

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HEARST

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on April 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 925 Alexandra Street, Hearst, Ontario.

Present:	Mayor	Roger Sigouin
	Councillor	André Rhéaume
	Councillor	Daniel Lemaire
	Councillor	Gérard Proulx
	Councillor	Claude Gagnon
	Councillor	Raymond Vermette
	Councillor	Conrad Morin
Staff:	CAO	Yves Morrissette
	Deputy Clerk	Manon Higgins

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Resolution No. 99-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Raymond Vermette

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of Council be hereby opened at 6:00 p.m.

CARRIED

2. OPENING PRAYER

The Mayor recites the opening prayer.

3. ADOPTION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nil

4. PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Nil

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

Resolution No. 101-18

Proposed by : Councillor Daniel Lemaire
Seconded by : Councillor Claude Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 24-18, being a by-law to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on March 13, 2018 and of the special meeting held on March 26, 2018, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

6. HEARING AND PUBLIC MEETING

Nil

7. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Resolution No. 102-18

Proposed by : Councillor Conrad Morin
Seconded by : Councillor Raymond Vermette

BE IT RESOLVED that the list of correspondence presented at the April 4, 2018 regular meeting of Council be hereby filed.

9. REPORTS AND MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Resolution No. 103-18

Proposed by : Councillor Raymond Vermette
Seconded by : Councillor André Rhéaume

BE IT RESOLVED that Council takes note of the reports and minutes of meetings of :

- the Hearst Planning Board dated January 31, 2018;
- the Child Care Committee dated February 21, 2018;
- the Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board dated December 14, 2017 and January 18, 2018;
- the Porcupine Health Unit dated January 26, 2018;
- the Community Mobilization Committee dated February 28, 2018;
- the Economic Development Committee dated January 24, 2018;
- the Non-Profit Housing Corporation dated February 14, 2018;
- the Public Library Board dated February 26, 2018.

CARRIED

10. REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The Chief Administrative Officer briefs members of Council on the various municipal ongoing projects. The written report is appended hereto.

11. FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL

a) Report from the Operations Working Group

i) OCWA 2017 Annual drinking water Compliance and Summary reports

Resolution No. 104.18

Proposed by : Councillor Gérard Proulx
Seconded by : Councillor Claude Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED that 2017 Annual Compliance and Summary reports, as required under Ontario's Drinking Water Systems Regulation, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, as prepared by the Ontario Clean Water Agency, be hereby approved.

CARRIED

ii) Support OGRA's resolution, Re: Accelerate the application for review of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

Resolution No. 105-18

Proposed by : Councillor Gérard Proulx
Seconded by : Councillor Claude Gagnon

WHEREAS a coalition of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) and the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario have successfully applied to have a review of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process conducted under Part IV (Section 61) of the Environmental Bill of Rights Act, 1993, (EBR Act), and

WHEREAS impact studies and public meetings required by the MCEA process often take two years or more to complete before construction can commence, and

WHEREAS the MCEA requirements to evaluate alternatives are often not well aligned with prior or municipal land use planning decisions, and

WHEREAS analysis by the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) has demonstrated that the time to complete an EA rose from 19 months to 26.7 months and costs went from an average of \$113,300 to \$386,500, and

WHEREAS the Auditor General of Ontario has tabled recommendations for modernizing the MCEA process, and

WHEREAS in spite of written commitments made by the Ministry of the Environment between 2013-2015, no action has been taken,

WHEREAS local projects that do not have the necessary approvals could lose out on the next intake of Build Canada funding,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Hearst requests that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change take immediate steps to expedite the response process for Part II Orders or Bump-Up requests, as part of the s. 61 review to improve MCEA process times and reduce study costs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change support changes to better integrate and harmonize the MCEA process with processes defined under the Planning Act, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change amend the scope of MCEA reports and studies to reduce duplication with existing public processes and decisions made under municipal Official Plans and provincial legislation.

CARRIED

iii) Amendment to waste disposal tipping fees

Resolution No. 106-18

Proposed by : Councillor Gérard Proulx
Seconded by : Councillor Claude Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 25-18, being a by-law amending certain tipping fees contained in Schedule A of By-law no. 87-16, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

iv) Agreement with ONTC for underground pipe crossings

Resolution No. 107-18

Proposed by : Councillor Gérard Proulx
Seconded by : Councillor Claude Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 26-18, being a by-law to authorize the execution of an agreement with the Ontario Northland with respect to underground pipe crossings under the railway tracks, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

v) ***Adoption of the report of the Operations Working Group***

Resolution No. 108-18

Proposed by : Councillor Gérard Proulx
Seconded by : Councillor Claude Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED that the report from the Operations Working Group dated March 27, 2018, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

b) ***Report from the Planning Working Group***

Nil

c) ***Report from the Parks and Recreation Working Group***

i) ***Free use of the Stéphane Lecours Swimming Pool for Phoenix swim team's Swim-A-Thon***

Resolution No. 109-18

Proposed by : Councillor Raymond Vermette
Seconded by : Councillor Daniel Lemaire

BE IT RESOLVED that the use of the Stéphane Lecours Swimming Pool free of charge for the fund-raising Swim-A-Thon of the Hearst Phoenix Swim Team which was held in March 2018, be hereby approved

CARRIED

ii) ***Increase of lockers rental rates at the Claude Larose Recreation Centre***

Resolution No. 110-18

Proposed by : Councillor Raymond Vermette
Seconded by : Councillor Daniel Lemaire

