

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MATTAWA

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday March 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. S.F. Monestime Council Chambers.

Council Present: Mayor Raymond A. Bélanger  
Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner  
Councillor Fern Levesque  
Councillor Loren Mick (online)  
Councillor Laura Ross  
Councillor Garry Thibert

Staff Present: Paul Laperriere, Interim CAO/Treasurer  
Amy Leclerc, Municipal Clerk/Revenue Services Clerk  
Sabrina Poullas, Deputy Clerk  
Barry Jackson, Public Works Supervisor  
Paul Lafreniere, Interim Fire Chief

\*When a recorded vote is requested and the minutes indicate the recorded vote was "Unanimous" it means all Councillors present and noted above voted in favour unless otherwise indicated.

## 1. Meeting Called to Order

Meeting Called to Order by Mayor Bélanger at 6:00 p.m.

## 2. Announce Electronic Participants

Clerk announced that Councillor Mick was participating virtually and 2 members of the public.

## 3. Adoption of Agenda

3.1 To Adopt the agenda as presented or amended

### **Resolution Number 24-55**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner  
Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the agenda dated Monday March 11, 2024 be adopted.  
**CARRIED** – unanimous

## 4. Disclosures of a Conflict of Interest

## 5. Presentations and Delegations

5.1 Michelle Lahaye – John Dixon Public Library past experiences and future needs

Michelle Lahaye presented to Council on the need to move locations and budget needs.

## 6. Adoption of Minutes

6.1 Regular Meeting of February 26, 2024

6.2 To Adopt the minutes as presented or amended

**Resolution Number 24-56**

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert  
Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Monday February 26, 2024.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

**7. Notice of Motions**

- 7.1 Sale of liquor on Explorer's Point for 2024 Mattawa Voyageur Days & endorse as municipal significance

**Resolution Number 24-57**

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross  
Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of the Town of Mattawa permits the sale of alcohol at Explorer's Point on Friday July 26, Saturday July 27 and Sunday July 28, 2024 with the understanding that all rules and regulations will be followed as set by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

**AND FURTHER THAT** Council of the Town of Mattawa endorses and supports the 2024 Mattawa Voyageur Days Festival as an event of municipal significance.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

- 7.2 Permit refreshment vehicles on Explorer's Point for 2024 Mattawa Voyageur Days

**Resolution Number 24-58**

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick  
Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** refreshment vehicles regulated under By-law 09-14 be permitted to locate at Explorer's Point July 26-28, 2024 during Voyageur Days festival as requested by staff. Refreshment vehicle operators will be responsible for the following:

- 1) Obtain all approvals before operating from the North Bay and District Health Unit, Fire Dept. and Building Dept. under sections 6 and 7 of By-Law 09-14.
- 2) Notify the By-law Department with all approvals no later than July 24, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. prior to installation at Explorer's Point.
- 3) Be responsible to ensure that the immediate area is cleaned at all times.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

**8. Correspondence**

- 8.1 Children's Aid Society of District of Nipissing & Parry Sound – Request for support on application for the establishment of Youth Wellness Hub

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.1 and the Mayor would like to support.

- 8.2 MMAH – 2024 northern housing & homelessness (virtual) forum

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.2 and both Councillor Ross and Thibert would like to attend.

8.3 Mattawa Good Time Crusiers – Request to host indoor drive in movies at Mike Rodden Arena

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.3 and supports this venture.

8.4 Mattawa Good Time Crusiers – Request to use Explorer’s Point for summer car meet & greet

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.4 and supports this venture, also advised will have to forfeit location if another event is booked at same time.

8.5 Mattawa Good Time Crusiers – Request to host Canada Day parade & car show

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.5 and supports this venture, advised the new Director of Community Services will get involved once in place.

## **9. Standing Committee Recommendations/Reports – Motions**

9.1 Community Services Committee – Motion for World Autism Day on April 2, 2024

### **Resolution Number 24-59**

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

**WHEREAS** World Autism Day will be recognized on April 2, 2024 in Canada thanks to Bill S-206, An Act Respecting World Autism Awareness Day; and

**WHEREAS** Autism Spectrum Disorder (ADS) affects more than 135,000 Ontarians. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurodevelopmental disorder affecting 1 in every 66 Canadian children, as well as their friends, family and community; and

**WHEREAS** Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Since 1973 Autism Ontario has been providing support, information and opportunities for thousands of families and individuals across the province; and

**WHEREAS** Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faces by individuals with autism, their families and the professionals with whom they interact.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of the Town of Mattawa proclaim April 2, 2024 as World Autism Day in the Town of Mattawa.

**AND FURTHER THAT** Council directs staff to raise a flag for World Autism Day.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

9.2 Community Services Committee – Motion of support for additional funding for forest fires from Federal Government

### **Resolution Number 24-60**

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

**WHEREAS** Forest fires are a very real threat to rural municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** smoke from forest fires put people's health at risk. This is especially true of children and the elderly. The David Suzuki Foundation reports that wildfires kill many thousands of people per year and most of the deaths are from smoke inhalation; and

**WHEREAS** forest fires are a very real danger to the climate and according to The Guardian, in 2023 they emitted three times as much carbon as the entire carbon footprint of Canada; and

**WHEREAS** according to the John Crace interview in The Guardian with William Kurz, a retired scientist with Natural Resources Canada, around two billion tonnes of carbon have been released into the atmosphere from forest fires in 2023; and

**WHEREAS** carbon emissions from forest fires are not counted against Canada's Paris agreement commitments, according to Kurz, but they far exceeded all of the emissions tied to Canada's economy (670 mega tonnes, or 0.67 billion tonnes, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada); and

**WHEREAS** that standing healthy forest serves as a carbon sink, drawing in carbon, but once destroyed by fire, even though second growth takes its place, it is much less effective for many decades; and

**WHEREAS** the federal government owns no water bombers and assists the provinces through the CIFFC, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, a spokesperson with CIFFC says that last year there were too many requests and not enough inventory to meet the needs of the country; and

**WHEREAS** as reported by De Havilland Canada who manufacture the Canadian made water bomber, they have contracts with European countries for the next 22 of its new DHC-515 planes, which will take until 2029 or 2030 to complete and there will be very little production available to replace the aging water bombers in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Mattawa urges and encourages the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting. Furthermore, we urge the federal government to consider the measures necessary for acquiring a national fleet of Canadian made waterbombers, with home bases strategically located to best serve and respond to the needs of rural communities, and a national fire administration to better coordinate and manage efforts across the country. We also encourage the introduction of a program similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) which was ended in 2013. And we encourage Minister Graydon Smith to step up the on-the-ground firefighting capability and water bomber acquisitions in Ontario.

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry of Ontario, the Honourable Vic Fideli,

Minister of Economic Development Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FMC) and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO).

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and adoption.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

## **10. Staff Reports – Motions**

### 10.1 Physician Recruitment Update – Report # 24-18R

#### **Resolution Number 24-61**

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-18R titled Physician Recruitment Update.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

### 10.2 Annual Drinking Water System Reports from OCWA – Report # 24-19R

#### **Resolution Number 24-62**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-19R titled Annual Drinking Water System Reports from OCWA.

**AND FURTHER THAT** Council formally accept the following reports for the Mattawa Drinking Water System as submitted by the Ontario Clean Water Agency to the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa:

- O. Reg. 170/03, Section 11 Annual Report
- O. Reg. 170/03, Section 22 Summary Report

**CARRIED** – unanimous

## **11. By-Laws**

### 11.1 By-Law 24-07 – Appointment of Member-at-Large for Committee of Adjustment **BEING** a by-law to appoint a Member-at-Large to the Committee of Adjustment.

#### **Resolution Number 24-63**

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of the Town of Mattawa adopt By-Law Number 24-07 which is a by-law to appoint D'Arcy Lamothe as member-at-large for the Committee of Adjustment.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

### 11.2 By-Law 24-08 – Garbage Collection Services Extension Agreement

**BEING** a by-law to authorize the signing of a Garbage Collection Services Extension Agreement with Paul Lafreniere Contracting.

### **Resolution Number 24-64**

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert  
Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of the Town of Mattawa adopt By-Law Number 24-08 which is a by-law to authorize the signing of the garbage collection services extension agreement with Paul Lafreniere Contracting.

**CARRIED** – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

#### 11.3 By-Law 24-09 – Recycling Collection Extension Agreement

**BEING** a by-law to authorize the signing of a Recycling Collection Extension Agreement with Paul Lafreniere Contracting.

### **Resolution Number 24-65**

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross  
Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of the Town of Mattawa adopt By-Law Number 24-09 which is a by-law to authorize the signing of the recycling collection extension agreement with Paul Lafreniere Contracting.

**CARRIED** – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

## **12. Old Business**

### 12.1 John Dixon Public Library 2024 Funding

Council spoke to the John Dixon Public Library 2024 Funding and advised it will remain on the agenda until a later date for discussions.

## **13. New Business**

## **14. Questions from Public Pertaining to Agenda**

A member of the audience questioned if there was going to be more items added to the recycling collection.

A member of the audience requested information that was not pertaining to agenda, Mayor Bélanger allowed for this one time. The questions pertaining to animal control measures and bell fibre lines in Mattawa.

## **15. In Camera (Closed) Session**

### 15.1 Staff Update

In accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001 Section 239 (2)(b)

b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

### **Resolution Number 24-66**

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross  
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this Council proceed in Camera at 7:23 pm in order to address a matter pertaining to: b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

**16. Return to Regular Session**

**Resolution Number 24-67**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the regular meeting of council reconvene at 7:47 p.m.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

Mayor Belanger advised that the closed session was to discuss a personnel matter.

**17. Motions Resulting from Closed Session**

**18. Adjournment**

18.1 Adjournment of the meeting

**Resolution Number 24-68**

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the March 11, 2024 meeting adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

**Approved Minutes as Certified by  
the Municipal Clerk**

