

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF NEEPAWA REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NEEPAWA MUNICIPAL OFFICE, 275 HAMILTON ST., NEEPAWA, MB

Present: Mayor Hedley, Deputy Mayor Parrott, Councillors Gerrard, Nadeau, Kostenchuk, Sisley & Pottinger, CAO Colleen Synchyshyn, Manager of Operations Denis Saquet, Assistant CAO Jodi Baker

Guests: Liway Cabrera, NACTV; Eoin Devereaux, Banner & Press, Arleigh Wilson, Holly Pankratz, Ron Nordstrom

1. 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. – Pre-Meeting Committee of the Whole.

Resolution: 2024-1

Parrott Sisley

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Neepawa do now sit as a “Committee of the Whole In-Camera” to discuss planning and development matters.

CARRIED

Resolution: 2024-2

Pottinger/Parrott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do hereby adjourn the In-Camera session at 6:58 p.m.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No: 2024-3

Kostenchuk/Nadeau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the Regular Meeting agenda for January 16, 2024.

CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes

Resolution No: 2024-4

Gerrard/Sisley

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Public Hearing held December 19, 2023, as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Presentations/Delegations

7:05 p.m. - Touchwood Park - Holly Pankratz and Arleigh Wilson

- requesting a \$25,000 grant in support of the accessible playground that will be installed off Tupper Ave at their Day Program building. Provided an overview of the features of the playground at a total cost of \$325,000. They have raised \$103,000 to date and expect to proceed with the project later this year.

7:15 p.m. - Arts Forward - Ron Nordstrom

- requesting a \$20,000 grant in support of upgrades to their building as well as Indigenous Culture Day. Provided an overview of 2023 activities and spoke about improvements they have made to the building.

5. Council Reports

5.1 General Government and Finance – Councillor Gerrard

- Committee met to begin preliminary budget discussions and review grant applications.

5.2 Various – Councillor Nadeau

- Neepawa Library – looking at changing library hours to include a few hours on Saturdays and an extended evening on Thursdays. New program assistant has been hired.
- Spruce Plains Justice Committee – now meeting monthly.

5.3 Various – Deputy Mayor Parrott

- Public Works Committee – met to review capital purchases and projects for the upcoming Budget.
- Beautiful Plains Medical Clinic – Jennifer Kilburn hired for the Residency Program. Lots of work being completed for the recruitment of Physicians.

5.4 Various – Councillor Sisley

- Handivan – 516 rides were provided in November and 527 in December. The Handivan was chosen to be the recipient of the March Legion Supper fundraiser.
- Winterfest – will be held on Sunday February 22nd in the evening. Plans include fireworks, fires and glow trails and activities; 50/50 available to help defray the associated costs.
- Spruce Plains Justice Committee – appointed to serve as the Recording Secretary.

6. Department Reports

6.1 Manager of Operations – Denis Saquet

- 2024 budget - recently met with the Finance Committee to discuss major projects and purchases.
- The Oberon well is needing repairs. All water will be drawn from Hummerston until repairs are complete.
- Training Centre is now open with classes underway.
- Swift Underground has started phase one of the PTH 16 Watermain Extension project which will service the new hospital and is currently working in the Hillcrest area.
- There has been a large increase in staff time working on clearing sewer mains due to residential grease disposal – reminder to residents that grease cannot be put down any drain. Reviewing options for issuance of fines and penalties as the damage being done is astronomical.

7. Correspondence

7.1 RCMP Quarterly Report – October 1 – December 31, 2023

- 87 charges were laid in Spruce Plains area.
- 4 check stops were set up, where 100 roadside breath samples taken. This resulted in one driver charged with impaired driving and one driver receiving an immediate roadside prohibition.
- Offender Management files - 53 curfew checks were performed with one subject who breached conditions being located and arrested.
- Continue to focus on anti-fraud messaging and working with local gas stations to reduce crime.
- Fire on Dominion Road was arson, youth were charged and dealt with by Restorative Justice.
- One of the two Municipal Position Detachment Services Clerks will be converted to a Provincial Public Servant to balance out the municipal and provincial workload in relation to the complement of members.

