

AGENDA
A meeting of the Council of the Corporation
of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands
to be held on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024
at 7:00pm

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

Deputation: Dr. Anne McDonald – Dr. Recruitment, Little Current

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- i. Confirming By-Law 2024-05

5. New Business

- i. Request for arena usage – Julien Bergeron
- ii. Library Board resignation – Maureen Armstrong
- iii. Motion of support – FONOM
- iv. Donation request – MSS Robotics team
- v. Motion of support – Town of Petrolia
- vi. Motion of support - Country of Renfrew

6. Correspondence

- i. Linda Bowerman

7. Adjournment

Presentation to NEMI Council by DR. Anne McDonald

February 20th,2024

General Nature of discussion

- **A new program called” Practice Ready Ontario” for internationally trained physicians to practice under a supervised license with a 3- year return of service commitment for communities such as Little Current.**
- **A potential candidate is coming for a site visit this month and possibly participating in a twelve -week assessment in Little Current following that.**
- **Little Current doctor workload and upcoming retirements along with existing physician shortage.**
- **Need to mobilize community support for future candidates visits and to support recruitment and retention of physicians.**
- **Challenges like finding available housing, chidcare/education,recreation,cultural,religious, spousal employment, pet care, etc,**
- **Can NEMI help to find champions willing to work on these issues?**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF
NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS**

BY-LAW NO. 2024-05

Being a by-law of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands to adopt the minutes of Council for the term commencing December 4, 2018 and authorizing the taking of any action authorized therein and thereby.

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25. s. 5 (3) requires a Municipal Council to exercise its powers by by-law, except where otherwise provided;

AND WHEREAS in many cases, action which is taken or authorized to be taken by a Council or a Committee of Council does not lend itself to an individual by-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF NORTHEASTERN MANITOULIN AND THE ISLANDS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the minutes of the meetings of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands for the term commencing November 15, 2022

February 6, 2024

February 8, 2024

are hereby adopted.

2. THAT the taking of any action authorized in or by the minutes mentioned in Section 1 hereof and the exercise of any powers by the Council or Committees by the said minutes are hereby ratified, authorized and confirmed.
3. THAT, where no individual by-law has been or is passed with respect to the taking of any action authorized in or by the minutes mentioned in Section 1 hereof or with respect to the exercise of any powers by the Council or Committees in the above-mentioned minutes, then this by-law shall be deemed for all purposes to be the by-law required for approving and authorizing the taking of any action authorized therein or thereby or required for the exercise of any power therein by the Council or Committees.
4. THAT the Mayor and proper Officers of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the recommendations, motions, resolutions, reports, action and other decisions of the Council or Committees as evidenced by the above-mentioned minutes in Section 1 and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute all necessary documents in the name of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands and to affix the seal of the Corporation thereto.

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS
20th day of February, 2024.

Al MacNevin

Mayor

Pam Myers

Clerk

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands
Minutes of a Regular Council meeting held Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

PRESENT: Mayor Al MacNevin, Councillors: Patti Aelick, Al Boyd, Laurie Cook, Mike Erskine, William Koehler, Dawn Orr, George Williamson, and Bruce Wood.

STAFF PRESENT: David Williamson, CAO
Pam Myers, Clerk

Mayor MacNevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Disclosure of pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof – none.

Resolution No. 19-02-2024

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: G. Williamson

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands approves agenda.

Carried

Resolution No. 20-02-2024

Moved by: A. Boyd

Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands now reads a first, second and third time and finally passes By-law 2024-04. Being a by-law to adopt the minutes of Council for the term commencing November 15, 2022 and authorizing the taking of any action therein and thereby.

Carried

Resolution No. 21-02-2024

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: G. Williamson

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands authorizes the mayor and CAO to sign a grant application with Emergency Management Ontario/Treasury Board Secretariat and further that the Mayor and CAO have the authority to bind the organization.

