

The minutes of the regular meeting of Dawson Township Council and held on Wednesday August 7th 2024 at 7 pm in the Municipal Office.

**PRESENT** For the Council meeting: Mayor D Hartnell. Councillors: C Larocque, L Kempf & B Sands. Clerk-Treasurer: P W Giles. Road Supt/Fire Chief Randy Asselin. Visitors: Rudy Sinninghe asking Council to consider cutting roadsides more than once a year and asking if the north south culvert on Byrnes Rd & Atwood-Worthington #1 will be removed as proposed when the Kaunamaekauk Drain was constructed. Gordon Prost Councillor from Rainy River seeking Council interest in forming a committee to consider alternate joint service arrangements and or amalgamation. (Council's position that they are not interested at this time). David Tiede on speaker phone following up on his report on speed limit and safety concerns for the Oak Grove Road. Council advised that they will take his information under advisement and look at the situation and Council wanted to know the views of other ratepayers on the road as they related to his concerns.

**MINUTES #24-54 LAROCQUE & KEMPF & CARRIED** that the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on July 3rd 2024, be approved as printed.

**ACCOUNTS #24-55 SANDS & KEMPF & CARRIED** that the accounts in the amount of \$241,771.37 and representing disbursements for the month July 2024, be approved for payment.

**DRAIN #24-56 SANDS & LAROCQUE & CARRIED** that pursuant to Section 5(10) of the Drainage Act, Council accepts the petition for drainage from the Road Superintendent to add a branch to the Rempel Municipal Drain. Council hereby decides to proceed with the petition for drainage.

**ENGINEER #24-57 LAROCQUE & KEMPF & CARRIED** that pursuant to a petition by the Road Superintendent under Section 4 of the Drainage Act and subject to any notice requirements under Section 6 of the Drainage Act, Council appoints R J Burnside & Associates Limited as engineer to prepare a report to add a branch to the Rempel Municipal Drain. And further that this report be included in the Section 78 report for the Rempel Drain.

**BLDG PRMT #24-58 KEMPF & SANDS & CARRIED** that effective August 1<sup>st</sup> 2024, the building permit application information sheet be updated to delete the suggested dollar value for the various types of construction costs, the CBO will instead use reasonable construction cost to estimate building permit fees.

**OINP #24-59 KEMPF & LAROCQUE & CARRIED** that WHEREAS employers across Northern Ontario are experiencing a critical shortage of skilled workers, contributing to a shrinking labour market. WHEREAS, the labour shortage is causing significant economic hardship for Northern Ontario communities, including reduced productivity and business closures; and WHEREAS population and migration trends to 2021 suggest that Northern Ontario needs 100,000 newcomers

by 2041 to sustain current population; and WHEREAS the success of the federal Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) demonstrates the effectiveness of allocating nomination spots to address regional labour shortages in attracting newcomers to Northern Ontario; and WHEREAS, the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program has been expanded from 9,750 nominees in 2022 to a goal of 21,500 nominees in 2024; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNCIL of Township of Dawson to urge the Government of Ontario to address the critical labour market shortage in Northern Ontario by allocating 3,000 Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program spots to support the region's economic growth and development. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: Copies of this resolution be forwarded to: the Ontario Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; local Members of Provincial Parliament; the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association/Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities; and the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce

**OTHER**

The Rd Supt reported on gravel operation, brushing and getting prices on a mower attachment for the loader, replacing roofing on toilets at Worthington roadside park, to report back on signage requested for speed limit reduction on Oak Grove Rd and require MTO standard test for future gravel projects, he updated on progress on the well project and need to replace existing older pump for water line to the fire hall. The Clerk-Treasurer reported on property taxes outstanding balance, OMPF payment, CCBF (formerly gas tax) revenue payment a budget update, the updated AMP should be received in a few weeks. An onsite meeting was held for the Section 78 report on the Rempel Drain and the need for a Section 4 appointment was discussed (see#24-56). The Clerk-Treasurer is to review Kaunamaekauk Drain report to advise Council on the request by Mr. Sinninghe to remove a road culvert. Work on the Krahn Branch Drain has commenced and contractor & land owners expressed concern with the requirement for a crushed rock bed for the tile to be placed on. Mayor Hartnell reported on a recent meeting of the with a hospital consultant and as it relates to doctor and nurse coverage at the local hospital. Council reviewed the information page for building permits and removed the suggested dollar value per square foot of construction costs (see #24-58) and will have a maximum residential fee oof \$1500.00.

**ADJOURN #24-60 SANDS & LAROCQUE & CARRIED** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk