

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of Ear Falls Council
Ear Falls Meeting Room
November 18th, 2015 @ 10:00 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kevin Kahoot called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mayor Kevin Kahoot, Councillor Rob Eady, Councillor Daniel Sutton, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance, Deputy Clerk Treasurer Paulette Covell, Bob Nault, MP Kenora, and Executive Assistant Joel Tallerico.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4. MATTERS FOR WHICH SPECIAL MEETING WAS CALLED

4.1 Ear Falls priorities.

Mayor Kahoot welcomed Member of Parliament Bob Nault to the Meeting and looks forward to working with him over the next few years.

Council discussed infrastructure priorities for the municipality and specifically the Water Treatment Plant Low Level Pumping Station Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Nault identified that the Liberal platform during the Election period highlighted huge infrastructure development plans. This will include about \$10 billion per year for the country, which the provinces will probably try to match. The funding program will probably be a 1/3 cost shared funding program. Social Infrastructure will also be included in program plans with about \$6 billion over three years dedicated for that purpose. There is also a Green Infrastructure Fund that will support green infrastructure including water projects.

Mr. Nault invited Mayor Kahoot to attend an upcoming meeting in Ottawa to discuss local and regional issues with Federal Ministers. This event will be organized through his office and all mayors in the riding will be invited to attend; it is a good opportunity to address local and regional issues at the federal level.

Mr. Nault also discussed the economy and local economic development organizations such as community development corporations and FedNor. He requested input from Council on these types of organizations and on economic development activities. The Township has submitted an application for an Economic Development

Officer to FedNor; the application is under review. At this point the Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development is responsible for FedNor, but this may change as the provincial and regional economic development organizations, such as FedNor, will request increased local / regional control.

Discussed strategies to improve the image of Northwestern Ontario in the province in order to build a stronger relationship with the provincial government, tourists and businesses.

Mr. Nault requested a listing of projects that are critical to the success of the community and would be ready to advance and implement following the Federal Government's year-end in March 2016.

Discussed seniors housing needs including assisted living facilities, long-term care homes, and aging in place strategies. The health care needs for baby boomers are shifting service requirements in Canada and Northern Ontario. This issue is linked to the availability of transportation for seniors in the region following the loss of the regional bus service.

Discussed income and sales tax regimes and the impact that tax cuts have on service delivery. Mr. Nault noted that while no one wants to pay more in taxes, tax levels are directly attributed to service levels.

Council discussed the impact of 1/3 funding models and how difficult it is for municipalities to raise funds under this methodology. Mr. Nault noted that this formula is not guaranteed, however based on common funding programs it is quite likely to be the methodology selected.

Discussed forestry issues, the Eacom sawmill and local production levels. Currently things look relatively positive with the forestry sector in comparison to resource development in the mining sector. The Northern Iron Corp. project continues to be underway, but energy availability, market conditions and transportation are important factors. Mr. Nault noted the Federal Government will probably be playing a larger role in energy issues.

Mr. Nault proposed that northern municipalities consider supporting resource revenue sharing agreements between the Province and First Nations. Support for these agreements may improve development activities which will have direct spin-offs for communities. The process to achieve resource revenue sharing agreements is a long-term goal and will be a difficult one to negotiate.

Discussed the development of roads, bridges and energy to the communities north of Red Lake. This development will eliminate the use of diesel generation in these communities and connect the communities together. This will be a huge step in the development of Northwestern Ontario.

Council discussed ice maintenance needs for the community and potential availability of a Zamboni through the Federal Government's Surplus Equipment website.

Council discussed the Federal Government's support for the Ear Falls and District Museum over the past few years, and identified that additional support for the Museum and Heritage Trail project would be helpful to improving culture, history and physical activity in the community.

Council thanked Mr. Nault for his attendance in Ear Falls.

5. ADJOURNMENT

5.1 RESOLUTION NO. 311

Moved by Rob Eady. Seconded by Daniel Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT this Special Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 12:00 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk