

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 24-06 (regular)

April 8th, 2024

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on April 8th, 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

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:

7.8 d) iii) SFX Parish – curling hall rental

vii) Construction permits – doors and windows

- Resolution 24-60

3. Pecuniary interest

Nil

4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council

Nil

5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meetings

- Resolutions 24-61 and 24-62

6. Treasurer's report

2024 Budget – draft copy to be reviewed by the Finance Committee on April 17th next, at 6:30 pm

- Agreed

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support

- a) Town of Lincoln – increased funding to libraries and museums
 - Resolution 24-63

- d) Township of Asphodel-Norwood – closure of public health laboratories
 - Resolution 24-64

- e) Township of Clearview – support for Bill C-63
 - Resolution 24-65

- f) County of Prince Edward – funding to meet accessibility standards
 - Resolution 24-66

The following requests for support were received and filed:

- b) Township of Adelaide Metcalfe – increase of tile drain loan limit
- c) Town of Whitby – support for OEB decision to end gas pipeline subsidy
- g) Town of Shelburne – eradication of racism (islamophobia and antisemitism)
- h) City of Brantford – carbon tax and the home energy retrofit rebate

7.2 OCWA – Annual Operations Reports for Mattice and Val Côté sewage systems and lagoons

- Resolution 24-67

7.3 Ceiling tiles – details pertaining to the extra work performed

- Filed

7.4 NG911 Options

- Resolution 24-68

7.5 FoodCycler Program – Council is willing to proceed with a maximum of 20 devices. CAO to verify whether that is an option.

- Deferred

7.6 Lakeshore Capacity Assessment – CAO provided Council with clarifications pertaining to the results format and validity duration. Waiting on another estimate and for information on the Lake Partner Program.

- Deferred

7.7 Open discussion amongst Council members about the future of the Sports Complex ice rink

- Deferred

7.8 Report on various items

b) Information provided

- ii) Council not looking for the most or for the least expensive floor covering in what used to be the gym. Middle-range.

- Agreed

d) For Council's consideration:

- i) Contest to name the community park – CAO to send all proposals by email and Council members to select top 5. Council as a whole might then be in a position to select one.

- Agreed

- ii) SFX Parish request for chairs – Council will lend chairs for the 100th anniversary celebration

- Agreed

- iii) SFX Parish – curling hall rental

- Resolution 24-69

- iv) Municipality 50th anniversary in 2025 – ongoing discussion pertaining to promotional items

- Deferred

- v) Bids for painting the community hall – an extraordinary meeting will be scheduled for April 17th next to select the successful bidder

- Agreed

- vi) Proclamations - no need to bring back a request for proclamation that has previously been denied

- Agreed

- vii) Construction permits – windows and doors – for the reasons outlined, these will no longer be required

- Agreed

8. Mayor's report

The Mayor now chairs the PHU's Finance Committee.

The Mayor mentioned that some members of the PHU Board of Directors are opposed to the merger.

9. Councilors' reports

A. Councilor Brousseau

- Nil

B. Councilor Gagnon

- Verbal report of the Hearst Forest Management Board meeting held in Hearst on March 26th, 2024.

C. Councilor Malenfant

- Nil

D. Councilor Manning

- Verbal report of the Hearst LCC meeting held in Hearst on March 27th, 2024.

10. By-laws

Nil

11. Caucus

- a) Caucus – Resolution 24-70
- b) Regular meeting – Resolution 24-71

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

- 12.1 Hours of work – March 2024
- 12.2 Town of Kapuskasing – reducing wildfire risk through forest management
- 12.3 Town of Kapuskasing – solutions to Canada’s housing crisis can be found in the forest
- 12.4 AMO – policy update – Ontario’s budget and national housing strategy funding

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 24-60: Steve Brousseau - Joyce Malenfant
THAT the agenda, as amended, be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 24-61: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council’s extraordinary meeting 24-04, held on March 20th, 2024 be hereby adopted.

Carried

Resolution 24-62: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council’s regular meeting 24-05, held on March 20th, 2024 be hereby adopted.

Carried

Increased funding to libraries and museums

Resolution 24-63: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
WHEREAS libraries, situated at the heart of our communities, serve as multifaceted institutions catering to diverse needs. They provide essential services such as access to culture and information, refuge for those experiencing domestic violence, election information centers, job search facilities, health clinics,

language learning centers for newcomers and spaces for educational and community events. Despite their vital role, public libraries in Ontario have not seen an increase in provincial funding for over 25 years, leading to a decrease in the value of the province's investment by over 60%, and;

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln urges the Provincial Government to consider increasing provincial funding for Ontario's public libraries to address critical shared priorities and community needs. While over 90% of library funding comes from local municipal governments, provincial operating funding is crucial for providing stability to library budgets, especially in times of inflation, technological changes and increasing demands on libraries as community hubs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution RC-2024-23 made by Council for the Town of Lincoln, urging the Provincial Government to support increasing funding to both public libraries and community museums. Recognizing these institutions as national assets and strategically investing in their potential will contribute significantly to renewing post-pandemic social cohesion, economic well-being and community resilience, and;

