

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF SIOUX NARROWS - NESTOR FALLS**

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024, at the Nestor Falls Municipal Office. A quorum of Council was present, and this was a duly authorized meeting of the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls.

Resolution No. 71-24

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the Mayor now calls this meeting to order to deal with matters pertaining to general.

Carried

Resolution No. 72-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls hereby approve and adopt the agenda for the July 2nd, 2024, Council meeting.

Carried

Disclosure of Interest – Councillor Chant declared a conflict of interest with the item under New Business regarding Public Health Ontario/private drinking water testing.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 73-24

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the minutes of the June 4th, 2024, Zoning, Regular and Special Meeting Minutes, and the June 25th, 2024, Special and Closed Session Minutes be adopted as read and published.

Carried

Correspondence – None.

Disbursements

Resolution No. 74-24

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the June 2024 Disbursements, having been checked and found that all accounts are in order, passes same for payment in the amount of \$792,516.89.

Carried

By-Laws

Resolution No. 75-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the by-law to authorize the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls to enter into a Municipal Funding Agreement on the Canada Community-Building Fund with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), having been read a first time, and deemed read a second and third time, passes the by-law as read.

Carried

Staff Reports

H. Gropp – Community Development Officer – report attached. D. Brothwell asked if we have any indication of why the bookings at Sioux Narrows Provincial Park are down between 10% and 20%. H. Gropp answered that this is within normal fluctuations. D. Brothwell – stated his disappointed about not getting funding from Ontario Parks to repair the park roads. D. Brothwell stated that the Sioux Narrows Provincial Park sign at the highway only says ‘Sioux Narrows’ and he is aware of people who have mistaken this directional sign as leading to the town of Sioux Narrows. He would like to suggest that when we do install new signage that it clearly states ‘Sioux Narrows Provincial Park’. Discussion ensued regarding Naturopathy and that it is a practice of alternative medicine.

Reports from Committees

S. Salvador – commented that our new landfill attendant is doing a great job.

H. Chant – Fire Rescue Service calls to date in 2024; 1 structure fire, 2 motor vehicle collisions, 1 wildfire and 2 downed hydro lines. Reported that, regarding the motor vehicle incident that happened on June 22, 2024, the Fire Chief wishes to share how deeply appreciative he is for the firefighters who were on that call, as they were extremely knowledgeable, quick and calm, had the vehicle scene stabilized and had the occupant out within minutes. He expresses thanks to M. Gate, S. Hanson, R. Holden and J. Witzke, as well as the community members who helped. He also thanks the Station 1 crew members who arrived on scene; K. Kast, P. Corkey, D. Madden, C. Bernard and T. Warner. Reported that the department made a shore lunch fire prevention presentation at the Northern Ontario Sportfishing Centre, June 6th, 2024, as well as held their first basketball day at the multi-use recreation facility, June 15th, 2024. On July 4th, 2024, the department will be attending the Men’s Breakfast Club Fish Fry and will be celebrating and honouring our 3 longest serving active members in the Fire Service, R. Mathieu, H. Cottam and P. Corkey. They will be presented with long service medals, citations, and gifts, as well as service bars for R. Mathieu for 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service, and H. Cottam for 30, 35 and 40 years of service. L. Lundy, our district Fire Protection Advisor from the Ontario Fire Marshall’s Office is attending. Reported that we are currently advertising to fill the position of RN for the Sioux Narrows clinic, as our current Nurse will be moving. Life Labs mobile services is working out well. Gave an update on the facility, some minor work remaining to be done, as well as the purchase of an AED and digital scale.

G. Black – reported that she attended the most recent Kenora District Municipal Association meeting June 20th, 2024. Various regional issues were discussed. It was noted that all communities appear to be seeing an increase in visitors/tourists to our communities. Reported that she received a compliment on our new recreation facility and pickle ball courts. She expressed congratulations to W. Kabel on recently graduating from a leadership program at York University. She expressed gratitude to the Men’s Breakfast Club for donating new benches at the Sportfishing Centre. She also wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Emo Area 4H Club for their outstanding contribution to our community on June 15th, 2024. Their hard work in maintaining the Red Pine Trail in Nestor Falls and clearing a substantial section of the trail is greatly appreciated. The dedication and knowledge shared by the students and leaders of this group have made a lasting and positive impact on our hiking trails. Volunteers like these truly embody the spirit of community service. On behalf of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls, she thanked them for their remarkable efforts and impact.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Resolution No. 75-24

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That Council hereby appoint the following to the Kenora OPP Detachment Board 2 which replaces the former Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls Police Services Board under the Police Services Act:

- Two members appointed by Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Township, who are members of the council of the municipality, Gale Black & Doug Brothwell;
- Two members appointed by Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Township who are neither members of the council of, nor employees of, the municipality, Kevin Kast & Jerry O’Leary;
- One member appointed by the Minister, Kris Tittlemier

Carried

W. Kabel, CAO, reported that there is an insurance coverage anomaly related to the new legislation that affects the community member appointees. The Ontario Association of Police Services Boards is working on this with Province and recommending no meetings take place until the matter is resolved.

Resolution No. 76-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That Council hereby approve the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) application submitted by Berry Lake Farms/Jake Blosser in the amount of \$7,782.87.

Carried

Resolution No. 77-24

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls hereby supports the Municipality of Red Lake’s request to the Province of Ontario to create a Provincial funding model, in addition to the NORDS Fund, which is set to expire in 2026-2027, to provide revenues to all resource-based communities in Northern Ontario that are proportionate to the revenues leaving our region/municipality in an effort to offset the additional burdens placed on resource-based communities to provide municipal services to these industries; and,

That a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Northern Development, Minister of Mines, Minister of Finance, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), District of Kenora municipalities and the Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA).

