

# **THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS**

**MINUTES** of the Special Meeting of Ear Falls Council  
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers  
January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ 1:00 p.m.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kevin Kahoot called the Meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## **2. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Kevin Kahoot, Councillor Jim Desmarais, Councillor Vic Robinson, Councillor Daniel Sutton, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance, Deputy Clerk Treasurer Paulette Covell, Day Care / EarlyON Coordinator Margie Trippier, Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) CAO Henry Wall, and KDSB Integrated Social Services Manager Sarah Stevenson

## **3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None Declared.

## **4. MATTERS FOR WHICH SPECIAL MEETING WAS CALLED**

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- 4.1 Kenora District Services Board Presentation
- Child Care

Mayor Kahoot welcomed Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) representatives to the Meeting.

Mr. Wall thanked Council for the opportunity to speak with them to provide some additional information about Child Care Funding as well as to gather some information about the desire of Ear Falls regarding the delivery of Child Care services in the community.

Mr. Wall advised that KDSB's organization has changed significantly over the past few years as a result of changes happening in the district, direction from the KDSB Board members, and due to other orders of government. These changes are meant to better address the needs of the community in all KDSB service areas.

The KDSB 2017 to 2018 budget has increased by 32% which has increased the capacity of the organization to provide services within the region.

Ms. Stevenson reviewed a presentation package "Early Learning and Care Programs – Township of Ear Falls" including statistical information on population, birthrates, and family composition. She suggested that the Township consider a Family Grouping licence instead of the current Preschool program licence which permits a 20% mix.

Staff noted that the Family Grouping was reviewed in coordination with the Ministry of Education in terms of how it would work for the community and determined that a licence of this type would actually reduce the number of toddlers that would be able to participate in the program. Toddler spaces are quite important and the limitation of the 20% mix under the current licence is often a limiting factor for increased registration.

Ms. Stevenson reviewed a four-year funding trend matrix for 2014 – 2017, including a review for how funding allocations have changed over time and how allocations are made to municipalities.

Council requested clarification on the flat funding for Best Start as there are increasing costs for operations.

Ms. Stevenson identified operational decisions that are the responsibility of the municipality, as the Day Care operator, and also reviewed the responsibilities of the KDSB in planning and supporting Child Care Centres. Ms. Stevenson reviewed the process for determining Child Care Fee Subsidy eligibility, and Ear Falls' Child Care allocations.

Council suggested that KDSB could potentially use Ear Falls as a pilot project to test if a daily fee rate reduction would encourage increased participation by patrons. Council also identified that the overall cost of day care services in Ear Falls is, and has been, increasing and the municipality and KDSB need to work on making it affordable for families as well as for taxpayers.

Registration flexibility was discussed in as far as improving revenue streams, particularly when daily costs for an additional registrant do not cover the cost for the additional staff required to maintain Ministry mandated ratios.

Operations in other communities and variations of child care provision were discussed, and the limitations and challenges of operating in the smallest community in the district were highlighted.

Council requested clarification on the top-up funding that the KDSB committed to service providers in order to address the significant deficits across the region.

The KDSB has allocated an additional general operating amount of approximately \$21,000 in 2017, and will be finalizing the 2017 re-allocation Stabilization Funds shortly.

Mr. Wall noted that KDSB has hired a new Early Years Program Supervisor who has been tasked with assisting service providers in the delivery of sustainable service delivery.

Council thanked KDSB for their presentation.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

5.1 RESOLUTION NO. 001

Moved by Vic Robinson. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT this Special Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 2:20 p.m.

Carried.

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Mayor

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Clerk