

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ASSIGINACK COMMITTEE
OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Brenda Reid, Councillors Dwayne Elliott, Janice Bowerman, Jennifer Hooper, and Robert Maguire.

STAFF: Alton Hobbs - CAO, Deb MacDonald- Treasurer/Deputy CAO, Heidi Ferguson- Clerk, Freda Bond- Tax & Utility Manager, Crystal Lentir- Administrative Assistant and Jackie White- PEC.

Moved by Councillor Hooper

THAT the meeting be opened with Mayor Reid presiding in the Chair.

CARRIED

The Land Acknowledgement was read by the Mayor.

Moved by Councillor Maguire

THAT we approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

The Mayor reminded everyone that the Remembrance Day Service will be held on Monday at 10:45 a.m. at the Cenotaph.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest: None declared at this time.

NOTE: Councillor Maguire later declared a Pecuniary Interest with Agenda Item # 1b.) Encroachment Agreement Discussion and he stepped back from the table and was not involved in this discussion.

1a.) Funding Proposal- Celebrate Canada 2025

Discussion took place amongst Committee Members regarding the proposal and the Committee passed the following resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Bowerman

THAT we approve the funding proposal for the Celebrate Canada 2025 Grant and advise staff to submit the application for funding.

CARRIED

1b.) Encroachment Agreement Discussion

NOTE: Councillor Maguire had declared a Pecuniary Interest with this item, and he stepped back from the table and was not involved in this discussion.

Discussion took place amongst members of the Committee and the Committee would like some more time to think about this and what should be included in this type of an agreement.

1c.) Climate Adaptation Plan

The CAO advised members of the Committee that with the changes in our weather, we have had a record numbers of requests to keep our docks in and boat launches open this year, which typically are done as of October 15th, we are also trying to operate an Ice Plant at our Arena when it is 15 degrees outside, and we are receiving a number of Property Standards complaints in both October and November, which traditionally we do not see. Staff are suggesting that we are going to need to take climate change into consideration and how these changes are impacting our municipal operations moving forward.

The CAO advised that he would like the Committee's permission to explore developing a Climate Adaptation Plan and to have a conversation with Manitoulin Streams to see if they would be interested in initiating this process for us.

Discussion took place and questions were asked and the Committee agreed to advise staff to explore our options regarding the development of this plan and what it would cost.

2.a.) Roads Review – By-law # 2024-01

The Committee reviewed the list of Class 6 Roads, as per the annual review requirements within By-law 2024-01. Discussion took place and the Committee passed the following resolution:

Moved by Councillor Maguire

THAT we have reviewed the Seasonally Maintained Class 6 Highways within Schedule A of By-law 2024-01, and we agree to keep the policy as is.

CARRIED

2b.) Sidewalks Discussion

The CAO explained that we have a number of sidewalks throughout Town that are in poor condition. Pictures of various areas were provided by Members of the Committee and a discussion took place. Staff's recommendation is that Council grant staff permission to remove the areas of sidewalks that are in poor condition.

Staff shared that the cost to replace one block of sidewalk in 2022 was \$38,000, which when this was replaced this was not up to the current standard. Staff estimate that the cost per block now would likely be roughly \$50,000 per block.

Discussion took place and members of the Committee would like staff to investigate the costing to remove the areas in poor condition, as well as the cost for replacement versus topping them with another product such as asphalt.

3a.) Fire Hall Discussion

The CAO explained that Staff would like to put the Fire Hall project back on the table prior to the 2025 Budget Discussions. The CAO and the Fire Chief explained the history of the Fire Hall and the Costing and Engineer’s Report previously completed by Tulloch.

The Fire Chief advised the Committee that in the 2025 Budget, he will be asking Council to allocate the \$125,000 from the Sale of 115 Arthur Street and the \$98,000 in reserves for 115 Arthur Street towards building a new Fire Hall.

Discussion took place amongst members of the Committee and questions were asked regarding the proposed location, alternative locations, proposed costing, and re-tendering process.

Moved by Councillor Elliott

THAT we re-tender the Fire Hall project to ascertain costing with the proposed location that has been identified within the Engineer’s Report.

CARRIED

4a.) Tree Lighting Ceremony

The PEC and Fire Department have combined their events- the Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa into one event, which will be held on December 6th. The event itinerary is currently being developed; however, the PEC has spoken to various organizations about participating in the event.

Moved by Councillor Elliott

THAT we adjourn until the next regular meeting or call of the Chair.

CARRIED

Chair: Brenda Reid

Recording Officer: Heidi Ferguson

*These Minutes have been circulated but are not considered Official until approved by Council.