

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MATACHEWAN

HELD ON JULY 16, 2007

AT THE MATACHEWAN COMMUNITY RECREATION HALL

Councillors Present: Deputy Reeve Joe Bisson, Andrew George, Carrie Gilbert, and Albert Durand

Staff Present: Andrew Van Oosten, CAO-Clerk-Treasurer and April George, Administrative Assistant

Members of the Public: Ron Baker, Sandra Couture, Marty Taman, Don Stickle, Marilyn Stickle, Suzanne Castonguay, Claude Gilbert, Jeanette Gilbert, Annabelle Commando-Dube, Bob McCollum, Grace Larkman, Lillian Jobson, Ray Landry, Jim Jones, John Warren, Bud Dymont, S. Stanwick, Wendy Stanwick, Karen Dube, Don Hueston, June Reynolds, Annette Dube, Margaret Paquette, Bea Roy, B. Dube, Francoise Gauthier, Norman Robitaille, Kim Gauthier, Jim Janzen, Yvon Robert, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lediard, Gaetan Rivest, Stan Secord, Byron Saul, Constable M. Robichaud, Second OPP Constable. Note there were illegible names on the list that were signed.

Motions:

07-104 Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

Be it resolved that the regular Council meeting of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan is hereby called to order at 6:15 PM.

Carried

07-105 Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Matachewan hereby adopts the agenda as presented.

Carried

07-106 Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan hereby adopts the Minutes of June 18, 2007 as presented.

Carried

07-107 Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan hereby adopts the Minutes of June 25, 2007 as presented.

Carried

Delegations:

Annabelle Commando-Dubé

#1

Annabelle Commando-Dubé declared that Andrew George had a conflict of interest as he had threatened to resign if his daughter was not hired. Councillor Bisson responded by saying Councillor George in no way participated in the hiring of April George and had no say in the hiring process at all. Councillor Gilbert wanted to know when the policy changed while discussing the process of hiring for the Administrative Assistant position. Wants to go on record that she did not vote for April George to be hired. Councillor Bisson stated that they went through all the applicants.

Suzanne Castonguay exclaimed, "How does a dog groomer get hired to work as an Administrative Assistant." Councillor Bisson asked the outbursts to stop and take turns by putting your hand up and having respect. Claude Gilbert wants Andrew George to resign now. Annabelle agreed, saying that the public wants his resignation and demands it now. She asked for a show of hands from the public in support of her demands. 4 people put their hands up. James Lediard stated, "We had an election."

Councillor Bisson says that the council was elected to make tough decision on behalf of the public. He went on to say that Councillor George did state that he would resign if there were a conflict. Annabelle said that it is a family run council. Councillor Bisson replied, "I am not related, and neither are any of the other councillors. Other Municipalities have the same policies. MAH said that it is up to Individual Municipalities to adopt policies. There is no conflict /pecuniary interest here. Policy implemented by By-law in November 2005. Everyone has an equal opportunity. Point's process, candidate with the highest number of points was hired.

#2

Annabelle, "the building inspector was hired by motion and property standards." Suzanne Castonguay – You must have information or identification to say who you are. Gaetan Rivest responded, "You must work under the building code. I am an enforcement officer not a committee. I have not posted any orders yet. Complaints received have primarily come from community members. A committee can consist of a maximum of 5 people.

Councillor Bisson says there must be a minimum of 3 people to have a committee. Then complaints can go to the committee. Persons will be judged on merit only. Sandra Couture says it is a conflict for a Councillor to sit the committee. Gaetan Rivest stated, "The committee has the same power as the enforcement officer. No one is exempt and no one is picked on. Councillor Bisson asked people to come forward to sit on the committee. Gaetan stated "Andrew Van Oosten will take the complaints and give them to the committee." All complaints must be made in writing. The town can clean up the property and then charge the cost back to the taxpayer.

#3

Annabelle wants to know what the rezoning procedure is. Andrew Van Oosten explained. She asked if all properties are zoned correctly? Gaetan Rivest comments that any change of use complaints can be made in writing. Suzanne Castonguay asks if all property owners were notified correctly or were properties rezoned without proper notice. Lilliane Jobson states that her property was changed without notice. Suzanne Castonguay states that she has 11 complaints. Councillor Bisson states Jackie Walkingshaw and Gail King had made changes at the land registry office. Suzanne Castonguay - MOE issue. "You are gonna be up shit creek without a paddle." "There will be a class action lawsuit and it is going to cost the town millions and I will finance the lawsuit myself." Councillor Bisson asked Suzanne to be more respectful at a council meeting. He then stated that Mr. Dubé's zoning application was turned down based on the bunkhouse and not the trailer park. Bruno Dubé states "Andrew Van Oosten told us that we cannot use the property for trailers." He then goes on to ask "Joe (Councillor Bisson) did you tell me that your property had been rezoned?" Councillor Bisson responds "no." Suzanne Castonguay stated, "The whole thing is a sham and is going to cost the town lots of money."

#4

Annabelle wants to know when Andrew Van Oosten was out of the office if it was personal for municipal business. Joe responded, "both."

#5

Annabelle asked, "Did Andrew Van Oosten get 5 weeks paid vacation over the past 2 years?" Councillor Bisson responded by saying he got 4 weeks. Annabelle says that she saw the board at the office. Councillor Gilbert says no work should go home with staff.

Annabelle - Pay vouchers. Councillor Bisson- "Quiet please" to crowd. Annabelle - 3 terms on council and never seen info crossed out. Councillor Bisson - Get info at budget time. Private salary info is the only thing crossed out. Break down of salary info from budget yourself. Privacy legislation is applicable. We are paying a lot less than other Municipalities and we need to catch up. Annabelle states that we must take benefits into account. Kirkland Lake Council publishes in the newspaper. Suzanne Castonguay - "All the perks and the backyard deals."

Don Hueston

#1

Don Hueston - Requests a dump key. Councillor Bisson stated "In the past keys were issued to businesses but that is no longer as it has caused problems and there are MOE restrictions." Dump hours have been expanded. Tipping fees are now in place for larger loads. Councillors George and Gilbert - I thought we had a vote whether or not to give out keys? Councillor Bisson - Council had bent over backwards to help the community but it was abused. For example; the gate, etc. was locked improperly, material dumped outside the gate and otherwise garbage dumped improperly. Previous council put out keys and now council rescinded based on MOE and abuse. No keys given out at all. Stan Secord - Can hours be extended even more, especially for outfitters? Councillor Bisson - We can open 24 hours a day but we can't afford it. Councillor Bisson- That service is very expensive. Councillor Bisson- Formerly closed in trailer burned to the ground. 5 days open now but if we adjust more \$ will be involved. Hours adjusted to accommodate campers, etc. Seems to be working for the majority of people. John Warren - Purchased a new lock and keys. Councillor Bisson- Tipping fees help to maintain landfill site. Annabelle - You should go ahead and shoot a bear as per the MNR. John Warren- Old hours were okay but now I have to take it to the dump and throw it over the gate. Councillor Gilbert - Wants to re-open discussions to discuss options based on 4 people from the food service industry. She said she is always outvoted. Councillor Bisson- Always an option to discuss. Councillor George- "Who voted against? I was the only one." Councillor Gilbert- The 1st person the violate regulations will be responsible for everyone losing rights. Claude Gilbert - \$800 each for key- one screws up they lose key and \$ that they paid and all.

Motions:

07-108 Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

That the Council hereby accepts the bid from John Monette for lot 3 Dales St. in the amount of \$600.00

Carried

07-109 Moved by: Andrew George
Seconded by: Carrie Gilbert

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan hereby adjusts the Council Honorarium by instituting an increase to \$400.00 per month for Council and \$600.00 per month for Reeve, effective August 2007.

