

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 5:30 p.m..

Council Members Present:

Mayor Christine Ellis,

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

Delegations:

Mr. Gord Crosby of AECOM attended the meeting to review the Capital Asset Management Plan completed in 2013. He advised that he had used an MTO formula to value the roads which he feels is more in line with a township of our size. Asset Management is a tool that will be used to determine what the Township has, what condition the assets are in and how much should be spent to keep our road assets we have in good shape. The plan recognizes that not all of the roads are listed in the 10 year plan. This does not mean that these roads will not have any work done on them, however any work will occur where funds permit and while other projects are being completed. Mr Crosby rated all the roads according to their condition out of 10 and reported the majority of the roads are in fair to good condition. He reminded council that this is a “live” document and should be kept up to date. This document should be reviewed every 4 years with the term of council. The Capital Asset Management Plan was a good opportunity for staff and council to take an in depth look at their assets and determine the financial commitment that is acceptable each year.

Road Superintendent Kevin Minor attended the meeting. Mr. Minor provided council with a report of activities for December. He reported that the new grader had arrived and he was obtaining options for extended warranty for council to review.

The following Resolutions were passed:

Resolutions:

R2014-001

Merlyn Snow – J. D. Newstead:

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong approve the January 14, 2014 agenda as presented/amended. **Carried**

R2014-002

Jay Cottrell- K. Elik

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby adopt the Minutes of the December 10, 2013 minutes as circulated. **Carried**

R2014-003

Merlyn Snow – J. D. Newstead:

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong re-confirm Resolution R2011-037

“Kelly Elik – Jason Cottrell:

Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Strong hereby appoint John Newstead as Deputy Mayor for the year 2011 and for 2012- Merlyn Snow, 2013 – Kelly Elik, 2014 – Jason Cottrell.” **Carried**

R2014-004

Kelly Elik – Merlyn Snow

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby approve the Accounts Payable as presented up to and including January 14, 2014 in the amount of \$ 375,507.52, and hereby authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to issue cheques for same. **Carried**

R2014-005

J. D. Newstead – Jason Cottrell:

The Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the Capital Asset Management Plan prepared by AECOM;

And that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby adopt the Capital Asset Management Plan as presented. **Carried**

R2014-006

J. D Newstead – Jay Cottrell:

The council is aware that the Township receives some invoices that must be paid prior to Council meetings because of penalties for late payments.

Council is also aware that the Treasurer pays for janitorial services bi-weekly and employee's wages every second Friday.

Council authorizes the Treasurer to issue cheques for the above as and when required throughout 2014. The Council also authorizes the Clerk/Treasurer to purchase necessary stationary supplies, printing supplies and other office materials that are required to efficiently operate the Municipal office from day to day throughout 2014. **Carried**

R2014-007

Merlyn Snow – Jay Cottrell:

The Council for the Township of Strong have read By-law 2014-001 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its meetings for the fourth quarter of 2012 and read the by-law the required readings;

And that 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**

R2014-008

Kelly Elik – Jay Cottrell:

The Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law No. 2014-002 Being a by-law to provide interest to be charged for overdue payments – Tax Arrears the required readings;

And that 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**

R2014-009

J. D. Newstead – Merlyn Snow:

The Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law 2014-003 Being a by-law to establish a charge for interest for non-payment of current taxes the required readings; And that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. **Carried**

R2014-010

Jason Cottrell – Merlyn Snow:

The Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law 2014-004 being a by-law to provide for an Interim Levy and the payment of Interim Taxes for 2014 the required readings; And that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. **Carried**

R2014-011

Merlyn Snow – Kelly Elik:

The Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law 2014-005 being a by-law for Indemnification the require readings; And that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. **Carried**

R2014-012

Jay Cottrell – J. D. Newstead

The Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law No. 2014-006 Being a by-law to authorize the borrowing from time to time to meet current expenditures during the fiscal year the required readings;

And that the Mayor and the Clerk are hereby authorized to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. **Carried**

R2014-013

Jason Cottrell – Merlyn Snow:

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong shall proceed with the Traditional Ballot method of voting for the 2014 Municipal Elections.

