

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LA VALLEE

The Regular Meeting of the Township of La Vallee was held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 14, 2022 with Reeve Ken McKinnon and Councillors Jim Belluz, Elaine Hughes and Dan Rea in attendance. Councillor Glen Aveyard was absent.

Also present were Patti McDowall, Clerk/Treasurer; Neil MacDonald, Road Superintendent and Tyrell Griffith, Fire Chief.

Conflict of Interest: None

Delegations: None

Road Department Report: The Daily Activity Report was reviewed. Beaver control is on-going. A culvert replacement was discussed. Maintenance on the excavator has taken place and brushing the roadsides will resume.

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief's report was reviewed. Equipment replacement was discussed. The Live Fire Training went well. Mandatory certification was discussed.

Council Discussion: A grant application was discussed.

Council Reports: Update on the Emo Library.

Resolutions:

164. HUGHES/BELLUZ: BE IT RESOLVED that we accept the Agenda as presented. CARRIED

165. HUGHES/REA: WHEREAS Councillor Glen Aveyard is unable to carry out his regular Council duties during September, 2022 for personal reasons;

NOW THEREFORE Council for the Township of La Vallee hereby excuses the absence of Councillor Aveyard from this meeting. CARRIED

166. BELLUZ/REA: BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the August 10, 2022 Council Meeting be accepted as presented. CARRIED

167. BELLUZ/HUGHES: BE IT RESOLVED that payroll items numbering from 383 to 447 in the amount of \$543,701.61 for September 14, 2022 be passed and paid. CARRIED

168. REA/HUGHES: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee hereby accepts the August 31, 2022 Financial Statements as presented. CARRIED

169. HUGHES/REA: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee use funds from the 2022 Northern Ontario Resource Development Support Fund (NORDS) for the La Vallee Road South culvert replacement. CARRIED

170. REA/HUGHES: BE IT RESOLVED that we now go in-camera at 9:05 p.m. for the following reasons: (Employment Performance Review)

- Security of property;
- Personal matters regarding an identifiable individual, including employees;
- Proposed or pending acquisitions or disposition of real property;
- Labour relations and employee negotiations;
- Litigation or potential litigation, including matter before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local board;
- Advice subject to a solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- Any matter with respect to which a council, local board or committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under any other statute;
- Consideration of a request under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. CARRIED

171. BELLUZ/REA: BE IT RESOLVED that we now close our in-camera session at 9:45 p.m. and continue with the regular meeting of Council. CARRIED

172. BELLUZ/HUGHES: BE IT RESOLVED that By-Law No. 1338 being a By-law to confirm the Terms of Reference for a Joint Compliance Audit Committee regarding Municipal Elections read a first, second and third time be finally passed, signed by the Reeve and Clerk, sealed with the Corporate Seal and become law forthwith. CARRIED

173. BELLUZ/REA: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee hereby accepts the Minutes of Settlement on roll number 59-16-000-002-04605-0000 for 2021 and 2022. CARRIED

174. BELLUZ/HUGHES: WHEREAS the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario ("Commission") released its proposed redistribution of federal riding boundaries in August 2022; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario would lose a seat in the House of Commons under the proposed redistribution; and

WHEREAS the previous redistribution caused the Rainy River District to be joined into a Riding with the City of Thunder Bay, with which Fort Frances area municipalities have often found their economic interests at odds; and

WHEREAS the new proposed distribution intends to further combine the main municipal population centres of the current Kenora and Thunder Bay-Rainy River ridings, further eroding effective representation for the rural and outlying communities of the Rainy River and Kenora districts; and

WHEREAS the current proposal has been criticized as impractical and unfair for northern communities by both current and former MPs from across Northern Ontario, from all 3 major political parties;

WHEREAS the proposed redistribution fails to recognize the economic, historic, and cultural distinctions across the region and the rural-urban population divide between Thunder Bay and smaller centres in the Northwest; and

WHEREAS the Northern Policy Institute has conducted research which confirmed that the Kenora and Rainy River districts are in a distinct economic region from Thunder Bay; and

WHEREAS the Commission has called for written submissions from citizens and stakeholders on its proposed redistribution by September 25, 2022;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of La Vallee conveys the following comments as submissions to the Commission:

1. Council is concerned by the loss of northern representation in the proposed redistribution and is of the view that 10 seats ought to be reserved for the north to account for its geographic, economic, and social diversity;
2. Council is concerned that the new proposed federal riding of Kenora-Thunder Bay-Rainy River fails to account for the vast geography of the region and the economic, historic, political, and demographic differences between the Kenora-Rainy River districts and the City of Thunder Bay;
3. Council is of the view that the current proposal creates boundaries for the purpose of adhering to a population formula without fully accounting for the unique geographic, economic, and cultural realities of northern communities and their different community interests;
4. Council is of the opinion that effective representation for the Northwest requires that travel times, indigenous territorial boundaries, community history, provincial boundaries, and economic regions be reflected in federal electoral boundaries;

5. If the current 10 seats for Northern Ontario is not maintained, Council suggests that consideration be given by the Commission as to whether the City of Thunder Bay ought to be contained within a single riding in order to give more effective representation to rural and smaller communities in the region;

FURTHER that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Eric Melillo, MP Kenora Riding, the Federal Electoral Boundaries Commission for Ontario, the Kenora District Municipal Association, the Rainy River District Municipal Association and the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. CARRIED


175. REA/HUGHES: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee hereby approve the Clerk to attend the Zone 9 Fall Meeting and Conference virtually and that the \$75.00 virtual attendance fee be paid. CARRIED

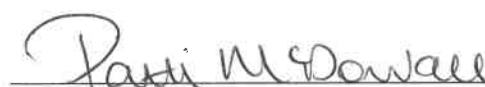
176. BELLUZ/REA: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee hereby supports the Town of South Bruce Peninsula's resolution requesting that the Province acknowledge the shortage in all healthcare worker disciplines and that they take steps to increase the number of practicing physicians in the Province of Ontario. CARRIED

177. HUGHES/REA: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee hereby supports the Town of Kingsville's resolution petitioning the Government of Ontario that the changes to the Municipal Act, 2001, are unnecessary and will negatively affect the Town of Kingsville; that if the Ontario Government deems these changes necessary in large single-tier municipalities such as Toronto and Ottawa, that such changes should not be implemented in smaller municipalities; that the Ontario Government should enact legislation clarifying the role of Mayor, Council and Chief Administration Officer, similar to those recommended by the Ontario Municipal Administrator's Association and those recommended by Justice Marrocco in the Collingwood judicial inquiry of 2020; and that if the stated goal of this legislation is to construct more housing in Ontario that this can be accomplished through other means including amendment of the Planning Act and funding of more affordable housing. CARRIED

178. BELLUZ/HUGHES: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee hereby supports the Town of Wasaga Beach's resolution opposing the Strong Mayors, Building Housing Act as the proposed changes will not demonstratively speed up the construction of housing and will erode the democratic process at the local level where members of Council have to work together to achieve priorities. What is needed is greater authority for local municipalities to approve development without final clearances from outside agencies after they have been given reasonable time to provide such clearances. CARRIED

179. BELLUZ/HUGHES: BE IT RESOLVED that we adjourn to the next regular meeting or the call of the clerk. CARRIED


Reeve


Clerk