Carried

Resolution No. 22-02-2024

Moved by: W. Koehler

Seconded by: G. Williamson

RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands supports and encourages the Manitoulin East Municipal Airport Commission in its efforts to secure funding for the extension of the airport runway.

Carried

Resolution No. 23-02-2024

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: P. Aelick

WHEREAS many municipalities in Ontario have scene an increase to their insurance rates due to Joint and Several Liability;

WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core;

AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act");

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands
Minutes of Council**

Page 2

AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;

AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;

AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal;

AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor; AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, France Gelinias, MPP for Nickel Belt, Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury, MPP Mike Mantha and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities, and the Clerk of the City of Greater Sudbury.

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands
Minutes of Council**

Page 3

Resolution No. 24-02-2024

Moved by: G. Williamson

Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands has no objections to the use of this location, 60 Meredith Street East, as a licensed premises under the Liquor License and Control Act, 2019. No determination or assessment has, or will be made at this time with respect to the occupant load by the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Island

Carried

Resolution No. 25-02-2024

Moved by: D. Orr

Seconded by: M. Erskine

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands does now adjourn at 7:34 pm.

Carried

Al MacNevin, Mayor

Pam Myers, Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands
Minutes of a meeting of Council held Thursday, February 8, 2024
Via Zoom at 7:00p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Al MacNevin, Councillors: Patti Aelick, Al Boyd, Laurie Cook, Mike Erskine, Dawn Orr, George Williamson, William Koehler, Bruce Wood

STAFF PRESENT: David Williamson, CAO
Pam Myers, Clerk
Sheryl Wilkin, Treasurer
Reid Taylor, Manager of Community Services

Mayor MacNevin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Resolution No. 26-02-2024

Moved by: D. Orr

Seconded by: M. Erskine

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands approves the agenda as presented.

Carried

Resolution No. 27-02-2024

Moved by: M. Erskine

Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands approves the financial reports as presented.

Carried

Resolution No. 28-02-2024

Moved by: G. Williamson

Seconded by: L. Cook

RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands approves the Marina rates as presented and attached.

Carried

Resolution No. 29-02-2024

Moved by: D. Orr

Seconded by: M. Erskine

The current Economy has stretched the financial capabilities of Municipalities and Taxpayers to the point where they do not have sufficient financial resources to meet the ongoing demands of everyday living.

This has created a situation where residents who are struggling to pay their daily expenses lack the financial resources to maintain the critical infrastructure required to sustain the water and wastewater systems that service their homes. It is critically important that the other levels of government recognize this fact and provide funding assistance that can be accessed based on operational and financial need.

Whereas the current housing accelerator fund provides financial support for small communities and water and distribution systems are considered eligible under the program guidelines,

And whereas one of the primary criteria for this funding is the ability to prove that the funds will accelerate the development of housing stock on the water or distribution system,

And whereas many smaller communities are not experiencing the level of growth necessary to meet the requirements of the program for growth in housing stock,

And whereas the water and wastewater systems in those communities represents a higher cost to operate per capita than the systems in larger built-up areas,

And whereas the cost of maintaining those systems on a user-pay basis is creating undo financial hardship for the limited number of residents on those systems,

Therefor be it resolved that the Council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands requests that the Province of Ontario implement a funding stream for water and wastewater systems that primarily utilizes operational and financial need as a criteria.

And furthermore that a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Ford, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of the Environment and Michael Mantha, MPP

Carried

**The Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands
Minutes of Council**

Page 2

Resolution No. 30-02-2024

Moved by: W. Koehler

Seconded by: A. Boyd

RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands sets a Water/Waste Water public budget meeting date of March 5th, 2024

Carried

Resolution No. 31-02-2024

Moved by: D. Orr

Seconded by: B. Koehler

RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands donates \$200.00 to the Little Current Public School Parent Council.

Carried

Resolution No. 32-02-2024

Moved by: P. Aelick

Seconded by: B. Wood

RESOLVED THAT the Administration and Finance Committee does now adjourn at 7:37 pm.

Carried

Al MacNevin

Mayor

Pam Myers

Clerk

To Township of NEMI,

My name is Julien Bergeron, and I am composing this letter to formally request the usage of the arena situated in Little Current for a "Junior A" hockey team affiliated with the NOJHL league. We kindly seek your written consent to utilize the arena for our team's activities. Having a prearranged agreement would facilitate the team's operational planning. It is important to note that your decision can be either affirmative or negative, contingent upon your discretion. Our team anticipates requiring the arena for 28 home games and a training camp spanning from August to March. Additionally, should our team advance to the playoffs, we may require the facility for an additional two months of home games. I intend to relocate from Espanola to facilitate this endeavor. Below, I will outline some proposals aimed at fostering a mutually beneficial relationship.

As you are aware, the Island boasts a rich tapestry of indigenous communities. Establishing this team will serve as a catalyst for fostering positive narratives within these communities, countering prevailing negative stereotypes. We are committed to collaborating closely with each community, ensuring the integration of hockey within their cultural events. Moreover, we aspire to involve the township in all forthcoming initiatives and endeavors.

Furthermore, it is imperative to acknowledge the economic benefits that this venture will bring to the township and its environs. Sponsorship opportunities within the arena premises will generate revenue, while local businesses stand to benefit from increased foot traffic. We propose an initial 80/20 split in advertising arrangements, thereby ensuring the sustained success of the team while simultaneously assisting the arena in meeting its financial obligations. I am prepared to furnish detailed projections regarding the costs associated with advertising placements on boards and on the ice. Our collaboration with the arena's management will ensure an enjoyable experience for fans attending our games.

Lastly, I have received feedback from individuals with firsthand experience of playing hockey in this arena, suggesting the need for gradual upgrades. Foremost among these recommendations is the refurbishment of the locker rooms, which a former NOJHL team member emphasized as a priority. To alleviate future maintenance costs and facilitate necessary upgrades, I intend to submit an application for the Kraft Hockeyville contest. Winning this contest not only benefits the arena but also enriches the surrounding community, as the victor hosts an NHL exhibition game.

In closing, we extend our gratitude for your time and consideration. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to forge a mutually beneficial partnership in the future.

Yours sincerely,
Julien Bergeron
Winter Eagle Sports and Entertainment

JANUARY 29 2024

ATTN: NEMI PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Please accept this as my resignation from
the NEMI PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

As a member of the Board I have been
a part of an energetic and committed group
of people who promote the importance
and facilitate the provision of Library
services

During my time on the Board I have seen
the Library grow into a hub of
culture and community

My wish for the Board going forward
is that the Library's growth continues
with the ongoing support of the Town
of NEMI.

Sincerely
Kareem Armstrong



February 2, 2024

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility, and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need

WHEREAS the province can and should invest more in the prosperity of communities

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the **Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities** asks the Province of Ontario to commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Leaders of the Opposition, and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.



Manitoulin Metal Robotics FRC6865
Manitoulin Secondary School
107 Bay Street, Mchigeeng, ON P0P 1G0
705-368-7000 6865mssrobotics@gmail.com

January 3, 2023.

Dear Potential Sponsor:

Re: Manitoulin Metal Robotics Team Sponsorship for 2023/24

Manitoulin Secondary School is excited to be part of the FIRST Robotics Program again this year, and we are seeking sponsors, as well as mentors and in-kind contributions, for our team, Manitoulin Metal. We are hoping your organisation will become a sponsor and partner for our remote, northern team. The team provides life-changing opportunities for young individuals in grades 9-12 from diverse backgrounds, including First Nations communities across Manitoulin Island. We need your support so that dedicated, motivated, and talented young people from Manitoulin will have the same opportunities to innovate, invent, and have an impact as our urban counterparts. In our 2022-23 season, the team was recognized with many prestigious awards:

- 2 Dean's List Semi-Finalists (North Bay)
- Engineering Inspiration Award (North Bay),
- Impact Award (McMaster)
- Impact Award (Provincial)
- Women in STEM Scholarship (Provincial)
- FIRST Robotics Canada Indigenous Scholarship (Provincial)

Finally, with the support of generous sponsors and our community, we went to the World Championships in Houston and won the **World Championship FIRST Impact Finalist Award**. This monumental achievement qualifies the team to **return to the World Championships in Houston (April 2024)** and inspires ambitious engineering goals.

The FIRST Robotics program promotes science, technology, real-world engineering, programming, cooperation, and positive competition. Manitoulin Metal also promotes technology solutions to take action on environmental stewardship, including a net-zero season, battery and e-waste drives, and green technology design. The team has doubled in size and our goal is to continue to build a strong, competitive, sustainable FIRST Robotics program at MSS that exemplifies commitment, creativity, teamwork, ingenuity, and technical skill development. Seventy-five percent of team alumni continue in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) fields.

Sponsorship cheques can be made out to Manitoulin Secondary School (c/o Manitoulin Metal Robotics 107 Bay St. M'chigeeng, ON, P0P 1G0). With an annual budget of over \$50,000, we rely on sponsors who share our vision and would like to invest in youth. For this reason, we would greatly appreciate your ongoing support in the form of a donation.

All sponsors are recognized in many ways:

- Promotion on the Team 6865 website and social media
- Your business logo prominently displayed at all our events
- Sponsors announced at all events (regional, district, and world championships)
- Featured in a variety of press materials

If you have any questions, would like to hear a presentation, or would like to test drive our robot "Bumblebee" please contact us at 705-368-7000 or email the team at 6865mssrobotics@gmail.com.

If you would like to be included as a sponsor on our team shirts please contact us by January 15th, 2024.

Thank you for your consideration,

Manitoulin Metal Robotics Team (FRC 6865)

Instagram & Twitter: frc6865
Website: www.frc6865.ca

Facebook: manitoulinmetal
Youtube Channel: @ManitoulinMetal

Tiktok: @mssrobotics6865

2023-24 Manitoulin Metal Robotics Team



Phoebe Aeschlimann, Mindemoya
Addy Gray, Mindemoya
Samuel Pennings, Mindemoya
Carson Stewart, Mindemoya
Eric Wahl, Mindemoya
Emery Watson, Mindemoya

Tim Arabadzhadzi, Little Current
Noah Deforge, Little Current
Morgan Green, Little Current
Rowan McGaughey, Little Current
Isaac Quackenbush, Little Current
Alan Wilkin, Little Current

Garrett Charbonneau, M'chigeeng
Mckinley Fox, M'chigeeng

Lizzie Elliott, Spring Bay
Elias Titian, Spring Bay

Nevaeh Harper, Providence Bay
Ben Willis, Providence Bay

Tanner Hooper-Leblanc, Manitowaning
Kaden Jamieson, Manitowaning
Jacob Jones, Manitowaning
Dylan Kuntsi, Manitowaning
Ryan Kuntsi, Manitowaning
Alexander Leblanc, Manitowaning
Sebastian Mara, Manitowaning
Xavi Mara, Manitowaning

Robyn-Ashley McNaughton, Tehkummah
Connor O'Leary, Tehkummah

Isaac McClaskin, Sheguiandah
Xander Thompson, Sheguiandah

Athena Gravelle-Jedrasik, Kagawong

Willow Fogal, Gore Bay
Alexandra Wilson-Zegil, Gore Bay
Amara Wilson-Zegil, Gore Bay

Alexis McVey, Evansville

February 8, 2024

Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Attn: Board of Directors
Via email roma@roma.on.ca

Ontario Good Roads Association
Attn: Board of Directors
Via email info@goodroads.ca

Via email

RE: return to combined ROMA and OGRA conferences

Dear ROMA & OGRA Board of Directors,

During the February 5, 2024 regular meeting of council, council in response to a notice of motion from Deputy Mayor Joel Field the following resolution passed:

MOVED: Bill Clark

SECONDED: Chad Hyatt

WHEREAS as a past attendee of combined conferences, it makes great sense for the OGRA & ROMA conferences to be returned to a combined conference effort, not only financially for the municipality but also for availability for participation of members of Council and staff; and

WHEREAS these conferences afford a vital opportunity for delegations with members of our provincial parliament, returning to a combined conference provides a better respect to their availability and participation; and

WHEREAS during the 2019 OGRA conference AGM a resolution was passed regarding the re-establishment of an annual combined conference for both OGRA & ROMA; and

WHEREAS it is understandable that little movement has happened since the resolution at the 2019 OGRA conference AGM was passed, due to delays of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS not all persons who wish to attend can do so in person, that a hybrid participation option be considered for the sessions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Petrolia call upon both the ROMA & OGRA boards to re-establish a combined OGRA & ROMA annual conference.

FURTHERMORE that this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister Paul Calandra, MPP Bob Bailey and be circulated to Municipalities of Ontario; as amended

Carried

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.town.petrolia.on.ca



Kind regards,

Original Signed

Mandi Pearson
Clerk/Operations Clerk

cc:

Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
MPP Bob Bailey, Sarnia-Lambton bob.bailey@pc.ola.org
Ontario Municipalities

Phone: (519)882-2350 • Fax: (519)882-3373 • Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.town.petrolia.on.ca



Office of the
County Warden



9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
613-735-7288
FAX: 613-735-2081
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

January 31, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

RE: Rural and Small Urban Municipalities – Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on January 31, 2024, The County of Renfrew passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (Section 1.6.6.2) states that municipal sewage services and municipal water services are the preferred form of servicing for settlement areas to support protection of the environment and minimize potential risks to human health and safety and that intensification and redevelopment within these settlement areas should be promoted; and

WHEREAS the PPS (Section 2.2.1 (f)) states that planning authorities shall protect, improve, or restore the quality and quantity of water by implementing the necessary restrictions on development and site alternation to protect all drinking supplies and designated vulnerable areas, and protect, improve, or restore vulnerable surface and ground water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive groundwater features, and their hydrologic functions; and

WHEREAS the PPS (Sections 2.2.1(h) and (i)) states that there is consideration of environmental lake capacity as well as stormwater management practices; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Protection and Conservation (MECP) Procedural Guideline B-1-5 Policy 2 provision states that water quality which presently does not meet the Provincial Water Quality Objectives shall not be further degraded and all practical measures shall be undertaken to upgrade the water quality to the Objectives; and

WHEREAS in 2014 the Township of Whitewater Region authorized Jp2gConsultants Inc. to undertake a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of evaluating viable options to upgrade the 1979 Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant did not meet guidelines for effluent flow into Muskrat Lake and Cobden Wetland being highly sensitive, at-capacity, inland lake, and Provincial Significant Wetland (PSW) and acknowledged as one of

the most eutrophic in the province. The plant had ongoing seasonal overflow events, and was operating at maximum capacity; and

WHEREAS in 2018 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region approved the construction of a new parallel mechanical system that would meet all provincial environmental and regulatory requirements including accommodating future growth. Federal and provincial contributions only covered 50% of the final construction costs, as there was no ability to renegotiate with federal and provincial partners once real costs were known. As a result, the balance of costs (\$6M) was debentured over 30 years at interest rates that are slightly punitive to rural and small urban municipalities; and

WHEREAS in 2019 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region conducted a Water and Wastewater Rate Study that demonstrated the need for rate increases of over 100% to fund the new wastewater treatment plant construction debenture and the significantly increased operating costs for a parallel mechanical system. Rural and small urban municipalities experience very limited growth as federal and provincial policies heavily support growth in urban centers. As there are no other sources of available operational funding, rural and small urban municipalities are expected to fund the construction and operation of these state-of-the-art systems from existing property owners and nominal forecasted growth; and

