

**TOWNSHIP OF STRONG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
ON NOVEMBER 23, 2021  
AT 5:30 P.M.**

**NOTICE:** Due to physical distancing requirements, limited members of the public are permitted to attend Council meetings in person at this time. Please pre-register with the Clerk Administrator. Zoom Link to attend the virtual meeting is available on the website at <https://calendar.strongtownship.com/meetings>.

**Council Members Present:** Deputy Mayor Marianne Stickland (in person). Councillors Jody Baillie (in person), Jason Cottrell (in person), Jeff McLaren (in person).

**Council Members Absent:** Mayor Kelly Elik, with notice.

**Staff Present:** Chris Fraser, MLEO (in person 5:30PM – 6:45PM)

**Guest(s) Present:** None

**1.0 Meeting Declared Open at 5:30 PM by Deputy Mayor Stickland**

**2.0 Pecuniary Interest Declared**

None

**3.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**R2021-369**

**Moved by: Jody Baillie**

**Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong approve the November 23, 2021 meeting agenda, as circulated.

**Carried**

**4.0 Adoption of Minutes**

**4.1 R2021-370**

**Moved by: Jason Cottrell**

**Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong adopt the Minutes of the November 9, 2021 regular meeting, as circulated.

**Carried**

**4.2 Business Arising from Minutes**

The Clerk Administrator advised that the Tri/Bi-Council meeting agenda had been circulated to Council. Council's request to remove the Bi-Council meeting items was provided to the Village of Sundridge.

**5.0 Delegation**

None

**6.0 Comments/Communications/Correspondence**

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**6.1 Labour Market Group – October 2021 Newsletter**  
Received

**6.2 Tammy MacKenzie, CAO for DSSAB – Strategic Plan 2021-2026**

**6.3 Marilee Koenderink, Phragmites Working Group – 2021 Season Report & Road Management Resolution**

Deputy Mayor Stickland recommended the Public Works Superintendent review the resolution prior to Council consideration.

**R2021-**

**Moved By: Jason Cottrell                      Seconded by: Jody Baillie**

WHEREAS, *Phragmites australis* (*Phragmites*) is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to wetlands and beaches in areas around Almaguin including Lake Bernard.

WHEREAS, *Phragmites australis* grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighboring plant species; and

WHEREAS, *Phragmites australis* results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches; and

WHEREAS, roads and highways where *Phragmites* that are left untreated become spread vectors that continually risk new and treated wetlands and coastal shoreline areas; and

WHEREAS, invasive *Phragmites* has been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Ontario government has made it illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade invasive *Phragmites* under the Invasive Species Act

WHEREAS, according to "Smart Practices for the Control of Invasive *Phragmites* along Ontario's Roads" by the Ontario *Phragmites* Working Group, best road management practices for *Phragmites australis* include early detection, herbicide application, and cutting; and

WHEREAS, these best management practices are most effective when used in a multi-pronged approach as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures; and

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WHEREAS, Phragmites is found throughout the Almaguin Lakes and watershed area including Lake Bernard, with many stands of varying size, and multiple visible stands on the highways and roads that threaten valuable infrastructure and wetland areas; and

WHEREAS, volunteers, non-governmental organizations, and various municipalities have invested tens of thousands of dollars in investments and labour annually for executing managements plans to control invasive Phragmites on roads, shorelines and in wetlands; and

WHEREAS, Mother Nature does not recognize political boundaries. Therefore, it is imperative that Municipalities, Districts, the Province, and the Federal government work together in collaboration to eradicate Canada's worst invasive plant species Phragmites australis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Corporation of the Township of Strong directs its staff to implement best management practices to promote early detection of invasive Phragmites, and to implement best management practices for invasive Phragmites, and to join the Ontario Phragmites Working Group to collaborate on the eradication of Phragmites in Ontario.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Strong directs staff to insert clean equipment protocols into tenders and that there is oversight that the protocols are followed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Strong requests the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to map and treat invasive Phragmites annually on all its highways;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) communicates the strategy on mapping (detecting sites) and controlling invasive Phragmites on provincial highways, the specific highway management plans and results by each MTO region and each highway in the region and work in coordination with the Township of Strong.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Strong directs its staff to send this resolution to all municipalities that are part of the Almaguin Lakes and Watersheds, to the Minister of Transportation, Christopher Balasa the Manager, Maintenance Management, and MPP Norm Miller.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Township of Strong requests all levels of government to consider funding support to aid the Township in managing invasive Phragmites; and directs staff to send a copy of this

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resolution to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

**Deferred**

**6.4 Village of Sundridge – Request for Support re: Elimination of Single Use Plastics**

**R2021-371**

**Moved By: Jason Cottrell**

**Seconded by: Jody Baillie**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby received and read resolution #2021-321 regarding the use of single use water bottles; and

Hereby encourages staff, residents and visitors of the Township to not use single use water bottles where possible.

**Defeated**

**6.5 City of Vaughan – Request for Support re: Teen Driver Safety Week**  
Received

**6.5.1 Township of Alnwick/Haldimand – Support re: City of Vaughan Teen Driver**  
Received

**6.6 Municipality of Mattice-Val Côté – Request for Support re: Postponement of Property Assessment Update**  
Received

**6.6.1 Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Support for Municipality of Mattice-Val Côté**  
Received

**6.7 Barb Belrose, Chair for Central Almaguin Santa Claus Parade – Request for Funds**

Council already considered the request under R2021-080 (March 23, 2021) and R2021-099 (April 13, 2021).

**6.8 Celine Chiovitti, Executive VP: OMERS – Governance and Investment Strategy**  
Received

**6.8.1 MEPCO Communications – Response to Calls for OMERS Independent Review**  
Received

**7.0 Report of Committees**

**7.1 SSJ Recreation Committee – November 4**  
Received

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**7.2 Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Council – November 5**  
Received

**7.2.1 Letter from Joe Palocaren re: Physiotherapist at AHHC**  
Received

**7.3 Almaguin Community Economic Development Committee – November 15**  
Received

**7.3.1 Updated 2022 ACED Budget**  
Received

**8.0 Discussion Items**

**8.1 Operations Update – COVID-19**  
The Clerk Administrator provided a verbal update.

**8.2 Emergency Management Requirements**

**8.2.1 Table Top Exercise – Proposed Dates Dec 7-10**  
Received. The Clerk Administrator will discuss December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM with the CEMC.

**8.2.2 Emergency Management Program Committee  
R2021-372**

**Moved By: Jody Baillie                      Seconded by: Jason Cottrell**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby appoint the following officials of the municipality to the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG):

Mayor; Deputy Mayor; Clerk Administrator; Community Emergency Management Coordinator; Alternate Emergency Management Coordinator; Sundridge-Strong Fire Chief; Public Works Superintendent; Deputy Clerk/Emergency Information Officer; Treasurer/Tax Collector; Emergency Operations Centre Manager  
**Carried**

**8.3 Township of Strong - Statutory Holiday Policy  
R2021-373**

**Moved By: Jason Cottrell                      Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby reviewed Policy D-1.5 Statutory Holidays; and  
That section 7 be removed from this policy effective November 23, 2021.

**Defeated**

***Recorded Vote was requested by Councillor McLaren***

	<b><i>For</i></b>	<b><i>Against</i></b>
<b><i>Kelly Elik</i></b>	<b><i>Absent</i></b>	
<b><i>Jody Baillie</i></b>		<b><i>X</i></b>

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<i>Jason Cottrell</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Jeff McLaren</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Marianne Stickland</i>		<i>X</i>

**8.4 Chapman Strong Boundary – Bloomfield Community Centre  
R2021-374**

**Moved By: Jody Baillie                      Seconded by: Jason Cottrell**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby received By-law report dated November 9, 2021 regarding the disrepair of 'Bloomfield Community Centre' located on the unopened road allowance on Chapman Strong Boundary Road; and  
That Council for the Township of Strong hereby approve the contribution of 50% of the costs associated with removal, consistent to Boundary Agreement with the Municipality of Magnetawan 99-1391; and that  
The Council for the Township of Strong acknowledge the works being completed by the Municipality of Magnetawan on November 17, 2021 at a cost of no more than \$5000.00.

**Defeated**

***Recorded Vote was requested by Councillor Cottrell***

	<i>For</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Against</i>
<i>Kelly Elik</i>			
<i>Jody Baillie</i>	<i>X</i>		
<i>Jason Cottrell</i>			<i>X</i>
<i>Jeff McLaren</i>			<i>X</i>
<i>Marianne Stickland</i>	<i>X</i>		

**9.0 Staff Reports**

None

**10.0 Council Member Reports**

None

**11.0 Public Meeting/Notice**

None

**12.0 By-Laws**

**12.1 By-law 2021-040 Emergency Management Program for the Township of Strong  
R2021-375**

**Moved By: Jody Baillie                      Seconded by: Jason Cottrell**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed By-Law 2021-040 being a by-law to adopt an Emergency Management Program;

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And that the Council for the Township of Strong support this by-law and hereby authorize the Clerk and the Deputy Mayor to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto.

**Carried**

**12.2 By-law 2021-041 Emergency Management Plan for the Township of Strong**

**R2021-376**

**Moved By: Jody Baillie**

**Seconded by: Jason Cottrell**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed By-Law 2021-041 being a by-law to adopt an Emergency Management Plan;

And that the Council for the Township of Strong support this by-law and hereby authorize the Clerk and the Deputy Mayor to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto.

**Carried**

**12.3 By-law 2021-042 Staff Remuneration for 2022**

Deferred to the regular meeting on December 14, 2021.

**12.4 Council Remuneration By-law Review**

**R2021-377**

**Moved By: Jeff McLaren**

**Seconded by: Jason Cottrell**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby reviewed Council Remuneration By-law 2018-037; and Direct staff to bring forward a housekeeping update.

**Carried**

**13.0 Closed Session**

**R2021-378**

**Moved By: Seconded by:**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong enter into a Closed Session of Council as per the Municipal Act, C. 25, S.O. 2001 as amended, Section 239(2)(d) labour relations or employee negotiations; Wage Review; and Section 239(2)(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board member; Medical Centre Matter; at 7:07 p.m.

**Carried**

***The Council for the Township of Strong resumed the regular meeting of Council at 7:59 p.m. The Deputy Mayor reported that Council discussed the matters it was permitted to under the resolution authorizing the public exclusion.***

**14.0 Adjournment**

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**R2021-379**

**Moved by: Jason Cottrell**

**Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby adjourn the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m. until the special Tri-Council meeting scheduled on November 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**Carried**

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**Deputy Mayor Marianne Stickland**

**Clerk Administrator, Caitlin Haggart**