

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

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, September 3rd, 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. 101-24

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

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

Carried

Resolution No. 102-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls hereby approve and adopt the agenda, as amended, for the September 3rd, 2024, Council meeting.

Carried

A resolution to confirm use of the curling club building for the Sioux Narrows Arts Council was added.

Disclosure of Interest – Councillor Brothwell – Men’s Breakfast Club – as incoming Treasurer of the Club, he wishes to declare a conflict with any voting matters related to their discussion or request of council at this meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 103-24

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the minutes of the August 6th, 2024, regular meeting, and August 22nd, 2024, closed session be adopted as read and published.

Carried

Correspondence – None.

Disbursements

Resolution No. 104-24

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

That the August 2024 Disbursements, having been checked and found that all accounts are in order, passes same for payment in the amount of \$638,012.16.

Carried

By-Laws

Resolution No. 105-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the by-law to Authorize the Purchase of Land (former Copperfin Credit Union Branch for \$1.00), 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. Mark Handzel – incoming Co-President of the Men's Breakfast Club – here to speak to the fish monument request in the report. Generally discussed that their Club primarily looks at community enhancements, raising money and volunteering. Initiatives and activities aimed at improving the community. Respecting the monument, working with council on finding a suitable location is of critical importance. They are looking for council's support to proceed and interested in having a conversation. Council agreed that it is a nice idea. General discussion ensued. Councillor Brothwell asked about the recreation grants noted in the report. Discussed a few items on council's radar and budget constraints related to the local shares of grant programs. Council also agreed to staff contacting the Ministry to look at the acquisition of additional property adjacent to the Father Moss Road property.

Reports from Committees

H. Chant – Fire Rescue Service - Canada Day fireworks were postponed due to weather but were held at a later date. They also had a fireworks photo contest, and winners were awarded donated prizes. Chief Kakeeway attended an MNRF zoom meeting on August 7th that was aimed at Projections for Wildland Fire in Ontario. OFM's Mobile Live Fire Training Unit travelled around Kenora District in July and August. Several fire fighters participated in the training. The annual FireCon training and conference is being held starting September 3rd, 2024, in Thunder Bay. The Chief and three fire fighters are attending and taking several training and certification courses. The deadline of mandatory certification of members is June 2026. Some of the members have already passed the FF1 & FF2 testing, with just the HAZMAT Ops remaining to become fully certified. There are plans to schedule a HAZMAT Ops course this fall. H. Gropp is assisting Chief Kakeeway in applying for the 2024-2025 Fire Protection Grant through the province. The grant will be allocated proportionate to the number of active fire stations in Ontario. The eligible categories are cancer prevention and minor infrastructure modernization. We are looking to apply for an Extractor (Commercial Washing machine) and Drying rack to clean our Turnout Gear. Nestor Falls Recreation Committee – the annual Wings & Wheels event held over September long weekend was a success.

G. Black – Sioux Narrows Recreation Committee – Event Financial Reports – Spring Barbeque made a profit of \$2,874.09, and the Men's Breakfast Club Fish Fry Bar made a profit of \$657.54. Reported that she will be attending the next Kenora District Municipal Association Meeting (virtual) on September 19th, 2024.

Old Business – None.

New Business – None.

Delegations

R. Gripp – Pioneer Park – series of questions – appreciate the opportunity of being here. For the record, he wished to note that he was providing council with copies of 203 signatures gathered in opposition to the Pioneer Park development. Stated that there is overwhelming opposition to the proposed Pioneer Park development. Both seasonal and full time residents have signed the petition, and they all have equal stakes. Many people remain completely unaware. In light of the opposition, he asked if council would put an end to this project. G. Black – no, it will not stop today. R. Gripp – what's it going to take to put a stop to it. G. Black – answered that council is awaiting further information and will decide when they feel adequately briefed on the matter. S. Salvador – commented that, no matter what, the town does not want it. D. Brothwell – agrees with S. Salvador. M. Rydberg and H. Chant – indicated that they want to see the results of the environmental study. R. Gripp asked if the report could be approved and published as soon as possible. Stated that the letter he submitted to and spoke to at the last council meeting, he expressed concern over the selection of the biologist and that the developer had hired the same biologist. Why did council rush and why did they select the same biologist. G. Black – we were asked to do an environmental assessment. So, we are doing so. J. Port – the developer contacted the biologist. He was not hired by the developer. D. Brothwell explained at the last meeting that the municipality decided to undertake the assessment, and not the developer, so as to alleviate any concerns over the optics of the developer conducting the study in his favour. It was a public approach. Other firms did contact us. These studies are best done in the summer. R. Gripp – stated that he wants to know why that council allowed the cutting of trees that took place. It was explained that an electrical firm was on site for Hydro One work.