WHEREAS in 2023 the Township of Whitewater Region combined water and wastewater rates have risen to almost \$3,000/year for its five hundred and eleven (511) users and are among the highest in the County of Renfrew and across the Province of Ontario. There are similarly high user rates in the Township of Madawaska Valley as a result of Provincial regulations and a small number of users. Other examples of rapidly increasing rates include the Towns of Deep River, Renfrew, Arnprior, Laurentian Hills, and Petawawa, and the Townships of Bonnechere Valley, Laurentian Valley and Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, where significant upgrades in short periods of time are making rates unaffordable even with an increased number of users.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Renfrew:

Advocate to the provincial and federal levels of government to make them aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable; and Advocate to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs is systemic provincially and nationally.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario); the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada); the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), Cheryl Gallant, MP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; AMO; ROMA; FCM; and all Municipalities in Ontario.

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Peter Emon, Warden

County of Renfrew

warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

cc: Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario)
Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada)
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), Cheryl Gallant, MP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
AMO; ROMA; FCM; and all Municipalities in Ontario.

FEB 13 2024

February 12, 2024

Mayor and Council of NEMI
Little Current, Ont. P0P 1K0

Re: Accessibility article February 7, 2024 The Manitoulin Expositor

It was interesting to read where the CAO Dave Williamson is quoted as saying “We are in pretty good shape.” “We have been working on this every year and upgrading to meet the requirements of the Act.”

Well I think Mayor, Council and the CAO need to take a tour of the Arena as they will certainly find that this public space is not accessible to anyone walking with a walker or in a wheel chair. Only one set of stairs in the arena has a railing, the stairs are not wide enough for anyone with a walker to walk up them and no wheel chair ramp. I witnessed an 80 plus year old at the Curling carrying a walker up the stairs for a party and the party had to be assisted in order to do the stairs. Also at the curling play downs I noticed two ladies (one of which I knew) from Thessalon sitting on the first row of seats so went to say Hi. Only to be told how disappointed they were because they were unable to do the stairs and had no choice but to sit where they were. I then suggested maybe they would enjoy the curling from the hall upstairs and proceeded to take them there. However, the downside was you couldn't hear any announcements up there and they had to leave the hall for the opening ceremonies because of the party for the VIP's and players. Other than watching the curling the best part is being able to hear the chatter that goes on during the play. Oh and I should mention the hall was not that warm as there seemed to be a draft at the windows so needless to say they wore their jackets.

This past Saturday evening I witnessed a local young man who is a taxpayer of this Town sitting in his wheel chair at board level just as you would go up the stairs to the seating. Not the best view but he wanted to see his son play hockey. Where others in the stands could enjoy the heaters he was all bundled up with blankets as he was not able to enjoy what others were enjoying and that being the heaters or a better view.

I suggest that Council take this tour and see what can be done to make our Arena accessible for everyone .

This grandparent who loves to attend her grandchildren's hockey games is fortunate as I don't have walking problems but are considerate of those who do.

My other concern is the parking in front of the Post Office. Here is an accident about to happen and should a pedestrian get hit could they sue the Town?

With cars parked right in front of the Post Office doors. Not only does one have to dodge the traffic of the main street you then have to go between cars to access the stairs to the Post Office. Returning to your parked vehicle you have the same problem.

The handicapped parking is on the other side of the driveway to the dock area. Again someone walking with a walker or cane has to dodge the traffic coming from the dock and go along the sidewalk to where they can access the ramp into the Post Office and the Town Office.

Add to this the transports that park in front of the stores to unload when they have access to these same stores from the back near Acme.

I have been told that the Town cannot have a cross walk in front of the Post Office to the store side of the street yet the lines are painted down the street near the Needle Box to the other side of the street?

At least if lines were painted for pedestrians to access the Post Office or Town Office the traffic on main street would slow down as it is as bad for speeders as any other street in this Town.

Trusting I will see some improvements at our local arena before this act becomes law and a No Parking Area in front of the Post Office.



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