

**TOWNSHIP OF STRONG
COUNCIL MEETING
ON OCTOBER 22, 2024
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: Mayor Tim Bryson. Councillors; Jeff McLaren, Kevin Noaik, Jim Ronholm and Marianne Stickland.

Staff Present: Derek Hnatiuk, Treasurer

Guests Present (in person): Sarah Desjardins, Joanne Nichols (guests vacated the room during Closed Session)

Guests Present (virtual): “Wendy”, “Samsung”, “Meeting Partipant”, “Jim_2”, James Gross, “Louise”, Lois Brisbois, “Kottall”, “Cindy”, “Karl”, “LAR” (all virtual guests were placing in Waiting Room during Closed Session)

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

2.0 Pecuniary Interest Declared

None

3.0 Adoption of Agenda

R2024-335

Moved by: Marianne Stickland

Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong approve the October 22, 2024 meeting agenda, as amended.

Move Item 13.1 and 8.1 to after 5.0 (Land Sale)

Carried

4.0 Adoption of Minutes

4.1 R2024-336

Moved by: Kevin Noaik

Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong adopt the Minutes of the October 8, 2024 regular meeting, as circulated

Carried

4.2 Business Arising from Minutes

None

5.0 Delegation

None

13.0 Closed Session

R2024-337

Moved by: Jeff McLaren

Seconded by: Marianne Stickland

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)(c) a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the municipality or local board; Surplus Property Sale Files File 2024-01SP; File 2024-02SP; File 2024-03SP; File 2024-04SP; File 2024-05SP; at 5:36 p.m.

Carried

The Council for the Township of Strong resumed the regular meeting of Council at 6:03 p.m. The Mayor reported that Council discussed the matters they were permitted to under the resolution authorizing the public exclusion.

8.0 Discussion Items

8.1 Approve Bid for Surplus Property Sale [R]

8.1.1 File 2024-01SP (Rodeo Road)

8.1.2 File 2024-02SP (Muskoka Road)

8.1.3 File 2024-03SP (Birch Lane)

8.1.4 File 2024-04SP (High Rock Drive)

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8.1.5 File 2024-05SP (Stirling Falls Road)

R2024-338

Moved By: Kevin Noaik Seconded by: Marianne Stickland

Be it resolved that Council for the Township of Strong hereby approve bids for the following properties:

File 2024-01SP (Rodeo Road)

Bid Amount \$150,000 Bidder Sarah and Mark Desjardins;

File 2024-02SP (Muskoka Road)

Bid Amount _____ Bidder _____; No bids received

File 2024-03SP (Birch Lane)

Bid Amount \$35,000 Bidder Dan Romano;

File 2024-04SP (High Rock Drive)

Bid Amount \$10,000 Bidder Dellandrea's and Van Meer's;

File 2024-05SP (Stirling Falls Road)

Bid Amount _____ Bidder _____ No bids received
Carried

6.0 Comments/Communications/Correspondence

6.1 AMO Policy Update – Province to Introduce Legislation Governing Bicycle Lanes

Received

6.2 FONOM – Request for Support re: 2025 Ontario Budget support Ontario Forest Industry

R2024-339

Moved By: Jim Ronholm Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

WHEREAS, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)

recognizes how vital the Forestry Industry is to the Economy in Ontario;

WHEREAS, the success of the forest sector is critical to the economic and social prosperity of Ontario communities, employing 137,000 people;

WHEREAS, the forest industry has invested over \$3.8 billion in Ontario since 2018;

WHEREAS, Ontario has an opportunity to market global investment in the bioeconomy, similar to critical minerals and electric vehicle manufacturing, and become a leading international jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, the North American pulp and paper sector has seen a significant rationalization in production capacity, with investment dollars going to competing international jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, in the last year, Ontario has seen three pulp, paper, and containerboard mills idle or close, negatively impacting communities and the solid wood mills that depend on these facilities as markets for mill by-products and pulpwood;

WHEREAS, U.S. tariffs on softwood lumber are expected to double in 2025, to approximately 30%;

WHEREAS, Ontario should work with federal colleagues to pursue a softwood lumber settlement that works in the best interests of Ontario lumber producers and advocate for a financial backstop;

WHEREAS, Ontario has an opportunity to procure greater amounts of energy (i.e., electricity, heat, fuels, biochar, etc.) from forestry by-products and forests to assist in heavy industry decarbonization and Ontario's forecasted electricity demands;

WHEREAS, Ontario's successful and oversubscribed Forest Biomass Program should continue post-2027;

WHEREAS, Ontario will actively seek investment to restart idled softwood kraft lines in Ontario and Quebec to provide immediate relief for some sawmill producers;

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WHEREAS, Ontario's \$10 million Sawmill Chip Program, ending March 25, 2025, will likely need to continue and expand in the absence of an immediate restart of a currently idled pulp mill to avoid curtailments at solid wood facilities;

WHEREAS, 5-year bilateral power purchase agreements (PPAs) with forest biomass-fired electrical generation facilities are insufficient and should be expanded both in terms of length and volume to provide communities, industry, and workers with a certain future;

