

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

**MINUTES** of the Special Meeting of Ear Falls Council  
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 6:00 p.m.

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kevin Kahoot called the Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

## **2. ROLL CALL**

Mayor Kevin Kahoot, Councillor Rob Eady, Councillor Tracey Simon, Councillor Daniel Sutton, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance, Executive Assistant Darlene Stone, and seven (7) members of the public.

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

None Declared.

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

### **4.1 Open House**

Mayor Kahoot welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

An update on the Nuclear Waste Management Organization Process was provided. There are eight communities that continue to be involved in the Site Selection Process, including Ignace, ON. While Ear Falls is no longer involved in the process due to geologic and socio-economic factors, the community has benefited from its involvement in the process due to the creation of the Community Well-Being Reserve Fund. This has allowed Council to provide funding to nearly every small community group and club in Ear Falls. The Fund has also assisted in upgrading the Recreation Centre, and will also be used for a Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant energy efficiency project. Council has also discussed reinvesting funds into the Community Well-Being Fund to ensure that this source is available for community projects in the future.

An update on the Northern Iron Corp. / Griffith Mine Project was provided. Financing, market conditions and energy access are all playing a factor in the operation of this site. Energy availability is a key issue, which is why Mayor Kahoot and Councillor Sutton recently met with Minister Bob Chiarelli, Ministry of Energy to discuss the project. A solar power company has also reviewed Northern Iron Corp.'s energy requirements and will be submitting a proposal for the installation of an independent power supply on site.

Council has been completing research on social media communications and reviewing risk management information about the use of social media. There is a need to communicate clearly with the public about municipal events and activities and the Township's

strategy is to develop a Facebook Page, similar to many other municipalities in the country. This may be good timing for a launch of this kind of social media use in Ear Falls, given the unfortunate loss of the regional newspaper earlier this month.

Council has been reviewing the delivery of Day Care services, and has formed a sub-committee to present a recommendation to Council on potential changes to operations. The Township of Ear Falls is in the day care business and needs to be operating the best and most cost-efficient day care possible. Concerns about waiting lists for toddlers, hours of operation and continuity of services have been raised, however the overall consultation process did not garner significant public input which surprised Council Members since many members of the public spoke with them directly. Additional public input may be requested by the sub-committee.

The Museum Working Group has completed the interior displays in the Museum with the assistance of the Federal Government's grant for \$25,000 and a small contribution from the Community Well-Being Fund. These displays will be able to be changed from time to time to keep the Museum engaging to the public. The Museum Working Group will now be starting to work on the exterior displays, including the equipment that is currently located on the old Museum site. A plan for a Heritage Trail from the Ear Falls Government Building will be underway shortly and will be presented to Council for consideration. A funding application has been submitted to the Federal Government for this project.

Council also provided the public with information on a pending funding application for an Economic Development Coordinator. This position would be responsible to work on community and economic development projects. The need for this position was raised repeatedly during the consultation process for the Strategic Plan. Volunteer development and coordination will be part of the responsibilities for this position. Council has witnessed a number of situations where projects and ideas are not pursued because of a lack of volunteer coordination. Volunteers do a lot of great work in this community, but we need more of them because it will lighten the load for everyone else. Volunteer burnout is an ongoing concern and developing a strong volunteer community is critical to the success of our community.

Members of the public in attendance requested clarification on the Dog Park proposal, working space for the Museum Working Group, Cottage Lot Development, Day Care Service Provision, and Exterior Signage facing Highway 105 for all the services contained within the Ear Falls Government Building.

Mayor Kahoot thanked everyone for their attendance and participation tonight.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

5.1 RESOLUTION NO. 254

Moved by Rob Eady. Seconded by Tracey Simon.

RESOLVED THAT this Special Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 6:48 p.m.

Carried.

---

Mayor

---

Clerk