



Special Council Meeting - Minutes of the Meeting

April 29, 2020 1:30pm

(Via Videoconference Webex Meetings)

Attendance

In attendance

Don Clarke, Mayor

Chair

Deputy Mayor Ty Walsh

Jane Bustin

Anna Ashford-Morton

Councillors

Mike Trinacty

Rod Reeves

Barry Corbin

Mike Payne, CAO

Karen Peckford, Finance Director

Chantal Pineo, Executive Coordinator

Debbie Elliott, Community

Development

1. Call to Order

The Council Meeting was called to order at 1:31pm.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous Council Minutes were approved by motion of Council.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as circulated with the following additions:

- Letter of Guarantee
- Off Highway Vehicles on Trails
- KMCC Connector Trail – reconsider use during pandemic

4. New Business

(a) Loan Program for Municipalities/Property Tax Financing Plan

CAO Payne and Ms. Peckford advised of a new \$380 million loan program set out by the Province, to be administered by the Municipal Finance Corporation. The fund is intended to assist municipalities with revenue shortfalls because of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Municipalities will have six months to begin repayment and up to three years to fully repay the loan. The loan program is accompanied by a Property Tax Financing Plan for prequalified residents and businesses. A Draft Policy around that issue is currently being written. The Town should have a copy by May 4th and will discuss at a Council meeting on May 7th.

(b) Letter of Guarantee

The Town is being asked to sign a Letter of Guarantee in the amount of \$385,700 in support of a power purchasing agreement between AREA and NB Power for 2021.

IT WAS MOVED and seconded

THAT

Council approve the Letter of Guarantee, between AREA and NB Power, in the amount of \$385,700.00

MOTION CARRIED

(c) Off Highway Vehicles on Harvest Moon Trail

Deputy Mayor Walsh noted that off highway vehicles (OHV) have been speeding on the trail as of late. There has been an increase in foot traffic on the trail and that has given rise to increased safety concerns.

Council noted that these concerns have been ongoing for years and suggested additional signage be applied at the trails, and posts to social media, asking motorists to be respectful of speed limits and pedestrians/cyclists.

The Province has written ATV clubs suggesting that OHV activity cease while we are in the COVID-19 pandemic but if they do, they are bound by the Public Health Order.

The Harvest Moon Trail (HMT) is a multi-use trail approved and funded by the province. The HMT Association would have to acquire Ministerial approval to limit users of the trail; that is anticipated to be a controversial and lengthy process.

Several Councilors' noted that most OHV operators are respectful but the safety concern is compounded by increased use of the trail during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(d) KMCC Connector Trail

Councillor Corbin asked if Council should formally reverse the decision that included the use of the KMCC Connector trail under the closure of parks and recreation facilities; many people are using the trail anyway.

Council decided not to address the issue and to leave well enough alone. The trail is actually much wider than a sidewalk and people can social distance without issue.

5. In Camera Session

The regular Council meeting entered into an In Camera Session at 2:25pm and returned to regular Council at 3:10pm with the following Motion:

THAT

Council agrees that of the twelve (12) planned summer student hires for 2020, Council will facilitate only the hire of the Museum Manager position, on behalf of the Apple Capital Museum Society, at no cost to the Town.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Next Meeting: May 5th at 1:30pm then on May 12th at 6pm.

7. Adjournment – Council adjourned at 3:13pm.