

**TOWNSHIP OF STRONG
COUNCIL MEETING
ON SEPTEMBER 26, 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 and Marianne Stickland.

Council Members Absent: Councillor Jim Ronholm (with notice)

Staff Present (in person): Kim Dunnett, Deputy Clerk; Derek Hnatiuk, Interim Financial Manager (Treasurer)

Staff Present (virtually): Lois O'Neill-Jackson, Acting Clerk

Public Present (in person): Christopher Brown, MMAH; Megan Grant, MMAH; Chuck Mugford, Kelly and Brian Gosbee

1.0 Meeting Declared Open at 5:30 PM by Mayor Tim Bryson
R2023-391

Moved By: Kevin Noaik Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

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 September 26, 2023 Regular Council Meeting.

Carried

2.0 Pecuniary Interest Declared

The following declaration was filed with the Clerk:

I, Timothy Lewis James Bryson, declare a pecuniary interest in item 5.3 and 8.1 on the September 26, 2023 Council agenda. I am making this declaration because it is my business application to use the road allowance. I confirm that I will not vote on the matter, I will not take part in discussion on any question in respect of the matter, and I will not attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question.

3.0 Adoption of Agenda
R2023-392

Moved by: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong approve the September 26, 2023 regular meeting agenda, as circulated.

Carried

4.0 Adoption of Minutes

4.1 R2023-393

Moved by: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong adopt the Minutes of the September 12, 2023 meeting, as circulated.

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Carried

4.2 Business Arising from Minutes

None.

5.0 Delegation

**5.1 Christopher Brown, Senior Planner, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Land Use Planning
R2023-394**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby receive the delegation from Christopher Brown, Senior Planner, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Megan Grant, Team Lead - Planning, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, regarding Land Use Planning.

Carried

Christopher Brown and Megan Grant left the meeting.

5.2 Kelly Gosbee – Economic Development

R2023-395

Moved By: Jeff McLaren Seconded by: Marianne Stickland

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby receive the delegation from Kelly Gosbee regarding Economic Development, with thanks;

AND direct staff to provide a staff report on the Gosbee file to be brought back to the next regular meeting.

Carried

Council took a brief 10 minute break and Kelly Gosbee left the meeting.

5.3 Tim Bryson – Use of Unopened Road Allowance

Deputy Mayor Jeff McLaren assumed the Chair

R2023-396

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby receive the delegation from Tim Bryson regarding Use of Unopened Road Allowance, with thanks.

Carried

Mayor Bryson resumed the Chair.

6.0 Comments/Communications/Correspondence

6.1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Building Faster Fund

Received.

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6.2 AMO Policy Update – Cabinet Shuffle, Municipal Risk
Received.

**6.3 Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing –
Housing Affordability Task Force Recommendations**
Received.

6.4 Labour Market Group – July Jobs Report & August Newsletter
Received.

**6.5 FONOM – Support Northern School of Medicine
R2023-397**

Moved By: Jeff McLaren Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Strong recognized the urgent need for physicians in Northern Ontario as it is experiencing a shortage of trained physicians and specialist physicians;

WHEREAS life expectancy of Northern residents is more than two years lower than the Ontario average, and mental health and addictions are at a four-times higher rate;

WHEREAS one in eight Northern residents does not have access to a family doctor, and many must travel long distances to access healthcare services representing the failure of healthcare in Northern Ontario;

WHEREAS communities in Northern Ontario require access to equitable health care, especially underserved rural, Indigenous, and Francophone communities;

WHEREAS in April of 2022, the Government announced an unprecedented medical expansion for NOSM University's medical programs;

AND WHEREAS the current base funding rates for the Northern School of Medicine University (NOSM) have not been increased sufficiently to accommodate growth and expansion;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Township of Strong strongly requests the Provincial Government grant NOSM University's request for a permanent increase in annual base funding by \$4.0 million before the end of this fiscal year so it can continue to deliver on the mandate that the Conservative Government initially established in response to the needs of Northern municipalities;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones, Minister of Colleges and Universities Jill Dunlop, MPPs Greg Rickford, Vic Fedeli, George Pirie, Ross Romano, Kevin Holland, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Northern Ontario School of Medicine University, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Northern Ontario Academic Medicine Association and the leaders of the opposition parties of Ontario.

Carried

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**6.6 Municipality of Magnetawan – Request for Support re: Highway Closures
R2023-398**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby received and read resolution 2023-272 dated September 13, 2023 from the Municipality of Magnetawan requesting the MTO reconsider policy regarding OPP attendance at community event highway closures; and That Council support this resolution as circulated; and further This resolution be circulated to the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, MPP Graydon Smith, MP Scott Aitchison, and the Ministry of Transportation.
Carried

**6.7 Stephen O'Donnell and Judy Arai – Letter re Renovation Building Permit
R2023-399**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby received and read correspondence dated September 16, 2023 submitted by Stephen O'Donnell and Judy Arai regarding renovation building permit; and That this letter be referred to the Joint Building Committee for their inclusion on the next regular agenda.
Carried

6.8 Comment Forms – Sept 11

**6.8.1 No Parking Signage on South Lake Bernard Road
R2023-400**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby approve “No Parking” signage to be erected on one side of the road, as approved by the Municipal Operations Coordinator, to the west of the hill/curve on South Lake Bernard Road approaching the Pool Lake Public Boat Launch.
Carried

7.0 Report of Committees

7.1 Central Almaguin Planning Board – June 7
Received.

7.2 NBPS Board of Health – June 28
Received.

7.3 Almaguin Community Economic Development Committee – July 27
Received.

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- 7.4 Almaguin Community Economic Development Committee – August 23**
7.4.1 RED Gala – October 27th – Approve Attendees
R2023-401
Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren
Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby approve the following members to attend the ACED RED Gala on October 27, 2023:
1. Tim Bryson
Carried
- 7.5 Sundridge & District Medical Centre Committee – August 29**
Received.
- 7.6 Sundridge & District Medical Centre Committee – September 19**
7.6.1 Authorize Mayor to sign SDMC Employee Agreement
R2023-402
Moved By: Kevin Noaik Seconded by: Jeff McLaren
Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby received and read the Final Sundridge and District Medical Centre Employee Agreement; and
Hereby authorize the Mayor to sign this agreement and affix the seal thereto.
Carried
- 7.7 Municipal Road Network Ad Hoc Committee – August 31**
Received.
- 7.8 Almaguin Highlands Health Council – September 7**
Received.
- 7.9 SSJ Recreation Committee – September 7**
Received.
- 7.10 SSJ Restructuring Committee – September 11**
Received.
- 7.11 Draft Financial Statements – Village of Sundridge re: Fire Department, Medical Centre and Library**
R2023- 403
Moved By: Jeff McLaren Seconded by: Kevin Noaik
Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have received and read the 2022 Draft Financial Statements for the Sundridge-Strong Fire Department, Sundridge Strong Union Public Library, and the Sundridge and District Medical Centre, as provided by the Village of Sundridge.
Carried

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8.0 Discussion Items

8.1 Unopened Road Allowance Agreement – Between Con 4 and Con 5, Lot 1

Mayor Tim Bryson left the Council Chambers and Deputy Mayor Jeff McLaren assumed the Chair

R2023-404

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong approve the application as presented by Tim Bryson Forestry for temporary logging access including brushing and minor gravelling of the unopened road allowance between Con 4 and Con 5, Lot 1, in principal pending all conditions being met.

Carried

Mayor Bryson returned to the Council Chambers and resumed the Chair.

**8.2 Application for Purchase of Shore Road Allowance – Con 4 Pt Lot 15
R2023-405**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby receive the application as presented by Tom and Wanda Phillips to purchase shore road allowance abutting the property located at 143 Birch Lane (Con 4 Pt Lot 15 Plan M69 Lot 10); and

That Council support this application in principle and authorize the Clerk Administrator to proceed with the sale of the shore road allowance.

Carried

**8.3 Application for Consent – Con 1 Pt Lot 7
R2023-406**

Moved By: Kevin Noaik Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby invite Chuck Mugford to speak as an unscheduled delegate, pursuant to Procedural By-law 2011-08 section 7.8 regarding agenda item 8.3.

Carried

R2023-407

Moved By: Jeff McLaren Seconded by: Marianne Stickland

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby receive Staff Report 2023-024 regarding Mugford Consent Application for Con 1 Pt Lot 7; and

Hereby direct staff to proceed with Option 1;

AND adopt the recommendations of FRICorp requiring a minimum setback of at least 30 meters from the full extent of top of bank, from

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Sterling Creek, conclude pre-consultation and submit this resolution to the CAPB for consent.

Carried

Chuck Mugford left the meeting.

**8.4 Application for Zoning Amendment – Con 5 Pt Lot 13
R2023-408**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby receive Staff Report 2023-025 regarding Edan pre-consultation application for Zoning By-law Amendment for lands known as Con 5 Pt Lot 13 (1057 High Rock Drive); and

Hereby direct staff to proceed with Option #1 but with inclusion of a liability disclaimer regarding the well within the ZBA.

Carried

**8.5 Royal Canadian Legion – Remembrance Day Wreath
R2023-409**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby purchase a wreath in the amount of \$65.00 for the Royal Canadian Legion BR 467 to be laid at the Remembrance Day service on November 11.

Carried

**8.6 Service Delivery Review – Approve Survey Questionnaire
R2023-410**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby reviewed the proposed Strong Service Review resident survey; and Hereby authorize staff to proceed with the survey both virtually and paper copy in the following month: February 2024, budget dependent, and for now receive it with thanks.

Carried

9.0 Staff Reports

9.1 Derek Hnatiuk, Interim Finance Manager

**9.1.1 Accept O.Reg 284/09 2023 Report
R2023-411**

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

WHEREAS generally accepted accounting principles for local governments established by the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada require municipalities to capitalize and amortize tangible capital assets, and to accrue liabilities related to post-employment and solid waste landfill closure and post-closure expenses;

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AND WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 284/09 states that a municipality may exclude these expenses from budgeted amounts for which revenue must be raised;

AND WHEREAS if excluded, Ontario Regulation 284/09 requires Councils, prior to approving a municipal budget, to adopt a report that shows the impact of fully covering these expenses;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Strong approves the report entitled "Municipal Act, 2001 Ontario Regulation 284/09, 2023 Budget", attached hereto.

Carried

9.1.2 Financial Summary Report – January to August 2023

R2023- 412

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong receive Report No. 2023-026 Financial Summary Report – January to August 2023 for information purposes, and

Hereby direct staff to bring a tax collection policy to the next regular meeting along with a staff report listing Strong owned real estate free holds.

Carried

R2023- 413

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby extend curfew beyond 9:30PM, pursuant to Procedural By-law 2011-08 section 16.13.

Carried

R2023-

Moved By: Seconded by:

Whereas the Township of Strong Procurement By-law 2021-012 provides Council with ultimate authority for expenditures through budgets and specific resolution; and

Whereas this by-law does not include policy around operating budget overages that are not considered emergency purchases, other than specific resolutions of approval; and

Whereas any given year operating budget overruns are unpredictable and unavoidable due to unexpected events or equipment failures and impact service delivery; and

Whereas Council has been provided with all current operational over budget accounts for the Township of Strong 2023 budget;

Therefore be it resolved that the Clerk Administrator be authorized to approve expenditures in the over budget operating accounts to a total maximum of 5% of the 2023 general tax levy; and

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Further that the Clerk Administrator will provide a report to Council monthly for the remainder of the year.

Deferred

**9.1.3 2024 Proposed Budget Timeline and Survey
R2023-414**

Moved By: Jeff McLaren Seconded by: Marianne Stickland

That the Council of the Township of Strong take the following actions with respect to the 2024 Budget Process as set out in report #2023-027 dated September 26, 2023:

- a. Approve the 2024 Budget Process Timetable as set out in Appendix A, and broken down into regular meeting dates;
- b. That this report be sent to Council's local Boards and Committees to inform them of the earlier start to the Budget Process and request their 2024 Budget estimates to be provided to the Treasurer by January 31, 2024;
- c. For Council to provide feedback to the Clerk-Administrator on the proposed Budget Survey, attached as Appendix B, to be released in October on the Township website and social media accounts.

Carried

9.2 Brian Dumas, Chief Building Official

9.2.1 July 2023 Permit Report

Received.

9.2.2 August 2023 Permit Report

Received.

10.0 Council Member Reports

10.1 Mayor Tim Bryson

10.1.1 Council Meeting Schedule

R2023-415

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby discussed the Council meeting schedule for the remainder of 2023; and

Go back to two regular meetings per month with an expectation of at least one special focused meeting per month date to be determined at the next regular.

Carried

10.1.2 Staff/Volunteer Recognition Event

R2023-416

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

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Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby discussed a Staff/Volunteer Recognition Event; and hatch it out at a later date.

Carried

11.0 Public Meeting/Notice

None

12.0 By-Laws

None

13.0 Closed Session

None

14.0 Adjournment

R2023-417

Moved by: Jeff McLaren Seconded by:

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby adjourn the regular meeting at 10:01 p.m. until the special budget meeting scheduled on October 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., or at the call of the Mayor.

Carried

Mayor, Tim Bryson

Clerk, Lois O'Neill-Jackson