

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY MARCH 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
HELD AT THE LATCHFORD COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE**

1. Call to order and mayoral comments.

PRESENT:

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

Regrets: Councillor Mike Cole

Staff: Betty Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer

Public: There were approximately 10 people in attendance.

Press: Sue Nielsen, Temiskaming Speaker

2. Adoption of the agenda as circulated

Resolution No.: 07/104

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that the March 14, 2007 Agenda be adopted as circulated and amended.

CARRIED

Note: Items added under New Business.

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST/CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

NONE

4. Adoption of the Minutes

Resolution No.: 07/105

Moved By: Jim Bennett

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 1, 2007 be adopted as circulated by the Clerk.

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS: NONE

6. COUNCIL COMMITTEE/MAYOR/CLERK REPORTS:

Councillor Larry Anderson:

Pubic Works:

- The street light on the highway north end of town has been repaired.
- The corner of Mitchell and Sullivan and the intersection of laneway to the west have been trimmed back.
- A quote for installing an outside plug-in at the Recreation Centre for the tree lighting will be provided at the next meeting.
- The Town's Ford lawnmower tractor is a 1982 and the mower attachment is the same year. It may last another year but is getting more costly in repairs every year. A couple of quotes will be provided on a new machine, so council will be aware of this future cost. It will be more economical to purchase a larger mowing unit t reduce cutting time as well.
- Council needs to review and decide which road construction projects are a priority for this year's budget. Cost estimate for fill must be prepared.
- The Clerk is requested is have public works install a piece of eaves trough over the door to the Water Plant.

Centennial Committee:

- Plans are moving forward and the next meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 3:00 p.m. Mike Jibb will attend to show the Committee sample souvenirs.
- The band is booked and MCTV Much Music is booked for the teen dance.
- Funding has been applied for through a number of government agencies to subsidize some expenses i.e. fireworks.
- The band and MCTV Much Music should bring in enough revenue to pay the cost.
- A resolution is on Council to approve an advance (when required) to a maximum of \$20,000 for required deposits for bands, etc. for the Centennial.
- Meals are pretty much arranged for the four days, with the help of volunteers, i.e. the Fire Department.
- The Fire Department offered to run the bar.
- Councillor Bennett suggested hiring bartenders in order for the usual volunteers to enjoy the evenings and socialize with friends.

Councillor Mac Hamilton:

- Greenwood Park: Seven applications were received for the Facilitator Position and have been reviewed. Hiring will be subject to funding availability. A full cost and in-kind contribution analysis for the Greenwood Park and Waterfront Project was completed. A meeting was held on March 12th with involved participants, including funding agencies. The Committee and supporters are very encouraged by the support and advice from the Government and educational institutions, however there is still a great deal of work to be done.
- Loggers Hall of Fame: Confirmation of a contribution from the Frog Breath Foundation to upgrade the Loggers Hall of Fame has been received and the official announcement is pending until a formal presentation can be made – tentatively scheduled for March 28th Regular Council Meeting.
- Fred Keenan Centre: Applications to the Trillium Foundation and NOHFC for rehabilitation work at the Fred Keenan Centre have been submitted.
- Former MNR Bunkhouse: Through efforts of the Latchford Heritage Board, an application for funding to upgrade the former MNR bunkhouse for additional Museum display purposes has been finalized and submitted.
- Streetscape: The estimate to replace the existing street signs has been submitted by the Public Works Department and will be placed in the 2007 Budget File for consideration and approval. Councillor Hamilton suggested it be considered for the Community funding Application to Persona Communications. If successful, we would add this donation to the Community Donators Board.
- Centennial Plaque: The Latchford Heritage Board has been asked to consider a design and placement of a Latchford Community Centennial Plaque. The cost, if any, will be placed in the Centennial Budget for Council approval, and the location will be selected at a later date. These plaques are available through the Ontario Heritage Trust Foundation and their time-frames are very rigid; at this point a plaque may not be received until late this year or early next year.
- House of Memories: After a meeting with the Building Inspector, there may be a possibility that proper landscaping and grading by the Public works Dept around the House of Memories Building will solve the seepage into the basement, and this will be carried out as soon as the snow and frost have gone.
- Latchford Centennial Logo: Councillor Hamilton thanked Mary Ann Bennett for designing the Community Centennial Logo, which from an economic development standpoint is outstanding in its appearance for promotional purposes and a sign of positive activity in the community.
- Latchford Waterfront Development: A letter has been forward to Public Works Canada to advise them of the plan to upgrade the waterfront condition, accessed by all the public, safety considerations and further encouragement of its use. All possible funding sources are being assessed and hope to have early construction commencement on the Waterfront Improvements.

