

COUNCIL MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF COCKBURN ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING

5 PM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20th, 2024

Meeting On-line by ZOOM

ZOOM LINK <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84944196668>

(same link every regular meeting)

PRESENT

Mayor: Brenda Jones

Councillors: Lee Chappell

Jeff House

Simon Lacombe

Scott Stewart

Clerk: Brent St. Denis

Public Works: Alex Nicolson, Darren Rogers

Absent: Nil

(a number of ratepayers observed the meeting)

5:08 PM

Call to Order

Declarations of any pecuniary interest

Delegations – Members of the heritage committee attended to discuss the proposed gazebo adjacent to the hall.

New Business – none

Resolution # 24-1-01

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Stewart

That the November 20th, 2024 Council meeting agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

Resolution # 24-11-02

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: S Stewart

That the minutes of the October 9th, 2024 regular meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

Action Items

Gazebo at Hall, Heritage Committee request – message from Dave Hale on behalf of the Heritage Committee... *Would it be possible to put on the agenda for this coming Council meeting a discussion with the Heritage Executive regarding the gazebo project? We would like formal approval and buy in from Council to collaborate on building this. Hopefully a direction can be taken on how this will be done as in a project leader who organizes a*

volunteer work party. Also, can we apply for help in funding it through NOHC Community Enhancement?

In the discussions between Council members and the Heritage Committee delegation (Dwight Phillips and Dave Hale) some of the points and questions raised included;

- A gazebo would provide a protected outdoor cooking and eating area,
- Proposed gazebo footprint – 24 ft by 40 ft with a small addition, located in front of the Hall about 40 ft away,
- Post and beam, 10 ft interior height, roof to be 6:12 pitch
- A key requirement is a project coordinator
- Concrete pad or gravel floor?
- Should be properly designed, engineered
- A utility shed has already been purchased and is ready for assembly

Resolution # 24-11-03

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: J House

That Council re-affirms its support for the construction of a gazebo/pavilion by the Cockburn Island Heritage Committee to be located adjacent to the Hall. And for this purpose, we agree to a grant being applied for with NOHFC's Community Enhancement Fund in the township's name. And further that the Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to make the application once the Committee and helpers have completed a design, site plan and budget.

CARRIED

Integrity Commissioner – select one of E4M or Good Sense

Resolution # 24-11-04

Moved: S Stewart

Seconded: S Lacombe

That whereas Council has interviewed two candidate firms for the municipal contract position of Integrity Commissioner (Good Sense Workplace Solutions and E4M IC Services) Now Therefore the Council agrees to offer this position to the following firm and that a by-law for this purpose be drafted for an upcoming meeting of Council;

- Good Sense Workplace Solutions

CARRIED

Douglas Smith Family Foundation – “thank-you” for the significant contribution to heritage preservation

Resolution # 24-11-05

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: S Lacombe

That whereas the Douglas Smith Family Foundation has very recently donated \$35,000 to the township for heritage committee purposes

Now therefore the Council on behalf of the entire Cockburn Island community wishes to extend to the Smith Family its deep appreciation for this inspiring show of support for efforts to maintain our heritage buildings.

And further that the Clerk-Treasurer is hereby authorized to arrange the necessary document for charitable purposes.

CARRIED

Backhoe Repairs – confirm informal consensus

Resolution # 24-11-06

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: J House

That Council confirms and approves the purchase of the necessary parts to repair the backhoe following a recent unfortunate mishap. The estimated cost is approximately \$4400 + HST.

CARRIED

Public Access to Disbursement Sheet

Resolution # 24-11-07

Moved: S Stewart

Seconded: J House

That whereas a ratepayer has requested a copy of the disbursement sheet provided by the Clerk-Treasurer to the Council for each regular meeting and
Whereas the municipal financial disclosure guidelines published by the Province do not indicate that such a detailed, granular report must be provided,
And whereas some municipalities do and others not,
Now therefore be it resolved that in the interest of transparency and subject to change, once the Clerk-Treasurer has concluded that no apparent legal liability would be associated with the release that a version, redacted for wage related information and similar private matters, be provided upon request by email subject to reasonable limitations on the extra work involved.

CARRIED

Street Lights Tender

Resolution # 24-11-08

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: S Stewart

That we re-open discussions about street lights improvement during the 2025 municipal budget discussions.

CARRIED

On the above Council member Lacombe mentioned that there were a number of comments from ratepayers on how dark the hamlet area is at night.

