

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of Ear Falls Council
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
April 6^h, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kevin Kahoot called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Kevin Kahoot, Councillor Jim Desmarais, Councillor Rob Eady, Councillor Tracey Simon, Councillor Daniel Sutton, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance and eight (8) members of the public.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4. MATTERS FOR WHICH SPECIAL MEETING WAS CALLED

F02-WA

4.1 Water and Sewer Rates.

Mayor Kahoot welcomed everyone in attendance and advised that the purpose of the Meeting was to invite ideas and suggestions to improve water and sewer rates. The Township has sent out some information to the public and has made some facts and figures available for their perusal.

Council invited discussion on this issue from members of the public.

Members of the public requested information on the Operating Contract and whether the Township has considered staffing the facility ourselves. This could be investigated further to determine the cost benefit analysis however maintaining qualified staff is a concern.

Clarification was requested on the term of the contract, whether chemicals were included in the cost and some other operational terms of the contract.

Energy costs were discussed since they have been excluded from the operating contract for the past few contracts. This eliminates any administrative mark-up on utility costs. Capital projects have been implemented to reduce energy consumption, and although these do not always work out as planned things seem to be working in the right direction.

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for the regulation of the system and the Township is required to respond accordingly. We have to follow the rules regardless of the cost implication to the municipality. This can be seen through the requirement to install new

inline samplers after the completion of the last energy upgrade at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Members discussed the cost of living in Ear Falls and the impact that the water and sewer fees and taxes are having on businesses. Council and staff understand this and are trying to find ways to make Ear Falls an affordable and enjoyable place to live, but the dynamics that are in place right now around the provision of safe, clean drinking water and the increasing regulations around waste treatment are making it very difficult for small municipalities.

Members discussed the increases in water rates that have happened over time and discussed options for the municipality to use the excess water for economic development purposes. Council noted that there is currently a two-year moratorium on the development of new water bottling facilities in Ontario.

Clarification was requested on the Water Treatment Plant Low Lift Pumping Station project and the costs and process required to complete this project. The Township has not had much luck in getting financial support for this project or much traction from the Federal or Provincial Government. It is frustrating for Council to see this on an ongoing basis as the project needs to be completed, but a small community like ours cannot afford to complete this project without partnership and support from other orders of government.

Members requested a further breakdown of the Operating Costs category.

Council thanked the public for their input and questions, and welcomed additional ideas or suggestions.

5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1 RESOLUTION NO. 096

Moved by Rob Eady. Seconded by Jim Desmarais.

RESOLVED THAT this Special Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 6:35 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk