

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

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, at the Sioux Narrows 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. 142-24

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. 143-24

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 December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, Council meeting.

Carried

**Disclosure of Interest** – None.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Resolution No. 144-24

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 regular and closed session meetings, be adopted as read and published.

Carried

**Correspondence** – None.

**Disbursements**

Resolution No. 145-24

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the November 2024 Disbursements, having been checked and found that all accounts are in order, passes same for payment in the amount of \$606,926.54.

Carried

**By-Laws**

Resolution No. 146-24

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the by-law to adopt an Emergency Management Program and Emergency Response Plan and to meet other Requirements under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, having been read a first time, and deemed read a second and third time, passes the by-law as read.

Carried

**By-Laws** (cont.)

Resolution No. 147-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the by-law to amend by-law no. 279 (Krogman), being the zoning by-law, 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. Council indicated that they are open to business meet and greet opportunities in future. S. Salvador – asked what happened to the electric vehicle charging stations in Kenora. Why were they removed. It was confirmed that it was a location issue, and they were removed due to flooding. D. Brothwell – asked if the stations being installed here are the Tesla type. It was confirmed that they are not Tesla. G. Black – asked if EV charging stations are being installed in both Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls. Yes, charging stations are being installed in both locations. Council confirmed that staff can continue to work on hangar development at Nestor Falls with the interested party. D. Brothwell - commented that the business meet and greets may be perceived as accommodation tax meetings and he would like to ensure there is no misunderstanding. H. Gropp indicated that we are being clear regarding our intentions and identifying initiatives. Also indicated that she has had numerous conversations with local businesses recently, as well as seeing high engagement from our business survey. Conversations and responses have been positive.

**Reports from Committees**

H. Chant – Fire Department – provided updates from the Chief – there have been 22 calls to date in 2024, including 3 structure fires, 2 alarms, 4 motor vehicle accidents, 3 wildfires and 10 ‘other’. The annual Fire Department’s Fire Fighter Christmas Dinner is on December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at Nestor Falls. They are putting together personalized duffle bags for their members. The duffle bags are part of a cancer prevention initiative for Fire Fighters. They will contain a clean change of clothes and other personal care items and are intended to help reduce their time wearing soiled clothes after fire call outs. December 3<sup>rd</sup> is their last training of 2024. Their regular training schedule will resume January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. They now have an iPad for each of their fire halls. The iPads are to be used for PSTrax, a department inventory and scheduling application. Thanks was expressed to W. Kabel for the getting the iPads in. H. Chant indicated that she attended the live doll house burn training session in Nestor Falls recently. It was well attended by the fire crew, was interesting to watch and see how the fire moves, and to see the volunteers work together as a team. A good job was done by all. The Nestor Falls Recreation Committee is again partnering with the Sioux Narrows Recreation Committee for a Breakfast with Santa event at the Sioux Narrows Community Hall on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be crafts, photos with Santa, ball hockey, a bonfire and s’mores. The Nestor Falls Recreation Committee held a Christmas basket making workshop on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at the Nestor Falls Community Hall. They had a good turnout, and they made baskets to sell at the Christmas Market in Sioux Narrows on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The next Rainy River District Municipal Association Executive Meeting will be on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Chapple. Also, reported that she will be attending, through RRDMA, the Riverside Hospital Communication meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

S. Salvador – reported that the new library space is coming along well.

**Reports from Committees** (cont.)

G. Black – reported that there was a Sioux Narrows Recreation Committee meeting November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. She attended an information gathering on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with neighbouring First Nation Community Council members. She also attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Sioux Narrows Community Hall on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Gave report of the Lake of the Woods District Hospital’s Media Release announcing the funding received for an MRI expected to be installed at the hospital in 2025. This is incredible news for our region. She attended a Kenora District Municipal Association meeting, virtually, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. She will be attending our annual emergency management training session, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a Bridge Park Revitalization knowledge sharing session, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and reported that the Ice Bikes are coming back to Sioux Narrows, scheduled for December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. She also reported that a very unfortunate incident was discovered at Sioux Narrows recently. The Recreation Committee’s lights on the pine tree at the Sioux Narrows Community Hall were taken down and the cord was cut up.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business**

G. Gillon – Rainy River Future Development Corporation and D. Lipscombe – Executive Director of Grand Council Treaty #3 – thanked council for the opportunity to provide a report and notice of Grand Council Treaty #3’s Dibaajimowin Project. D. Lipscombe indicated that she also brought shirts and toques for council. She explained the journey and those involved in bringing this project to where it is today, including, but not limited to J. Mckibbon, S. Kejick and G. Allen. Also described the challenges experienced by the Grand Council Treaty #3’s communities with marginal or no internet connectivity and how it impacts everything from health access to education to business continuity and everything between. She also described the meaning of Dibaajimowin, and what it means to her. The Dibaajimowin project is bringing high-speed fibre optic internet access to Treaty #3 First Nations communities, but also bridging some of the gaps in neighbouring communities, including part of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls. It is a collaborative effort between the Chiefs and leadership of the Treaty #3 First Nations, Grand Council Treaty #3, Bell Canada and the provincial and federal governments. The project is well underway with some communities already connected. Niisaachewan has gone live this week. Further discussion ensued regarding projects already onboarded, those to come, the types of infrastructure involved, poles, submersible cable and permitting. If anyone has any questions about the project, please contact Grand Council Treaty #3. Council thanked them very much for attending and the informative presentation.

Resolution No. 148-24

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That Council hereby proclaim January as Alzheimer Awareness Month in the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls.

Carried

**New Business** (cont.)

Resolution No. 149-24

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the attached committee members and volunteers for the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls be hereby adopted.

