

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2006 at 7:02 p.m.**

1. Call to order and mayoral comments.

PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Peter Davies, Councillor Larry Anderson, Councillor Mac Hamilton, Councillor Lilliemay Matton, Councillor Gerry Remillard

Staff: Betty Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

Public: There were approximately 35 people in attendance.

Press: Sue Nielsen, Temiskaming Speaker

2. Adoption of the agenda as circulated.

Resolution No.: 06/340

Moved By: Mac Hamilton

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that the September 13, 2006 Agenda be adopted as circulated and amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST/CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

NONE

4. Adoption of the minutes

Resolution No.: 06/341

Moved By: Gerry Remillard

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held August 23, 2006 be adopted as read and circulated by the Clerk.

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS:

PRESENTATION

John Salo, Ontario Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources, attended and made an excellent presentation on the Temagami Integrated Plan and the WJB Greenwood Park.

Temagami Integrated Plan

Following are highlights from the presentation:

- Plan has been ongoing for two years
- Simultaneous preparation of management plans for five provincial parks, eight conservation reserves and the recreation management plan, which are all physically connected and also the use is integrated as far public use is concerned
- More efficient to have one plan
- Helpful while going through the process to become aware how each one affects the other
- There is different legislation for each of the plans
- Each have their own policies
- Provincial Park framework will be used for the Plan.
- Mr. Salo reviewed the schedule to date:
 - Terms of Reference June 2004
 - Background July 2005
 - Management Options July 2006
 - Preliminary Management Plan – presently
 - Approved Management Plan is the last step

- Overall direction is from Provincial legislation, local area stakeholders and involves public input
- Present Stage: Mr. Salo emphasized that Ontario Parks is committed to visiting any location they are invited to, just as they attended Latchford's Town Council Meeting, to highlight key issues; provide range of options for discussion; document comments into separate sections; and they want to hear from the public if the public does not like the options.
- Management Option:
 - Crown Land is keeping the status quo
 - Contracting for maintenance in Crown Land
 - User fees for use of trails etc.
 - Recreation issues reviewed
 - Maintenance of recreation land base i.e. boat caches; ATV's on portage trails; adventure racing, general motor access, air craft etc. (grandfathering of documented uses
 - Must be a fee to keep these up as volunteers do their part, but eventually tire
- Conservation issues are mainly the same
- Park Issues:
 - Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater – aircraft landing in park; Liskeard Lumber Road; motor boats on lady Evelyn; already fees to camp in this park
 - Visitor management of campsites to protect sensitive features i.e. dunes
 - Boat caches are no problem unless they are abandoned and may need a boat cache management system
- Park Classes:
 - Nature reserve
 - Historical
 - Wilderness
 - Waterway
 - Natural environment
 - Recreation
- Zones:
 - Natures reserves
 - Wilderness
 - Natural environment
 - Historical
 - Access
 - Development
- It must be confirmed where people want to go and how they get there without affecting park classes
- Permitted uses within Provincial Parks are found in the Provincial Park Policy
- If the public would like to become involved ensure your name is on the mailing list
- Review management Option document for the next step
- The Public should visit the Ontario Parks Website to learn more about the Temagami Integrated Plan or call Rick Calhoun at the MNR office in North bay
- Mr. Salo offered a question period:
 - Councillor Hamilton asked what the MNR does with the input provided by the public. Mr. Salo advised they have a "Planner" who rolls it up in a document for the Team to review and confirm what the people want.
 - Mr. Lomax asked what the Crown is looking to change in the WJB Provincial Park and the South Gillies area. Mr. Salo advised they are reviewing the boat caches; confirm if there are there lakes that are no problem and they are still looking for input from the public.
 - Mr. Salo noted that the Temagami Land Use Plan is not changing, but just being fine tuned.
 - Councilor Anderson asked if there is a desire to bring some form of maintenance back to portages and hiking trails and was advised that this is a consideration.

- Councillor Matton asked if the fees were one time or for each usage of a campsite; and if there were fees for hiking etc. Mr. Salo advised that the fees are for camping only and this is something that is being looked at.
- Mr. Salo advised the Preliminary Plan should be complete in December 2006 with the Final Plan in late winter of 2007, and noted that there would be a chance for public comment for the Preliminary Plan and a Public Meeting would be advertised in the paper.

