

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MATTAWA

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday September 9, 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

Staff Present: Amy Leclerc, Municipal Clerk/Revenue Services Clerk
Paul Laperriere, Interim CAO/Treasurer
Dexture Sarrazin, Director of Community Services

*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 Thibert and Deputy Chief Building Official Andrew O'Reilley were online. And that Councillor Mick advised he will be late to the meeting due to work commitments.

3. Adoption of Agenda

3.1 To Adopt the agenda as presented or amended

Resolution Number 24-170

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting agenda dated Monday September 9, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED – unanimous

4. Disclosures of a Conflict of Interest

5. Presentations and Delegations

5.1 Roger & Andrienne Langlois – Neighboring Fence on Brydges Street

A presentation was heard by Council with regards to a fence that was erected at the Langlois' neighbor's lot and why it should not be allowed at an extended height. Roger Langlois presented Council with a physical copy of his presentation.

6. Adoption of Minutes

6.1 Regular Meeting of August 12, 2024

6.2 To adopt the minutes as presented or amended

Resolution Number 24-171

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner
Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the minutes of the Regular meeting of Monday August 12, 2024.

CARRIED – unanimous

7. Notice of Motions

7.1 Support to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254 Grant Request to Ontario Hydro

Resolution Number 24-172

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254 located in the Town of Mattawa is an institution that supports our local economy;

AND WHEREAS they are not only one of the biggest supporters of veterans but supporters of everyone in the Town of Mattawa and surrounding areas;

AND WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254 is applying for a grant from Ontario Hydro to aid them in getting the roof repaired on the local branch building and receiving the grant for the roof would provide them the ability to keep their hard-earned funds to assist with aiding the town in various events.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Mattawa fully supports the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254 in their quest to obtain a grant from Ontario Hydro for their much-needed roof repairs.

AND FURTHER THAT Council provides a letter of support for this endeavor through the Mayor.

CARRIED – unanimous

7.2 Support to Resolve Significant Financial & Budgetary Pressures Relating to Infrastructure, Development, Maintenance & Repairs

Resolution Number 24-173

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has agreed to assume responsibility for the Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway from the City of Toronto, which will be uploaded to the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS like the City of Toronto, the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa and all municipalities in the Province of Ontario are experiencing significant financial and budgetary pressures including those related to infrastructure development, maintenance and repairs, and are seeking reasonable solutions to address the same while balancing their financial books;

AND WHEREAS the uploading of municipal highway infrastructure to the Province of

Ontario or, alternatively, appropriately increasing the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to Ontario municipalities will assist municipalities in addressing such financial challenges;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

a. The Province of Ontario:

- Upload from local municipalities the responsibility of and costs associated with the continued construction, operation, and maintenance of major municipally-owned highways throughout the Province of Ontario to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation; or
- alternatively, if uploading is not the preferred option of the Province and/or local municipality, to appropriately increase the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to municipalities so as to fairly and equitably allocate resources to Ontario municipalities.

b. A copy of this resolution be circulated to the Minister of Transportation; MPP Vic Fedeli and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED – unanimous

7.3 Support for Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program

Resolution Number 24-174

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

WHEREAS employers across Northern Ontario are experiencing a critical shortage of skilled workers, contributing to a shrinking labour market with an estimated 50,000 newcomers needed by 2041 to sustain current Northern Ontario population levels;

AND WHEREAS the labour shortage is causing significant economic hardship for Northern Ontario communities, including reduced productivity and business closures;

AND WHEREAS population and migration trends to 2021 suggest that Northern Ontario needs 100,000 newcomers by 2041 to sustain current population;

AND WHEREAS the success of the federal Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) demonstrates the effectiveness of allocating nomination spots to address regional labour shortages in attracting newcomers to Northern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program has expanded from 9,750 nominees in 2022 to a goal of 21,500 nominees in 2024.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Mattawa urges the Government of Ontario to address the critical market shortage of skilled labour in Northern Ontario by allocating 3,000 Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program spots to support the region's economic growth and development.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; local Members of Provincial Parliament; the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities; and the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce.

CARRIED – unanimous

7.4 Support for Call to Action to Meet Deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025

Councillor Mick arrived at 6:37 p.m.

