

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 24-01 (regular)

January 16th, 2024

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on January 16th, 2024, at 7:00 pm, in the Municipal Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 500 Highway 11, Mattice, Ontario.

Present:

- Mayor – Marc Dupuis
- Councilor – Steve Brousseau
- Councilor – Sophie Gagnon
- Councilor – Joyce Malenfant
- Councilor – Réginald Manning

Staff

CAO/Clerk – Guylaine Coulombe

Absent:

Treasurer – Annie Plamondon

1. Opening of meeting
The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

2. Approval of the Order of Business
The following items were added:
7.12 d) Fire Education Conference
11.2 Personal matters about an identifiable individual
- Resolution 24-01

3. Pecuniary interest
Councilor Brousseau declared an interest at item 7.1 a) and 7.10 2)
Councilor Manning declared an interest at item 7.5

4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council
Nil

5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meetings
- Resolutions 24-02 and 24-03

6. Treasurer’s report
- Nil

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support

- b) Township of Clearview – abandoned cemeteries transferred to Municipalities
 - Resolution 24-04

- c) City of Greater Sudbury – municipal responsibilities under the OHSA
 - Resolution 24-05

- d) Township of Conmee – Council members with criminal records
 - Resolution 24-06

- h) AMO – partnership between the province and municipalities
 - Resolution 24-07

- i) AORS – municipal equipment operator course
 - Resolution 24-08

- j) Settlement services – funding for 2025-2030
 - Resolution 24-09

The following requests for support were received and filed:

- a) Town of Orangeville – increasing Ontario Work rates
- e) Town of Aurora – concerns about terrorism and acts of violence
- f) City of Stratford – CEBA business loans
- g) Plant Based Treaty

7.2 Remuneration and travel disbursements – required changes were discussed (remuneration, daily allowances, meals, loss of salary issues, virtual meetings, attendance at conferences, etc.)

- Deferred

7.3 Invitations to NEOMA meeting and to FONOM conference

- Resolution 24-10

7.4 Northern Corridor Chamber of Commerce – Business Guide

- Resolution 24-11

7.5 Villeneuve – estimate for pavement replacement on Lemieux Street

- Deferred

7.6 Request for disclosure – report on the Claybelt Agriculture project

- Resolution 24-12

7.7 Aero Future Canada – testing drones in municipalities

- Resolution 24-13

7.8 Zoning By-law Amendment

- Resolution 24-14

7.9 Signs to be posted in Brisson Park – example submitted for Council’s consideration

- Agreed

7.10 2024 Missinaibi Carnival

- Resolution 24-15

7.11 Garbage collection schedule – after considering the report, Council opted for the status quo

- Agreed

7.12 Report on various items

a) Training/meetings

b) Information provided

c) Complaints received

- Filed

d) For Council’s consideration

i) Northeastern Fire Education Conference (NEFEC)

- Resolution 24-16

8. Mayor’s report

a) Verbal report of the PHU Finance committee meeting held virtually on January 15th, 2024

b) Verbal report of recent announcements re: Rotary donations to the Nord-Aski FHT

9. Councilors’ reports

A. Councilor Brousseau

- Nil

B. Councilor Gagnon

- Verbal report of the Hearst FMA meeting held in Hearst on December 13th, 2023

C. Councilor Malenfant

- Verbal report of the Foyer des Pionniers board meeting held in Hearst on December 14th, 2023

D. Councilor Manning

- Mentioned that the sign for the Lemieux Street project is down

10. By-laws

10.1 By-law no. 973

- Resolution 24-17

11. Caucus

- a) Caucus – Resolution 24-18
- b) Regular meeting – Resolution 24-19

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

- 12.1 MTO – winter highway maintenance
- 12.2 AMO – presentation pertaining to the need for a social and economic prosperity review
- 12.3 2024 pre-budget consultations by the province
- 12.4 Ontario Clean Air Alliance – renewable energy

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 24-01: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon
THAT the agenda, as amended, be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 24-02: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council’s regular meeting 23-17, held on December 13th, 2023 be hereby adopted.

Carried

Resolution 24-03: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council’s extraordinary meeting 23-18, held on December 22nd, 2023 be hereby adopted.

Carried

Abandoned cemeteries

Resolution 24-04: Joyce Malenfant – Réginald Manning

WHEREAS under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court of Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed, and;

WHEREAS over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc., and;

WHEREAS municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within their jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers, and;

WHEREAS cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable cost for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries, and;

WHEREAS the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the resolution made by Council of the Township of Clearview on December 11th, 2023, requesting that the Province, through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers: a) amend the FBCSA to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default

owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned; b) provide annual funding to municipalities, based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates, to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries; c) provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration and d) investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Clearview and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Carol Hughes.

Carried

Municipal responsibilities under the OHSA

Resolution 24-05: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction project to complete a project on Elgin Street in the city's downtown core, and;

WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act"), and;

WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian, and;

WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer, and;

WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial, the City was found to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time to time, and;

WHEREAS as a consequence, municipalities in Ontario, as well as other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites over which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor, and;

WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer, as that term is defined in the Act, in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor, disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the

Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province, and;

WHEREAS while the safety of workers is paramount, the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby supports Resolution CC2023-303 made by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury and requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of “employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the City of Greater Sudbury and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Carol Hughes.