- Latchford View to the Future: The planning list of approaches and ideas toward a stronger, self sustaining Latchford for the next five years and beyond is still in the making. However, there has been minimal input from the public and Council needs your input. Council requests that you give your ideas for a better Latchford to Betty as soon as possible. Council needs your participation for this planning.

Councillor Gord Lomax

- Councillor Lomax asked if there is a process in place whereby councillors get regular progress reports from staff on outstanding issues and work resulting from resolutions, and used the signage at the Landfill Site as an example. Councillor Lomax suggested the Clerk retain a list of all items not yet complete and provide an update to Council at each meeting. Councillor Anderson explained that he generally asks the Clerk what the statuses of particular issues are which concerns his committees; and is updated at that time. The Clerk advised that with respect to the sign, she had spoken with the M.O.E. who had no problems with moving the sign and that the Public Works had measured it and believed it had been forwarded for a quote. The Clerk stated she would advise Councillor Lomax of status.
- South Gillies: Hound Chutes OPG Hydro Power Dam Replacement Class EA looks good. This is a big project.
- Tourism: No progress reprinting the two booklets, as ads must be sold. Two volunteers are willing to take this on.
- Councillor Lomax recommended that the Clerk arrange for fresh painting of Museum and Latchford highway signs as soon as possible.
- Latchford Integrated Park Development – Greenwood Park, Water Park and Downtown Park: It was noted that Canadore College is now a partner also. 18 volunteers came out to the inaugural Dam Rapids Water Park meeting. 15 people attended Monday's Park funding Partner's meeting and the Committee was encouraged to submit applications, including a different breakdown of costs.
- Councillor Lomax recommended that Council approve hiring a Parks Facilitator who will be totally funded by government funding. Gord Tokaryk convinced Council that Latchford has to demonstrate financial earnestness in some way to make our funding applications credible. Councillor Lomax noted that since he can no longer keep up with both council work and championing the parks, it is critical that this position be filled now and urged council to call a meeting immediately to approve the hiring and compensation package for the successful applicant.

Councillor Jim Bennett

- It was noted that the first "preliminary" budget meeting was held last week to discuss the timetable of future meeting and the procedure the Budget Committee will follow. The accounting system will be totally updated shortly which will assist in budget process. A meeting is scheduled for the week of March 19th.
- Councillor Bennett advised he followed up on Mayor Davies' idea to purchase a passenger van or small bus and will have a presentation at the March 28th meeting. The bus, if purchased would be available to transport residents to various activities in Temiskaming Shores, and other surrounding communities.

Councillor Maxine Cannon:

Recreation:

- Attended a Recreation Committee Meeting and will provide the minutes of the meetings for council's information and review from now on.
- The Committee are planning the annual Easter Egg Hunt and will require the usual funds, which are included in the Recreation Committees Annual budget. The Clerk will advise the Recreation Committee.

Library Board:

- The Library Board hopes to have a few authors attend for the Centennial Celebrations to autograph books, etc.

Seniors Club:

- Councillor Cannon wished to note that when she attended the last Seniors' meeting she offered the Recreation Centre for their use; but was politely refused.