D St Ditching Update

Resolution # 24-11-09

Moved: S Lacombe
Seconded: S Stewart

- That the following updates on the D St. ditching project be received;
- The project is essentially completed with very good results – only minor items need addressing
 - Culvert at D Hale property removed
 - Ditch at Nelson house will need some fill
 - Some road work between Simon Lacombe's place and Dave Hale's is needed
 - The culvert at Williamson's is installed but extensions are needed (on order)

CARRIED

Financial Report

Disbursements by cheque and NCU VISA, (cheques # 1201 to #1208) – list to be supplied

Northern Credit Union Bank balances as of NOV 17/24		
<u>Dock Account 101</u>	\$14,455.04	3.45% int
<u>Heritage Account 102</u>	\$72,631.79	3.45% int
<u>Operating Account 100</u>	\$201,641.12	3.95% int
TOTAL ALL 3 ACCOUNTS	\$288,727.95	
For Comparison Balances, Operating Account - Mid Nov 2024 apprx \$195K		
Mid Nov 2023 apprx \$165K		

Resolution # 2024-11-10
Moved: J House
Seconded: L Chappell

That the Treasurer's report on bank balances and cheque disbursements (#1201 to #1208) and the township's VISA card statement be hereby received.

CARRIED

Council Members' Concerns

- Council Member Chappell made the following statement for the record
 - Council would like to take this opportunity to announce that we have now closed the contract with Stewart Renovations for the construction of our new medical building as part of our COVID preparedness grant.
 - We would also like to acknowledge the concerns and feedback received from all parties including Stewart Renovations and ratepayers during the execution of the contract and construction of the building and ensure everyone that there was no misrepresentation to the use of Municipal supplier accounts by Stewart Renovations.
 - All building deficiencies have been either resolved and/or negotiated as a credit to the contract and ownership has been handed over to the municipality.
 - Next steps will be to work with the first response team to set up the building with first aid supplies and to be prepared for any future emergency services.

- Council Member Lacombe suggested that the 2025 budget include funds for further dock repairs
- Council Member House reported on road gravel laying, that the Ford tractor (brush hog) is being repaired. He will look for a good used operator seat. Consider a PW transport vehicle in the 2025 budget for workers and tools to/from a job site. Darren and Simon have been pulling docks into the inner harbour.
- Council Member Stewart indicated that Bill Wells passed away. The inner harbour steel docks need tending. Ask ORNGE about there lack of response to two emergencies in November – what are the response criteria? The CIL tug was made available for the two evacuations.
- Mayor Jones thanked everyone involved in helping her and another ratepayer during recent medical emergencies. She also thanked Rob Brown for keeping the grass around the McLeod House and well. She suggested a donation in memory of Evan Papineau. We should consider lighting on the Breakwall to ease night time access to the harbour.

Resolution # 2024-11-11

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: J House

That we offer our deep condolences to Cheryl Papineau and family on the passing of Evan Papineau who was a faithful member of Council for over 20 years. His valuable contributions will be a lasting legacy of benefit to our island community.

CARRIED

Resolution # 2024-11-12

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Stewart

That we offer a donation of \$1200 to Cockburn Island Logging for their generous permission allowing use of their tugboat to evacuate two ratepayers off island in two separate recent medical emergencies.

CARRIED

Clerk's Report

- a) Weather Station update – equipment has been returned - reimbursement request submitted to supplier (Davis) - Clerk attempting to confirm refund status of apprx. \$1400
- b) Ontario government and Starlink plan -details not yet complete- see news article at this link - <https://www.elliottlaketoday.com/local-news/ontario-launches-100m-partnership-with-elon-musks-starlink-9811711>
- c) 2025 OMPF allocation notice. After several years of nil increases the grant in 2025 will be higher than 2024 by about \$70,000.
- d) Update on credit for extra garage doors project transportation cost of \$700. Jacob Little has made arrangements with his supplier. The Clerk will explain.

CLOSED SESSION RE: HELIPAD HR

Resolution # 2024-11-13

Moved: S Lacombe

Seconded: L Chappell

That we enter into Closed Session in order to discuss a personnel matter involving heli-pad maintenance.

TIME: 6:48 PM

CARRIED

Resolution # 2024-11-14

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Lacombe

That we adjourn the Closed Session and return to Open Session.

TIME: 6:55 PM

CARRIED

Resolution # 2024-11-15

Moved: S Stewart

Seconded: L Chappell

That we agree as follows as it concerns winter maintenance and compensation related to the heli-pad:

- The Clerk-Treasurer will report back to Council the recent history of helipad payments

CARRIED

Resolution # 2024-11-16

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Lacombe

That this meeting be now adjourned and that Council meet again at 5:00 PM on Wednesday December 11th by Zoom or at the call of the Mayor

CARRIED

Time – 6:59 PM