WJB Greenwood Park:

Following are highlights from the presentation:

- There are a number of “non-operating” parks within the MNR park system and if there are no issues the MNR does not really do any work with these parks.
- Mr. Salo, Councillor Hamilton and Mr. Gord Lomax walked the WJB Greenwood Park and noted many excellent features.
- In 1985 the WJB Greenwood Park was regulated as a park.
- It is a “recreation class park”.
- In 1996 the Interim Management Step document was developed to protect the land base.
- WJB Greenwood Park has good road access.
- Good cultural i.e. natural history with logging camps etc.
- Latchford requested development of the park before but it did not proceed because at that time Latchford was looking at a major trailer park and there already was an excess of trailer type parks in the area – these parks must be up to MNR standards for trailer parks.
- In the spring there were discussions with the Town and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to develop a business case for WJ B Provincial park and this was developed, reviewed, finalized and accepted.
- The MNR operates like a “business”; therefore when revenue comes into a park it stays in the park.
- Very important to have a business case, as the park must rely on the revenue.
- Ontario Parks liked the proposal from Latchford because the Municipality will be partners and take the lead i.e. research funding and also will source fund and provide resources.
- Ontario Parks paid for a student to complete “life sciences inventory” which will be helpful in promoting the Park.
- Mr. Lomax has approached Northern College to discuss using “forestry” students in the WJB Greenwood parks as a “working class”, whereby they would carry out work in the Park as part of their course studies.
- Project Canoe – brings “youth at risk” from inner city on canoe trips for and outdoor experience
- Process:
 - Commence planning process – under the new Act there is a “Planning Manual for Ontario arks” (no yet proclaimed)
 - Develop Management Statement – must have public comment period
 - Plans to meet the week of September 18th to discuss the process and start working
 - Noted there are a number of attractions for busy people at the WJB Greenwood Park as it is a walk-in and/or boat-in camp site for people who want that experience of interior camping without hiking to far, and it is close to Latchford if the hikers/campers require anything.
 - Mr. Gord Lomax has linked in the rapids below the dam for kayaking, etc. – a section for the visitors to “play”; hopefully enticing them to stay for more than one day, resulting in spending a little money in Latchford.
- Ground breaking ceremony in **July of 2007** during the Centennial Celebrations for Latchford
- *Open for business in 2008.*

Mayor Davies and Council thanked Mr. Salo for a very informative presentation and those in attendance also showed their appreciation with a round of applause.

6. COUNCIL COMMITTEE/MAYOR/CLERK REPORTS:

Councillor Lilliemay Matton

Library:

- Library Board meeting was held on September 12, 2006.
- The Library Board asked Councillor Matton for an update on repairs to the Library and she explained that the Town was asking the Building Inspector for a review of the Fred Keenan Centre, and other Town buildings, to confirm the necessary repairs.
- Councillor Matton advised there are now 250 members at the Library, which she noted is certainly wonderful for a small community.
- The Library Board passed a resolution at their last meeting appointing Sue Ryerson to the Board, and Council will table a resolution at the next council meeting appointing Ms. Ryerson to the Board. The Board asked if the Town would provide a drop-off box at the Town Office for books and movies, as this is sometimes a problem if the Library is closed.
- A fundraiser is planned in the near futures.

Councillor Larry Anderson

Public Works:

- Since the by-law was passed regarding visibility at corners, some trimming back has been done. Public Works has a list of problem corners/stop signs and are working on these as time allows.
- The Playground is nearly complete and following the finishing touches there will be a "grand opening".
- The Crusher Project is close to starting, after final approval from the Ministry. It is hoped crushing will begin by the end of September.
- The local goose population at the beach is a problem, and if anyone has a *legal* solution, please pass it on.

Community Policing:

- There is still no confirmation from the OPP for a date of the next meeting.

Miscellaneous:

- Councillor Anderson advised that his daughter had dropped in at the University of Ottawa to thank Dr. Barry Wellar for his scholarship, but he was not in and she left a thank you note.

Councillor Gerry Remillard

Recreation:

- CIAF Grant in the amount of \$8,055 has been used as follows:
 - Grand & Toy \$2,237.00
 - IceMen - Nets \$1,390.72
 - Staples \$1,977.04
 - Skating lesson \$ 160.00
 - Walmart - Exercise mats, etc. \$1,196.78
 - Paradis Source for Sports \$ 793.00
 - Towards Seniors trip \$ 452.09
- Councillor Remillard thanked Lee and Terry for their help and TDSS who donated table and chairs.

