

**TOWNSHIP OF STRONG  
COUNCIL MEETING  
ON JULY 25, 2023  
AT 5:30 P.M.**

**NOTICE:** Zoom Link to attend the meeting virtually is available on the website at <https://calendar.strongtownship.com/meetings>.

**Council Members Present (in person):** Mayor Tim Bryson. Councillors Jeff McLaren, Kevin Noaik, Jim Ronholm and Marianne Stickland.

**Staff Present (in person):** Lois O'Neill-Jackson, Acting Clerk; Derek Hnatiuk, Interim Financial Manager

**1.0 Meeting Declared Open at 5:30 PM by Mayor Tim Bryson**

**R2023-311**

**Moved By: Jeff McLaren**

**Seconded by: Kevin Noaik**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby appoints Lois O'Neill-Jackson of VS Municipal Solutions, as the Acting Clerk for this July 25, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

**Carried**

**2.0 Pecuniary Interest Declared**

None.

**3.0 Adoption of Agenda**

**R2023-312**

**Moved by: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jim Ronholm**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong approve the July 25, 2023 regular meeting agenda, as circulated.

**Carried**

**4.0 Adoption of Minutes**

**4.1 R2023-313**

**4.2 Moved by: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong adopt the Minutes of the July 11, 2023 regular meeting, as circulated; and the Minutes of the July 11, 2023 special meeting, as circulated.

**Carried**

**4.3 Business Arising from Minutes**

None.

**5.0 Delegation**

None.

**6.0 Comments/Communications/Correspondence**

**6.1 AMO Policy Updates – Strong Mayor**

Received.

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**6.2 Dennis Johnstone, Chair, Sundridge Sunflower Committee – Request for Donation  
R2023-314**

**Moved By: Jeff McLaren                      Seconded by: Marianne Stickland**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby received and read the letter dated July 10, 2023 from the Sundridge Sunflower Committee; and  
Hereby approve a financial contribution of \$200 for the 2023 Sunflower Festival.

**Carried**

**6.3 Town of Parry Sound – Request for Support re: Call for Support to combat opioid, mental health and homelessness  
R2023-315**

**Moved By: Marianne Stickland    Seconded by: Jim Ronholm**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong has hereby received and read resolution 2023-079 dated June 6, 2023 from the Town of Parry Sound regarding a call of action to the Provincial and Federal government to provide additional resources to combat the opioid crisis, mental health and homelessness; and

That Council support this resolution as circulated; and further

That a copy of this support be forwarded to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, First Nations communities within the Parry Sound District, MP Scott Aitchison, MPP Graydon Smith, FONOM and AMO.

**Carried**

**6.4 FONOM – Request for Support re: Housing  
R2023-**

**Moved By:    Seconded by:**

WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial Governments need to support their most vulnerable households, the ones who are or are at risk of becoming homeless. Overall, housing and services for low-income, vulnerable, or marginalized people should be a primary consideration moving forward so we help those who need it the most.

WHEREAS the Township of Strong understands every community across Ontario is impacted by a need for affordable housing and support for people at risk of homelessness. Municipal governments are working in collaboration with all orders of government to invest in permanent solutions to the housing and homelessness crisis in Ontario.

WHEREAS the Township of Strong understands that the Federal National Housing Strategy allocation formula to provinces and territories for jointly funded housing initiatives, roughly follows their share of the national population. This approach leaves Ontario underfunded because, as per the 2021 Census figures, the number of Ontario households in Community Housing Network as a share of the national total is 44.1 percent, which is well above the provincial share of the national population at 38.5 percent.

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This is also by far the highest share of national Community Housing Network relative to every other province and territories.

WHEREAS receiving a by-population allocation from the federal government hampers Ontario's ability to reach more of those households in need that require assistance with housing.

WHEREAS the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.

WHEREAS a similar situation occurs with federal homelessness funding to Ontario through Reaching Home, where the share allocated to Ontario is also below the provincial share of Community Housing Network nationally.

WHEREAS there is an inequitable distribution of Reaching Home funding in Ontario as only 25 of 47 Service Managers have designated communities receiving funding under the program, despite the prevalence of need across the entire Province.

WHEREAS The Township of Strong understands the federal government takes the position that its role is to provide capital funding while Provinces and Territories are to fund operating expenses, but this approach does not create an equitable sharing of the burden of funding long-term operating costs, which continue for the life of a project.

WHEREAS taken altogether, the underfunding to Ontario for housing and homelessness relative to its share of national Canadian Housing Network amounts to approximately \$480 million over the term of the Federal National Housing Strategy.

WHEREAS the federal government previously provided leadership in ensuring the long-term financial and physical viability of the social housing stock under the Social Housing Agreement for several decades through federal social housing operating agreements that provided funding for both mortgages and operating costs.

WHEREAS without some flexibility on the part of the federal government, Ontario and its municipalities will be poorly positioned to take advantage of this funding, and this will turn into a significant missed opportunity, leading to a further deterioration in the long-term physical and financial sustainability of the community housing stock.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township of Strong also supports the provincial ask for federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township of Strong would appreciate the federal effort to repurpose this funding quickly from the main National Housing Co-Investment Fund program line, Service Managers across the province have indicated their challenges with meeting the terms of the federal proposal, particularly as they relate to cost matching and meeting the requirements for greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and accessibility.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Strong would like need-driven indicators incorporated into the funding allocation formulas for all federal programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Township of Strong appreciates the federal government's commitment to end chronic homelessness and wishes this to be inclusive across all areas of our province by expanding Reaching Home funding to all Service Managers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FONOM also supports the provincial position in relation to the provinces and territories Repair Fund under the National Housing Co-Investment Fund

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FONOM supports the Province of Ontario position on the application-based \$4 billion federal Housing Accelerator Fund. We wish to emphasize the importance of providing municipalities with maximum support in preparing applications to the HAF, understanding that some rural and northern municipalities may face capacity challenges in applying to this program on the anticipated tight timelines.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township of Strong wish to request that Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation consider actions taken by municipalities under the province's Housing Supply Action Plans into account when assessing municipal applications, recognizing that these initiatives have the potential to significantly increase the supply of housing in our communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township of Strong believes the lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township of Strong believes the federal government should heed the precedent of the Social Housing Agreement and recommit itself to funding operating costs that often stretch out over decades for the lifetime of a housing project. As an example, the Rapid Housing Initiative's 20-year affordability requirement and lack of federal operating dollars will very likely result in housing providers asking Service Managers and the provincial government to fund operating expenses to ensure the long-term affordability of units given housing providers' limited revenue-raising capacity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED This lack of ongoing federal operating funding for National Housing Strategy initiatives leads to significant underfunding for subsidized housing projects and can undermine the physical and financial viability of the community housing stock.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township of Strong urges the Federal Government provide additional funding for Ontario so that we can deal with our shortages of safe and affordable housing and at the same time build safer and healthier communities for all our residents.

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FURTHER IT BE RESOLVED THAT a Copy of the Resolution be forward to the individuals listed below for consideration and support, Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Ahmed Hussen, MP Scott Aitchison, Premier Ford, Minister Clark, MPP Graydon Smith, Leaders of the Federal and Provincial Opposition Parties, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

**Deferred**

**6.5 Phragmites Working Group – Request for Support re: MTO invasives spreading onto private and Municipal property  
R2023-316**

**Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jim Ronholm**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have received and read correspondence dated July 17, 2023 from Marilee Koenderink on behalf of the Phragmites Working Group; and  
Direct staff to provide a letter to the Ministry of Transportation to request management of invasive species located on the Highway 11 and 124 corridors which are expanding onto municipal and private property.

**Carried**

**6.6 DPSSAB July CAO Report**

Received.

**6.7 Labour Market Group – June Newsletter & May Job Report**

Received.

**6.8 NBPS District Health Unit – 2022 Audited Financial Statements & FIR**

Received.

**6.9 Bill Hubbert – Request for Zion United Church use of Pevensey Church  
R2023-317**

**Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jim Ronholm**

Be it resolved the Council for the Township of Strong receive the request from Bill Hubbert dated July 17, 2023 with thanks; and  
That the Zion United Church be permitted to make use of the Pevensey Church for a service on August 13, 2023 provided proof of insurance is submitted, and it is cleaned and secured after use.

**Carried**

**6.10 CN Rail – Declaration of Rail Safety Week 2023  
R2023-318**

**Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik**

WHEREAS Rail Safety Week is to be held across Canada from September 18 to 24, 2023;

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WHEREAS, 232 railway crossing and trespassing incidents occurred in Canada in 2022 resulting in 66 avoidable fatalities and 43 avoidable serious injuries;

WHEREAS, educating and informing the public about rail safety (reminding the public that railway rights-of-way are private property, enhancing public awareness of the dangers associated with highway rail grade crossings, ensuring pedestrians and motorists are looking and listening while near railways, and obeying established traffic laws) will reduce the number of avoidable fatalities and injuries caused by incidents involving trains and citizens; and

WHEREAS Operation Lifesaver is a public/private partnership whose aim is to work with the public, rail industry, governments, police services, media and others to raise rail safety awareness;

WHEREAS CN has requested the Township of Strong Council adopt this resolution in support of its ongoing efforts to raise awareness, save lives and prevent injuries in communities, including our Municipality.

**Carried**

**6.11 Comment Form – June 28 – July 19**

Received.

**7.0 Report of Committees**

**7.1 NBPSDHU Board of Health – April 26**

Received.

**7.2 Central Almaguin Planning Board – May 3**

Received.

**7.3 Sundridge Strong Union Public Library Board – May 18**

Received.

**7.4 Almaguin Community Economic Development Committee – May 25**

Received.

**7.5 Almaguin Community Economic Development Committee – June 29**

**7.5.1 2024-2026 Budget Projections**

**7.5.2 Letter of Support re: Rural & Northern Immigration Pilot  
R2023-319**

**Moved By: Jeff McLaren Seconded by: Marianne Stickland**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong has hereby received and reviewed correspondence dated July 17, 2023 submitted by Almaguin Community Economic Development regarding the Rural Northern Ontario Immigration Pilot; and Direct staff to submit a letter of support to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada for permanent implementation of this program.

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**Carried**

**7.6 SSJ Recreation Committee – July 6**

Received.

**7.7 SSJ Restructuring Committee – July 10**

Received.

**7.8 Municipal Road Network Advisory Committee – July 13**

**7.8.1 Amendment to MRNAC Terms of Reference  
R2023-320**

**Moved By: Jeff McLaren Seconded by: Marianne Stickland**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby received and read resolution R2023-004 from the Municipal Road Network Advisory Committee; and  
Hereby approve the Term of Reference amendment to include “five (5) members of the public representing various sectors of the Township.”

**Carried**

**7.9 Sundridge & District Medical Centre Committee – July 18**

Received.

**8.0 Discussion Items**

**8.1 Working Alone Policy Update re: Landfill  
R2023-321**

**Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jim Ronholm**

That the Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed Working Alone Policy C4.3 and Working Alone Procedure for Landfill #1; and

Hereby approve the changes as circulated but to strike the word union from the proposed changes.

**Carried**

**8.2 Approve Quotes re: Cemetery Tree Removal  
R2023-322**

**Moved By: Jim Ronholm Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

That the Council for the Township of Strong have the submitted quotations received for tree removal at Strong Cemetery and Berriedale Cemetery; and

Hereby accept the quote submitted by Ted Berry for \$13,850 + HST.

Prior to a vote on the above motion:

**R2023-323**

**Moved by Jim Ronholm**

That the Council for the Township of Strong defer the above matter.

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**Defeated**

A vote was then held on the original motion.

