

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
THURSDAY JUNE 28, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
HELD AT THE LATCHFORD COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE**

1. Call to order and mayoral comments.

Mayor Davies gave a brief update on the outstanding issues with respect to the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board.

PRESENT:

Council: Mayor Peter Davies, Councillor Larry Anderson, Councillor Mac Hamilton, Councillor Gordon Lomax, Councillor Maxine Cannon,

Regrets: Councillor Mike Cole, Councillor Jim Bennett

Staff: Betty Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

Public: There were approximately 14 people in attendance.

Press: Sue Nielsen, Temiskaming Speaker

2. Adoption of the agenda as circulated

Resolution No.: 07/270

Moved By: Gord Lomax

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that the June 28th, 2007 Agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST/CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Councillor Anderson declared a conflict of interest with respect to Item 5: Sherri Anderson's letter on behalf of the Haileybury Heritage Museum.

4. Adoption of the Minutes

Resolution No.: 07/271

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that the minutes of the Regular Council Meetings held June 13th, 2007 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS:

- 1. Sherri Anderson, representing the Haileybury Heritage Museum** was unable to attend and Councillor Mac Hamilton spoke to the matter. Ms. Anderson also provided a letter outlining the request. Ms. Anderson will be attending the Direction Ontario Consumer/Travel Trade show in collaboration with its Ontario tourism partners in Casselman and will be promoting the area, more specifically the City of Temiskaming Shores, Cobalt and Latchford. A request of \$75.00 from the Town of Latchford was made to assist in the registration fee to attend. Council will table a resolution in this regard.

6. COUNCIL COMMITTEE/MAYOR/CLERK REPORTS:

Councillor Larry Anderson

Public Works:

- Resulting from the Recycling Program, the garbage has decreased from three full five ton loads to two loads. The participation has been outstanding and the residents are to be commended, as this will extend the life of the Landfill Site dramatically.

Centennial:

- CJTT Trivia for three mornings will be on Latchford trivia provided by the Haileybury Heritage Museum.
- Councillor Anderson will be a guest on CJTT's 7:30 a.m. Chat to talk about the Centennial Celebrations.
- Schedule of events will be in the July 6 and 11 Speaker Weekender

Councillor Maxine Cannon

- Attended the TDSS Graduation at which five students from Latchford graduated. They are all to be congratulated!

Councillor Mac Hamilton:

- The Town received the Trillium Grant in the amount of \$13,500 for upgrades to the Library.
- NOHFC have offered funding at 50%; the Town forwarded a letter requesting a greater percentage of funding and have not yet received a response.
- Latchford Tourism Brochure is being printed and should be ready next week.
- Parks Facilitator has prepared plans for the Waterfront Development to fulfill requirements of the Department of Oceans and Fisheries.
- Costing summary charts for other Park projects are ongoing.

Councillor Gord Lomax:

- The W.J.B. Greenwood Park sign is now erected.

Mayor Peter Davies:

- Centennial: Mayor's Breakfast is on Friday July 13th.
- Trillium funding of \$13,500 received for the Library and hope to receive required funding for the remainder of the project.
- Attended a conference in Collingwood on "Civic Governance" at no cost to the Town as the Mayor made a presentation. It was a very informative session.
- Vandalism has occurred at several locations and the OPP has been advised.
- High Speed Internet: The Ministry of Northern Development announced funding for high speed for many municipalities, including Latchford; high speed internet should be available in Latchford by October.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Action Items

1. Accounts

Resolution No. 07/272

Moved By: Gord Lomax

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that the General bills in the amount of \$116,164.16 and Payroll in the amount of \$16,761.74 for the period May 24, 2007 to June 15, 2007 be passed and paid on behalf of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford.

CARRIED

B. Information Items

Resolution No. 07/273

Moved By: Maxine Cannon

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

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

1. Copy of letter from M.T.O. re: Nastawgan Trails Information Kiosk at the Municipal Office.

CARRIED

8. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Official Plan Amendment / Zoning By-law

Ongoing.

2. Dispatch Service

The Fire Chief has been meeting with other local fire departments to confirm the required action.

3. Green Solutions

Mayor Davies will be providing a report.

4. Bus Purchase/Lease

Councillor Bennett is investigating the best solution.

5. Strategic Plan

Councillor Hamilton received a number of sample strategic plans for review at a later meeting. Andrew Healy will be making a presentation on the Strategic Plan at the July 25th Council Meeting.

6. Fitness Centre Research

Council plans to attend at the Matachewan Fitness Centre in the near future to learn more about their programs.

9. NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget

The Clerk-Treasurer recommended scheduling a Special Meeting in early July to adopt the budget. A meeting was not scheduled. Council did schedule a budget working meeting for July 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Councillor Lomax requested to narrate a paper he had prepared with respect to Latchford's 2007 Budget, as follows:

“Latchford’s 2007 Budget is hampered by legal fees and higher insurance costs and with no let up of potential lawsuits from disgruntled and disturbed residents. The Legion is being used as an al-Qaeda-like cave, for cell meetings by those looking for retribution from long past abuses of municipal management and other gripes. Those rooted in the past, with sociopathic tendencies have formed lobbies by wrangling their way into important positions in the Legion, Seniors Citizens Action Group, Montreal River Heritage Society, Ratepayers Association and the Montreal River Enterprises Co-Operative. The Legion is their meeting ground, unusual in its own right for a Legion; legally they are non-political places. A small group of individuals is using tactics causing fear among our upright, forward looking citizens. So much so, that very very few if any, will step forward to counter these terrorist-like tactics for fear of being sued. Even the lawyers and the police are afraid, or at best hesitant to act for fear of being sued! The worst culprits are being aided and abetted by the old guard and their families associated with the fallout of the Forensic Audit and Municipal Review. A few people are virtually terrorizing and holding our population hostage, while at the same time corrupting or stagnating the above-mentioned otherwise important institutions. Except for a few elected officials, whose job it is to set the environment for positive sustainable growth, others in the community are avoiding any conflict by simply opting out of these organizations due to the lawless intimidation of a few, leaving no leadership to fight to overcome the abuses of power by the few.

What can Council do to cause a ground swell to fight this blight and win over the above institutions to work with, not against, the Council for the betterment of the whole community and the benefit of the overwhelming majority of the electorate, who put us in power to do the best possible job for Latchford? The answer is to hit all property taxpayers with an increase of taxes, say 5%, due to the known legal costs and to make a provision for future legal costs as well, due to the instability and uncertainty of what the few disgruntled elements of society might do next. The tax increase, say \$80,000, would include the extra insurance premiums that Latchford has to pay as a result of these desperate individuals who would retard our progress.

Last but not least, the Acts of the rogue Co-Op directors demonstrate the most overt and in your face abuse of power and appear to be getting away with it by renting Town owned Docks and controlling access to them. This must be stopped to provide an example of just who is in authority in this Town. To avoid precedent-setting and liability claims, this must be done, but without penalizing the innocent dock users.

In the tradition of the bravery demonstrated by Sgt Aubrey Cosens who died so we could live in a free & democratic society with our coveted principles of openness, fairness, tolerance and law and order, we must take bold action. At the same time we must make it very very clear to all our electorate why I am proposing taking this TAXATION ACTION.”

There were supporting comments from members of council who acknowledged that the unnecessary increase in legal and insurance costs had made it difficult to balance the budget.

The Mayor invited Councillor Lomax to attend the next budget meeting.

2. Draft RFP Implementation of 911 in Gillies

The Clerk-Treasurer circulated a draft RFP for implementation of 911 Service Gillies for Council to review and provide comments prior to circulation.

3. Draft Employee Policy Manual

The Clerk-Treasurer circulated a draft Employee Policy Manual for Council to review and provide comments prior to adoption. The Mayor requested a copy of the original policy manual (previously circulated to council) be provided for comparison.

10. BY-LAWS

By-Law No. 794/07

Resolution No. 07/274

Moved By: Gord Lomax

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that By-Law No 794/07 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the funding contract with South Temiskaming Community Futures Development Corporation for the Latchford Community Brochure 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. 795/07

Resolution No. 07/275

Moved By: Gord Lomax

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that By-Law No 795/07 being a by-law to authorize the execution of the Agreement of Purchase of the laneway abutting Lots 92 and 92 Parcel 2628 NND PIN 61381-0411 from Ontario Northland for \$1.00 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

OPEN FORUM

As scheduled, an open forum was held following the regular business of council and following is a brief summary of items of discussion:

- Maintenance of flower beds and trees on municipal property;
- Seniors' grants – request for Council's support, which was confirmed;
- Possibility of providing water in the seniors' room at the Fred Keenan Centre; noted this would be a costly project;
- Generator for emergency purposes;
- Benefit for Rick Suy;
- Lottery licensing i.e. raffles;
- Appreciation to former and present council;
- Success of the recycling program in Latchford.

10. CLOSED MEETING

Resolution No. 07/276

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that the Council for the Town of Latchford enter into a Closed Meeting at 9:20 p.m. to discuss the following matters as set out in the Municipal Act, 2001 Section 239 (2);

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or board employees;
- A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or board;
- Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; and
- Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

CARRIED

Resolution No. 07/277

Moved By: Gord Lomax

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that Council now arise from Closed Meeting at 10:10 p.m., and passed the following resolutions.

CARRIED

Resolution No. 07/278

Moved By: Maxine Cannon

Seconded By: Gord Lomax

Be it resolved that Council approves a contribution of \$75.00 towards the cost of the registration of the Direction Ontario Consumer/Travel Trade Show to promote the area, including Latchford.

CARRIED

Councillor Anderson declared a Conflict of Interest and abstained from discussion and did not vote on the question.

Resolution No. 07/279

Moved By: Mac Hamilton

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that Council authorizes Mayor Davies to sign the affidavit as prepared by the Town's legal counsel regarding the Co-Op property.

CARRIED

By-Law No. 796/07

Resolution No. 07/280

Moved By: Gord Lomax

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that By-Law No 796/07 being a by-law to confirm certain proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford for its regular meeting held June 28, 2007 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

12. ADJOURN

Resolution No. 07/281

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that Council now adjourn at 10:20 p.m. until the next regular meeting or call from the Mayor.

CARRIED

**Dated at Latchford this 24th day
of July, 2007.**

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer