

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

MINUTES

TRI-COUNCIL MEETING MAY 27, 2024

The combined in-person/virtual TRI Council meeting of the Councils of the Township of Armour, the Village of Burk's Falls, and the Township of Ryerson was held on Monday, May 27, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Memorial Arena, hosted by the Village of Burk's Falls.

ATTENDANCE:

Township of Ryerson Council present included Mayor George Sterling; Councillors Beverly Abbott, Glenn Miller, Delynne Patterson, and Dan Robertson; Staff: Nancy Field, Clerk, Brayden Robinson, CAO/Treasurer

Village of Burk's Falls Council present included Mayor Chris Hope, Councillors Ryan Baptiste, Sean Cotton, Ashley Brandt, and John Wilson; Staff: Denis Duguay CAO-Clerk, Camille Barr, Senior Administrative Assistant, Graham Smith, Arena Manager

Township of Armour Council present included Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, Dorothy Haggart-Davis, and Wendy Whitwell; Staff: John Theriault, Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator, Charlene Watt, Deputy Clerk

Guests: Wilma Robert, Dawn Corless, Albine Cook, Jonathan Hind, Ariel Baptiste, Steve Page, Laura Page, Christina Merrick, Krista Trulsen, Adam Keetch

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Chris Hope.
Mayor Chris Hope welcomed all participants to the meeting.
2. **Approve Notes from TRI Council Meeting:**
Resolution Moved by Glenn Miller - Seconded by Sean Cotton

That the TRI Council of the Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson, and the Village of Burk's Falls approve the notes of the special meeting held on March 25, 2024. Carried.
3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:** None
4. **Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library Update:** The survey of the Health Centre property in Burk's Falls has been completed including topographical. The Township of Armour is awaiting the report. At this point it is hard to go to tender as a decision needs to be made where the library will be built. When the report is received the Township of Armour will share with TRI Council.
5. **Agricultural Society's Fall Fair- Fall Ice Removal Impact:** Arena Manager Graham Smith provided Council a report regarding the removal of ice for the Fall Fair and the impact. This was prompted by a letter received by Burk's Falls Council from the Society requesting ice removal for the Fall Fair.
Resolution No. 2022-130 was passed by Council for the Village of Burk's Falls stating that 2022 would be the last year that ice would be removed in September. This resolution is followed.

Arena Manager shared that there are current contracts in place during the fall fair in 2024 and the potential legal impacts cancelling these could have. Winning Techniques has planned their camp, advertised, and are full. Other contracts were shared as per report. Facility use is evolving.

Inefficiencies were identified with ice removal for the fair as well as the impact removing it twice would incur.

It was noted that it takes two months to get the frost line down to minimize risk of the floor popping. If ice were to be removed for the fair it is recommended it come out in April and not go back in until after the fair to reduce wear and tear and inefficiencies.

There are heaters and insulation under the surface. Heaters are in place to keep the frostline down when the ice is in.

TRI Council was offered the opportunity to have their questions answered. Armour Councillor inquired as to why the prior manager was able to remove the ice for the fair and make money in the process. Graham Smith explained that in the past, summer rentals did outweigh winter with more revenue achieved in the summer vs the winter. This is no longer the case. Fall and winter revenues are twice as much as the summer.

Practices used years ago for ice removal are no longer recommended. The Arena follows recommendations by ORFA. Not following recommended practices can place staff and the facility at risk.

Arena Manager additionally clarified that timeline to remove and replace ice is 27 days.

6. **Arena Manager Summary Report:** Arena Manager reported on the 2023/2024 season with 1808 hours of ice time used between July and May. Users include minor sports, day camps, hockey schools, pick up hockey, tournaments, public and family skating, birthday parties. The Karl Crozier Room rentals have been busy including kickboxing, tack show, fall fair, dog training, public meetings, holistic fair, psychic teas, and cross training to name a few.

While the ice is out the arena floor is being used for ball hockey, roller derby, roller hockey, and an upcoming circus. Summer maintenance has begun with the ice being out.

Inquiries have been received about advertising. Places that may be used for advertising are the score clock, in ice, and on the boards. Advertising rates have been established (5-year rates set) and are starting to sell.

The generator has been repaired and is working well. This is important as the facility acts are a warming and cooling space for the community.

The snack bar is seeing a major increase in sales. At this time they have already achieved last years sales numbers.

The Zamboni will be the next major expense for the arena. A replacement cost is approximately \$150,000.00. The current Zamboni has approximaty 5 years of remaining life.

7. **Canada Day Celebration- Volunteers Needed:** Volunteers are required for the 2024 Canada Day Fireworks event. TRI Council is invited to participate as done in the past.

It was requested that the fireworks are not set off in the horse corral due to the mess and potential dangers of rubbish to animals utilizing the space. Suggested location for 2024 fireworks to be let off is the camping area of the field.

8. **Firehall Project Funding Update:** The Township of Ryerson is working on phase one of a grant application with NOHFC to assist with funding the project. The grant provides up to 1 million dollars in funding. Ryerson has provided the Village of Burk's Falls and the Township of Armour with a request to pass a resolution supporting the fire hall project and that these be forwarded to the Township of Ryerson as soon as possible. The Township Armour and the Village of Burk's Falls will review at their next meetings of council.
9. **Almaguin Highlands Health Centre:** The Village of Burk's Falls has hired a full-time maintenance person who has been working on upgrades and improvements at the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre. The position is working well, and feedback received is that tenants are pleased. The Village has taken the information that was provided last year regarding long term planning for the building and will provide a revised plan.

Other Business: An update was provided regarding the funding received by the Burk's Falls Family Health Team and the Sundridge and District Medical Centre. Between both programs five new hires were made including two nurse practitioners, administrative support for doctors, and a dietitian. The two nurse practitioners will reduce the current waitlist for healthcare providers for the Burk's Falls Family Health Team by approximately half. The two health teams have been working hand in hand on initiatives which benefits our communities. Additionally, the Burk's Falls Family Health Team is undergoing a rebranding initiative and with that comes a new name for the team. In the future they will be called the Almaguin Family Health Team to better capture the communities they serve.

Kearney and McMurrich Monteith continue to remain not a part of the contract for the BFFHT although they have been included in service. Work to have them added to the contract continues.

The Almaguin Highlands Health Council is requesting proposals for an Almaguin wide healthcare strategy. This plan will not focus on buildings but rather what services are needed for the future of healthcare in Almaguin Highlands. Consultants will assess current services, current needs, future needs and provide a future focused roadmap for our communities.

13. **Next Meeting:** August 26, 2024, with the Township of Ryerson hosting

14. **Adjournment**

Resolution Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis- Seconded by Dan Robertson

That the TRI Council of the Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson and the Village of Burk's Falls adjourn this regular TRI Council meeting at 7:48 p.m. until the next regular TRI Council meeting scheduled for August 26, 2024, to be hosted by the Township of Ryerson.

Carried.

Original Signed by George Sterling

MAYOR

Original Signed by Nancy Field

CLERK