

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5:15 p.m..

Council Members Present:

Mayor Christine Ellis,

Councillors Jason Cottrell, Kelly Elik, John Newstead, Merlyn Snow.

Staff Present: Caitlin Unger, Deputy Clerk

R2012-90 Kelly Elik - Jason Cottrell

The Council for the Township of Strong approve the Agenda for the March 27, 2012 meeting as presented/amended. **Carried**

Declarations of Conflict/Pecuniary Interest:

Delegations:

Kelly Gosbee – damage to vehicle. Ms. Gosbee called the office at 2:30pm and would not be able to attend due to work but will let them know if she would like to attend the next meeting of Council.

Comment Forms –

Ken O’Doherty – High Rock Rd – Lawrence Erven called Mr. O’Doherty the same day.

Wanda Hill – Muskoka Rd – Mrs. Hill was provided contact information for MTO.

Discussion Items:

Road update: All closed roads are now open (Muskoka, Pevensey & Peacock) but Muskoka will continue to be monitored and hours will be tracked. Barricades on Bloomfield will be picked up.

Office Cleaning Tenders Were Opened - Bids were:

Steve Atwell: \$15.00/hour, Sandra Murison: \$20.00/hour, Ben Hopps: \$20.00/hour, Wendy Card: \$16.00/hour, Mark Basso: \$15.00/hour, Susan Deschamps: \$20.00/hour, Darlene Middlebrook: \$15.00/hour. A resolution was passed.

Policy Review – overtime policy will be discussed at the next meeting when the Roads Superintendent is in attendance.

DSSAB High Five – letter and info were given to Kelly Elik to present to the Rec Committee.

Tri/Bi Council Agenda Items – place Library Updates, High Budgets, Committee Administration and Arena Snow Removal on the agenda.

Highway Sign – CAEDA is interested in acquiring the sign site.

Library Budget – council discussed the budget and programs.

Letter from MTO re: shoulders – email was received by all and was discussed.

Property Standards issue – Zoning amendment will be considered once property standard issue is resolved.

Landfill Site Staff Replacement – Landfill Supervisor will be off for 4 weeks due to surgery. The temporary position will be offered to John Hornibrook first, and Mark Basso second.

AHHC Radiology numbers – report from the Center was distributed and discussed.

EMO Completion of requirements – received letter was read. Council wished to send a letter to Fire Chief, Wayne Beavis, thanking him for his hard work.

Landfill Site washroom flooring – quote was read and a resolution was passed.

The following resolutions were passed:

R2012-91 Merlyn Snow – John Newstead

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby adopt the Minutes of the March 13, 2012 council meeting and the March 19, 2012 special meeting of council as circulated. **Carried**

R2012-92 Merlyn Snow – Jason Cottrell

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby approve the Accounts Payable as presented up to and including March 27, 2012 in the amount of \$ 101,962.01 and hereby authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to issue cheques for same. **Carried**

R2012-93 Jay Cottrell – Kelly Elik

WHEREAS John Vanthof, M.P.P. Timiskaming-Cochrane, submitted a motion to the House that “a committee of the Legislative Assembly, with authority to meet at the call of the Chair, should be established as follows: That the membership of the committee be comprised of every member of the Legislative Assembly whose electoral district lies north of the French River; and That the committee be empowered to consider and report to the House, its observations, opinions and recommendations on all policies and legislation of the province that directly impact northern Ontario; and To which any bills whose principal focus and impact affect northern Ontario may be referred.”;

AND WHEREAS the District of Parry Sound IS in Northern Ontario and IS part of the electoral district of Parry Sound Muskoka;

AND WHEREAS Parry Sound District municipalities and their residents share the common socio-economic demographics and issues facing all the other northern electoral ridings including:

1. Lack of access to health care
2. Aging Population
3. Significant travel distances - large geographical area.
4. Limited industrial base
5. On the Canadian Shield
6. Concern over levels of education
7. Parry Sound District has the LOWEST median household income of \$50,921. In comparison: Algoma (Manitoulin) \$58,843.; Atikokan \$66,434.; Kenora 59,493.; North Bay 59,900.; Sault Ste. Marie \$63,377.; Sudbury \$57,008.; Timmins \$69,800.; Timiskaming \$55,555.; Thunder Bay \$68,926. (2006 Statistics Canada)
8. Parry Sound District is part of Northern Ontario for provincial funding programs and federal programs
9. There are Five First Nations in the District of Parry Sound
10. There are numerous unorganized territories
11. Increased cost of living (i.e. higher electrical, heating and transportation costs)
12. Lack of growth, jobs and educational opportunities
13. Is a member of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities;