**Defeated**

**R2023-324**

**Moved By: Jeff McLaren**

**Seconded by: Marianne Stickland**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong approve Mayor Bryson reviewing the trees proposed for removal and reporting to staff.

**Carried**

**8.3 Approve Pre-Consultation for Severance – Con 10 Pt Lot 13 (Cottrell Rd)**

**R2023-325**

**Moved By: Jeff McLaren**

**Seconded by: Marianne Stickland**

That the Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the pre-consultation for severance for lands known as Concession 10 Part Lot 12 to create one lot approximately 14.5 acres and 148m frontage; and That Council hereby approve the pre-consultation in principle subject to the following conditions:

1. Copies of the draft survey be circulated to the Township of Strong Clerk and Central Almaguin Planning Board prior to registration;
2. If the survey reference plan confirms that any portion of the travelled road is located on the severed lot, the lands occupied by the travelled road including additional land measuring 10 m from the centerline of the travelled road be transferred to the Municipality as a road dedication;
3. That \$500 cash-in-lieu payment per lot created be paid to the Township;
4. That municipal property taxes owing be paid in full to date.

**Carried**

**9.0 Staff Reports**

**9.1 Brian Dumas, CBO – June Permit Report**

Received.

**10.0 Council Member Reports**

None.

**11.0 Public Meeting/Notice**

None.

**12.0 By-Laws**

**12.1 By-law 2023-027 Approve OILC Loan re: Micro-Surface Treatment  
R2023-326**

**Moved By: Jim Ronholm**

**Seconded by: Kevin Noaik**

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Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law 2023-027 being a by-law to approve an application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (OILC) to secure a loan for Micro-Surface Treatment;

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

**Carried**

**12.2 By-law 2023-028 Approve OILC Loan re: Motor Grader  
R2023-327**

**Moved By: Kevin Noaik Seconded by: Jim Ronholm**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law 2023-028 being a by-law to approve an application to Ontario Infrastructure and Lands Corporation (OILC) to secure a loan for the Motor Grader;

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

**Carried**

**12.3 By-law 2023-029 Enter into Tiered Response agreement – EMS and  
Sundridge-Strong Fire Department  
R2023-328**

**Moved By: Jim Ronholm Seconded by: Kevin Noaik**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have read By-Law 2023-029 being a by-law to authorize the execution of a tiered response agreement between the Parry Sound EMS and Sundridge-Strong Fire Department;

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

**Carried**

**12.4 By-law 2023-030 Municipal Reserves Policy – First Reading  
R2023-329**

**Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby give a first reading of By-law 2023-030, being a by-law to adopt a Municipal Reserves Policy.

**Carried**

Council took a short break at 7:26 p.m. Derek Hnatiuk left the meeting.

**13.0 Closed Session  
R2023-330**

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**Moved By: Jeff McLaren      Seconded by: Kevin Noaik**

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)(a) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, Municipal Road Network Advisory Committee Members; Section 239(2)(d) labour relations or employee negotiations, Landfill Staffing Matters; and Section 239(2)(f) advice that is subject to solicitor client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; Road Network Legal Opinion; at 7:33 p.m.

**Carried**

***The Council for the Township of Strong resumed the regular meeting of Council at 8:11 p.m. The Mayor reported that Council discussed the matters they were permitted to under the resolution authorizing the public exclusion.***

**R2023-331**

**Moved By: Kevin Noaik      Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby appoint the following community members to the Municipal Road Network Committee for the remainder of 2022-2026 Term

1. Ivan McGirr
2. Marlin Cox

**Carried**

**R2023-332**

**Moved By: Marianne Stickland      Seconded by: Jeff McLaren**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby discussed Oakridge Drive; and

Direct Staff to proceed with Options 1, 2 and 4.

**Carried**

**14.0 Adjournment**

**R2023-333**

**Moved by: Jim Ronholm      Seconded by:**

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby adjourn the regular meeting at 8:15 p.m. until the focused meeting scheduled on August 8, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

**Carried**