

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ATHENS
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

MEMBERS PRESENT Mayor Herb Scott, Deputy Mayor Anne Marie Dancy
Councillors Darin Alguire, Todd Evans, Greg Kearney,
Rob Layng, Matt Smith

STAFF PRESENT Darlene Noonan, CAO/Clerk Treasurer

REGRETS Chris Fenlong, Road Superintendent
Gerry Bell, Fire Chief

ALSO PRESENT Elizabeth Earl, Margaret Rusland, Linda Flanigan,
Melanie Kavanaugh, Walter Schaafsma, Olivia Rosetti

- H. Scott - County Event at JBC and a lady had a bad spell, EMS, fire, D. Noonan and county staff did excellent, two ambulances treated her great, a credit to the Township the way they rose to the occasion and wanted to take a minute to thank all involved.

CALL TO ORDER

- H. Scott – call to order

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- D. Noonan – Library request under #10

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- None -

MINUTES

MOVED BY R. LAYNG

SECONDED BY T. EVANS

THAT Council approve the minutes of January 13, 2025 meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- R. Layng – final on the pumper truck, yes good to go.
- R. Layng – Leeder block, nothing further and hasn't hit the registry.
- R. Layng – about G. Bell and courses? - All underway and contact has been made with Rideau Lakes.
- R. Layng - M. Ferguson and drainage and liability and then also on grant from Sarah Street person. - D. Noonan - to qualify for grant explained the study has to be completed – liability – need to ascertain when and how they were installed underground and if any agreements.
- R. Layng - county budget – H. Scott – 5.11% - budget up 3.7% meaning spending – not a whole lot going to happen in Athens, Mapleview and County Rd. 43 taking a big chunk and pave parking lot in Greenbush and some other roads, bought two snowplows, 3 ambulances, tractor and outfit goes on arm they have and 4 half tons and ¾ heavy duties.
- T. Evans – live barn – equipment rec'd, lines installed, waiting on full installation

DELEGATION(S)

- **Olivia Rosetti** – outlined developmental services provided – presentation.
- R. Layng - just Leeds Grenville? Yes – how many in program? – O. Rosetti - has 5 homes and 5 clients prior to covid had 12 – initiative is to grow the program – started in 1984 – R. Layng - other counties? - O. Rosetti – yes, Ontario wide – R. Layng - number for Ontario I find 5 low – find 12 low as well – O. Rosetti - in Brockville there are 4 agencies that already run this same program.

- **M. Kavanaugh & W. Schaafsma** – Cornfest committee request
- W. Schaafsma – situation last year where committee members resigned which caused to cancel last year’s Cornfest due to liability and hold harmless agreement. I asked insurance company to provide insurance for Cornfest committee to cover us if we signed it and they were unable to provide us with a policy and did not provide us with a quote. That left us with a gap – our committee members, we had 2 new and 3 regular, all resigned and canceled last year. As you know, would like the opportunity to become a Committee of Council and ask for tonight – in that letter requested that I continue to be treasurer. - T. Evans – how many members? – W. Schaafsma & M. Kavanaugh – we have feelers out – we had 5 and wasn’t enough. - A. Dancy - can help when I can, happy that it’s back. - W. Schaafsma - we need at least six members to take over parts of the vendors and sponsors. – D. Noonan - explained liability. – R. Layng – to clarify, we said members of committee sign up and approved on the committee and listed for liability? – D. Noonan - explained difference between members and volunteers. – H. Scott - a Main Street merchant would like to see it moved to Centennial Park – W. Schaafsma - has heard that, safer for kids and better for merchants – 3rd weekend in August is fine – Bay Auto parking lot and library? Yes, if they have permission.

MOVED BY T. EVANS

SECONDED BY R. LAYNG

THAT Council approve the request of the Cornfest Committee membership to become a Committee of Council. The committee will provide minutes of meetings, submit an annual budget, submit monthly revenue and expense reports for Council review and sign off, provide a current list of all members, and provide a list of activities prior to the event. Council also hereby appoints Todd Evans as Council liaison and representative on behalf of Council to the Committee. **CARRIED**

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

MOVED BY R. LAYNG

SECONDED BY M. SMITH

THAT Council approve the accounts for payment as circulated. **CARRIED**

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

- **CAO** – Public Skating – Family Day Weekend

MOVED BY R. LAYNG

SECONDED BY T. EVANS

THAT Council provide free public skating to the community at Centre ’76 in recognition of family day weekend, Saturday February 15th 6-7 p.m. and Sunday February 16th 1-2 p.m. **CARRIED**

- **CAO** – non-eligible blue box collection deadlines - a lot of discussion and questions

MOVED BY M. SMITH

SECONDED BY T. EVANS

THAT effective July 1st 2025, Council makes the following decision regarding blue box items for all IC & I, Commercial, non-profits, churches, municipal buildings, commercial farms and daycares: July 1st 2025 we will no longer collect non-eligible recyclables. **CARRIED**

CORRESPONDENCE

- Salvation Army – silent auction donation request - donation in the amount of \$100.

- G. Tackaberry & Sons – 2025 equipment rental rates

MOVED BY T. EVANS

SECONDED BY M. SMITH

THAT Council approve and accept the 2025 equipment rental rates as received from G. Tackaberry & Sons Construction Co. Ltd. **CARRIED**

- G. Tackaberry & Sons – 2025 – 3500 tonne Granular M quote

MOVED BY T. EVANS

SECONDED BY M. SMITH

THAT Council receive, approve and accept the 2025 quote for 5/8” crusher run granular M stone delivered on Township roads as received from G. Tackaberry & Sons Construction So. Ltd. **CARRIED**

- 1991 Pumper sale – accept bid received.

MOVED BY A. DANCY

SECONDED BY G. KEARNEY

THAT Council approve the bid on GovDeals for the 1991 International 4900 Pumper Fire Truck in the amount of \$11,400.00

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- D. Noonan - Rideau Players requesting waive the fee for a fundraiser for the library, money coming back to us 100% - R. Layng - to discuss with the Library Board as this isn't something has been brought to their table yet – if determined they would like to book them, find out admission fee and have a contract and 100% being donated to the library – Council would waive the fee for JBC use.

PLANNING

- None -

BY-LAWS

MOVED BY D. ALGUIRE

SECONDED BY A. DANCY

THAT Council introduce and read a first and second time a bylaw to levy 2025 interim taxes.

CARRIED

MOVED BY A. DANCY

SECONDED BY D. ALGUIRE

THAT Council read a third time and finally pass a bylaw to levy 2025 interim taxes. Signed by the Mayor and the Clerk and numbered #'s 2025-05.

CARRIED

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

- M. Rusland - Saturday night? – it was very good but not well attended.

- E. Earl – Mapleview Lodge - already has space allocated for August 2025 where they are going and plan with old building? – to H. Scott - has original space been allocated yet? – officially yet? - H. Scott – no, not really.

QUERIES AND COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

- **D. Noonan** – nothing

- **D. Alguire** – nothing

- **A. Dancy** – flower beds and 4H club to do that? - H. Scott - information was sent in the email that they are on for it and the garden – A. Dancy - what about gateways? - H. Scott - nope just beds and get hold of M. Hollingsworth to order and be done. – A. Dancy - what about C. Kearney and gateway beds, would they consider it so we don't need to pay someone for that? – H. Scott - we will work it out and figure it out – A. Dancy - said she will let C. Kearney know we have volunteers. – will figure out gateway beds. – D. Noonan will touch base with B. Dunster and see where it's going – H. Scott - preliminary but fact they wanted to do it and see and be hard to find someone, so a lot of money to do it it's a big job.

- A. Dancy - move March meeting to March 3rd as she's away? If possible, in future more notice for meeting change as staff have delegations booked and meetings are advertised and set annually - most members flexible – whatever Council wants to do.

- **G. Kearney** - Sunday not a car in the parking lot in the rink – curious – no junior game

- **T. Evans** – nothing

- **M. Smith** - nothing

- **R. Layng** – library and flower beds and thinking maybe that gave another member of office opportunity to investigate grants I saw a notice in Seeley's Bay area to volunteer to search grants and write grants and person that came in and had a background in it and kind of gave that person something to do on a volunteer basis. – help our staff here. - We have

a difficult time because we are not in debt and another person who did other municipalities and never knew that to be true and what you were applying for and wording used.

- R. Layng - Do we have or completed a job description for the new roll in the CBO and Fire Chief and bylaw enforcement – bylaw enforcement was not part of the agreement. – it could be entertained once other courses completed – a job description and bylaw will be prepared for approval.

- R. Layng - Council committee appointments? Cornfest, JBC, library, CRCA, heritage – what about fire? – don't need as the Chief is the liaison as of a few years ago - Arena abolished and became Council.

- R. Layng - Budget review – March meeting, it's 95% done for March.

- R. Layng - Ice buildup at library – to C. Fenlong.

- R. Layng - credit cards – yes

- R. Layng - Lions Club executive, if possible, to have a closed meeting with Council and did not make last executive meeting but assuming to do with building or whatever going forward they may have a proposal so not sure I wasn't there – entertain some evening for an hour I could let them know and do it prior to next meeting come early – H. Scott - personally I'd like to have that meeting and work toward it – would be good to hear them.

-G. Kearney - when is next meeting, not sure of next executive but the president asked if R. Layng would approach Council – R. Layng - they are asking preference – R. Layng - will step aside and won't participate in anything and T. Evans & G. Kearney (conflict).

- **H. Scott** – Out of town levies everywhere else, see what it is and report back. - Maplevue Lodge - last Thursday took Maplevue Lodge committee into building on first and second floor its 92% complete and 125 individuals working there. Thursday, some rooms drywalled very few aren't but piles 6' high doors lying flat to put on exit doors and one room completely full of toilets a semi private setup and room on either side and two sinks and a toilet and toilet had two bars on either side for disabled lifts working. – still working at everything and committee fundraising has \$2.5 million within \$500,000 of goal met and approached a family and gave \$40,000 and two days later they called gave \$80,000, working at it made \$1,000 at JBC fundraiser.

NOTICE OF MOTION

MOVED BY G. KEARNEY

SECONDED BY D. ALGUIRE

THAT Council close the regular meeting and enter in camera at 8:55 p.m., for discussion regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual, including Municipal or local board employees. **CARRIED**

MOVED BY D. ALGUIRE

SECONDED BY G. KEARNEY

THAT Council close the in-camera session which was for discussion of personal matters about an identifiable individual, including Municipal or local employees at 10:07 p.m., and re-enter regular public meeting. **CARRIED**

- Road staff be paid out as of January 1st 2025 of all built overtime hours, to be more conscience accounting of them moving forward and use up in a timely fashion to not continue to build.

- CAO in lieu of pension be provided 50% of allocation to be invested where she chooses as well as additional 15 days' vacation, in lieu of, annually until full retirement date.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY A. DANCY

SECONDED BY G. KEARNEY

THAT there being no further business this meeting of Council adjourn at 10:08 p.m., Council to meet again Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 pm or sooner at the call of the Mayor. **CARRIED**

MAYOR

CLERK