to time sensitivity, and

WHEREAS Sault Ste. Marie and area is currently faced an acute shortage of doctors and the availability of clinical/diagnostic testing supports the attraction and retention of doctors, and

WHEREAS a strong local health care system requires a critical mass of skilled health care professionals and health care services, which includes reliable and timely lab testing, and WHEREAS there is a shortage of medical laboratory technologists (MLTs) in Ontario and the closure of the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab will result in the loss of eight full-time positions of skilled and experienced and lab attendants, and

WHEREAS lab staff at Sault Area Hospital are already overburdened with lab testing from critical care (ER, ICU, wards), and

WHEREAS before the PHO moves on with their plan, it requires approval from the Ontario Ministry of Health,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of St. Joseph advise the Ontario's Minister of Health that it is opposed to the closure of the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Township of St. Joseph requests that the PHO be directed to review past decisions to remove the Sault Ste. Marie PHO lab's ability to test samples, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to Ontario's Minister of Health, municipalities across Algoma, the Algoma District Municipal Association (ADMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Algoma-Manitoulin's Member of Provincial Parliament Michael Mantha, Sault Ste. Marie's Member of

Provincial Parliament Ross Romano, the Leader of Ontario's Official Opposition (Marit Stiles) and the Official Opposition's Health Critic (France Gelinias).

Carried.

- c. Mayor Wildman – announcement of funding for seniors' fitness equipment at the WI park from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility.
- d. Councillor Hall – Request to replace bench near WI Pickleball court for walkers when possible.

8. Staff and Committee Reports

- a. 2023 Building Permit Report

Resolution #2024-62

Moved By: Cameron Ross

Seconded By: Bryon Hall

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer regarding that Building Permit Annual Report for 2023 be received for information.

Carried.

- b. 2024 Bi-Annual Bridge Inspection Tender Results

Resolution #2024-63

Moved By: Steven Adams

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Clerk Administrator regarding the result of the 2024 tender results for bridge inspections among five local municipalities be received; and That Council approves the bid from Kresin Engineering in the amount of \$3,729.00 for The Township of St. Joseph.

Carried.

- c. 2024 Go North Music Festival Special Occasion and Noise Bylaw Exemption

Resolution #2024-64

Moved By: Greg Senecal

Seconded By: Steven Adams

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Community Projects Coordinator regarding the Go North Music Festival Special Occasion Permit and Noise Bylaw Exemption be received, and;

That Council deems this concert to be an event of municipal significance to the community and supports the application for a Special Occasion Permit for both July 25 and July 27; and

That Council authorizes the exemption from the Noise By-Law to allow music to be amplified until 12:00 a.m. for the Go North Music Festival on July 28, 2024.

Carried.

d. OPP Detachment Board Appointment

Resolution #2024- 65

Moved By: Greg Senecal

Seconded By: Bryon Hall

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Clerk Administrator regarding appointment of a Council representative to the East Algoma OPP Detachment Boards be received.
Carried.

e. RFQ Results – Pickle Ball & WI

Resolution #2024-66

Moved By: Cameron Ross

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Community Projects Coordinator regarding the results of a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the WI Park and Pickleball Court Upgrades RFQ 2024-02 be received for information, and

That staff be authorized to enter into an agreement with Tom Young Builders for the WI Park and Pickleball Court upgrades.

Carried.

9. Correspondence

Item #	Description	Action
Items to be received for information		
A	OPP - Police Service Board Reports Dec/Jan	Receive
Items with a request for support (resolutions)		
B	Town of Lincoln – Increased funding for libraries and museums	Receive
C	Township of Perry – Amend Blue Box Regulation for ‘Ineligible’ Sources	Support
D	City of Clarence-Rockland – National 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Hotline	Receive

Resolution #2024-67

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT correspondence items A through D be received for information; and That the recommended actions be taken.

Carried.

10. Closed Session

Resolution #2024-68

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proceed into Closed Session at 8:21 p.m. in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

- a. Fire Department Staff

Carried.

Mayor Wildman and Councillor Adams declared a conflict with the closed session item and left the meeting. Councillor Hall chaired the closed portion of the meeting.

Resolution #2024-69

Moved By: Cameron Ross

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does rise from Closed Session at 8:47 p.m.

Carried.

Resolution #2024-70

Moved By: Cameron Ross

Seconded By: Greg Senecal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the report from the Clerk Administrator regarding the hiring process for Fire Chief be received, and

THAT Council authorize a screening and selection process be initiated as discussed.

Carried.

11. By-Laws

a. Confirmation

Resolution #2024-71

Moved By: Bryon Hall

Seconded By: Steven Adams

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-Law 2024-11 being a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held on March 6, 2024; and

THAT said by-law be passed in open council on March 6, 2024.

Carried.

12. Adjournment


Resolution #2024-72

Moved By: Greg Senecal

Seconded By: Steven Adams

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting of the Council of the Township of St. Joseph adjourn at 8:52 p.m. to meet again at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, or at the call of the chair.

Carried.



Joseph Wildman, Mayor



Amanda Richardson, Clerk Administrator