WHEREAS, the public Forest Access Roads Funding Program, which provides for the public use of Ontario's forests, should be increased to \$75 million/year to reflect inflationary pressures and support legacy infrastructure upgrades (i.e., roads, bridges, and water crossings).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) support the implementation of the Ontario Forest Industries Association's 2025 Ontario Budget Recommendations in support of attracting investment and maintaining forest operations and employment in Ontario.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Minister Vic Fedeli, Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Minister Graydon Smith, Natural Resources, Associate Minister Kevin Holland, Forestry and Forest Products, Minister Andrea Khanjin, Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister Todd McCarthy, Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister George Pirie, Mines, Minister Steven Lecce, Energy and Electrification, Associate Minister Sam Oosterhoff, Energy Intensive Industries, Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, Finance, Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP Graydon Smith, the leaders of the Opposition Parties, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA, and OFIA.

Carried

6.3 Township of Puslinch – Support for City of Quinte West resolution re: Canada Community-Building Fund R2024-340

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jim Ronholm

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have hereby received correspondence dated October 10, 2024 from the Township of Puslinch regarding support for City of Quinte West resolution - Canada Community-Building Fund; and further

The Township of Strong Council supports the resolution from the City of Quinte West, that Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly and that MPP Graydon Smith be copied on the correspondence.

Carried

6.4 District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board – October CAO Report

Received

6.5 Labour Market Group – August Jobs Report; September Labour Focus

Received

7.0 Report of Committees

7.1 Sundridge & District Medical Centre Committee – September 17

Received

7.2 SSJ Recreation Committee – October 3

Received

7.3 Almaguin Highlands Health Council – October 3, October 10 Special Meeting

7.3.1 AHHC Resolution re: Support for MAHC Multi-Site Proposal

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Council deferred pending updated resolution passed at the October 10 Special Meeting.

R2024-341

Moved By: Jim Ronholm Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby receives and supports resolution 2024-27 dated October 3, 2024 from the Almaguin Highlands Health Council regarding its commitment to the health of our residents proudly supports, in principle, the Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) proposal to develop a multi-site regional hospital, recognizing profound and far-reaching benefits for the people of the region; and further

That staff be directed to forward this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound Muskoka, and all municipalities within the MAHC catchment area.

Deferred

8.0 Discussion Items

8.1 See after item 5.0

8.2 Draft Emergency Management Plan

R2024-342

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Kevin Noaik

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have received the Draft Emergency Management Plan; and

Hereby approve the plan, in principle, and direct staff to prepare the required by-law for adoption.

Carried

8.3 Application for Consent – Right of Way: 1126A South Lake Bernard Road

R2024-343

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have reviewed the pre-consultation application for consent to create a legal right-of-way for lands known as 1126A South Lake Bernard Road, legally described as Lot 4 Plan M-258; and the MHBC Planning Memo dated October 18, 2024; and

That Council for the Township of Strong approve the application in principal for an easement across Lots 4, 5 and 6, of Plan M-258. The proposed easement located on Lot 4 is approximately 20 metres wide and will provide access to Lots 5 and 6 along South Lake Bernard Drive; with the following conditions:

1. The usual conditions of the Central Almaguin Planning Board
2. The owner of Lot 6 to purchase the Shore Road Allowance (SRA) prior to registration of the right-of-way;
3. The Township of Strong be provided with a copy of the survey showing the easement; and
4. The applicant convey to the Township of Strong \$500 cash-in-lieu of parkland.

Carried

9.0 Staff Reports

9.1 Derek Hnatiuk, Treasurer

9.1.1 Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance Program Update re: June Washouts

R2024-344

Moved By: Marianne Stickland Seconded by: Jeff McLaren

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby receive Staff Report 2024-059 regarding updated funding

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requirements for the June 23, 2024 road washouts as at October 22, 2024 including Appendix A, B, C and D; and
Hereby direct staff to proceed with option 2 on a road by road basis.
Carried

10.0 Council Member Reports

Mayor Bryson requested an updated report on Township of Strong Vacant Land; and provided an update on Lake Level Engagement Survey Results.

Councillor Ronholm requested that a pedestrian path on Lakeshore Drive be discussed during the 2025 Capital Budget.

11.0 Public Meeting

None

12.0 By-Laws

**12.1 2024-024 Agreement with OPP for Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Services
R2024-345**

Moved By: Kevin Noaik

Seconded by: Jim Ronholm

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong have read By-law 2024-024 being a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police for the provision 9-1-1 Primary PSAP Services effective January 1, 2025; 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

13.0 Closed Session

See after Item 5.0

14.0 Adjournment

R2024-346

Moved by: Kevin Noaik

Seconded by:

Be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Strong hereby adjourn the regular meeting 7:10 p.m. until the regular meeting scheduled on November 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., or at the call of the Mayor.

Carried

Mayor, Tim Bryson

Caitlin Haggart, Clerk Administrator