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 27-18, being a by-law amending the rental rate for lockers at the Claude Larose Recreation Centre, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

iii) ***Adoption of the report of the Park and Recreation Working Group***

Resolution No. 111-18

Proposed by : Councillor Raymond Vermette
Seconded by : Councillor Daniel Lemaire

BE IT RESOLVED that the report from the Parks and Recreation Working Group dated March 28, 2018, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

d) Report from the Finance Working Group

i) Adoption of the 2018 capital and operations budget

Resolution No. 112-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume

Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 28-18, being a by-law to approve:

- the 2018 operating budget comprising revenues totaling \$13,443,500 and expenses totaling \$13,443,500,
- the 2018 capital budget totaling \$4,571,500;
- the 2018 Hearst Public Library Board operating budget comprising revenues totaling \$265,300 and expenses totaling \$265,300 and a capital budget of \$1,100, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

ii) Adoption of the 2018 tax rates

Resolution No. 113-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume

Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 29-18, being a by-law to establish the estimates of all municipal taxation sums required for 2018 and to set the tax rates for the year, providing for an increase of 2% in the case of municipal taxation rates, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

iii) Adoption of the 2018 tax ratios

Resolution No. 114-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume

Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 30-18, being a by-law to establish the municipal tax reduction program, the optional property class and the tax ratios for municipal purposes for the year 2018, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

iv) Request for tax exemption from Les Médias de l'épinette noire

Resolution No. 115-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume

Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

WHEREAS Les Médias de l'épinette noire has requested that its property be tax exempted given its status as a non-profit organisation, and
WHEREAS Les Médias de l'épinette noire's operations differ from other non-profit organizations benefiting from a tax rebate, being a business involved with sales of goods and services; and
WHEREAS the financial statements of Les Médias de l'épinette noire do not show financial difficulties,

BE IT RESOLVED that the request for tax exemption from Les Médias de l'épinette noire be hereby denied.

CARRIED

v) Approval of HPDC's 2018 budget

Resolution No. 116-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 budget of Hearst Power Distribution Company Limited totaling \$11,069,762 in revenues and \$10,963,878 in expenditures, be hereby approved.

CARRIED

vi) Acceptance of AFMO's settlement offer for the Place des Arts hall rental

Resolution No. 117-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

BE IT RESOLVED to accept the settlement offered by the Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO) and to direct municipal staff to provide payment in the amount of \$3,050 for the Place des arts hall rental for the AFMO annual congress that took place in 2016.

CARRIED

vii) Requests for financial contributions

Resolution No. 118-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

WHEREAS requests received for financial assistance have been studied in light of the Municipality's donation policy,

BE IT RESOLVED that the following grants be approved:

- Collège Boréal – bursary fund \$150
- Conseil des Arts / Université de Hearst – Essor & Vitalité \$100
- Conseil des Arts – Horem \$150
- École secondaire catholique school – yearbook \$105
- Kerrigan Iserhoff – Miss North Ontario Regional Canada \$150.

CARRIED

viii) List of cheques issued from general account

Resolution No. 119-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

BE IT RESOLVED that the list of cheques issued from the general fund namely cheques number 27853 to 28380 for a total of \$2,858,895.33, be hereby approved.

CARRIED

ix) Adoption of the report of the Finance Working Group

Resolution No. 120-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

BE IT RESOLVED that the report from the Finance Working Group dated March 29, 2018, be hereby adopted.

CARRIED

e) **Report from the Policy Working Group**

Nil

f) **Report from the Economic Development Working Group**

Nil

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

i) Hearst centenary book project

Resolution No. 120B-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Claude Gagnon

WHEREAS further to the Letter to the Editor published in Le Nord newspaper on March 1st, it is obvious that the feasibility study for the publication of the historical book of the Town of Hearst could have been undertaken locally, BE IT RESOLVED that once the feasibility study is completed, the *Université de Hearst* and *Librairie Le Nord* be involved in the Hearst centenary book project.

AGAINST:

Councillor Lemaire
Councillor Morin
Councillor Proulx
Councillor Vermette

DEFEATED

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS / DEFERRED RESOLUTIONS

Nil

14. CLOSED MEETING

Resolution No. 121-18

Proposed by : Councillor Raymond Vermette
Seconded by : Councillor Claude Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED that Council go in closed meeting to discuss the following items:

- a) Selection of the 2018 Senior of the Year and of the exceptional volunteers (Section 239 2) b) of the Municipal Act);
- b) Settlement offer for tax arrears (Section 239 2) k) of the Municipal Act).

CARRIED

Resolution No. 122-18

Proposed by : Councillor Raymond Vermette
Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

BE IT RESOLVED that the regular meeting of Council resume and that the confidential report of proceedings of the closed meeting be hereby acknowledged for Council's information.

CARRIED

Resolution No. 123-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Gérard Proulx

WHEREAS Blue Flamingo Capital, owner of the property located at 13, 9th Street, made a request to Municipal Council to settle the taxes owed for its property, valued at \$ 28,519.09, for the sum of \$ 10,000, and
WHEREAS, according to the owners of Blue Flamingo Capital, the taxes for this property were outstanding at the time of purchase, and it is not up to them to pay this part of the amount, and
WHEREAS the property taxes remain on the assessment roll and the lawyers of Blue Flamingo Capital were aware of the outstanding taxes at the time of the property acquisition,
BE IT RESOLVED that Mr. Alton's offer to settle the property tax arrears at 13, 9th Street, be hereby denied.

CARRIED

15. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. 124-18

Proposed by : Councillor André Rhéaume
Seconded by : Councillor Daniel Lemaire

BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting of Council held on April 4, 2018 be adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor

Deputy Clerk