

Minutes

Regular Council Meeting
Township of the North Shore
Tuesday, February 18th, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

ATTENDANCE

Council: Tony Moor - Mayor
Richard Welburn - Ward 1- electronic
Len Menard - Ward 2
Tracey Simon - Ward 3
Robin Green - Councillor at Large - electronic

Staff: Matt Simon, Public Works Manager/Fire Chief
Rachel Schneider, Municipal Clerk/Deputy Treasurer
Craig Davidson - Interim Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION #25-44

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approves the agenda as circulated

CARRIED

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATION

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a) Amended minutes of the Regular meeting of January 15th, 2025, with added amendments per Resolution 25-31 of the February 5th, 2025, Regular Council meeting

RESOLUTION #25-45

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council of the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore adopts the amended Regular meeting minutes of January 15th, 2025, with added amendments per Resolution 25-31 of the February 5th, 2025, Regular Council meeting

CARRIED

b) Minutes for the Regular meeting of February 5th, 2025

RESOLUTION #25-46

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council of the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore adopts the Regular meeting minutes of February 5th, 2025

CARRIED

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

REPORTS AND MOTIONS OF MUNICIPAL STAFF, COMMITTEES AND COMMUNICATION

a) Petitions Policy

RESOLUTION #25-47

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the staff report as presented for consideration, that Council review and discuss the proposed draft Petitions Policy, and that Council forward any comments, concerns, and proposed amendments to the Municipal Clerk by February 26th, 2025, at 12PM so the proposed policy can be brought to the March 5th, 2025, Regular Council meeting for further review.

CARRIED

b) Cold Patching

RESOLUTION #25-48

Moved by: R. Welburn

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the report on the 2024 Patching activity for information purposes.

CARRIED

c) Draft Operating Budget

RESOLUTION #25-49

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the Budget Planning Report for the 2025 Operating Budget and that direction be provided to staff as appropriate.

The Mayor asked if Councillor Green would like a recorded vote.

Results:

Councillor R. Green - Nay

Councillor L. Menard - Yea

Councillor T. Simon - Yea

Councillor R. Welburn - Nay

Mayor T. Moor - Yea

CARRIED

d) Draft Capital Budget

RESOLUTION #25-50

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the Budget Planning Report for the 2025 Capital Budget and that direction be provided to staff as appropriate.

CARRIED

e) Integrity Commissioner Inquiry Protocol

RESOLUTION #25-51

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the staff report as presented for consideration, that Council direct the Clerk to research the Integrity Commissioner Inquiry Protocol documents of other Municipalities, compiling the findings into a Draft document, and that Council direct the Clerk to bring the Draft document to Council for their review and approval at a future meeting.

CARRIED

f) Amending Agreement - Integrity Commissioner Services

RESOLUTION #25-52

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the staff report as presented for consideration, and that Council authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to sign the Amending Agreement with Cunningham Swan Carty Little & Bonham LLP, to extend the current Integrity Commissioner services until January 31, 2028.

CARRIED

g) Council email address Display Names

RESOLUTION #25-53

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the staff report as presented and direct the Clerk to change the Display Name for Council emails to include the name of each member.

CARRIED

h) Crime stoppers - Request for Donation

RESOLUTION #25-54

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the staff report as presented for consideration, that Council approve the donation to Crime Stoppers in the amount of \$500.

CARRIED

i) Municipal Office Closure - March 4th, 2025

RESOLUTION #25-55

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the staff report regarding the closure of the Municipal Office on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025, due to in person training with Munisoft, for information purposes.

CARRIED

Consent Agenda

OLD BUSINESS

a) Town Hall Meeting Policy

RESOLUTION #25-56

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the staff report as presented for consideration, that Council review the proposed amendments as submitted by Council, and that Council approve the Town Hall Meeting Policy

C. Davidson exited Council Chambers at 7:15 PM and returned at 7:15 PM

CARRIED

b) Old Business Items

RESOLUTION #25-57

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the staff report as presented regarding Old Business items currently being worked on for information purposes

CARRIED

INTRODUCTION, READING, AND CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

- a) By-Law 25-11 being a by-law to amend By-Law 22-05 to appoint an Integrity Commissioner for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore.

RESOLUTION #25-58

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approve By-Law 25-11 being a by-law to amend By-Law 22-05 to appoint an Integrity Commissioner for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore be read a first, second and third time enacted and passed.