Mayor's Report

- Council received confirmation from the Frogs' Breath Foundation that the Town will receive \$12,500.00 to aid in restoration of the Loggers Hall of Fame. Without this kind contribution we would not be able to progress with these much needed and overdue renovations.
- Zurich Insurance Company has finally settled for \$25,000 to cover certain forensic audit costs.
- Last meeting was the first of the quarterly open public forums for our municipality, which has received good feedback. Anyone could ask questions of one councillor or the entire council, and people did. Complaints were vented, questions asked, comments made and new ideas introduced. It was great and I look forward to the next meeting of this type.
- Mayor Davis advised that he, along with two other council members and some community minded residents attended a meeting of the Ratepayers Association at the Legion; because there was not a quorum, the meeting was not convened. Mayor Davies advised that he will continue to attend to represent the Town of Latchford.
- There is an article in the Timiskaming Speaker about the attempt of Temiskaming Shores Mayor, Judy Pace, to have openness, transparency and accountability from DTSSAB. Apparently Temiskaming Shores is joining the ranks of Latchford and Thornloe who have questioned at least one aspect of DTSSAB; procedures, policy or representation. The Mayor noted his disbelief that as a supposed participant in this board, he should learn about this in the newspaper and not from our "representative". The board is the governing body and the buck stops there – Mayor Pace got it right. Hats off to Judy keep up the good work.
- Openness and transparency in municipal government was a big component in the sweeping changes made to the Municipal Act that came into effect Jan 1, 2007. There will be changes in the way that the Town of Latchford does business, and the Mayor distributed a number of items for Council and the Clerk to review before the items were incorporated in the Town's present procedural by-law. The Mayor noted it was hoped the required by-laws could be on the March 28th agenda for passing.
- It was emphasized by the Mayor that if there is a quorum of council at a meeting, whether it be considered an information session or not, this session *must* be considered a council meeting and as such shall be dealt with the same as a regular council meeting i.e. agenda posted at the usual location. Meetings must be open except in very restricted circumstances, as noted in the Municipal Act. Posted agendas must be adhered to. Tonight there were last minute additions to the agenda. Anyone reading the agenda that was posted last week may not have attended tonight because they did not know an item was going to come up. They may have supported or opposed that item. "New Business" items should be introduced on the present agenda, and then placed on the agenda for the next meeting to be dealt with. Only urgent items i.e. those with timing deadlines, should be dealt with under New Business.
- People have a write Council to make their opinions known and to include such opinions as public information. People have a right to complain when they are not given access to the information they request. At the same time privacy must be maintained in some situations, and the institution, in this case the Town, has the right to be protected from misuse or abuse of the system. If the Town, a member

- of staff or council is being sued or notice of intent to sue is given the Public has the right to know, and in fact to know the nature of the claim and the possible remedy. Residents have the right to know because ultimately it is the ratepayer's dollar that will pay for the legal defence.
- All these issues will be incorporated in the new bylaws and policies which will be discussed around this table before they are passed.
- Council went from a meeting once a month to meeting once every two weeks. Recently, Council has been meeting once a week; with the changes in the Municipal Act, the planning for the Centennial; the park, the water park and the waterfront improvements; as well as usual business. Council has been calling at least one special meeting a week, and should seriously consider meeting once a week for the foreseeable future.
- Council was asked to deliberate over the drafts circulated before the next meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Action Items

1. 2007 OSUM Conference Invitation

Resolution No. 07/106

Moved By: Maxine Cannon

Seconded By: Jim Bennett

Be it resolved that the letter from the Town of Midland re: 2007 OSUM Conference and Trade Show be received and filed. .

CARRIED

2. Saving the Region of Ontario North Group (STRONG)

Resolution No.: 07/107

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that the letter from STRONG Saving the Region of Ontario North Group requesting Council to pass a resolution of support of STRONG's request to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to change government policies that contribute to the destruction of the economic and social fabric of Northern Ontario be received and a letter of support in principal be sent.

CARRIED

3. PERSONA Grants to Community Groups 2007

Resolution No. 07/108

Moved By: Jim Bennett

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that the letter from Persona re: Grants to Community Groups for 2007 be received and the Clerk work with the Council and submit an application by May 15th, 2007.

CARRIED

4. OCWA Municipal Drinking Water License

Resolution No. 07/109

Moved By: Maxine Cannon

Seconded By: Gord Lomax

Be it resolved that the letter from the Ontario Clean Water Agency re: Requirement to obtain a Municipal Drinking Water License under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002 and put in place an approved operation plan for the system be received and the Clerk be directed to contact Mike Del Monte, OCWA to discuss the costs involved in this procedure.

CARRIED

5. OCWA Annual Compliance / Municipal Summary Report 2006

Resolution No. 07/110

Moved By: Mac Hamilton

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that the letter from the Ontario Clean Water Agency and attached Annual Compliance / Municipal Summary Report for 2006 be received and approved and the Clerk be directed to post notice to the Public that the Report is available at the Town Office for review.

CARRIED

6. AMO 2007 CONFERENCE

Resolution No. 07/111

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that the memo from the Clerk and attached registration form etc. re: 2007 AMO Conference be received and approved for 2 members to attend.

CARRIED

7. Copier Lease / Purchase

Resolution No. 07112

Moved By: Jim Bennett

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that the memo from the Clerk and attached information from Grand & Toy regarding a new lease for the copier or the purchase of a copier be received and the Clerk will get three quotes.

CARRIED

8. ONR Private Road Agreements

Resolution No. 07/113

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that the memo from the Clerk re: ONR Private Road agreements and attached invoice be received and the Town of Latchford is responsible for the ONR Private Road agreements.

CARRIED

9. Plaque on Sherman Mine Ore

Resolution No. 07/114

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Jim Bennett

Be it resolved that the letter from Graham Gambles requesting to place a plaque on the block of Sherman Mine ore that sits in the Veterans Memorial Park adjacent the Town Hall be received and approved, with Councillor Hamilton overseeing the script on the plaque.

CARRIED

B. Information Items

Resolution No. 07/115

Moved By: Maxine Cannon

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

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

1. Earlton-Timiskaming Regional Airport Joint Municipal Service Board Minutes of Feb. 15, 2007 meeting and the Annual Report (on file).
2. Dam Rapids Development Minutes of meeting held Feb. 20, 2007.
3. South Temiskaming Community Future Development Corporation minutes of Feb. 15, 2007 and the Financial Statements.
4. MNR Public Notice of 2007-2008 Annual Work Schedule Timiskaming Forest.

5. MNR Invitation to participate Temagami Crown Management Unit 2009 – 2019 Forest Management Plan.
6. Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration re: Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship program.
7. Far Northeast Training / Employment Ontario Invitation for “Breakfast”.
8. MTO re: Operation of a Gravel Pit.

And with respect to Item 5 that Councillors Hamilton, Lomax and Cannon will attend at North Bay to review the maps and process to confirm how this will affect Latchford.

CARRIED

8. ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Water Treatment Plant:

The project is in its final stage.

2. Recycling

Mayor Davies circulated the draft letter and contract for review and comments.

3. Property Standards By-law

The Clerk will provide a draft copy by the first week of April, with the intention of tabling the by-law at the last meeting in April.

9. NEW BUSINESS

1. James Keenan Park

Resolution No. 07/116

Moved By: Maxine Cannon

Seconded By: Jim Bennett

Be it resolved that the information package regarding James Keenan, a native son of Latchford, who succeeded Ben Greenwood as a Managing Director of Ontario Parks, and the request for Council’s support in requesting Adair Ireland-Smith to set aside a new park in Latchford’s vicinity honouring James be received and Council fully endorses this request.

CARRIED

2. Waterfront Walkway – Letter to Public Works Canada

Resolution No. 07/117

Moved By: Gord Lomax

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that the letter to public Works Canada re: Waterfront Walkway be approved by Council.

CARRIED

3. Centennial Celebrations - \$20,000 Advance

Resolution No. 07/118

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Jim Bennett

Be it resolved that Council approves a maximum of \$20,000 advance to fund expenses directly relating to the Centennial Celebrations, with this amount to be reimbursed from revenue received from Centennial Celebration events and government funding.

CARRIED

4. Employee Policy Manual and Pay Scale Revisions/Updates

Resolution No. 07/119

Moved By: Mac Hamilton

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

WHEREAS a “Negotiating Committee” was formed to review the Employment Policy Manual and develop a new “Pay Scale”;

AND WHEREAS due to many other commitments the Negotiating Committee has not yet developed the new Pay Scale;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT any pay increases for all full-time employees of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford will be retroactive to January 1, 2007.

CARRIED

3. Tax Write-Off

Resolution No. 07/120

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford does hereby approve taxes on Roll # 5406 000 001 05900 0000 in the amount of \$48,996.42 now vested in the Town of Latchford be written off.

CARRIED

3. NOHFC Funding Application for the Fred Keenan Centre

Resolution No. 07/121

Moved By: Maxine Cannon

Seconded By: Gord Lomax

Be it resolved that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford approves the submission of the application for funding to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund in the amount of \$79,300 for enhancement to the Fred Keenan Community Centre.

CARRIED

10. BY-LAWS

By-Law No. 781/07

Resolution No. 07/122

Move By: Jim Bennett

Seconded By: Maxine Cannon

Be it resolved that By-Law No 781/07 being a by-law to confirm certain proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford for its regular meeting held March 14, 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

11. CLOSED MEETING

Resolution No. 07/123

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that the Council for the Town of Latchford enter into a Closed Meeting at 9:30 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;
- Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;

- A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or board;
- Labour relations or employee negotiations.

CARRIED

Resolution No. 07/124

Moved By: Gord Lomax

Seconded By: Larry Anderson

Be it resolved that Council now arise from Closed Meeting at 10:35 p.m.

CARRIED

12. ADJOURN

Resolution No. 07/125

Moved By: Larry Anderson

Seconded By: Mac Hamilton

Be it resolved that Council now adjourn at 10:36 p.m. until the next regular meeting or call from the Mayor.

CARRIED

**Dated at Latchford this 28th day
of March, 2007.**

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer