

CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALVIN  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017

The first regular meeting of Council for this year was held this date at the Calvin Community Centre. Present were Mayor Brown, Deputy Mayor Pennell, Coun Adams, Coun Edwards, Coun O'Connor, Ken Brewitt, Chris Whalley and Lynda Kovacs.

Regrets: 0

Guests: 5

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Brown

PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST:                      None Declared

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS:                              None

2017-008            MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Coun Edwards seconded by Coun Adams that the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on Tuesday January 10, 2017 be hereby adopted and signed as circulated.

Carried

2017-009            SCHEDULED CLOSED PORTION FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Moved by Coun Pennell and seconded by Coun O'Connor that a Closed Portion shall be scheduled and placed on the Agenda for the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday February 14, 2017 for the purpose of labour relations or employee negotiations pursuant to the Municipal Ac, Section 239 (2 (d) – (directives re: Deputy Clerk-Treasurer and staffing considerations for succession planning).

Carried

2017-010            BY-LAW NO. 2017-002 (ANNUAL BORROWING BY-LAW)

By-law No, 2017-002 received 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings and was finally passed before an open Council, this being a By-law to authorize the borrowing of funds, if necessary, to meet current expenditures until taxes are collected and other revenues are received and commonly called the Annual Borrowing By-law.

Carried

2017-011            BY-LAW NO. 2017-003 (AGREEMENT KIOSK ACCESS ALGONQUIN PARK)

By-law No. 2017-003 received 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings and was finally passed before an open Council. This being a by-law to ratify an agreement between the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin and Algonquin Provincial Park (Kiosk Access) for waste accepted at the Calvin Landfill Site for a period of five (5) years.

Carried

2017-012            BY-LAW NO. 2017-004 (AGREEMENT SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN PARK)

By-law No. 2017-004 received 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings and was finally passed before an open Council. This being a by-law to ratify an agreement between the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin and Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park for waste accepted at the Calvin Landfill Site for a period of five (5) years.

Carried

At this point in the meeting Mayor Brown read aloud a letter submitted by email to the Clerk-Treasurer on Thursday January 19, 2017 addressed to Mayor and Council from Dean Grant. "For the Record" the letter follows as written by Mr. Grant, as well as the response from each Member of Council;

*“Dear Councilors and Mayor*

*Over the last few months I have had the opportunity to learn a lot more about the municipality and how our local government works. I have had the opportunity to also talk with many of Calvin’s residents and hear their ideas and concerns. One thing that really stuck out is that people want to know more. And not just “he says she says” but what is actually said and talked about at our council meetings.*

*I’m requesting along with my supporters that all council meetings (including closed meetings) be recorded as official record and be made available online with the meeting minutes.*

*There are many advantages;*

*I’m not going to attempt to list or explain all the advantages but I will touch on a few.*

*Recording meetings will;*

- Protect councilors from the spread of miss information or untrue statements about what they said*
- Provide a way for elderly and other members of the community to participate if for medical reasons they cannot attend*
- Allow councilors or staff to stay informed and up to date if a meeting is missed*
- Act as a historical record for future review*
- Promote integrity in the municipal process*

*I would encourage all councilors to comment on the record to this request. There are other residents that often cannot attend meetings and want to hear or read in detail the outcome of tonight and future discussion on the topic.*

*Thank you, Dean Grant”*

For the Record response from Members of Council:

Coun Pennell:

*“The following is section 2.9 of our Procedural Bylaw:*

*2.9 Use of Audio/Video Equipment – The use of audio and video recording equipment during a Meeting is not permitted within the designated areas unless the Chair or the majority of the Council Members permit the use of such equipment or devices and it is not disruptive to the conduct of the Meeting at which the recording privileges are granted. Any and all audio/video recordings recorded other than by the municipality shall not, under any circumstances, be deemed to be official records.*

Let me start by saying that I have no concern at all that Council and/or any of our Municipal Staff are not operating professionally, responsibly and legally and servicing our residents to the best of our abilities.

I do my best to represent our Municipality’s residents and property owners.

We cannot record closed meetings because they contain confidential and/or privileged information that cannot be shared.

I really don’t believe there are that many residents that sit at home and wish they could come out to listen to a meeting. Perhaps in the winter it is more difficult to get out of the house but we have meetings in the summer as well. There is also a monthly newsletter that goes out to our residents and the official Council meeting minutes are included in that mail out. As well as these monthly newsletters our agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the Municipal website for people to read.

If this request is considered we would need to purchase some rather expensive equipment to make the recordings and have someone run it at the meetings. It would need to be good quality equipment so that the recordings were clear and legible. There will be some costs to this not just for the equipment but recording media, such as tapes as well.

Would we need to keep copies of the tapes as official audio recordings of our meetings for an undetermined period of time and store them somewhere securely (perhaps off site)?

There may also be costs for having recordings put online for such things as webpage changes, online storage and data transfer charges, for people downloading the recordings.

If the majority of Council would like to consider this request I would like to see what it will cost us to make and provide these recordings for equipment, time resources and online storage before we go any further. I would also like to determine if there are any legal ramifications of doing so.

I personally am not in favor of proceeding with this request.

Ian Pennell”

Coun O’Connor:

“RE: Letter From D. Grant

- I personally have not had any requests for more info RE: Council Meetings.
- All meetings, including closed meetings, are recorded and kept on file.
- All Councillors are presented with copies of minutes if they missed a meeting.
- I say things are fine the way they are.

Greg O’Connor”

Coun Adams:

“I agree with live stream video recording for entertainment purposes, for lack of a better word. But in my research, I am 100% sure paper recorded minutes are required always. Therefore the cost to record meetings and closed meetings would be somewhat of a waste to our tax base.

Corey Adams”

Coun Edwards:

“I have always encouraged the rate payers in Calvin to reach out to me regarding questions and concerns they may have. I have received these comments through email, phone calls, and through facebook. However, I have yet to receive any concerns in regards to closed portion meetings or the process in which meetings are recorded. I agree with the comments from my fellow councilors and clerk treasurer that the township has done its best to be transparent. Monthly newsletters are provided to all residents. Lynda explained that the notes provided outline the decisions made by council as per the Municipal Act. If rate payers have further questions, I encourage them to attend meetings, write letters and phone councilors. The use of social media has often misconstrued some of the topics and misquoted the issues presented at the council table. So again, I encourage Calvin residents to reach out to their elected officials for all of the details pertaining to certain issues. Thanks.

Anna Edwards”

Mayor Brown:

“I believe council meetings are being recorded in an unbiased, accurate and professional manner. Perhaps if council agrees, we can investigate the cost when time allows.

Wayne Brown”

2017-013        PRE-APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR TWO FIREFIGHTERS ATTENDING TRAINING COURSE  
Moved by Coun Edwards and seconded by Coun Adams that Council hereby authorizes that the two Volunteer Firefighters attending the two day Effective Communications & Report Writing course through Humber College, offered in Huntsville on February 6 & 7, are approved in advance for their expenses associated with mileage (shared vehicle), accommodation (shared room), and a \$50 per diem for meals for each of the two attendees as per By-law 2014-011.  
Carried

2017-014        DISBURSEMENTS  
Moved by Coun Adams and seconded by Coun Edwards that the disbursements dated January 17, 2017 in the amount of \$13,210.41 and January 19, 2017 in the amount of \$13,705.89 and January 24, 2017 in the amount of \$3,306.19 be hereby authorized and passed for payment.  
Carried

2017-015      ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Coun Pennell and seconded by Coun O'Connor that this regular Meeting of Council now be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Carried