

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

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023, at the Sioux Narrows Council Chambers. 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. 107-23

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

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

Carried

Resolution No. 108-23

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls hereby approve and adopt the agenda for the October 3rd, 2023, Council meeting.

Carried

Disclosure of Interest – None.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 109-23

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the minutes of the September 5th, 2023, regular open council meeting be adopted as read and published.

Carried

Correspondence – None.

Disbursements

Resolution No. 110-23

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

That the September 2023 Disbursements, having been checked and found that all accounts are in order, passes same for payment in the amount of \$1,053,659.64.

Carried

By-Laws

Resolution No. 111-23

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the by-law to enter into an Amending Agreement for Police Services Under Section 10 of the Police Services Act with His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario as Represented by the Solicitor General, 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. G. Black asked about electric car charging stations. H. Gropp answered that we did apply for funding, and it was approved. We will be working on having charging stations installed in Nestor Falls at the Municipal Office and in Sioux Narrows at the Sportfishing Centre in the future. D. Brothwell asked if there are any updates on attracting financial services to Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls. H. Gropp indicated that we are actively recruiting and conversations with financial institutions are ongoing. S. Salvador asked about the picnic shelter at the Sportfishing Centre. H. Gropp indicated that we have sent a letter to the contractor to remedy the issue.

D. Lysak – Cultural Coordinator – report attached. S. Salvador asked if there was a way to decrease revenue shortfalls and possibly get more sponsorships. Council further discussed the economic benefits to the community, various ways to decrease expenses and look at sponsorships. D. Brothwell asked about marketing. Marketing activities were discussed. Council agreed to the continuity of the music festival for the duration of this term of council, as well as continuing the artist residency program, the podcast and blogging initiative.

Reports from Committees

G. Black – reported that on September 6th, 2023, she, along with W. Kabel and H. Gropp, attended Grand Treaty #3's 150th Anniversary of the Signing of the Treaty celebration event in Kenora. Also attended J. Gustafson's presentation on September 6th, 2023, at the Sportfishing Centre. She and Councillor Rydberg thanked him for his contribution to sportfishing. She expressed thanks to the volunteers who organized the Artists in the Park, Bassin' for Bucks and other fishing tournament events in Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls. Reported that the All Nations Health Partners meetings are ongoing.

Councillor Chant - (absent from the meeting but provided a written report). Fire Department - training activities are ongoing, including a recent live car fire training at which 9 people attended. The Chief is organizing a Fire Fighter 1 training session to occur either in winter or spring. They have some new recruits which are being appointed at tonight's council meeting. Callouts are currently minimal, but they have had 33 to date in 2023. Fire Prevention Week is October 8 – 14; on October 11th they go to both Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls public schools and on October 12th they are going to Baibombeh school at Naotkamegwanning. The Chief is organizing an appreciation night for the firefighters on October 10th, 2023. On Halloween they will be handing out candy at the fire hall. In November, they will go back to weekly training. Nestor Falls Recreation Committee – they are meeting October 4th, 2023, to discuss Halloween events. They are also considering a paint night with Simply Made Local in the future. Nursing Station - holding a flu/covid vaccine clinic on October 19th, 2023. The nurses from the Health Unit are assisting. Appointments can be made by contacting the clinic.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Resolution No. 112-23

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

That the CAO is hereby authorized to sign the Nestor Falls Office lease/rental agreement with the Kenora District Services Board.

Carried

New Business (cont.)

Resolution No. 113-23

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the CAO is hereby authorized to sign the amendment to the Recycling agreement with Circular Materials that:

- removes the reference to fuel used in Collection Vehicles that is not relevant Non-Eligible Source Blue Box Material Unit Price; and,
- establishes July 2023 as the starting point from which to apply the CM Fuel Price Component Adjustment and CPI Component Adjustment to the Non-Eligible Source Blue Box Material Unit Price with the CM Fuel Price Component Adjustment applied monthly and the CPI Component Adjustment applied on April 1 each year. This schedule ensures that the Non-Eligible Source Blue Box Material Unit Price is adjusted simultaneously for all collection contractors.

Carried

Resolution No. 114-23

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

That the following be appointed to the Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls Fire Rescue Services as Fire Fighters: Micheal Neniska, Dylan Hosack and Connor Bernard.

Carried

Delegations – None.