Councillor Mac Hamilton

Heritage Latchford:

- Quotations being requested for eaves trough at the House of memories
- Outside landscaping to direct water away from the building in the planning state for this fall

Recreation Centre:

- A special entrance design is being sent out for quotations. This cost will be partially offset by Bell True Sports Fund.
- Arrangements have been made to install glass panels on the south end rink boards and this is a major job that will require volunteer labour. Please contact Betty Gibson to put your name on the Volunteer List.

Trillium Grant Application:

- Awaiting the building inspector's report on the buildings, as the application is for repairs to the Fred Keenan Centre, including the Library. The Library Board has committed \$6,000 towards the upgrades to the Library.

Greenwood Park:

- Planning has progressed substantially over the past two weeks and Mr. Lomax will keep Council updated.

Latchford Real Estate:

- Interest has been shown for the Town's "Real Estate Incentive Plan"

Budget:

- The 2006 budget is on the agenda for adoption at tonight's meeting.
- Over the past 2 ½ years, there has been extensive planning and advancement toward the future and stability of Latchford, and this budget will be a major document expressing the success of this advancement

Clerk's Report

- It was noted that the past few weeks were quite busy, with the more significant items noted as follows:
 - 2006 Budget
 - 2006 Tax Rates
 - 2006 Water/Sewer Rates
 - Submission of a COMRIF Grant Application for the paving of certain roads and replacement of a number of culverts, simultaneous with replacement of water valves.
 - Ongoing and new litigation/insurance matters
 - Real estate matters
- The Clerk advised that an application to Service Canada Job Creation Partnership for a "Web Master/Document Archivist had been submitted, and the Town was successful. Service Canada interviewed Maryann Bennett for this position, and Ms. Bennett's resume, together with the report from the New Liskeard Office was forwarded to North Bay for approval. Ms. Bennett began work on Monday September 11th. It was noted that this position is funded through HRSDC entirely, with the Town supplying the office space, office equipment etc. Council and Staff are very pleased to have Maryann working in this position, and are lucky to benefit from her exceptional computer knowledge.

Mayor Peter Davies

- **Staff** – Council welcomes Maryann Bennett to a new position created to ensure that Latchford moves forward in the areas of web presence, electronic documentation, electronic archiving, telecommunications and internet access. This position was made possible by a job creation and partnership program with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, at no dollar cost to the Municipality.
- **Landscaping** is complete at municipal office and it looks great. The Town has a municipal complex we can all be proud of.
- **Construction** of the new playground equipment is complete, with an official opening in the next few of weeks. Thanks to the volunteers! New swings will also be installed and teeter-totters repaired.
- **Annual Corn Roast** - a great success with about 60 adults and children attending. It is coordinated by the Recreation Committee but everything is donated.
- **Crusher Project** – should begin by the end of the month. This is a project in partnership with NOHFC (\$100,000) and the municipal share is in-kind (labour and grading).
- **Sustainability** – In the 10 years previous to this council, Latchford has not been sustainable. Budgets were precariously balanced by lot sales and by one time handouts from the government. Handouts needed because even though the Town was collecting money from residents for water and sewage, it was not paid to OCWA and the Town fell hundreds of thousands of dollars behind. Taxes were high; Latchford had the highest commercial taxes in the area. Water and sewer costs were exorbitant – Latchford had just about the highest cost per household in Ontario.
- **Latchford was not sustainable.**
- A new direction was taken by this Council.

In the first year the present council held the tax increase to 3% and more importantly the water & sewage rates to 0%.

In the second year Council held the residential tax increase to 0% and reduced the commercial tax by 17%. More importantly water cost was reduced by 10%, ensuring that every one who benefits from our water/sewer system pays their fair share.

In this Council's final year residents will see what has been achieved in the area of taxes and water and sewage costs. This council has taken a different approach, and has been working very hard to make Latchford sustainable.

Latchford has taken the first giant steps to ensure its sustainability, to ensure its existence, and to make sure that it will flourish into the future for at least the next quarter century.

These steps are just the beginning and the bulk of the work lies ahead. I would like to thank the council for their mammoth efforts.

- **Budget Report**

With the annexation and other factors this has been a monumental task this year. Both income and expenditures have increased, and also balancing water and sewage costs was a struggle. Last year the total budget was \$777,623; and this year the budget is \$1,642,821. Income and expenditures are up 111%.

For the second year in a row there will be a 0% net residential tax increase, with a 7.5% drop in pipeline taxes and in commercial taxes.

Reduction in education taxes was absorbed by the town as it was by most surrounding northern communities. Some townships went up as much as 7.5%, and one other municipality was able to offer a 0% tax increase.

