

COUNCIL MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF COCKBURN ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING

5:00 PM, Wednesday, January 11, 2023

BY ZOOM AND IN-PERSON (HYBRID)

ZOOM LINK <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84639765880>

PRESENT:

Mayor: Brenda Jones  
Councillors: Lee Chappell (Zoom)  
Jeff House (Zoom)  
Simon Lacombe (Zoom)  
Scott Stewart  
Clerk: Brent St. Denis  
Absent: none

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5:00 PM

Call-to-Order by Mayor Jones.  
A quorum of the Council was present.  
Several ratepayers attended by Zoom  
Pecuniary interest declarations – none

Resolution # 23-01-01  
Moved: J House  
Seconded: S Lacombe

That the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 agenda be adopted as presented or amended as follows

CARRIED

Resolution # 23-01-02  
Moved: S Stewart  
Seconded: L Chappell

That the Minutes of the November 30<sup>th</sup> Final and November 30<sup>th</sup> Inaugural meetings be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**Action Items**

**Status of 3 Township laptops – no replies as of Jan 8<sup>th</sup>**

Resolution # 23-01-03  
Moved: L Chappell  
Seconded: S Stewart

That whereas no replies have been received for the surplus laptops as advertised for sale on the township website.

Now therefore be it resolved that since there were no bids as of today

- Advertise them for sale in the spring newsletter
- Retrieve them over the next month or two and have them wiped
- Post on the Friends of Cockburn Island Facebook page
- If a bid is received then Council can decide to proceed or not

CARRIED

### **Preliminary Budget discussion**

Resolution # 23-01-04

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: S Stewart

That the following items be considered for acquisition during the upcoming budget discussions

- ERP supplies such as stethoscope, glucose kit, pulse oximeter, auto blood pressure tester
- switch from Xplornet to Star Link (portable RV kit) to permit Zoom council meetings at the Hall (the usual location of the dish would be at the dock)
- paper and ink for council member printers
- and that we proceed to get more information on the Starlink RV kit. And that Quattra SCS be asked for advice. Or consider a home Starlink kit with booster.

CARRIED

**Discuss Fees, Rates and Charges** – consider inflation factor for 2023. It was 2% increase for 2022 – customarily the rate of increase covers dock fees, Huron machine charges, Clerk contract, PW wages, council honoraria etc.

NOTE- Canada's annual inflation rate was at 6.8% in November of 2022, easing slightly from the 6.9% in the prior month but above market expectations of 6.7%. For 2023 and beyond TD Bank suggests – "inflation has likely peaked in Canada and we expect further easing in price pressures in 2023 and 2024. This, in combination with higher interest rate sensitivity should provide a lower stopping level for the Bank of Canada on its rate hike cycle"

Resolution # 23-01-05

Moved: S Lacombe

Seconded: J House

That for the various fees, charges and rates the following across-the-board inflation adjustment for 2023 be planned

- wait to make a decision until after the final 2022 annualized inflation rate is known

CARRIED

### **Manitoulin Planning Board representative**

Resolution # 23-01-06

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Lacombe

That whereas Council is required to appoint a representative to the Manitoulin Planning Board (MPB) of which the township is a partner municipality  
 And whereas applications have been received from the following person(s) – one only from Robert Brown  
 Now therefore be it resolved that Robert Brown be appointed to the MPB and that arrangements be discussed with the him for an honorarium and/or mileage to assist with travel expenses/time.  
 And further that Rob Brown be allowed to keep the township laptop for the time being.

CARRIED

**Amend Procedural By-law #2022-12** – to add the **Deputy Mayor** position as agreed at the November 30<sup>th</sup> inaugural meeting by adding a section 2.6

Resolution # 23-01-07  
 Moved: S Stewart  
 Seconded: S Lacombe

That the Council Procedural Bylaw be amended to provide for a Deputy Mayor by adding a Section 2.6 which shall take effect as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The new section shall read as follows;

- ***“Deputy Mayor” shall be the councillor who obtained the highest number of votes among councillor candidates at the previous municipal election. If that councillor declines the position the council will select a Deputy Mayor by nomination and resolution. The Deputy Mayor shall act for the Mayor in the absence of the latter.***

CARRIED

**Financial Report**

- a) Disbursements since last meeting NCU #922 to #XXX) – list to be emailed by meeting
- b) Bank Statement Operating Accounts (to January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023)
- c) Bank Statement Dock Accounts (to January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023)
- d) Bank Statement Heritage accounts(to January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

**Northern Credit Union accounts as of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Account	Balance
<u>Dock Account 101</u>	\$7,398.37
<u>Heritage Account 102</u>	\$7,227.67
<u>Operating Account 100</u>	\$116,621.33

\* Interest rate= 4.45%      Total    \$131,247.37

Resolution # 2023-01- 08  
 Moved: L Chappell  
 Seconded: J House

That the Treasurer’s report on bank balances and the list of disbursement cheques numbered from #922 to # 939 be hereby received.

CARRIED

## Council Members' Concerns

- Council member Chappell mentioned he was happy with the council zoom meetings and thanked council member Stewart for the Air Table work. He proposed a zoom meeting to familiarize the entire council with the app.
- Council member House asked if the draft budget would include 2022 actual figures (the Clerk felt he would be able to do so) and he wondered if township maps could be available on the website.
- Council member Lacombe is interested in Air Table and he mentioned many ratepayers were unfamiliar with the township website.
- Council member Stewart offered to help brief council members on Air Table. He said the last mapping goes back to the 1960s and 1970s. He thought we should look at marina dock rates at other North Channel locations and possibly update ours. He offered to find some comparable rates.
- Mayor Jones suggested that since Alex is off-island for the winter that he might have a chance to obtain First Aid training. She thought that each member of Council should share information on ratepayer complaints so that coordinated responses could be made as appropriate. She mentioned we should have a policy on selling surplus assets.

## Clerk's Report

- a) Municipal Insurance review – schedule a review (by Zoom) with MIS representative in the new year – MIS review request has been submitted
- b) UPDATE -12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> (incl breakwall) – update on progress, financing, 2023 plans
- c) 2023 Dockmaster agreement – current one attached for consideration at a future meeting – the current version will be provided to Bev House as we prepare for the season – comments from council welcome
- d) Hall and NOHFC grant update - apprx \$23K claimed out of \$66K see next from 2011 notes
- e) Landfill, **MOE REPORT** 2011 ..... *The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) sent two officials (Mark Powell and David Shouldice) to examine the Township's landfill site. A report will be forthcoming but comments are expected on the following;*
  - *There is to be no burning of waste other than clean wood (and cardboard)*
  - *Paint cans and other hazardous waste should be properly stored and removed from the Island to an approved waste facility. A containment facility may be required. Hazardous waste should not be buried.*
  - *Roofing shingles should not be commingled with wood*
  - *The Ministry cannot locate a copy of the Certificate of Approval and has requested a copy from the Township records.*
  - *Improve signage (e.g., where to place tires) and gate*
  - *The landfill should last another 20-25 years if properly managed (apprx 2031-2036)*
- f) Sale of surplus walk-behind snowblower (\$650 received) - as discussed last fall.
- g) Consider designated place to burn - to get rid of wood and wood construction materials
- h) Annual Borrowing Bylaw at February meeting? – an annual event “just in case” – 2022 Borrowing Bylaw in council package
- i) AMP 3.0 update – Asset Management Planning – 100% grant through Municipal Finance Officers Association (MFAO)
- j) Partial list of relationships we have with other bodies – starter list attached for a future discussion

- k) Phragmites report – in council package – an FYI
- l) Manitoulin Fine Arts Assoc (MFAA) request for a donation

**Adjournment**

Resolution # 2023-01- 09

Moved: S Lacombe

Seconded: J House

That this meeting be now adjourned and that Council meet again by Zoom at 5 PM, Wednesday, February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 or at the call of the Mayor.
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CARRIED

Time – 6:57 PM