

**TOWNSHIP OF STRONG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
AT 5:30 P.M.  
ON MAY 10, 2016  
IN  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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

**Council Members Present:** Mayor Christine Ellis, Councillors Les Blackwell, Jason Cottrell, Kelly Elik, Jeff McLaren.

**Delegations:**

Gary Benedet attended the meeting to express concern with the proposed road construction work to be completed on Hill Valley Road. Mr. Benedet advised council that he did not want a gravel road and wanted council to leave the road as it is. Council advised that this road work was scheduled based on the Capital Asset Management Plan as prepared by our Engineers. Council advised they would take his concerns into consideration and respond back to him.

Sarah Hicks and Garry McCreary attended the meeting on behalf of the Strong Agricultural Society. They were looking for a donation to help offset the cost of providing equipment free of charge for children ie climbing wall, bouncy castles etc. The Agricultural Society has not had to ask for funds in the past, however with the rising costs of equipment to provide activities for children, they find it is necessary to approach the municipalities. Council deferred a decision at this time until the final budget figures were available.

Sheila Moore attended the meeting to be present while the Clerk's report was reviewed. The Clerk, By-law Officer and Road Superintendent attended the property as directed in December to review the survey stakes. Council agreed to present the By-law to Stop up and Close the shore road allowance at their next meeting on May 24, 2016.

**Guests in the Audience:**

Garry McCreary, Paul Malek, Sheila Moore

**The following Resolutions were passed:**

**R2016-124**

**Jeff McLaren – Kelly Elik**

The Council for the Township of Strong approve the May 10, 2016 agenda as presented and/or amended. **Carried**

**R2016-125**

**Kelly Elik – Les Blackwell**

The Council for the Township of Strong adopt the Minutes of the April 26, 2016 meeting as amended. **Carried**

**R2016-126**

**Kelly Elik - Jeff McLaren**

The Council for the Township of Strong approve the Accounts Payable as presented up to and including May 10, 2016 in the amount of \$98,471.74 and hereby authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to issue cheques for same.

**Carried**

**R2016-127**

**Les Blackwell – Jeff McLaren**

The Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the Municipal Act, 2001 Ontario Regulation 284/09 2016 Budget report as presented. **Carried**

**R2016- 128**

**Kelly Elik – Les Blackwell**

Therefore be it resolved that Council for the Township of Strong hereby accept the Tender as presented from Fowler Construction in the amount \$ 48,804.50 plus HST \$ 5,954.59 for a total of \$ 51,759.09 for Tender 004-2016 – Pulverization Tender.

**Carried**

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**R2016-129**

**Jason Cottrell – Jeff McLaren**

**WHEREAS** the Council for the Township of Strong, has received a request from the West Parry South SMART Community Network (WPS SMART) to support establishing “internet as an essential service”;

**AND WHEREAS** the Township of Strong and WPS Smart share the objectives of improving internet connectivity within the District of Parry Sound for the benefit of community economic health and economic growth;

**AND WHEREAS** The Township of Strong acknowledges the digital divide;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township of Strong request the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) be a proponent for “internet as an essential service” as outlined in the West Parry South SMART submission dated April 10, 2016;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that FONOM be requested to actively lobby Federal and Provincial governments and the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications (CRTC) to:

- a) Implement the seven recommendations outlined in the WPS Smart Submission;
- b) Distribute this motion along with the WPS SMART Submission to key Federal, Provincial, and CRTC leaders including the Minister of Science, Innovation, and Economic Development (Navdeep Bains), the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure (Brad Duguid), the Chairman of CRTC (Jean-Pierre Blais), and all Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament who have responsibility for Northern Ontario.

**Carried**

**R2016-130**

**Kelly Elik – Jason Cottrell**

**WHEREAS** in the 2016 Ontario Budget, the government of Ontario has suspended current intake of applications to the Rural Economic Development program and has indicated that it plans to integrate the program into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund;

**AND WHEREAS** the Jobs and Prosperity Fund is narrowly focused and is restricted to private sector organizations and industry partners, which prevents access to funding for rural municipalities and others who formerly benefitted from the Rural Economic Development Program. The emphasis on large projects that meet either of minimum of \$5 million or \$10 million in eligible project cost thresholds, will significantly restrict benefits from this fund;

**AND WHEREAS** in contrast, the Rural Economic Development Program supported a number of capacity building projects including but not limited to ‘Business Retention and Expansion’ and ‘Downtown Revitalization’ projects and Economic Development Strategic Planning projects for small rural municipalities who were looking to improve their local economy. Also of note is that because the Jobs and Prosperity Fund is not specifically designated for rural areas, that funds from this program will likely favour more urban areas of the province;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE** Council for the Township of Strong asks the government of Ontario to reconsider the suspension of and the integration of the Rural Economic Development Program into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund with the view of ensuring that Rural Economic Development Program stays as an intricate funding program of the Province that will support capacity building and foster economic growth in rural municipalities in Ontario;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

**Carried**

**R2016-131**

**Jason Cottrell – Kelly Elik**

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby accept the recommendation from the Sundridge and District Medical Centre that a by-law template be prepared by Russell, Christie LLP to authorize the three heads of council of the three participating municipalities to transfer ownership of the Medical Centre property to the three participating municipalities and that each municipality will pass the by-laws authorizing the transfer.

**Carried**

**R2016-132**

**Les Blackwell – Kelly Elik**

Therefore be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby accept the recommendation from the Sundridge-Strong Fire Department Management Board that Tender #2016-02FD for the Roof Replacement on the Sundridge-Strong Fire hall to Kenalex Construction Corp. in the amount of \$21,844.46.

**Carried**

**R2016-133**

**Jason Cottrell – Les Blackwell**

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby amend the date of the first meeting in the month of June to June 7, 2016 to accommodate the absence of the Clerk for the regular meeting.

**Carried**

**R2016-134**

**Kelly Elik – Les Blackwell**

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby enter into a Closed Session of Council as per the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001 as amended, C. 25 Section 239 2(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employee at 8:30 pm.

**Carried**

***The Council for the Township of Strong resumed the regular meeting of Council at 8:53 p.m. The Mayor reported that Council discussed the matters it was permitted to under the resolution authorizing the public exclusion.***

**R2016-135**

**Jeff McLaren – Jason Cottrell**

The Council for the Township of Strong hereby adjourn the regular meeting at 9:00 p.m. until the next regular meeting scheduled on May 24, 2016.

**Carried**

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**Mayor, Christine Ellis**

**Clerk/Treasurer, Linda Maurer**