Carried

**Delegations**

N. Dufresne – Kenora District Homes for the Aged Board representative for Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls – gave a report to council – they continue to struggle with staffing. They are short Personal Support Workers. They have a new website that, if it hasn't already, is going live very soon. Remarked that they have 241 residents and over 400 staff. M. Spencer is their new Executive Director.

**Adjournment**

Resolution No. 150-24

Moved by Steve Salvador

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

D. Brothwell

S. Salvador

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Mayor

Clerk

# Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls

P.O. BOX 417  
SIOUX NARROWS, ONTARIO  
POX 1N0

Phone (807) 226 - 5241  
FAX (807) 226 - 5712  
[www.livethelakelife.ca](http://www.livethelakelife.ca)

## Report to Council

<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	December 3, 2024
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Heather Gropp- Community Development Officer

Over the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to touch base with a number of business owners in the community. It is my sense that there is still very much a void of factual information about the Township and our activities that exists. We have made good progress in increasing our communications, however, if Council is willing, I would like to set up economic development meet and greet opportunities where municipal council, and staff come together with local businesses to share more about our activities. These events would alternate communities and be held in the early evening.

### **Nestor Falls Airport Development Opportunity:**

In February 2010, the Council of the day received a concept plan for the Nestor Falls Airport Development. The guide was prepared because the Township at that time required a development concept to guide and protect the general direction for the Nestor Falls Airport. The guide identified a number of steps including land acquisition that would improve air services in Nestor Falls. Since that report the Township has acquired ownership of the Nestor Falls Airport. The report indicated that there exists considerable market potential for the community with the development of the Nestor Falls Airport.

The report also indicated that as part of Phase II of the project the airport should look into the potential of acquiring the property and improvements on the west side of the airfield. In particular, the addition of a hanger could provide an attractive fixed base operation for the airport and would include benefits such as:

- Providing a space for pilots to stop and rest
- Offering local services for fuel and mechanical needs
- Food services
- Extend stays in the community.

There exists significant positive economic impact potential with the development of these



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facilities at the Nestor Falls Aerodrome facility.

In recent weeks, staff at the Township have received a prospective proposal from a private organization that would see the addition of a hanger as envisioned in the 2010 report. In order for this to proceed, a lease for the space would need to be negotiated between the Township and this private entity. Further to this, there would be re-zoning requirements. At this time, staff are seeking direction from Council to proceed with these negotiations and to start the re-zoning process for the Nestor Falls Aerodrome property.

## **Website Development Update:**

A design preview of the new site has been shared with Council for your interest and information. The New Business advised us last week that they are having some staffing issues and are consequently delayed in the physical development of the site. They have indicated that they are available to deliver the site between Mid-March and May. To compensate for the delay they have been able to offer us increased information on the Northern Ontario Portal Site and enhanced marketing at no cost to us. We can function with the existing site in the meantime.

## **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:**

Attached with this report are the proposed contract and costs for the installation of 2 level 2 electric vehicle chargers in our community. One will be located at the Nestor Falls Municipal Office and one will be located at the Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre. There is a motion further on today's agenda to enter into the contract and approve the charges, if Council so decides.

## **Visitor Statistic Information:**

Each year, Council is provided with the visitor statistic information we obtain. In 2024, we saw our visitor rates slightly increase at the Nestor Falls Visitor Centre over 2023 and slightly



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decrease at the Sioux Narrows Sport Fishing Centre over 2023. Overall, it is reasonable to say that visitor rates in our community are relatively stable, however we have not returned to pre-pandemic visitor rates. Our 2023/2024 rates show visitors at the Sport Fishing Centre are approximately 40% less than pre-pandemic. This is a greater decline than what is being viewed at border crossings our region. Most recent data is showing border crossings into our region are down approximately 20%. It is recognized that this data is only one small piece of the total visitor picture to our community. We are currently in the midst of understanding a tourism strategy to look at how to best invest our marketing efforts and dollars. Over the next few weeks, our local business community has been asked to complete a small survey and there are focus groups set up with a smaller cross-section of tourism-based businesses to try and get a clearer picture of the tourism economy that exists in Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. I hope to bring the results of this work to Council in mid-January and this data can be used in our planning process. At this time, I am aiming to determine new marketing opportunities and increasingly effective marketing opportunities to ensure that our community continues to benefit from a vibrant and diverse Tourism Economy.



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## NOSFC WALK-IN TOTALS

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>MAY</b>	573	<b>CLOSED DUE TO COVID</b>	<b>CLOSED DUE TO COVID</b>	<b>OPEN MAY 16</b>  279	<b>OPEN MAY 17</b>  347	<b>OPEN MAY 15</b>  514					
<b>JUNE</b>	2340	<b>CLOSED DUE TO COVID</b>	100	833	1167	1280					
<b>JULY</b>	3412	<b>OPENED JULY 11TH</b> 740	1204	2494	2652	2327					
<b>AUG</b>	3680	1178	1608	1542	2883	2651					
<b>SEPT</b>	486	451	580	900	700	596					
<b>OCT</b>	<b>CLOSED FOR SEASON</b>	83	128	75 <b>Closed Oct. 10</b>	98 <b>Closed Oct 9</b>	85 <b>Closed Oct 13</b>					
<b>YEAR END TOTALS</b>	<b>10491</b>	<b>2452</b>	<b>3620</b>	<b>6123</b>	<b>7847</b>	<b>7453</b>					



## **Nestor Falls Info Centre Update:**

Our numbers are up some from last year:

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2023.	2024
May - 219.	May - 297
June - 497.	June - 616
July - 894.	July - 895
Aug - 872.	Aug - 856
Sept - 436	Sept - 539
Oct - 80.	Oct - 112
Ttl - 2,998	Ttl - 3,315

A difference of 317 people over last year.