Adjournment

Resolution No. 115-23

Moved by Matt Rydberg

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

M. Rydberg

S. Salvador

D. Brothwell

Mayor

Clerk

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Report to Council

Council Meeting Date:	September 5, 2023
Prepared By:	Heather Gropp, Community Development Officer
Report:	
Community Survey	
<p>We conducted our community and business surveys between September 1 and 15, 2023. These surveys were sent out to community groups and businesses via email, were advertised on social media and were advertised in our quarterly economic development update in September. In total there were 19 responses to the business survey (58% from Sioux Narrows area and 42 % from Nestor Falls area). There were also 57 responses to the business survey (79% from Sioux Narrows area, 19% from Nestor Falls area, and 2% from elsewhere).</p>	
<p>Overall the responses were quite positive. Here are some highlights:</p>	
<p>25% of community respondents rated the quality of life in our community as excellent, 60% rated it as good, 15% rated it as fair. There were no responses that indicated it was poor. 9%of respondents indicated that it was much better than 3 years ago, while 35% indicated it was somewhat better, 40% indicated it was neither better or nor worse and 12% indicated that it was worse. There were no respondents who indicated it was much worse.</p>	
<p>69% of local businesses rated the municipality as very friendly or somewhat friendly, with 32% indicating improvement in business friendliness over the past 3 years. There were also a significant number of businesses reporting increases in revenue over 2019, which is very positive.</p>	



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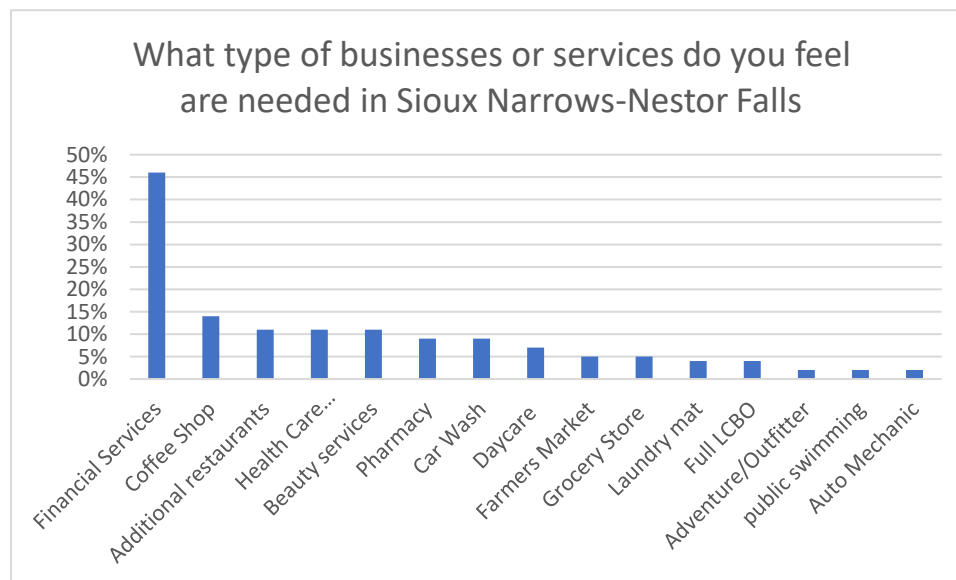
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In both surveys there were some very common themes. Housing and the need for additional homes was communicated by both businesses and residents. The lack of available financial services in the community was also communicated through this survey.

When asked what businesses or services they would like to see in the community residents responded as follows:



Next steps: There is still considerable information to go through with the survey. A more detailed report will be brought forward to Council in the coming months. This report will highlight both the challenges we are facing, as well as the positives. Community Development work, including housing, and targeted business attraction opportunities will continue to be pursued.



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Housing:

Housing is a major issue impacting many communities across the country. Currently, all types of housing are needed in the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. This fact was very prevalent throughout our business and community surveys. Through our housing surveys over the past 12 months we have identified that specific gaps exist in seniors housing, as well as apartment style and rental housing. This is the case throughout the entire community. The Township is currently awaiting approval of our housing accelerator fund application, which will help to move housing development forward.

The recent land purchase by the Municipality from the Province by the ambulance base in Nestor Falls will be complete in the very near future. Council has the opportunity to consider an RFP process for this property, similar to the process we undertook with the Pioneer Park property, to spur on housing development. It is requested that Council consider the contribution of this municipal as part of a RFP process that will encourage the right type of much needed housing in Nestor Falls. The RFP will clearly spell out housing requirements and styles to ensure that the potential new development best meets the existing needs of the community.

Nestor Falls Bike Trails

The first phase of the Nestor Falls Bike Trails has been completed. Trails will be opening to the public on October 21, 2023. There will be opening events taking place leading up to and including that date. A community walk through with the trail design team will take place. The purpose of this is for the community to learn more about the trail building process and technical specifications of the trails. Details are currently being finalized. We are also working with a videographer to develop video resources of the trails that we can use for promotional purposes for next season. Invitations and public notices are expected to go out in early October.



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At this time, we are working on completing funding applications for the next phase of the trails project. We are also organizing planning sessions with our neighbouring communities to determine routes and best opportunities to expand the trail network.

Parks:

Caliper Lake and Sioux Narrows Provincial Park closed for the season on October 2, 2023. While specific data is not yet available, the 2023 camping season was a success. The parks were both busy, and operated smoothly. Seasonal site selection took place on Sunday October 1, 2023. Staff are currently working on special projects required to close the parks down, and preparing for the 2024 season. Artists in the park was held at Sioux Narrows Park on Saturday September 9th. There were 19 participating artists and over 300 people attended the event.

Additional Community Programming Data:

This was the first year that the Township was an active participant the Science Carnival in Kenora put on by Science North. This event included specific science based programming opportunities in our community.

Total Numbers for the Science North / Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Events:

Sioux Narrows School: **16**

55+ Seniors Centre: **33**

Sportfishing Centre: **7**

Aspen Nature Walk: **6** Red Pine: **0** (Rain)

Total participants for SNNF: **62**

Thank you to Timothy Warner for his work in bringing this programming to our community.



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Report to Council

Council Meeting Date:	Tuesday, October 3, 2023
Prepared By:	Denise Lysak, Cultural Officer
Report:	
Proposed Bridge & Falls Cultural Series for 2024	
Tiny Studios, Creative Residency Program	
<p>In conversations with Wanda Kabel, I would like to suggest that we develop a hybrid model for the use of the tiny studios in Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls. For the month of July – the idea would be to curate a week long invite only residency for the IN THE WOODS studio in Nestor Falls. And, for the first two weeks in early July we would open up the ON THE WATER floating studio for a creative residency program – that follows the format we enjoyed pre-COVID. Additionally, we would open up the tiny studio in Nestor Falls in early August, for a one-week residency. All forms of residences would be programmed through an open call for applications/ and an invite only process that would be promoted and advertised in November 2023. BUDGET: \$12,500</p>	
Table Talk with Dee Lysak (March 2024 through to November 2024)	
<p>I would like to add to the media platforms that actively promote the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls and I am proposing to do this in two ways. A smaller season for the podcast: Table Talk with Dee Lysak, with six episodes written, recorded and published in 2024. These podcasts would also be available in written form, after they are published and would appear on a blog site on the SNNF website. This affords us the opportunity to create new content and to regularly update the website, driving more people to view it as they become accustomed to the practice of checking in more often. Additionally, I would like to pen four blogs; one per quarter that help to bring attention to the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. BUDGET: \$3,000</p>	



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Moose n' Fiddle Music Festival | 2024-2026

I would like to recommend that Mayor & Council approve in principle the return of the Moose n' Fiddle Music Festival for August 23 & 24, 2024 and in late August for 2025 and 2026. With this recommendation, I propose that we keep the same 2-day format and look at a budget that does not exceed \$77,500 in expenses and that projects revenues in the range of \$55,000 (with a mix of private donations, corporate sponsorships, government grants). This leaves an anticipated gap of \$22,500 per year and I am asking Council to support the Festival with a financial contribution that meets the shortfall. In reviewing actuals from this year and in year's past – our expenses have typically been \$18,000 to \$25,000 more than the revenues generated. I trust that the economic ripple effects that are enjoyed by small businesses, grocery stores, retail shops, and restaurants in the area...along with increased park revenues with campsite reservations at Caliper Lake Provincial Park and at times the Sioux Narrows Provincial Park – provide a rationale for continued investment and support of this much loved outdoor summer festival. Anecdotally, so many people expressed how happy they were that this “cool little Festival” had returned to Nestor Falls in August of 2023. I strongly believe we will continue to grow our numbers – should you decide to give a green light to this event!

BUDGET for 2024: Expenses (\$77,500) and Revenues (\$55,000)



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