Carried

Council members with
criminal records

Resolution 24-06: Steve Brousseau – Marc Dupuis

WHEREAS duly elected officials of a Municipality or Township are expected to be above reproach and to conduct themselves with integrity, truth, justice, honesty, transparency and courtesy, and;
WHEREAS there are people of dubious character who have a criminal record, having been convicted of a federal offence of any of the Federal Statutes of Canada, but not limited to the Criminal Code or Narcotic Control Act, who are currently on Council of a Municipality or have let their names stand for election for Mayor, Reeve or Councillor as a municipal candidate;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby supports Resolution 2023-0247 made by Council for the Township of Conmee to lobby the provincial government to amend The Municipal Act and the Municipal Elections Act, as may be, so that people with a criminal record, who have not had their record pardoned from the RCPM data base by order of the Governor General of Canada, be prohibited from becoming a candidate in municipal elections or holding office on municipal council and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT an elected local government official be disqualified from office upon conviction of a criminal offence and have to resign, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Conmee and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Carol Hughes.

Carried

Partnership with the province

Resolution 24-07: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life, and;

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year, and;

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation, and;

WHEREAS unprecedented population growth and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure, and;

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addiction crises, and;

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity, and;

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can’t afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need, and;

WHEREAS the province can and should invest more in the prosperity of communities, and;

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances in Ontario, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, to AMO and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Carol Hughes.

Carried

Municipal equipment
operator course

Resolution 24-08: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents, and;
WHEREAS if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen, and;

WHEREAS municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease, and;

WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté calls on the Province of Ontario’s Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, Mattice – Val Côté’s Member of Provincial Parliament Guy Bourgouin and the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.

Carried

Settlement services – funding

Resolution 24-09: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT a letter be provided to the Northeast Settlement Services, in the circulated format, to support their efforts at securing funding for the 2025-20230 period.

Carried

Invitations – NEOMA & FONOM

Resolution 24-10: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Councilor Malenfant attend the February 9th NEOMA meeting in Kapuskasing, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Councilor Malenfant and Councilor Brousseau, if available, attend the annual FONOM Conference to be held in Sudbury in May.

Carried

Business Guide

Resolution 24-11: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality contribute the sum of FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) DOLLARS towards the production of the Northern Corridor Business Guide, being half of the requested financial support, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT sponsors be sought out to cover the other half.

Carried

Claybelt agriculture project

Resolution 24-12: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
WHEREAS NeCN financed a study pertaining to agriculture opportunities in our area, and;
WHEREAS a comprehensive report is now available on the subject matter which contains highly sensitive information, and;
WHEREAS a non-disclosure agreement will need to be signed by all individuals who will receive a copy of the said report;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby requests that disclosure of the said report be made to the following authorized representatives:

- a) Marc Dupuis, Mayor and representative of the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté on the NeCN Board of Directors, mdupuis@matticevalcote.ca, and;
- b) Guylaine Coulombe, CAO/Clerk and alternate representative of the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté on the NeCN Board of Directors, gcoulombe@matticevalcote.ca.

Carried

Testing of drones

Resolution 24-13: Marc Dupuis – Steve Brousseau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby direct the CAO/Clerk to contact GTA Strategies to advise that Council is prepared to authorize the testing of Aero Future Autonomous Aerial Vehicles (drones) on its territory.

Carried

Zoning By-law Amendment

Resolution 24-14: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning

WHEREAS Council considered the proposal submitted by WSP to amend the Zoning By-law in order to address the issue of additional residential units and conform to provincial legislation, and;

WHEREAS the estimated fees amounted to NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY (\$9,760.00) DOLLARS, plus taxes and disbursements;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council not proceed with the said Zoning By-law amendment.

Carried

2024 Missinaibi Carnival

Resolution 24-15: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant

WHEREAS a number of requests pertaining to the 2024 edition of the Missinaibi Carnival were considered by Council;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT no additional fee will be charged should the canteen be installed in the lobby snack bar, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the use of the Val Côté Fire Hall as one of the snowmobile rallye pit stops is hereby permitted, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mattice fire truck and tanker be allowed to take part in the torch parade.

Carried

NEFEC

Resolution 24-16: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby authorizes the Fire Chief and another member of the Mattice – Val Côté Fire Department to attend the Northeastern Fire Education Conference to be held in Huntsville in March.

Carried

By-law no. 973

Resolution 24-17: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 973, being a by-law to authorize a tax levy before the adoption of the estimates for the year 2024, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 24-18: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into closed meeting at 9:07 pm to discuss labour relations and personal matters about an identifiable individual.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 24-19: Joyce Malenfant – Marc Dupuis

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 9:13 pm.

Carried

Maximum amount of disability benefits

Resolution 24-20: Sophie Gagnon – Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS the current maximum amounts for short-term and long-term disability benefits with Sunlife Financial date back to at least 2006;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the maximum amount of short-term disability benefits be increased to \$1,200 per week and that the maximum amount of long-term disability benefits be increased to \$5,000 per month.

Carried

First Response Team

Resolution 24-21: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby accepts the nomination of Chantal Chabot as a member of the First Response Team.

Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 at 7:00 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 24-22: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 974, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 9:25 pm

Resolution 24-23: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held on January 16th, 2024, be adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on February 7th, 2024

Mayor

CAO/Clerk