Carried

Councillor Gilbert - Formerly 2-3 meetings/ month. Now there are 8-10. Currently getting \$168.54 per month. Councillor George - Councillors are missing work to attend meetings. (Albert, Joe and Carrie) There has not been and increase in at least 20 years. Councillor Bisson - I voted against the increase to help with development. I am willing to take and increase if and when things in town get better. Councillors George and Gilbert - We think that the amount of work merits an increase. Suzanne Castonguay - That is the choice you made when you joined council. Councillor Bisson - The only time that mileage is submitted is when we have to go out of town for meetings. Margo Paquette- Who makes the decision whether or not you get a raise? Council – Council does. Councillor George - We want from \$168.54 - \$400.00. Councillor Bisson asked the public for a show of hands. Almost unanimous in favour of a raise from the public in attendance.

07-110 Moved by: Andrew George
Seconded by: Carrie Gilbert

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan hereby approves the pay vouchers for June, numbered 3733 to 3771 in the amount of \$33 507.77 as circulated.

Carried

07-111 Moved by: Andrew George
Seconded by: Carrie Gilbert

That By-law 2007-10, being a By-law to amend Zoning By-law 00-09 is hereby read for the first and second time this 16th day of July 2007.

Carried

07-112 Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

That By-law 2007-10, being a By-law to amend Zoning By-law 00-09 is hereby read for the third and final time this 16th day of July 2007. Signed, sealed and numbered 2007-10.

Carried

07-113 Moved by: Andrew George
Seconded by: Carrie Gilbert

That By-law 2007-11, being a By-law to amend Zoning By-law 00-09 is hereby read for the first and second time this 16th day of July 2007.

Carried

07-114 Moved by: Andrew George
Seconded by: Carrie Gilbert

That By-law 2007-11, being a By-law to amend Zoning By-law 00-09 is hereby read for the third and final time this 16th day of July 2007. Signed, sealed and numbered 2007-11.

Carried

07-115 Moved by: Andrew George
Seconded by: Carrie Gilbert

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan hereby moves into an in-camera discussion.

Carried

07-116

Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan hereby moves out of the in-camera discussion.

Carried

07-117

Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Matachewan agrees to rent the former Contact North Office located at the Get Fit Centre for the sum of \$300.00 per month (renewable annually) plus telephone costs, etc. to Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services.

Carried

07-118

Moved by: Carrie Gilbert
Seconded by: Andrew George

That the regular meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m. and that the next meeting be held on August 20, 2007 or at the call of the Reeve.

Carried

Discussions:

1. Theodore Harding - Joe read letter requesting leniency. Post dated checks to pay off by August. If checks bounce the water is to be shut off. Interest still applicable.
2. Councillor Bisson read another letter re: Water thawing. If accepted will take 3 years to pay it off. Already reduced significantly council did give a break already. Previously instructed to install a bleeder, water froze last year too. We don't have thawing equipment so travel time was absorbed and cur-stops weren't accessible. Councillor George - Curb stops are being addressed this summer. Students and Wilf King are locating them now. Lady who wrote the letter also waited two weeks later to tell us, so it was then frozen solid. Councillor Bisson - She was informed of the cost ahead of time. Further consideration was declined.
3. A discussion was also held regarding nuisance bears. Suzanne Castonguay- "Why didn't you call the cops from Kirkland Lake? You're good at that!" Councillor Bisson - Is representative from MNR here tonight? Bud Dymont- What do we do about the bears in the meantime? Councillor Bisson - Bring the garbage to the dump, don't leave out bird feeders, be diligent, contact the MNR, compliance overall. If the MNR is aware they will investigate. Bud Dymont - In event that someone feels threatened and bear gets shot who will pick it up. Councillor Bisson - Ask officer. Constable - Must be very clear and under specific threat and you are responsible for where the bullet ends up. The MNR can be available on the weekends. Bird feeders and garbage compliance. Last resort, make sure you are justified, try banging pots, etc. Smashing in door to house is justified but not tearing about garbage. Councillor Bisson - Call 1st. Bear wise info will be mailed. Straw poll - do people want the dump open 7 days a week? No one put up his or her hand. Councillor George - Also spending money on signage.

Joe Bisson
Deputy Reeve

Andrew Van Oosten
CAO-Clerk-Treasurer