7.2 Manitoba Economic Development, Investment and Trade, Forestry and Peatlands Branch

- New reimbursement rates under the 2024/25 Community Forest Grant Agreement for the removal of trees infected with Dutch elm disease - \$226/\$452/\$678 dependent on diameter.
- Minimum funding per community set at \$2,380.00 regardless of the number of trees.
- The deadline for tree removal has been changed to February 28th.

7.3 Minister of Environment and Climate Change

- Neepawa to receive a recycling rebate in amount of \$14,113.65 for the period of January 1 to June 30, 2023 from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Support Program.

7.4 STARS Air Ambulance

- Requesting funding support and provided an update on missions for Neepawa – 10 flights for 2022/23

7.5 Beautiful Plains Community Medical Clinic

- Thank you for the \$2,500 grant received towards recruitment efforts in 2023.

- Summary of recruitment initiatives for 2023 include: Rural Week, Residency Program Site, Rural Medical Program, Resident Physicians, Elective 4th Year Medical Students, Return Home for the Summer Program and Recruitment Lunches & Dinners.

7.6 Westlake Employment Skills & Services Centre

- Update on activities and request for appointment/re-appointment of Board Member.

7.7 Western Regional Library Board

- 2024 per capita operating levy increasing to \$13.15 with a total levy in amount of \$74,758.00.
- Annual Rent to be paid to for the Neepawa Library remains at \$4,155.00 for the year.

8. Finance

8.1 Accounts – December 2023

Resolution No: 2024-5

Pottinger/Gerrard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the accounts for December 2023, totalling \$4,169,296.83, as reviewed and representing cheques #202302422 to #202302633, but excluding #202302506.

CARRIED

Councillor Gerrard declared a conflict for the following resolution; vacated the room; returning at the close of discussion and debate.

8.2 Accounts – December 2023 (HH)

Resolution No: 2024-6

Kostenchuk/Parrott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve cheque #202302506 for December 2023 to Home Hardware totalling \$576.22.

CARRIED

8.3 Tax Sale for 2024

Resolution No: 2024-7

Gerrard/Nadeau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we hereby designate 2023 as the year which properties in arrears will be offered for sale by the way of public auction; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the tax sale be held November 6, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town of Neepawa at 275 Hamilton St., Neepawa, Manitoba with TAXservice appointed to manage the tax sale and conduct the proceedings on behalf of the Town.

CARRIED

9. Unfinished Business

9.1 PTH-16 – 2020 Speed Change Application

- Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure finalized their decision regarding the application to reduce the speed limit on PTH 16 between PTH 5 and Road 85W.
- The review concluded that there were no technical reasons indicating a need to revise the current (100 km/h) speed limit at this time; the decision was upheld by an Interdepartmental Review Committee and directed that it be reviewed again once Neepawa's ongoing hospital and school developments are closer to completion.

10. New Business

10.1 R3 Innovations – Transfer of Beneficial Ownership and Indemnity

Resolution No: 2024-8

Sisley/Pottinger

WHEREAS the Town of Neepawa and HyLife are parties to a Joint Venture Agreement dated April 14, 2009, as

amended by an Amended Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility Operations and Maintenance Agreement dated September 1, 2011 (collectively the "Joint Venture Agreement"), for the construction, operation and ownership of an industrial wastewater treatment facility (the "IWWTF") that services the operations of HyLife; AND WHEREAS pursuant to the Joint Venture Agreement, the ownership of the Town of Neepawa and of HyLife in the WWTF is held by R3 Innovations Inc.;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the Joint Venture Agreement, after more than ten years of successful operation and upon HyLife's requisition for full ownership, the Town of Neepawa is now required to convey to HyLife all of the Town of Neepawa's interests in the IWWTF and R3 Innovations Inc.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Neepawa hereby authorize the Mayor and CAO to do all things necessary to convey to HyLife all of the Town of Neepawa's legal and beneficial ownership in the IWWTF and in R3 Innovations Inc.