A. Irwin – resident of Reedy Bay – read a written statement. speaking on behalf of the 10 or so residents on the bay. Attended the public open house. Feels that people, despite the project being posted, published and printed, do not know what is going on. Renderings of the proposal that were at the public open house at the sportfishing centre are no longer available. Feels that they should be available to view at the sportfishing centre. A municipal report indicated that there are 727 residents, but there are over 1,700 tax bills. Over 1,000 property owners are not accounted for. Seasonal residents are significant to the township. They are not less than. Feels that much more needs to be done to adequately inform everyone. Discussion ensued. Plans to strip the land at Pioneer Park for condo development, by a for profit developer, does not meet criteria for affordable housing. Why is our Mayor and Council and development department looking to give away land for for-profit development. The project is looking to develop units that would be unaffordable for most of the people who are looking for housing here. Further discussion ensued. Environmental impact would be devastating, and they vehemently oppose it. M. Rydberg – it appears that the major opposition expressed here is for for-profit housing, but when council discussed this last summer, you strongly opposed affordable housing then. Discussion ensued regarding affordability and suitability of the lot. G. Black – clarified that housing shortages across Canada, in Ontario and including Northwestern Ontario are bring about changes in approach. Partnerships, that include social agencies, municipalities and private developers are coming together to solve the housing crisis. D. Brothwell – township council is taking a multi-pronged approach, for multiple types of housing. We need all types of housing. We have initiatives in place, including seniors and subsidized models. These take time. We need market rate, general housing too, and the fact is, private developers are part of that solution. We are looking at all opportunities. Provided copies of her written communication to council members.

C. Poleshuk – indicated that the housing study we are referencing that was done by KDSB, was in 2022. He feels that the study is dated. That there is housing on the market. General discussion ensued regarding the Arts Festival. Asked municipal staff why we wouldn't want to maintain

Delegations (cont.)

green space? G. Black indicated that council makes these decisions. Staff work at council's direction. Discussion ensued. Stated that he doesn't think low-income housing is water front housing. Maybe there is other property available, not water front, such as near the airport. He has heard about that. He thinks we should be looking for something affordable. Asked if we are looking for other options. G. Black – yes, we are, it was just reported on under staff reports, as well as the property adjacent to the Community Hall in Sioux Narrows and near the Ambulance Base in Nestor Falls. But, in most cases this is crown land, and it takes time.

R. Anderson – stated that the land that was recently disturbed and trees that were cut was not because of Hydro work.

D. Tolen – asked if council would introduce themselves. Council and staff introduced themselves. Asked if J. Port would discuss the details of his recent interview with T. Davidson in Kenora and what was printed on Kenora Online. J. Port – indicated that he was asked to provide an audio interview by T. Davidson for the radio and council authorized it. If it was reprinted by Kenora Online, he cannot say, as he wasn't interviewed by Kenora Online for a written article.

D. Anderson – stated that it would be preferable if a special meeting could be scheduled to discuss the environmental study so that they don't have to wait for future regular council meetings in order to review it.

Sioux Narrows Arts Council – Curling Club Building – S. Hovi – read past council meeting minutes at which the Arts Council attended to discuss the use of the curling club building and the indication of the Township that they were considering a possible permanent, future change in use for the building to a public works facility. They then made a presentation to Township council on June 4th, 2024. G. Black indicated that council wanted to sit down and discuss the event and their needs face to face with the Arts Council, but that it ended up being a large gathering and petition. She believes that there was a misunderstanding. S. Hovi – asked if they can use the building again in 2025. G. Black – stated that she fully supports the Arts Festival being located at the Curling Club. D. Brothwell – stated that he is committed to the continuity of the festival. It is a great event and important to the town. He remains unconvinced that it is the only place to hold it. Is there another way? Council would not vote to end the arts festival. There has to be ways to meet all the needs of both the Arts Council and the needs of the Township. We did ask to have that discussion. G. Black – we wanted to meet for a conversation that didn't happen. S. Hovi – asked where else it could be held. H. Chant – agrees with Gale and Doug. In no way would she want to see it end. And that is certainly not the intent of council. It is a big event with a huge economic impact for the community. We do have a serious need for public works space too. There are a lot of considerations. Council generally agreed that they are fine with Arts Festival staying where it is at this time. A. Irwin – discussion of the amount of time it takes for staff ready the space for the Arts Festival. It is an inconvenience. We do have staff. Maybe they don't like it, but that's what needs to be done. Councillor Brothwell wished to make a motion.

Resolution No. 106-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That Council commits to the Arts Council occupying the Curling Club Building for the annual Arts Festival event for the years 2025 and 2026; and,

That they wish to schedule an information sharing session and conversation as soon as possible between the Arts Council members and Council members.

Carried

Delegations (cont.)

B. Salvador – indicated that she loves the arts festival. She did state, however, that as coordinator of the longstanding annual Bassin' for Bucks fishing tournament, that they recently had to make a venue change. It was hard, but we made it work. Hated to move, but to keep it going, we made it work.

C. Madden – Petition - Municipal Accommodation Tax – there as good participation at the information sessions held in July to discuss various marketing strategies and alternative revenue sources. Stated that there is opposition to any proposed Accommodation Tax for several reasons and he has collected 168 signatures on a petition. Outlined why the business owners are opposed. To add another price increase, implemented by the town, would be difficult. The culture of local business owners is a very independent one. The culture of the clients is those that are seeking affordable family vacations. Most American customers come from lower tax jurisdictions. A lot of the businesses felt inadequately informed. Would like to see businesses grow organically. Does not feel an accommodation tax is a good idea. Provided copies of the petition to council members. G. Black thanked him for the information.

Adjournment

Resolution No. 107-24

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Holly Chant

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

Carried

Members Present

G. Black

H. Chant

M. Rydberg

D. Brothwell

S. Salvador

Mayor

Clerk

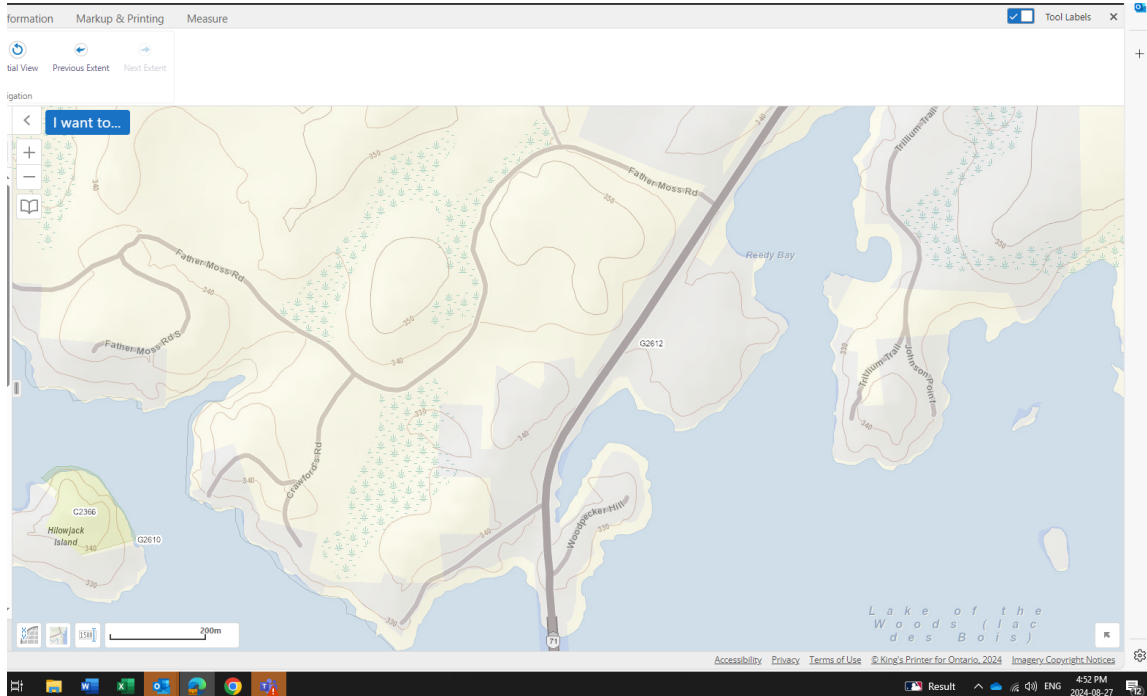
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Report to Council

Council Meeting Date:	September 3, 2024
Prepared By:	Heather Gropp, Community Development Officer
Acquisition of Crown Land: <p>The Township currently has an open RFP for Housing Development on the Municipal Lands measuring approximately 4.5 acres, located on the Southwest corner of the intersection of Highway 71 and Father Moss Road. This land is bordered by a significant amount of Crown Land.</p> <p>The availability of developable land in Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls is currently one of the greatest challenges posed by the Township. This challenge was noted in the KDSB housing study that was released in 2022. The acquisition of all or a portion of this crown land surrounding the vacant municipal parcel would contribute significantly to increasing the development of housing in Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls.</p> <p>Staff are seeking Council direction to initiate the process to acquire this parcel of land from the Crown.</p>	



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Sioux Narrows Arts Council:

I had a meeting with a member of the Sioux Narrows Arts Council board to discuss the Artists in the Park event and learn more about how the 2024 festival went. At this meeting I was advised that they would like to get started on their planning for the 2025 festival, but they have not yet heard back from Council regarding their presentation or use of the facility for 2025. The Arts Council is looking for direction from Council regarding the use of the curling club facility for 2025.

Recreation Funding Opportunity:

The Provincial Government has released a new recreation funding opportunity: Ontario Supporting Communities with New and Upgraded Sport and Recreation Facilities. There are 2 streams, one for significant renovations to an existing facility and one for new and transformative recreation builds.

Stream 1: Repairing and upgrading existing sports and recreation facilities into more accessible, state-of the art facilities that better meet the community's needs. Eligible projects will receive between \$150,000 and \$1 million and must be completed within twenty-four months. The deadline to submit applications is October 29, 2024.

Stream 2: Building new and transformative sports and recreation facilities, including replacing existing facilities that have reached the end of their lifespan. Eligible projects will receive up to \$10 million and must be completed no later than March 31, 2027. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until funding has been fully allocated.

The funding for this project is 50% for municipalities with the opportunity to request up to 70% funding as we are a smaller municipality. The Township does have an eligible project on its priority list (Bass Lake Park) that would qualify. However, the time line for completion of the project would require completion within 24 months and require significant capital investment that would stretch our budget. While recreation funding streams aren't regularly available, it is



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possible to look at other opportunities in the future to complete the renovations at the park at a time in the future that makes more sense.

Sioux Narrows Men's Breakfast Club Proposal:

Thank you to the Sioux Narrows Men's Breakfast club for providing Adirondack Style Chairs under the new shelter at the Nestor Falls Government Dock. This was a much needed improvement and addition to the site.

The Sioux Narrows Men's Breakfast Club has approached the Township to consider and partner on the installation on an Iconic Fish statue in the Community. Initial conversations have centered around the possibility of this installation at the Northern Ontario Sports Fishing Centre/Sioux Narrows Government Dock area or potentially Bridge Park. This is a significant build and would require fundraising, community partnership and likely grant funding as well. The Men's Breakfast Club is seeking to determine if there is interest from the municipality in pursuing this initiative.



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Dear Mayor and Council
Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls

The Sioux Narrows Arts Council is asking to be added to the agenda for the September 3, 2024, meeting in Nestor Falls at 2:00 PM.

We would like to speak to the issue of the venue for the Sioux Narrows Arts Festival for 2025 and into the future.

We begin our planning for next year's festival in September and are uncertain at this time as to whether we will continue to be granted use of the curling rink.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Hovi and Kathy Valentini
Co-chairs Sioux Narrows Arts Council

snartscouncil@gmail.com



August 21, 2024

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Sioux Narrows Arts Council would like to thank you for your support of the 63rd Annual Sioux Narrows Arts Festival. We appreciate the assistance we received from Heather Gropp to advertise our poster in the Bridge & Falls publication and radio ads. These areas of advertising contributed to another successful festival.

Allowing us access to the curling rink on July 25th to get everything cleaned up for the show, was greatly appreciated. With the help of volunteers over a number of days we were able to wash the walls and furniture, clean the floors, organize the tables and booth setup for artists, and prepare for the kid's art zone. The Arts Council would like to acknowledge the maintenance crew, for their helpfulness in getting the grounds, parking lot and surrounding area ready. We would also like to thank the office staff, and specifically Roxanne McCabe and Heather Gropp, for taking time to copy our set up plans, booth labels, name tags, flyers and programs.

Live music was provided by the Arts Council on both Saturday and Sunday at the Northern Ontario Sportfishing Centre. We are grateful for the use of the Northern Ontario Sportfishing Centre as the venue for these popular events and are thankful for the help from the centre staff.

We would like to share an additional "thank you" with the Council regarding community support for the Arts Festival weekend. Lance Brown generously donated the delivery, maintenance and removal of the port-a-potties at the Curling Rink over festival weekend. Our supportive, enthusiastic community has built the Arts Festival weekend into a whole community event, with a variety of activities going on over the entire weekend. We are grateful for the volunteer support that we receive from year-round and summer residents. We had over 80 volunteers over the course of the weekend. The festival would not be possible without their help.

48 artists participated in the Sioux Narrows Arts Festival this year, with new Ontario artists from Nestor Falls, Dryden, Kenora, Keewatin, Red Lake and Vermillion Bay. New Manitoba artists came from Winnipeg and Headingley. We also had one artist who travelled from British Columbia. We had over 1,600 visitors to the venue over the course of the weekend. Thank you for supporting our event by giving us the curling rink, as it is an excellent venue that accommodates all our needs.

We begin planning for next year's festival in September so the Sioux Narrows Arts Council would like to know if we will be able to host the Sioux Narrows Arts Festival 2025 in the curling rink as we always have.

Thanks again and looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Susan Hovi & Kathy Valentini
Co-Chairs, Sioux Narrows Arts Festival

snartscouncil@gmail.com