Resolution Number 24-175

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

WHEREAS the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) is ground-breaking legislation, created to help people with disabilities fully participate in society, bring them to the table in crafting regulations, and build mechanisms to enforce standards;

AND WHEREAS Rich Donovan, an expert in accessibility issues, was appointed as the Independent Reviewer of the Act in 2022, and in his 2023 legislative review declared a crisis as a necessary catalyst to get Ontario back on track for accessibility;

AND WHEREAS at least 2.9 million Ontarians currently live with a disability, representing at least 22% of the consumer base and the workforce, but due to barriers, Ontarians with disabilities are too often falling short of their full potential;

AND WHEREAS the AODA aims to develop, implement and enforce standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings before Jan. 1, 2025, and municipalities, as the level of government closest to the people are at the front lines, developing, implementing and enforcing these standards without meaningful guidance on its implementation and/or enforcement by the Province;

AND WHEREAS people with disabilities and advocates note the slow pace of current and previous Ontario governments in implementing the AODA and there are growing concerns there will be no renewed push to keep accessibility issues at the forefront after 2025;

AND WHEREAS The Town of Mattawa is dedicated and committed to creating a welcoming environment so that all people may have equitable access to programs, goods, services and facilities, but making investments to achieve the AODA standards has been challenging given the lack of consistent and stable funding for municipalities to remove accessibility barriers.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Mattawa strongly encourages action on the part of the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) create a “Municipal Accessibility Fund” for municipalities to develop, implement and enforce AODA standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings. Such a fund could be modeled after the Canada Community-Building Fund or the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund on a per household basis;
- b) to commit to working with municipalities to implement the Donovan Review immediate crisis recommendations;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor write a letter in support of this resolution to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of

Ontario, the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED – unanimous

8. Correspondence

8.1 Julia Colicchia & Doug Newman – Request for Six Foot Fence on Property

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.1 and requested it be brought back under old business.

8.2 Township of Russell – Support AMCTO Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.2 and directed staff to bring back a support resolution at the next regular meeting.

8.3 Ministry of Infrastructure – Expansion of Municipal Land Bank Area 1 Project Application

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.3.

8.4 Whitewater Region – Ineligible Sources Recycling

8.5 NBPSDHU – Community Climate Change & Health Symposium October 9, 2024

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.5.

8.6 Township of Terrace Bay – Ontario Long Service Medals

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.6 and directed staff to bring back a support resolution at the next regular meeting.

8.7 Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Underserviced Cellular Communication Services in Rural & Urban Centres

8.8 AMO – Policy Updates AMO Conference Focuses on Core Municipal Priorities

8.9 AMCTO – Indigenous Communities & Municipalities Forum September 26, 2024

8.10 33 Canadian Brigade Group Headquarters – Trillium Venture 24 Appreciation

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.10.

8.11 Near North Palliative Care Network – Welcome to North Bay Event September 14, 2024

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.11.

8.12 Canadian Emergency Preparedness & Climate Adaptation – Strategic Conference in Ottawa September 24-26, 2024

8.13 Mattawa Wellness – Senior Program Response

Council spoke on correspondence item # 8.13 and requested staff return with a report at a later time.

9. Standing Committee Recommendations/Reports – Motions

10. Staff Reports – Motions

10.1 AMO 125 Ottawa – Report # 24-44R

Resolution Number 24-176

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-44R titled AMO 125 Ottawa.

CARRIED – unanimous

10.2 Updates from Town Hall – Report # 24-45R

Resolution Number 24-177

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-45R titled Updates from Town Hall.

CARRIED – unanimous

10.3 Municipal Landbank # 1 – Ontario Land Survey – Report # 24-46R

Resolution Number 24-178

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Loren Mick

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-46R titled Municipal Landbank # 1 – Ontario Land Survey.

AND FURTHER THAT council approve the Preliminary Ontario Land Survey for Municipal Landbank # 1 at a total cost of \$49,530.00 plus applicable taxes which will be applied to the 2025 municipal budget.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

For: Mayor Bélanger, Deputy Mayor Gardiner, Councillors Levesque, Ross

Against: Councillors Mick, Thibert

10.4 Green & Inclusive Community Buildings Program – Report # 24-47R

Resolution Number 24-179

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-47R titled Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program.

AND FURTHER THAT council approve the preparation of a funding application by Jp2g Consultants Inc at a cost of \$15,000.00.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

For: Mayor Bélanger, Councillors Levesque, Mick, Ross, Thibert

Against: Deputy Mayor Gardiner

10.5 VMUTS Update - Report # 24-48R

Resolution Number 24-180

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick
Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-48R titled VMUTS Update.

CARRIED – unanimous

10.6 24 Hour Gaming Marathon – Report # 24-49R

Resolution Number 24-181

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert
Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Mattawa receives Report # 24-49R titled 24 Hour Gaming Marathon.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

11. By-Laws

12. Old Business

12.1 Mayor Bélanger – Standing Committees of Council

Mayor Bélanger deferred this subject to the next regular meeting due to members of Council being absent.

13. New Business

13.1 Councillor Ross – Property Standards

Councillor Ross requested this subject to moved to old business for the next meeting.

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 24-182

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick
Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council proceed in Camera at 8:11 pm in order to address a matter pertaining to: b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

CARRIED – unanimous

Councillor Thibert signed off the meeting for the In Camera Session

16. Return to Regular Session

Resolution Number 24-183

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of council reconvene at 8:46 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 24-184

Moved by Deputy Mayor Mathew Gardiner

Seconded by Councillor Loren Mick

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the September 9, 2024 meeting adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

CARRIED – unanimous

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