CARRIED

10.2 Propose Sale of Property to MTI – 2004 Functional Design

Resolution No: 2024-9

Parrott/Kostenchuk

WHEREAS in 2004 the Province of Manitoba and the Councils of the Town of Neepawa and the then Rural Municipality of Langford endorsed a long-range plan for the upgrading of PTH 16 through the Town of Neepawa;

AND WHEREAS the PTH 16 Neepawa Functional Design continues to guide development along PTH 16 through Neepawa to ensure minimal conflict between land development and highway traffic;

AND WHEREAS although the Functional Design was a long-range planning document, to ensure that the proposed design could be achieved, as opportunities arose, the Province committed to proceeding with property acquisition and service road construction in preparation for completing the project;

AND WHEREAS, Neepawa's growth and development over the last ten years has given rise to certain opportunities for the Province to advance their interest in securing a greater percentage of the required property for the PTH 16 improvements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Neepawa request the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to consider moving forward with the purchase of the various pieces of property adjacent to the PTH 16 that will be required to complete the PTH 16 improvements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town of Neepawa propose to sell to the Province of Manitoba, Lots 4 & 5, Plan 59490 in SE 34-14-15W - Roll #'s 8930 and 8935. These parcels purposely subdivided as part of Subdivision 4437-14-7432 to facilitate the PTH 16 Functional Design.

CARRIED

10.3 Appoint Weed Inspector

Resolution No: 2024-10

Pottinger/Nadeau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we hereby appoint Scott Boxall as the Town of Neepawa Weed Inspector for 2024.

CARRIED

10.4 Sale of Property – 417 First Ave (Old Firehall Lot)

Resolution No: 2024-11

Sisley/Gerrard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the sale of Lots 6/7, Block 4, Plan 26984, ORG Lot 21, Block D, Plan 1878 EX S 20F and ORG Lots 22/25, Block D Plan 1878 EX N 17F in SW 33-14-15W (Roll #123400) to Neepawa Drycleaning and Laundromat Ltd. for \$100,000, subject to the terms of a development agreement and a possession date of May 1, 2024.

CARRIED

10.5 Riverbend Campground – 2024 Rates

Resolution No: 2024-12

Pottinger/Kostenchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve an increase of \$2.00/nights stay at the Riverbend Campground effective for 2024, with new rates as follows:

- Full service - \$37.00
- Water & Electric - \$32.00
- Electric - \$27.00
- No Services - \$22.00

CARRIED

10.6 Neepawa Swimming Pool – 2024 Admission Rates

- Season passes to include all programs, public swims, aqua fit lap swim and family swim.
- \$0.25 increase on single admissions and \$10.00 increase on season passes.
- Anyone coming to the pool during public swim must pay. As per regulation, staff are required to oversee all people whether in the pool or not, and all persons are counted as part of the bathing load for the pool.

Resolution No: 2024-13

Pottinger/Sisley

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve changes to the Neepawa Swimming Pool admissions/rates as follows:

Public Swim	Preschool (2-4 yrs.)	Student (5 – 18 yrs.)	Senior (55+)	Adult	Family
Single Admission	\$4.00	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$6.25	\$22.00
Punch Card (8 for 10)	\$32.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$50.00	-
Season Pass	\$90.00	\$110.00	\$110.00	\$125.00	\$255.00

CARRIED

10.7 Updating Policies

- Swim Team - rental rate increased from \$50/hr to \$100/hr; additional staff wages changed from \$15/hr to \$20/hr and swim meet rentals will now be \$150/day as opposed to \$100.
- Pool Passes & Programs – Swim passes will allow access to all programs; pool pass categories will be adjusted to account for a category relative to children aged 2 – 4 years; & no public rentals to be offered.
- Facility Rules – children under the age of 2 years will be admitted free (used to be 4 years); and all patrons must pay admission rates as they are tracked as part of the bathing load.
- Refunds (pool programs) – non-refundable administration fee increased from \$5 to \$10 and a removal of the public rental refund.

Resolution No: 2024-14

Sisley/Gerrard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve updates to the following pool policies and refund policies:

- RS-015 Pool – Passes, Programs, Lessons & Rentals
- RS-020 Pool – Rules
- RS-030 Pool – Swim Team
- FI-030 Refunds & NSF Charges

CARRIED

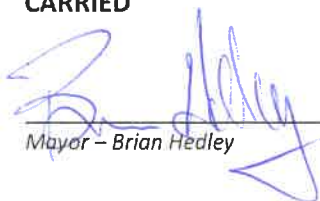
12. Adjournment

Resolution No: 2024-15

Kostenchuk/Parrott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn this Regular Meeting of Council at 8:21 p.m.

CARRIED



Mayor – Brian Hedley



CAO – Colleen Synchyshyn