

The Corporation of the Township of James

October 9, 2024.

The Regular Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Reeve Rodger Donaldson, Councillor Chris Cormier, Councillor Michael DeCarlo, Councillor Michelle Fiset and Councillor Steve McIntyre (via telephone) attended the meeting. Reeve Donaldson chaired the meeting. Myrna Hayes and Teri-Lynn Jibb were also in attendance along with members of the public.

**Cormier/De Carlo:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11/24 Regular Meeting.

**Carried.**

Councillor McIntyre & Councillor Fiset declared conflicts regarding Agenda Item #8.11.

**Cormier/De Carlo:**

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 22/24 Regular Council Meeting.

**Carried.**

**Cormier/Fiset:**

A motion to move 'in camera' at 7:07 p.m. to discuss recent developments regarding Ball Park Road.

**Carried.**

**Cormier/Fiset:**

A motion to move from 'in camera' at 7:20 p.m.

**Carried.**

**De Carlo/McIntyre:**

A motion to accept advice from the Township's legal counsel.

**Carried.**

**Cormier/De Carlo:**

A motion to retain Cathryn Pirie of Kemp Pirie Crombeen bring a claim of damage to Ball Park Road on behalf of the Township of James.

**Carried.**

Delegation: Ms. Jorge VanSlyke, CEO of Blanch River Health, accompanied by Chester Jobson, Chair of the Board of Directors at the Englehart Hospital.

- There is room to improve services.
- Doctor and other staff recruitments during COVID was difficult. The hospital had to be closed on one occasion as only 5 doctors remained on staff.
- All hospitals in the North are competing for doctors, nurses and other hospital staff.
- All hospitals are also facing financial shortages.
- In 2020 Englehart & Kirkland Lake hospitals joined. One CEO now works for both and is cost effective. Councillor McIntyre suggested that Temiskaming Hospital should be included and the three hospitals work together.
- Reeve Donaldson asked what municipalities can do regarding recruitment of medical staff.
- NOSOM has 6 students enrolled at present, but it is a very lengthy process. A partnership with NOSOM is in place, but there is no housing available. This is a huge problem.
- Councillor McIntyre asked if the hospital received Ontario funding during COVID.
- Ontario was good to the hospital during COVID. Most hospitals are now in financial trouble and must borrow from the Ministry of Health.
- Reeve Donaldson stated that the Para Services program does not allow employees to access patient records.
- There is a new medical records program being installed at a substantial cost to all users.
- Moving patients to/from medical facilities is very costly also. Chester Jobson added that TDSSAB took over ambulance services 5-6 years ago. The service is not working and has cost taxpayers millions to provide transportation services to patients.
- Councillor asked if volunteer drivers could be used?
- Volunteer drivers would be a challenge to organize and provide an efficient service.
- It is not all doom & gloom. Communities can volunteer in many ways. Please contact my office if you require additional information regarding the Blanche River Health Team.

Reeve Donaldson thanked Ms. VanSlyke and Mr. Jobson for attending the meeting and providing Council with information regarding Blanche River Health Team services.

Delegation: Adam Gibson, Public Works Foreman

- Engineered drawings are required to obtain a quotation for and in-floor cooling system.
- Quotes for the replacement of the skating rink boards have been requested.
- OCWA has completed the fall water hydrant flushing.
- Request for quotations for the light installation at the Pavilion have been made.

Adam was thanked for his report and stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

Reeve Donaldson informed Council that as a result of the Township's complaints regarding the mill's truck drivers, a new road c/w with portable toilets will be constructed by Interfor, on Interfor property parallel to the Industrial Park Road to provide overnight parking.

Reeve Donaldson also stated that flashing 'pedestrian walking' lights will be installed by MTO at both ends of the Montreal River Bridge.

**McIntyre/De Carlo:**

A motion to approve the Township's September 30/24 Treasurer's Report.

General Revenue Account Balance: \$1,434,028.07.

**Carried.**

**Fiset/Cormier:**

A motion to approve the ELCF September 30/24 Treasurer's Report.

General Revenue Account Balance: \$134,872.12

**Carried.**

**McIntyre/De Carlo:**

A motion to approve the payment of Township of James September/24 Accounts totaling \$357,941.22.

**Carried.**

**Fiset/Cormier:**

A motion to approve the payment of ELCF September/24 Accounts totaling \$5.00.

**Carried.**

**Cormier/Fiset:**

A motion to move forward with the sale of Lot 11 on Ontario Street to Ed Hakonson.

**Carried.**

**Cormier/Fiset:**

A motion to renew the winter snow removal contract with Connors Sand & Gravel for the 2024-2025 winter season.

**Carried.**

**Cormier/De Carlo:**

A motion to advise Ed Hakonson that the Township of James will not be using the Elk Lake Lodge as an emergency evacuation centre going forward.

**Carried.**

**Cormier/De Carlo:**

A motion to seek legal advice on options regarding the Township accepting funds from a non-profit or not-for-profit organization. Councillors McIntyre and Fiset declared a conflict regarding this issue.

**Carried.**

Councillor De Carlo reported on meetings he has attended during the month.

Montreal River System: water levels are normal.

Education: No schools can be closed in Ontario. French Public Board is willing to share services with the English Public Board.

**De Carlo/Fiset:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

**Carried.**