

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

May 18, 2021

The regular meeting of Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ryerson was held Tuesday evening May 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. This was a fully electronic meeting via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions.

Mayor George Sterling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was announced, and it was noted that the meeting is being recorded.

Mayor Sterling and Councillor Marlow participated from the municipal office.

Council members attending electronically via Zoom: Delynne Patterson, Penny Brandt, and Celia Finley.

Staff in attendance at the municipal office: Nancy Field, Brayden Robinson, Judy Kosowan.

Presenter attending electronically: Matthew Hodgson, Acting Integrity Commissioner.

Public attending electronically: Lee McConnell (Almaguin News), Paul Van Dam, Nieves Guijarro. John Finley joined the meeting at 6:09 p.m.

Notice of this meeting was posted on the website.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting May 4, 2021 were adopted as circulated, on a motion moved by Councillor Brandt and seconded by Councillor Finley. (Carried)

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Councillor Finley made the following declaration: I declare a pecuniary conflict of interest on the resolution concerning the Compliance Audit Committee, as my husband is the Chair of that committee. A copy of the declaration was provided to the Clerk. Councillor Finley removed herself from that part of the meeting and did not take part in the discussion or the vote.

PRESENTATION:

Matthew Hodgson attended the meeting to present an Integrity Commissioner Report about a complaint received against Councillor Brandt, with reference to a meeting of Council October 20, 2020.

Mr. Hodgson's report found that Councillor Brandt breached 6.1 and 7.1 of the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Hodgson recommended that, as a reprimand, Councillor Brandt issue an apology to the individual she mistakenly identified as a witness during the October 20, 2020 meeting of Council.

Council received and considered the report. Councillor Brandt raised concerns about conflict of interest and her ability to vote on the matter. Council was asked to defer the matter so that Councillor Brandt could prepare a conflict of interest statement in advance of Council's consideration and decision regarding the report. Council agreed and this item will be place on the next Council meeting agenda.

Mr. Hodgson was thanked for attending and he left the meeting.

TENDERS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:

One tender for Granular “A” gravel was received from Carr Aggregates. Council received a summary of the tender. The tender was over budget, however the increased gas tax allocation can be used to offset the additional expense. A resolution was adopted as noted below.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Council received the agreement for Joint Fire Training Services and adopted the By-Law as noted below.

STAFF REPORTS:

CLERK: Judy Kosowan provided Council with a report outlining general information about the 2022 municipal election.

Council received a report and by-law regarding the Compliance Audit Committee. Councillor Finley declared a pecuniary interest as noted above. Councillor Finley removed herself from this part of the meeting and did not take part in the discussion or the vote.

Council adopted the Compliance Audit Committee By-law as noted below.

Councillor Finley returned to the meeting.

Council received a report and by-law about Vote by Mail for the 2022 municipal election, and the by-law was adopted.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councillor Marlow provided an update from the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre (AHHC) Committee regarding the Ontario Health Team initiative. The AHHC Committee has been working on the development of an Almaguin Health Team, however as this option does not seem probable at this time, they have decided that it would be to our areas advantage to stay on with the Muskoka Health Team. A resolution of support was adopted.

Councillor Patterson reported that the Burks Falls and District Historical Society will be developing a five-year plan for the Wiseman Corner’s School site. A plan for improvements to the building and site would be beneficial in determining eligibility when funding opportunities are available.

Councillor Patterson also noted that the Burks Falls, Armour, Ryerson Union Public Library Board now has a Building Committee and are planning for the future setting of the Library.

Councillor Brandt noted the Joint Building Committee (JBC) monthly statistics and mentioned that she would be providing information regarding affordable housing to the JBC at the September meeting.

Councillor Finley noted that the Almaguin News will be hosting weekly virtual town hall discussions starting June 3, 2021 at noon.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS

Council considered the Women’s Resource Centre request for donation and decided to increase the donation as noted in the resolution.

Information items:

Arena Report

Annual General Meeting, Veterinary Committee minutes

Joint Building Committee Statistics

Arena Repurposing Committee minutes

Waste Management Report

BREAK: Five-minute break 7:05 – 7:10 p.m.

BY-LAWS

By-law # 19-21 to enter into an agreement for the Regional Fire Training Program

By-law # 20 - 21 to establish the Compliance Audit Committee

By-law # 21 -21 to authorize Vote by Mail for municipal elections

By-law # 22 - 21 to confirm the meetings of Council

CLOSED MEETING

Council moved to a closed meeting by resolution at 7:13 p.m.

In the closed meeting, Council discussed the matters it was permitted to under the resolution authorizing the public exclusions and returned to the open meeting at 7:42 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Councillor Brandt, seconded by Councillor Finley, be it resolved that the minutes from the regular meeting May 4, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling.
(Carried)

Moved by Councillor Finley, seconded by Councillor Marlow. be it resolved that the Ryerson Township Council accept the tender PW 5-21 for the crush, apply, and stockpile of Granular "A" Gravel from Carr Aggregates in the amount of \$94,619.42 including HST.

Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling.
(Carried)

Moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Brandt, be it resolved that leave be given to introduce a Bill # 19-21, being a By-law to enter into an agreement for the Regional Fire Training Program and further; That By-Law # 19-21 be read a First, Second, and Third time, Signed and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto and finally passed in Council this 18 day of May 2021.

Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling.
(Carried)

Moved by Councillor Brandt, seconded by Councillor Marlow, be it resolved that leave be given to introduce a Bill # 20-21, being a By-law to establish the Compliance Audit Committee and further; That By-Law # 20-21 be read a First, Second, and Third time, Signed and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto and finally passed in Council this 18 day of May 2021.

Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling.
(Carried)

Moved by Councillor Marlow, seconded by Councillor Finley, be it resolved that leave be given to introduce a Bill # 21-21, being a By-law to authorize Vote By Mail for the 2022 municipal election and further; That By-Law # 21-21 be read a First, Second, and Third time, Signed and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto and finally passed in Council this 18 day of May 2021.

Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling.
(Carried)

Moved by Councillor Marlow, seconded by Councillor Finley be it resolved that the Ryerson Township Council supports the decision of the Almaguin Highlands Health Council to stay with the MAOHT at this time. Should there be a significant negative change in the relationship with the MAOHT we will re-evaluate the Almaguin Health Team application,

Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling.
(Carried)

Moved by Councillor Finley, seconded by Councillor Patterson, be it resolved that Ryerson Township Council authorize a donation of \$648.00 to the Women's Own Resource Centre.

Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling.
(Carried)

Moved by Councillor Brandt, seconded by Councillor Finley be it resolved that leave be given to introduce a Bill # 22-21, being a By-law to confirm the meetings of Council and further; That By-Law # 22-21 be read a First, Second, and Third time, Signed and the Seal of the Corporation affixed thereto and finally passed in Council this 18 day of May 2021. Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling. No: Penny Brandt (Carried)

Moved by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Brandt, be it resolved that we move to a closed session at 7:13 p.m. pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c. 25, Section 239 (2) (e) as the subject matter being considered is regarding potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals affecting the Municipality or local board. The general nature of the closed meeting is to receive correspondence from the municipal solicitor regarding LPAT PL 130823; AND Pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c. 25, Section 239 (2) (b) as the subject matter being considered is regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. The general nature of the closed meeting is to discuss staff working relationships. Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling. (Carried)

Moved by Councillor Finley, seconded by Councillor Marlow, be it resolved that we do now adjourn at 7:44 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Recorded vote due to electronic meeting: Yes: Brandt, Finley, Marlow, Patterson, Sterling. (Carried)

MAYOR

CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK