

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MATTAWA

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday September 23, 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  
Councillor Laura Ross  
Councillor Garry Thibert  
Councillor Spencer Bigelow

Staff Present: Amy Leclerc, Municipal Clerk/Revenue Services Clerk  
Paul Laperriere, Interim CAO/Treasurer  
Dexture Sarrazin, Director of Community Services  
Shawn Hongell, 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 presenter Maddy From is online tonight.

## 3. Adoption of Agenda

3.1 To Adopt the agenda as presented or amended

### **Resolution Number 24-192**

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the meeting agenda dated Monday September 23, 2024 be adopted as amended to add an item under section 13. New Business, item # 13.2 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation September 30, 2024.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

## 4. Disclosures of a Conflict of Interest

## 5. Presentations and Delegations

5.1 Maddy From, Food Cycle Science Corp. – Food Cyler Municipal Solutions (Virtual Presentation)

A presentation was heard by Council with regards to a food cyler system and municipal partnership.

## 6. Adoption of Minutes

6.1 Regular Meeting of September 9, 2024

6.2 Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 16, 2024

6.3 To adopt the minutes as presented or amended

**Resolution Number 24-193**

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council adopt the minutes of the Regular meeting of Monday September 9, 2024 and the Committee of the Whole meeting of Monday September 16, 2024.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

**7. Notice of Motions**

7.1 Support for Municipal Elections Act Changes

**Resolution Number 24-194**

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Spencer Bigelow

**WHEREAS** elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

**AND WHEREAS** legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

**AND WHEREAS** the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring the local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

**AND WHEREAS** the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS** with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretations challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill;

**AND WHEREAS** the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

**AND WHEREAS** while local elections are run as efficiently as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges;

**AND WHEREAS** to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

**AND WHEREAS** the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

**AND WHEREAS** AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections ;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Town of Mattawa calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, the Minister of Finance, the Premier of Ontario, MPP of Nipissing District and AMCTO.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

## 7.2 Support for Creation of Province-Wide Long Service Medal for Police & Paramedics

### **Resolution Number 24-195**

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

**WHEREAS** paramedics, firefighters and police officers are our Frontline heroes, regularly putting their own health and safety at risk to help others in need;

**AND WHEREAS** the Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal was created in 1971 to honour firefighters who have served the public for twenty-five years or more and the Governor General's Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal was created in 1985 and honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed twenty years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks;

**AND WHEREAS** the Ontario Provincial Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal honours OPP officers who have served for twenty years or more and the Governor General's Police Exemplary Service Medal, created in 1983, recognizes police officers who have served in an exemplary manner having completed twenty years of full-time service with one or more recognized Canadian police forces;

**AND WHEREAS** many non-OPP police services have similar local long-service medals within their forces, but there is not a province-wide long-service medal for non-OPP police officers;

**AND WHEREAS** the Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal, created in 1994, recognizes professionals in the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical services to the public who completed twenty years of exemplary service, including at least ten years in the performance of duties involving potential risk;

**AND WHEREAS** there is no province-wide long-service medal for paramedics in Ontario.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of the Town of Mattawa endorses the creation of a province-wide long-service medal for police and for paramedics, modelled after the existing such award for firefighters.

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Health, Solicitor General, AMO and our local MPP urging them to work collaboratively to create such awards.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

## **8. Correspondence**

### 8.1 Tay Valley Township – Jurisdiction of Ontario’s Ombudsman

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.1.

### 8.2 North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit – Board Meeting Agenda for September 25

### 8.3 FONOM – Call to Host Annual FONOM Conference in 2026, 2027 or 2028

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.3.

### 8.4 Alzheimer Society – Dementia Learning Series Coming to Mattawa

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.4.

### 8.5 Ministry of Natural Resources – Flood Hazard Identification & Mapping Program

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.5.

### 8.6 Mark Peplinskie – Landfill Site User Fees

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.6.

### 8.7 The Labour Market Group – August Labour Focus Publication

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

## **10. Staff Reports – Motions**

### 10.1 Update from Beautification Committee – Report # 24-53R

#### **Resolution Number 24-196**

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Loren Mick

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-53R titled Update from Beautification Committee.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

### 10.2 Updates from Fire Department – Report # 24-54R

#### **Resolution Number 24-197**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council amend resolution 24-198 to approve the purchase of uniforms at an upset limit of \$6500.00

**CARRIED** – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

**For:** Mayor Bélanger, Deputy Mayor Gardiner, Councillors Levesque, Ross, Thibert, Bigelow

**Against:** Councillor Mick

**Resolution Number 24-198**

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-54R titled Update from Fire Department.

**AND FURTHER THAT** Council approve the purchase of uniforms at an upset limit of \$5000.00 as amended.

**CARRIED** – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

**For:** Mayor Bélanger, Deputy Mayor Gardiner, Councillors Levesque, Ross, Thibert, Bigelow

**Against:** Councillor Mick

**11. By-Laws**

**12. Old Business**

12.1 Mayor Bélanger – Standing Committees of Council

Mayor Bélanger spoke to the continuation of the Standing Committees of Council or strictly move to Committee of the Whole. Council provided a vote and the majority wished to dissolve the Standing Committee structure and deal with meetings through the Committee of the Whole.

12.2 Councillor Ross – Property Standards

Councillor Ross would like to see property standards dealt with in a better manner moving forward. Understand the Town's Property Standards Officer is away on leave at present and if continues would like to see one hired until their return to work. A staff report on how this will be accomplished was requested.

**13. New Business**

13.1 Councillor Ross – Monthly Expenditure Reports

Councillor Ross spoke to receiving monthly expenditure reports to know what has been spent each month like Council use to get. Council spoke to this and agreed to received quarterly budget reports from staff.

13.2 National Day for Truth & Reconciliation September 30, 2024

Council and staff spoke to what the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation would look like and two resolutions were voted upon by Council.

**Resolution Number 24-199**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council amend resolution 24-200 to observe the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation by closing all municipal offices and providing all staff an unpaid day on Monday September 30, 2024.

**LOST** – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

**For:** Deputy Mayor Gardiner, Councillor Thibert

**Against:** Mayor Bélanger, Councillors Levesque, Mick, Ross, Bigelow

**Resolution Number 24-200**

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Loren Mick

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council approves the closure of all municipal offices on Monday, September 30, 2024 to observe the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and directs staff to post a public notice on the municipal website, Mattawa App and Town of Mattawa social media site.

**CARRIED** – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

**For:** Councillors Levesque, Mick, Ross, Bigelow

**Against:** Mayor Bélanger, Deputy Mayor Gardiner, Councillor Thibert

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

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

15.1 Personnel Matter

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 24-201**

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Loren Mick

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this Council proceed in Camera at 8:04 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 24-202**

Moved by Councillor Spencer Bigelow

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the regular meeting of council reconvene at 8:33 p.m.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

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

**17. Motions Resulting from Closed Session**

**Resolution Number 24-203**

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa authorize the hiring of a full time Chief Administrative Officer/Treasurer and further authorize the Clerk to

post the job advertisement in the Mattawa Recorder, municipal website, Town of Mattawa social media pages and Mattawa App.

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

**18. Adjournment**

18.1 Adjournment of the meeting

**Resolution Number 24-204**

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the September 23, 2024 meeting adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

**CARRIED** – unanimous

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Amy Leclerc", is written inside a black rectangular box.