Carried

R2014-014

Merlyn Snow – Jay Cottrell:

The Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law 2014-007 being a by-law to provide for Advance Votes to be held prior to Voting Day, And that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. **Carried**

R2014-015

J. D. Newstead – Jason Cottrell:

The Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the Agreement of the Joint Building Committee that includes remuneration to each individual Committee Member for attendance at committee meetings and other meetings as required;

And that the Council for the Township of Strong feel it is each member municipality's responsibility to provide remuneration for their members while performing duties of council which includes the Joint Building Committee;

Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Strong recommend the Joint Building Committee Agreement be amended to remove remuneration to Committee Members from the Joint Building Committee revenue. **Carried**

R2014-016

J. D. Newstead – Merlyn Snow:

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby participate in the Raise the Flag campaign on April 2, 2014 to support Autism Awareness. **Carried**

R2014-017

Jason Cottrell – Kelly Elik

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby support the Resolution presented by the County of Lambton expressing concern with the requalification of Building Officials under the Ontario Regulation 332/12 and the Ontario Building Code;

And That the Township of Strong is also concerned with the requalification process and the financial hardship in terms of registration costs, mileage, days away from the office;

Therefore the Township of Strong hereby forward our resolution of support to the County of Lambton for their presentation. **Carried**

R2014-018

Kelly Elik- Merlyn Snow:

WHEREAS, Paragraph 26, Subsection 8(1) of the Education Act (1990) requires that "school boards develop policies... with respect to procedures to be followed prior to the closing a school by decision of the board"; and

WHEREAS, The Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (2009) states that:

"School boards are required to develop a School Information Profile to help the ARC and the community understand how well school(s) meet the objectives and the Reference Criteria outlined in the Terms of Reference.

And That it is recognized that the school's value to the student takes priority over other considerations about the school.

And Whereas the Near North District School Board Student Accommodation Policy (2009) states that: "The Director of Education shall not.... Fail to monitor and evaluate all schools on a regular basis and complete detailed studies for schools whose viability may be in question"

And Whereas the value to the students, to the board, to the communities and to the local economies of the schools in question cannot be gauged without detailed School Information Profiles;

And Whereas after the first two of four required meetings in the Burk's Falls Area Accommodation Review, the Near North District School Board has yet to provide the ARC or the subject communities with a detailed School Information Profile for any of the three schools under review;

And That the Ministry of Education is currently undertaking an Administrative Review of the NNDSB's North Bay Accommodation Review policy and process following a petition citing similar concerns relating to a lack of information provide;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved that the Corporation of the Township of Strong support the request to halt the Burk's Falls Area Accommodation Review;
And further request that a moratorium on any further Accommodation Reviews by the NNDSB pending the review and revision to their Accommodation Review Policy and Process.

And that we petition the Near North District School Board to request the Ministry of Education provide assistance and direction to the Board in the review and revision of their Accommodation Review Policy and Process.

Carried

R2014-019

Merlyn Snow – Kelly Elik:

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby support the annual Membership to the Municipal Finance Officers' Association in the amount of \$ 271.20 for 2014.

Carried

R2014-020

Kelly Elik – Jason Cottrell:

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the recommendation by the Roads Committee to amend the Road Superintendent's pay range to the next step in the Township of Strong pay grid effective January 1, 2014.

Carried

R2014-021

Jay Cottrell – J. D. Newstead:

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed By-law 2013-026 Remuneration by-law for 2014 and hereby amend the by-law to provide a stipend for the Road Superintendent while attending Council Meetings in the amount of \$ 100.00 per meeting.

Carried

R2014-022

Jason Cottrell – Kelly Elik:

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby authorize Michael A. Hardy, Law Firm to prepare the necessary Transfer of Title documents regarding the Air Park. **Carried**

R2014-023

Merlyn Snow – Kelly Elik:

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby support preparing a Request for Proposal to upgrade the Municipal Website to ensure it meets all new Accessibility Requirements. **Carried**

R2014-024

Merlyn Snow -

The Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the Recommendations for changes to the Township of Strong Employee Policy:

A.1.2 Employee Classification :

General Staff: Include – Office Staff

Full Time Arena Staff,

Part Time/Seasonal Arena Staff

B.2.2. Vacation Pay:

Policy Changed to

After 1 Year – 2 weeks,

After 5 Years – 3 weeks

After 10 years – 4 weeks

After 15 Years – 5 weeks Maximum

No More than two weeks off at a time unless approval received by Supervisor/Council.

D.1.1. Hours of Work

Amend Landfill Site Hours:

40 hours per week – 2 positions

35 hours per week – 1 position

D.2.4 Pregnancy and Parental Leave:

Item 10 amended to read “ to pay the Employers Portion of the Benefit Package while the employee is off on Maternity/Paternity Leave

Recorded Vote requested:

	For	Against	
Chris Ellis		X	
Jason Cottrell		X	
Kelly Elik		X	
John Newstead	X		
Merlyn Snow		X	Defeated

R2014-025

Merlyn Snow – J. D. Newstead

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby adjourn the regular meeting at 8:48 p.m. until the next scheduled meeting on January 28, 2014. **Carried**

Mayor, Christine Ellis

Clerk/Treasurer, Linda Maure