

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

January 27, 2015

The meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Reeve Bob MacPhail; Councillors, Rod Blakelock, Pat Hayes (arrived at 8:10 p.m.), Jerry Brandt and Marina Hammond; Guests, Keith McCoy; Delegations, John Theriault, Treasurer; Staff, Wendy Whitwell, Clerk-Administrator, and Melinda Torrance, Deputy Clerk.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the regular meeting held on January 13, 2015 were approved as circulated.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: None

DELEGATIONS:

Keith McCoy, Road Supervisor addressed council regarding ice build-up on Pickerel and Jack Lake Road that occurred over the weekend. Keith advised that there was a communication breakdown between staff and himself and that he has discussed options with staff to ensure communications remain open and prevent hazards happening in the future. Keith also indicated that he will be forwarding after hours calls that come into the garage to his cell phone.

John Theriault, Treasurer discussed the 2015 draft budget in detail. John was directed to include changes discussed and to present a second draft budget.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #4-2015, being a by-law to appoint a weed inspector, livestock valuator and fence viewer was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #5-2015, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its December meetings was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Library, Rod reported.

Steering, Jerry and Marina reported on the tour they had at Lofthouse and were very impressed with its operation.

Tri Council, Bob reported.

CBO year end building report was made available for review.

CORRESPONDENCE:

District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board request of support regarding the risk of hardship of overpayment recovery on the vulnerable client population was passed by resolution.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers has requested support to save Canada Post by changing its public postal service and was passed by resolution.

Invitation to the 2015 FONOM / MMAH Northeastern Municipal Conference that is being held May 6-8.

AMO provided an update on lower gas prices and that it does not affect how much funding a municipality receives from the federal Gas Tax Fund.

Royal Canadian Legion request to continue support veteran recognition in the Military Service Recognition Book was approved by resolution.

Canadian Civil Liberties Association has provided a fact sheet on Bill 52 – Protection of Public Participation Act.

Information report on Municipal Legislative Reform and tort exposures.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The First Avenue Paving invoice was tabled until the Road Supervisor has a chance to investigate the increased amount.

Council discussed contacting the Ministry of Transportation again regarding the release of excess lands purchased by MTO for the Highway 11 project. The Clerk was directed to put this topic on again at the next council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vacation Time and Vacation Pay Policy was reviewed and supported by resolution.

Service Pay Policy was reviewed and supported by resolution to become effective January 2016.

APPROVAL OF CLOSED MINUTES:

The minutes of the closed meeting held on January 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the closed meeting held on January 13, 2015 at 11:12 p.m. were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the closed meeting held on January 16, 2015 were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the closed meeting held on January 20, 2015 were approved as circulated.

The minutes of the closed meeting held on January 26, 2015 were approved as circulated.

RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Marina Hammond, Seconded by Jerry Brandt, That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on January 13, 2015, as circulated. Carried

Moved by Pat Hayes, Seconded by Rod Blakelock, That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #4-2015 being a by-law to authorize the appointment of a Weed Inspector, Livestock Valuator and Fence Viewer, and that we authorize the Reeve and the Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Moved by Pat Hayes, Seconded by Marina Hammond, That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #5-2015 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its December meeting, and that we authorize the Reeve and the Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Moved by Marina Hammond, Seconded by Jerry Brandt, **THAT** the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) which was implemented by the Ministry of Community and Social Services is not working properly; and

THAT people who are receiving OW and ODSP have received incorrect amounts due to the malfunctioning of the computer system and are often in amounts that are not cost effective to recover; and

THAT the recovery of errors in financial assistance poses a significant hardship on vulnerable people who are on social assistance and do not have the ability to repay; and

THAT the recovery of those errors from vulnerable people results in additional financial pressure on local and municipal poverty reduction programs such as local food banks, homelessness and emergency shelter programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT system administrative errors should not be borne by vulnerable people and we urge the Minister to remove the recovery of

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overpayments that arise from system generated errors where it is not cost effective or where there is an undue hardship on social assistance recipients. Carried

Moved by Rod Blakelock, Seconded by Jerry Brandt, **WHEREAS** Canada Post and the Conservatives are taking an axe to long-treasured postal services – killing good jobs, eliminating door-to-door delivery, drastically increasing postage rates and closing, downsizing and reducing hours at post offices;

AND WHEREAS Canada Post did not properly consult on these changes, effectively eliminating any opportunity for input from the people who will be most affected; and

AND WHEREAS closing and downsizing post offices, reducing post office hours, and eliminating door-to-door delivery will reduce service and eliminate thousands of jobs in communities throughout our country;

AND WHEREAS Canada Post offers a public service that needs to be protected;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Council of the Township of Armour calls on the government to reverse the changes to services announce by Canada Post, and to look instead for ways to increase service and revenues in areas such as postal banking;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that the Council of the Township of Armour ask the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to request that the federal government consult with the public about what kind of postal service they need before allowing Canada Post to make such major changes to public postal service. Carried

Moved by Pat Hayes, Seconded by Jerry Brandt, That the Council of the Township of Armour renew the 1/10 full colour Veterans Ad supporting the Remembrance project by sponsoring an ad space in the Military Service Recognition Book in the amount of \$325.00. Carried

Moved by Pat Hayes, Seconded by Marina Hammond, That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve the Vacation Time and Vacation Pay policy to be effective for 2015. Carried

Moved by Rod Blakelock, Seconded by Pat Hayes, That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve the Service Pay policy to become effective in 2016. Carried

Moved by Pat Hayes, Seconded by Rod Blakelock, That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby move into closed session at 10:19 p.m. as per Section 239(2)(b) of the Municipal Act, personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. Carried

Moved by Marina Hammond, Seconded by Rod Blakelock, That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby adjourn and move out of closed session at 10:46 p.m. Carried

Moved by Jerry Brandt, Seconded by Pat Hayes, That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the closed meeting held at 11:12 p.m. on January 13, 2015, as circulated. Carried

Moved by Marina Hammond, Seconded by Rod Blakelock, That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the closed meeting held at 6:00 p.m. on January 13, 2015, as circulated. Carried

Moved by Jerry Brandt, Seconded by Marina Hammond, That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the closed meeting held on January 16, 2015, as circulated. Carried

Moved by Pat Hayes, Seconded by Rod Blakelock, That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the closed meeting held on January 20, 2015, as circulated. Carried

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Moved by Jerry Brandt, Seconded by Rod Blakelock, That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the closed meeting held on January 26, 2015, as circulated. Carried

Moved by Jerry Brandt, Seconded by Marina Hammond, That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourn this regular council meeting at 10:50 p.m. until the next regular meeting scheduled for February 10, 2015. Carried

Original Signed by Bob MacPhail
REEVE

Original Signed by Wendy Whitwell
CLERK ADMINISTRATOR