AND WHEREAS there are numerous references which recognize Parry Sound District as being in Northern Ontario including: media recognition of the Riding’s place in the recent Provincial election

results for the eleven ridings which make up “Northern Ontario Municipalities” (CBC News October 6, 2011); and many provincially/federally funded reports refer to the Riding as being in Northern Ontario: ‘Agricultural Economic Impact Study’, ‘Economic Cage Study’, ‘Ontario Environmental Farm Plan’, ‘Industry Canada’s Exporting in Northern Ontario’; Bill 214 and the Representation Act of 2005 affirm the Riding as one of the eleven Northern Electoral Districts; Ontario Ministry of Finance in its application of the Northern Ontario Energy Credit Program; Northern Ontario Travel – Snowmobiling; Northern Ontario School of Medicine allocation of one of its 13 local NOSM Groups (LNGs); Health Travel grants; Vehicle Licensing; Northern Ontario Growth Plan; Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association; Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; the North East LHIN; the Northern Ontario Waste Diversion Study April 2006, to list a few;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities in the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association support the principle of the Northern Ontario Committee and believe that there is strength in numbers. Therefore, Parry Sound Muskoka Riding should be included in the Committee to provide a strong, united northern voice;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipalities in the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association strongly recommend that Mr. Vanthof amend the Private Members Bill to correct the boundary of Northern Ontario, and include Norm Miller, M.P.P. for the riding of Parry Sound Muskoka on the Committee;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be sent to John Vanthof, M.P.P. Timiskaming-Cochrane with copies to: the Northern Ontario M.P.P.s: Sarah Campbell Kenora-Rainy River, Hon. Michael Gravelle Thunder Bay-Superior North, Bill Mauro Thunder Bay-Atikokan, Gilles Bisson Timmins-James Bay, Michael Mantha Algoma-Manitoulin, Hon Rick Bartolucci Sudbury & Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forest, David Oraziotti Sault Ste. Marie, Victor Fedeli Nipissing, France Gelinas Nickel Belt and Norman Miller Parry Sound Muskoka;

AND FURTHER that copies to be sent to: The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, Andrea Horwath, Leader New Democratic Party of Ontario, Tim Hudak, Leader Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Federal M.P.s: Honourable Tony Clement Parry Sound Muskoka, Jay Aspin Nipissing-Timiskaming, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM).

Carried

R2012-94 Merlyn Snow – John Newstead

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby approve closing the Municipal Offices on May 3, 2012 to allow all staff to attend a training/educational seminar.

Carried

R2012-95 Kelly Elik – Jay Cottrell

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby accept the Tender from: Mark Basso in the amount of \$15.00/hour for office cleaning at the Municipal Offices with a 3 month

probationary
period.

Carried

R2012-96 Merlyn Snow – Jay Cottrell

The Council for the Township of Strong have read the Resolution presented by the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen expressing concern with recent changes to the eligibility requirements under the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program which require all applicants to have a valid Farm Business Registration Number (FBR);

And that Council supports the concern that this change is unfair for those who do not meet the eligibility criteria, such as hobby farmers or those that raise meat for their own purposes.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby support the request to have the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs reconsider the eligibility requirement and to provide financial assistance to livestock producers who have had livestock injured or killed as a result of Wildlife.

And that our resolution of support be sent to the Township of Havelock – Belmont-Methuen for their collection and presentation to the Minister. **Carried**

R2012-97 Jay Cottrell – Kelly Elik

Therefore be it resolved the Township of Strong hereby approve sending 3 representatives to the 2012 FONOM /MMAH Northeastern Municipal Conference May 10, 2012 in North Bay and Banquet Tickets.

Carried

R2012-98 John Newstead – Jason Cottrell

Therefore be it resolved the Township of Strong have read By-law 2012-008 being a by-law to appoint the Committee of Adjustment as provided for in Chapter P13, Section 44(1) of the Planning Act;

Now therefore the Council for the Township of Strong hereby authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. **Carried**

R2012-99 Kelly Elik – Jay Cottrell

Therefore be it resolved the Township of Strong hereby donate \$100.00 to the Almaguin Highlands Secondary School 2012 Graduation ceremonies. **Carried**

R2012-100 Merlyn Snow – Kelly Elik

Therefore be it resolved the Township of Strong hereby accept the 2012 Sundridge-Strong Union Public Library Budget in the amount of \$91,815.24. **Carried**

R2012-101 Jay Cottrell – John Newstead

Therefore be it resolved the Township of Strong hereby accept the 2012 High Rock Lookout Park Budget in the amount of \$5000.00. **Carried**

R2012-102 Kelly Elik – Jay Cottrell

Therefore be it resolved the Township of Strong hereby accept the quote from Depeuter's Decorating Centre in the amount of \$1440.75 (plus wax & seal) for flooring at Landfill #1 office.

Carried

R2012-103 Merlyn Snow – Jason Cottrell

Therefore be it resolved the Township of Strong hereby approve sending Caitlin Unger, Deputy Clerk to the Fred Dean Workshop of May 25, 2012.

Carried

R2012-104 Merlyn Snow – John Newstead

Therefore be it resolved the Township of Strong hereby adjourn at 8:00pm until the next regular meeting of Council on April 10, 2012.

Carried

Mayor, Christine Ellis

Deputy Clerk, Caitlin Unger