Carried

New Business (cont.)

Resolution No. 78-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

Whereas the Ontario Auditor General's annual report on public health from December 2023 indicates that Public Health Ontario is proposing the phasing-out of free provincial water testing services for private drinking water; and

Whereas free private drinking water testing services has played a pivotal role in safeguarding public health, particularly in rural communities, including the entire Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls, that relies solely on private drinking water; and

Whereas the removal of free private drinking water testing could lead to a reduction in testing, potentially increasing the risk of waterborne diseases in these vulnerable populations.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls hereby requests that the province reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing-out of free private drinking water testing services.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities, the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Health, and the Northwestern Health Unit.

Carried

Delegations

A. Irwin – asked about the Environmental Study and what company was selected to carry out the work. H. Gropp, CDO – answered that we advertised, several firms contacted us to discuss the project, but that only one qualified firm submitted a proposal. That qualified firm was selected. Discussion ensued regarding the advertising process and tight turnaround time. General discussion ensued regarding qualified biologists.

L. Poad – wished to thank everyone who was involved with the new Pickle Ball court and facility at Sioux Narrows. She also wished to express that the courts at Nestor Falls need repair. Councillor Chant – thanked everyone for sharing their feedback and for the additional information. Mayor Black also expressed thanks and noted that we are aware of the condition of the site and the facility is on the list. These things depend on human resources capacity, availability of financing, and we do get to these things done as soon as we are able.

D. Anderson – asked if a decision has been made yet whether the Township intends to gift the Pioneer Park property to a developer or sell it. Mayor Black said that no decision has been made about that yet. D. Anderson asked why the Township does not sell the property and retain a piece of the land to build a municipal public works building on the site. Mayor Black indicated that we are not currently making any further decisions as we are now awaiting the results of the environmental study.

R. Hogue – asked about the environmental study. If he understands it correctly, the municipality is first conducting an environmental study before deciding on next steps. Mayor Black indicated that he is correct.

Adjournment

Resolution No. 79-24

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the business of the meeting having been dealt with, a motion for adjournment is so made.

Carried

Members Present

G. Black

H. Chant

D. Brothwell

S. Salvador

Mayor

Clerk

Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls

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Report to Council

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| Council Meeting Date: | July 2, 2024 |
| Prepared By: | Heather Gropp, Community Development Officer |
| Sioux Narrows Arts Festival: I attended the Sioux Narrows Arts Festival planning meeting on Thursday June 27 th , 2024. | |
| Sioux Narrows and Caliper Lake Provincial Parks: The Parks are off to a good start for the season. Our early numbers show that Sioux Narrows is slightly down from 2023 but Caliper Lake is up from 2023 for non-seasonal camp nights. Seasonal Campers are slightly down at both parks. We expect that these numbers will continue to trend in a positive direction. The initiative of photographing all of the campsites at Caliper is now complete and we expect that will also have a positive impact on site bookings, as sites that are photographed tend to book up more frequently. SNPP 2023: seasonal campers 20 2024: seasonal campers 17 2023: May non-seasonal camp nights 99 2024: May non-seasonal camp nights 79 2023: June 1-15 non-seasonal camp nights 93 2024: June 1-15 non-seasonal camp nights 81 CLPP 2023: seasonal campers 7 2024: seasonal campers 2 2023: May non-seasonal camp nights 34 2024: May non-seasonal camp nights 39 2023: June 1-15 non-seasonal camp nights 55 2024: June 1-15 non-seasonal camp nights 69 | |



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In terms of Ontario Parks capital project allocations Trevor Gibb provided the following update:

- We have money to replace the worn-out staff house roof at Caliper
- We can get the design work for replacing the Sioux narrows staff house with full-service trailer pads paid for and started this year.
- We have money to repair the stonework on the caliper picnic shelter.
- The blue TODS highway signs for Sioux narrows and caliper on hwy 17 is still be considered and we expect to hear soon.
- We have money for fresh signage at both parks. I already ordered blue and white signs for Caliper.
- We are sending over an information kiosk from Quetico to replace the broken one at the gatehouse at Caliper.

- We did not get funded for the Sioux narrows road this year. Park staff may be able to get it smoother with some gravel he has there to fill holes for now. I will re-submit this project next year.
- We didn't get funded for demolition of the Sioux narrows staff house this year either but since the design work is going ahead for the serviced trailer lots, that is some good progress on this one.

It is important to note that we have received significant praise from Ontario Parks on the friendliness of our staff, and the state of the parks for this season.

Tourism and Economic Growth Research Project:

There will be 2 community information sessions held to receive feedback regarding potential Tourism and Economic Growth initiatives such as the implementation of a Business Improvement Area and Municipal Accommodation Levy. These are being held on July 17th in Nestor Falls at 10:00 a.m. at the library and in Sioux Narrows at 2:30 p.m. at the Community Hall. Jeff Palmer from Urban Systems and his team will be leading the sessions and the feedback received will be incorporated into the final report presented to Council later in the fall.

Business Recruitment and Retention update:

The Township has been working with the Keewatin Patricia District School Board to support their teacher recruitment initiatives. The Township also been approached and will be working with the Northwest EMS group to support their recruitment initiatives of paramedics to our community.

As an update to our efforts to recruit complimentary medical services to our community and co-locate them in the ambulance base building: we have been successful in recruiting a Naturopathic Doctor to our community. They will be attending the community once a week on a trial basis starting late this summer/early fall. I look forward to providing future updates in the coming months as conversations continue with additional providers.



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