CARRIED

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

QUESTION PERIOD

Per the Township of The North Shore Procedure By-Law, (Section 6.5.2.17) "Questions and answers will be noted in the meeting's minutes in general terms"

There were 8 questions asked during the Question Period of the February 18th, 2025, meeting:

Question 1:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Matthew Curtis
Ward of property/residence - Ward 2

Question asked (in general terms) x1 - Are other vendors that the Townships uses being asked for Insurance/liability or is my business the only one when offering free work?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Mayor says that people who are willing to offer their services for free to the Township should be applauded. Councillor Welburn thanks Matthew Curtis for pitching in and helping out, says nobody was questioning if he had insurance, and that he as a business owner should know about accountability. Councillor Welburn adds that he hopes this would be checked with other businesses.

Question 2:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Mary MacKenzie-Hurtubise
Ward of property/residence - Ward 1

Question asked (in general terms) x1 - Should Councillors be in Chambers now instead of being elsewhere so constituents can speak to and bring up points to Councillors in person at their convenience and not the convenience of the Councillor?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Interim Treasurer confirms the item being referred to item - 7c. Councillor Welburn asks for clarification on the question, asks if there is an issue with savings, and asks if she is suggesting that the Township pay for him to attend meetings in person. He adds that his phone is on 24/7 and that he can be called anytime and mentions the Petition Policy before suggesting she bring forward a petition from Ward 1 residents regarding disagreement with the Councillor not being in person. Councillor Welburn adds clarification that he is not looking to be paid to drive up to meetings.

Question 3,4,5:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Jeremy Schneider
Ward of property/residence - Ward 1

Question asked (in general terms) x3 - How many people have sent or received emails/completed work after 4:30? Why is there no issue when people are working after hours and on their own time for free but there is an issue when there are emergencies and people are being paid for helping the community? Should the Municipality not back up firefighters when they leave their paying jobs to help the community for less pay, which is done to benefit the community?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - Councillor Welburn provides a reminder of the policy passed regarding working after hours, stating that he no longer sends emails after 4:30. He refers to transparency and the public having opinions on staff as firefighters being paid two different pays, adding the matter is not a personal matter it is a township matter. He adds that it is a firefighter's choice to join the department and that his question was if someone should be paid for their primary job when they are not there. The Mayor states everyone agrees to lessen the number of emails and work after hours and suggests a report could come to Council at a future meeting regarding fire pay and staff pay.

Question 6:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Matthew
Ward of property/residence - Ward 2

Question asked (in general terms) x1 - What do other municipalities do for best practices regarding paying staff as volunteer firefighters?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - Councillor Simon explains difference between regular hourly staff and the staff who receive a salary who are providing emergency services and agrees with further looking into this in the future. Councillor Green states he is sensing some consensus and expresses he agrees with Matthew Curtis on the importance of looking into the issue, which will allow the Township to be upfront with the rate payers. The Mayor agrees and asks for direction to staff. Councillor Welburn comments on how he relies on a volunteer fire department, how the Township spends 10% of the budget on the fire department and he is looking for ways to save costs and states he has asked 3 times for information from Blind River on costs to cover the Township's fire services.

RESOLUTION #25-59

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore direct staff to research the costs of neighbouring Municipalities to provide Fire Suppression Services to the Township of The North Shore

CARRIED

Question 7.8:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - France Gagnon
Ward of property/residence - Ward 1

Question asked (in general terms) x2 - Who is the business name of the vendor that apparently overcharged the coal patch \$24,000? Am I allowed to receive the name?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Mayor states there is only one vendor and advised to file a MFIPPA request.

Comment:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - No name stated
Ward of property/residence - No place of residence stated

Question asked (in general terms) x0 - Made comment regarding Petition Policy, saying should it say 18 as that is the voting age.

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Mayor thanked for the comment and advised to forward comments to Clerk.

CLOSED SESSION

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

RESOLUTION # 25-60

Moved By: T. Simon

Seconded By: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Council of the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore hereby approve By-Law No. 25-12, Being a By-Law to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Regular meeting held February 18th, 2025, be read a first, second and third time, enacted and passed.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT


RESOLUTION # 25-61

Moved By: L. Menard

Seconded By: R. Welburn

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore Regular Council meeting of February 18th, 2025, do now adjourn at 7:42 PM to meet again on the 5th day of March 2025 at 6:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED


Tony Moor, Mayor


Rachel Schneider, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer