

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

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, virtually. 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. 5-21

Moved by Gale Black

Seconded by Phil Hudson

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

Carried

Resolution No. 6-21

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Andrew Nisly

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls hereby approve and adopt the agenda for the January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Council meeting.

Carried

**Disclosure of Interest** – None.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Resolution No. 7-21

Moved by Phil Hudson

Seconded by Gale Black

That the minutes of the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, regular open Council meeting be adopted as read and published.

Carried

**Correspondence** - None.

**Disbursements** – None.

**By-Laws** – None.

**Reports from Committees**

G. Black – gave report of the All Nations Health Partners (ANHP) meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. ANHP, as well as the Township, have expressed their support of the Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation's application to build and operate an Indigenous Women's Shelter for Indigenous women and children escaping family violence. The province of Manitoba's Executive Director of Policy and Standards Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living has notified the Ontario Ministry of Health and Lake of the Woods District Hospital that Manitoba is extending restrictions of access for Northwestern Ontario patient care in Manitoba until March 31, 2021, due to COVID-19. The access restrictions will not affect all patient care, such as immediate threats to life or patients already receiving care, but it will have limitations. The next ANHP meeting will be January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**Reports from Committees** (cont.)

A. Nisly – reported that the Nestor Falls Recreation Committee’s Winter Carnival celebration this year will be different, due to the pandemic, but they are trying something new, a fishing derby organized through an electronic app, FishDonkey. The tournament will run from February 1<sup>st</sup> through March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It is open to all of Northwestern Ontario and any lake in the Kenora and Rainy River Districts. To register, download the App and search for Nestor Falls in the tournament listing. The fees are \$50 per person (\$25 per person aged 16 and under). It will be 100% payout. There will be grand prizes, as well as random weekly prizes by age group.

N. Dufresne – reported that he recently participated in a provincial Mayors and Ministers virtual presentation regarding the vaccination effort. As well, the most recent district Mayors meeting with our MPP, G. Rickford, also contained discussion surrounding the vaccination plan. The priority and tentative plan is to have all Long Term Care Home residents and staff vaccinated in the Kenora and Rainy River Districts by mid-February.

**Old Business** – None.

**New Business**

Resolution No. 8-21

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Andrew Nisly

WHEREAS the cost of municipal insurance in the Province of Ontario has continued to increase – with especially large increases going into 2021; and,

WHEREAS Joint and Several Liability continues to burden property taxpayers with the lion’s share of damages awards when municipalities are found at minimum fault; and,

WHEREAS these increases are unsustainable and unfair and take away from critical municipal services; and,

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario outlined seven recommendations to address insurance issues including:

1. The provincial government adopt a model of full proportionate liability to replace joint and several liability;
2. Implement enhancements to the existing limitations period including the continued applicability of the existing 10-day rule on slip and fall cases given recent judicial interpretations and whether a 1-year limitation period may be beneficial;
3. Implement a cap for economic loss awards;
4. Increase the catastrophic impairment default benefit limit to \$2 million and increase the third-party liability coverage to \$2 million in government regulated automobile insurance plans;
5. Assess and implement additional measures which would support lower premiums or alternatives to the provision of insurance services by other entities such as non-profit insurance reciprocals;
6. Compel the insurance industry to supply all necessary financial evidence including premiums, claims and deductible limit changes which support its municipal arguments as to the fiscal impact of joint and several liability; and,
7. Establish a provincial and municipal working group to consider the above and put forward recommendations to the Attorney General.

**New Business** (cont.)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls hereby calls on the Province of Ontario to immediately review these recommendations and to investigate the unethical practice of preferred vendors who are paid substantial amounts over industry standards, despite COVID-19 delays, as insurance premiums will soon be out of reach for many communities; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Greg Rickford, MPP for Kenora-Rainy River & Minister of Energy, Mines, Northern Development and Indigenous Affairs for Ontario, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

**Delegations** – None.

**Adjournment**

Resolution No. 9-21

Moved by Gale Black

Seconded by Phil Hudson

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

Carried

Members Present

N. Dufresne

G. Black

P. Hudson

M. Rydberg

A. Nisly

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Mayor

Clerk