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

Carried

Closure of public health laboratories

Resolution 24-64: Sophie Gagnon – Marc Dupuis

WHEREAS the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario has published a report entitled "Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario" recommending the closure of regional Public Health Ontario laboratories, and;

WHEREAS the mission of Public Health Ontario (PHO) is to "enable informed decisions and get actions that protect and promote health and contribute to reducing health inequities", there are grave concerns that the closure of six community-based PHO labs will increase health inequities, especially for rural communities, and;

WHEREAS combined, these labs collect and process thousands of water samples and time sensitive medical tests each day, and;

WHEREAS there are grave concerns about the integrity of samples being compromised if travel time is increased by centralizing all tests to a few locations, and;

WHEREAS these labs already process overflow tests and samples when labs such as Toronto and Ottawa cannot keep up to demand and many scaled up to meet demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, and;

WHEREAS frequent drinking water testing services is vital for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (ie. wells) and protecting groundwater quality and quantity is a shared responsibility;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the resolution made by Council of the Township of Asphodel – Norwood on March 12th, 2024, and, as stewards for the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022*, Council urges the provincial government to take caution against acting on the recommendations stated in the aforementioned audit report, and;

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

Carried

Support for Bill C-63

Resolution 24-65: Marc Dupuis – Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS the Canadian Federal Government has drafted Bill C-63, *The Online Harms Act*, currently in front of Parliament and has had its first reading, and;

WHEREAS Bill C-63 requires that online tech companies and social media platforms remove child pornography and other dangerous content within 24 hours once the operator identifies the content, while also mandating the following duties: duty to protect children, duty to act responsibly and duty to remove egregious content, and;

WHEREAS the Canadian Federal Government proposes to establish a "Digital Safety Commission" and nominate an independent Ombudsperson to proactively circumvent potential harms on behalf of Canadian, and;

WHEREAS online tech companies and social medial platforms need to adhere to existing criminal laws, and;

WHEREAS online tech companies and social media platforms need to be held accountable to keep platforms safe from predators targeting children and other vulnerable Canadians and to protect them from bullying, hate, extremism, violence, discrimination, self harm, exploitation and sexual extortion that can lead to the most dire of consequences, and;

WHEREAS the Township of Clearview endeavours to foster safe homes, communities, schools and public spaces;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the resolution made by the Township of Clearview on March 25th, 2024, endorsing the passing of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons and the establishment of a “digital safety commission” and nomination of an independent Ombudsperson, 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

Funding to meet
accessibility standards

Resolution 24-66: Marc Dupuis – Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) aims to develop, implement and enforce standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings before January 1st, 2025, and municipalities, as the level of government closest to the people, are at the front lines, developing, implementing and enforcing these standards without meaningful guidance on its implementation and/or enforcement by the Province, and;

WHEREAS Prince Edward County is dedicated and committed to creating a welcoming environment so that all people may have equitable access to programs, goods, services and facilities, but making investments to achieve the AODA standards has been challenging given the lack of consistent and stable funding for municipalities to remove accessibility barriers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 2024-151 made by Prince Edward County, strongly encouraging action on the part of the Provincial Government to urgently: a) create a “Municipal Accessibility Fund” for municipalities to

develop, implement and enforce AODA standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings. Such a fund could be modeled after the Canada Community Building Fund or the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund, on a per household basis, and b) commit to working with municipalities to implement the Donovan Review immediate crisis recommendations, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Prince Edward County and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgoquin and MP Carol Hughes.

Carried

Annual Operating Reports

Resolution 24-67: Sophie Gagnon – Joyce Malenfant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby acknowledges receipt of the Annual Operating Reports for the Mattice and for the Val Côté sewage treatment lagoons and sewage collection systems.

Carried

NG911 options

Resolution 24-68: Sophie Gagnon - Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS two options were brought forward for Council's consideration to enable the transition to the NG911 platform; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council opted for the services offered by Northern 911, both as a primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and as a secondary PSAP for the dispatch of the Fire Department.

Carried

Curling hall rental

Resolution 24-69: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the monthly rental fee for the curling hall increase to TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY (\$250.00) DOLLARS during the garage sale season and to ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE (\$125.00) DOLLARS during the off season/storage use period, and;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the SFX Parish be informed therein.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 24-70: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 8:55 pm to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 24-71: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 9:00 pm.

Carried

Senior of the Year Award

Resolution 24-72: Marc Dupuis – Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council nominate the chosen individual for the 2024 Senior of the Year Award and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipality will pay for her breakfast and present her with a certificate along with flowers at the Mothers’ Day brunch.

Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Wednesday, May 1st, 2024 at 7:00 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 24-73: Steve Brousseau - Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 981, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Monday, April 8th, 2024, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 9:07 pm

Resolution 24-74: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held on April 8th, 2024, be adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on May 1st, 2024

Mayor

CAO/Clerk