The Mayor noted that Council the increase to 0% with no reduction in services, and in fact expanded some services. Concurrently, the reserves are building.

To ensure that no resident of Latchford suffers from burdensome increases due to annexation or reassessment we will be passing a By Law to limit increases this year to no more than 25% than what you were paying last year. This of course does not apply to new construction.

Council feels that is our responsibility to try to stabilize the somewhat up and down tax system of Ontario as much as we are able.

The Mayor explained that the Budget Committee was comprised of Councillor Mac Hamilton, Finance Chair, Councillor Lilliemay Matton, Vice Chair of Finance; Lise McKeever, Deputy-Clerk; Betty Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer and himself. Mayor Davies thanked the Budget Committee for their hard work but noted that Councillor Matton had not attended one of the Budget Meetings. Mayor Davies suggested that Councillor Matton might consider donating some of the council payment that she had received back to the community.

- **Water**

The water plant will cost \$153,300 to operate this year, an increase of \$4,000 over last year. Approximately \$122,000 will be recovered from those who use or benefit from the system. The Town will offset \$31,318.05 from general revenue.

Five years ago when Latchford residents were paying almost \$1000 per household per year, the average of the surrounding municipalities was approximately \$300 – Latchford residents were paying **THREE TIMES** the average.

Last year Latchford residents paid \$829 for water and sewer and this year residential costs will be \$622. We now paying what is the average for our area. This represents a 25% reduction from last year. The Mayor congratulated the members of council and the staff who worked hard on to make water costs in Latchford **affordable**.

The Mayor commented on the “Water Report”, which suggests a move to regional clusters overseen by a regional water board much the same way that DSSAB works now. Within the cluster water and sewer costs would be comparable for all residents. This would be good for small municipalities like Latchford. In the mean time Legislation is to be passed this fall that would make water /sewer costs completely “User” pays. This would devastate small communities with fewer than 500 connections - below 500 connections the cost rises astronomically. Council has been working very hard lobbying the Province to make allowances for small communities.

- **Next Project** - With the water and sewer dilemma solved we are now embarking on the next mammoth project - paving the streets of Latchford.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Action Items

1. Community Living Temiskaming South

Resolution No. 06/342

Moved By: Mac Hamilton

Seconded By: Lilliemay Matton

Be it resolved that the letter from Community Living Temiskaming South requesting support be received and supported.

CARRIED

2. Township of Hilliard – Temagami Integrated Planning

Resolution No.: 06/343

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Gerry Remillard

Be it resolved that the letter, resolution and attached correspondence from the Township of Hilliard regarding the Temagami Integrated Planning Project – Management Options be received and Council request the Temagami Integrated Planning Committee to most seriously consider ALL points as noted in the resolution passed by the Township of Hilliard.

CARRIED

3. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer/Accounting Clerk Contract

Resolution No. 06/344

Moved by: Mac Hamilton

Seconded by: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that Council authorizes entering into a contract with Lise McKeever to perform the duties of Deputy Clerk-Treasurer/Accounting Clerk, dated September 14, 2006.

CARRIED

Councillor Gerry Remillard declared a Pecuniary Interest and left the meeting, and did not vote on the question.

Against: Councillor Lilliemay Matton

4. Simplified Risk Assessment

Resolution No. 06/345

Moved By: Gerry Remillard

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that Council accepts the Simplified Risk Assessment for the Corporation of the Town of Latchford dated August 2006.

CARRIED

B. Information Items

Resolution No. 06/346

Moved By: Lilliemay Matton

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that the following Information Items be noted and filed:

1. South Temiskaming Community Futures Development Corporation re: Earleton-Timiskaming Regional Airport Joint Municipal services Board and Funding Agreement and by-law (on file with Clerk).
2. Play Works – Report on Youth Friendly Communities Good Practices (on file with Clerk).
3. South Temiskaming Community Futures Development Corporation – minutes of August 17th meeting.
4. DTSSAB Consolidated Financial Statement for Years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 (on file with Clerk).
5. Association of Ontario Road Supervisors re: AORS Certified Road Supervisor Professional Development Program

CARRIED

8. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Water Treatment Plant:

Work is on schedule to date, with extra work required; covered under the funding.

2. Recycling:

The Mayor advised that Council hopes to begin some form of recycling before yearend and has funds in the budget.

3. Waterfront Improvement:

All planned work for 2007 is complete.

4. Town Hall Improvements:

There is sufficient contingency included in the budget to allow for staining of the siding of the Town Hall before winter sets in as it is in a bad state of repair and it would also be favorable to have this work complete prior to Latchford's centennial year. Council directed the Clerk to contact Greg Huff to begin the work as soon as possible.

9. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Councillor Matton – Various Matters:**

- Councillor Matton advised that she had attended a Seniors' meeting and they asked about the repairs to the floor. Councillor Matton did advise that the Building Inspector would be assessing the building. It was also noted that the Seniors' require a new wheel chair and also the flower boxes need refreshing. Council will look into finding a new wheel chair and suggesting asking for donations for the flower boxes. Councillor Matton noted that the seniors are a valuable part of our heritage. Council stated that they would consider appointing a representative from Council to attend the meeting of the Seniors' Club, although it was noted that the Seniors' Club is not a committee of council.
 - Councillor Matton commented that many of the Budget Meetings had been changed and she was unable to attend due to her work commitments.
 - Councillor Matton spoke to the "No Trespassing Notice" placed on a Harold Watts and advised that she wished to table a motion to have this Notice removed. There was no seconder for the motion and it was not tabled.
 - Councillor Matton brought up the issue of ownership of certain properties near the marina and had a document(s) which Councillor Matton stated recorded Latchford Enterprises Co-operative as also owning the lane and property the docks are on. Copies of said document had not been prepared for Council circulation and it was not viewed at the council meeting; it was suggested that Latchford Enterprises Co-operative forward any such documents to the Town Office for review. It was noted that in researching by-laws and minutes, and a title search, the laneway was not included.
2. **Councillor Gerry Remillard** read a letter of thanks which he had written to Dr. Barry Wellar regarding the scholarship for TDSS graduates who live in Latchford. As Councillor Remillard knew Dr. Wellar growing up the letter demonstrated a personal note of sincerity.

3. LTD for Employees

Resolution No. 06/347

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that the Council approved the payment of LTD for employees of the Town, retroactive to January 1, 2006, which will ensure the level of benefits.

CARRIED

4. COMRIF Application – Paving of Roads

Resolution No. 06/348

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that Council approve the submission of the application to COMRIF for the paving of certain streets and replacement of culverts, with a sub-project to replace the valves on the water mains.

CARRIED

10. BY-LAWS

By-Law No. 742/06

Resolution No. 06/349

Move By: Mac Hamilton

Seconded By: Gerry Remillard

Be it resolved that By-Law No. 742/06 being a by-law to authorize adoption of the 2006 budget for the Corporation of the Town of Latchford be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford.

CARRIED

By-Law No. 743/06

Resolution No. 06/350

Moved By: Lilliemay Matton

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that By-Law No. 743/06 being a by-law to provide for the adoption of tax rates for municipal and school purposes and to further provide for penalty and interest in default of payment thereof for 2006 be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford.

CARRIED

By-Law No. 744/06

Resolution No. 06/551

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Gerry Remillard

Be it resolved that By-Law No. 744/06 being a by-law with respect to Water and Sewage service rates for 2006 taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford.

CARRIED

By-Law No. 745/06

Resolution No. 06/352

Moved By: Gerry Remillard

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that By-Law No. 745/06 being a by-law to provide for the refund of taxes levied for local municipal and school purposes in 2006 be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford.

CARRIED

By-Law No. 746/06

Resolution No. 06/353

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Lilliemay Matton

Be it resolved that By-Law No 746/06 being a by-law to confirm certain proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford for its regular meeting held September 13, 2006 be taken as read a first, second and third time and finally passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford.

CARRIED

11. CLOSED MEETING

Resolution No. 06/354

Moved By: Mac Hamilton

Seconded By: Lilliemay Matton

Be it resolved that the Council for the Town of Latchford enter into a Closed Meeting at 9:46 p.m. to discuss the following matters as set out in the Municipal Act, 2001 Section 239 (2);

- A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or board;
- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or board employees;
- Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board.

CARRIED

Councillor Lilliemay Matton declared a Pecuniary Interest regarding an item in the Closed Session and left the meeting during discussion of that item.

Resolution No. 06/355

Moved By: Mac Hamilton

Seconded By: Lilliemay Matton

Be it resolved that Council now arise from Closed Meeting at 10.22 p.m.

CARRIED

12. ADJOURN

Resolution No. 06/356

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Gerry Remillard

Be it resolved that Council now adjourn at 10.24 p.m. until the next regular meeting or call from the Mayor.

CARRIED

**Dated at Latchford this 27th day
of September, 2006.**

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer