

TOWNSHIP OF KERNS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of February 2nd, 2021
Held at the Kerns Community Hall

Present: **Reeve:** Terry Phillips
Councillors: Loren Runnalls
 Dennis Jibb
 Mark Lenover
 Carter Seymour
Staff: Jordan Kemp, Clerk-Treasurer
 Guy Godmaire, Road Superintendent

Regrets: None

1. Open Regular Meeting of Council & Adoption of Agenda

2021-029 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
 That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, open the Regular Meeting of Council of February 2nd, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.
 “CARRIED”

2021-030 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
 That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, accept the agenda as amended:

- 7. b. Remove Municipality of Grey Highlands – Insurance Rates
 - 7. f. Remove Municipality of Mississippi Mills – Request for Revisions to Municipal Elections
 - 7. f. Add Township of Wollaston – Request for Revisions to Municipal Elections
 - 9. f. Plow Truck Tr4
- “CARRIED”

2. Adoption of Minutes

2021-031 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
 That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, adopt the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of January 5th, 2021 as presented.
 “CARRIED”

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

4. Delegations

None

5. Payment of Accounts – Voucher No. 2021-01

2021-032 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
 That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns, do hereby, approve the payment of accounts as presented:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Roads | \$36,275.79 |
| Fire | \$15,427.55 |
| Admin | \$111,795.75 |
| Total Voucher 2021-01 | \$163,499.09 |

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6. Reports from Staff & Others

a. Road's Department Report

The Road Superintendent reports that the John Deer Backhoe has a new turbo and alternator. A new leaf spring was installed to reinforce the wing post in Truck 4. A few tools will be purchased for the shop such as a grinder, impact gun and sockets.

b. Fire's Department Report

The Fire Chief reports that the tanker's pump has been fixed.

c. Others

i. Timiskaming Health Unit Municipal Meetings – Minutes of January 8th

2021-033 **Moved: Carter Seymour Seconded: Loren Runnalls**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt and accept the following reports/minutes, and that it be filed along with the minutes of the regular meeting:

- a. Road's Department Report
- b. Fire's Department Report
- c. Others
 - i. Timiskaming Health Unit Municipal Meetings – Minutes of January 8th, 2021

“CARRIED”

7. Correspondence for Council's Consideration:

a. Municipality of Charlton & Dack – Insurance

2021-034 **Moved: Loren Runnalls Seconded: Carter Seymour**

WHEREAS the cost of municipal insurance in the Province of Ontario has continued to increase – with especially large increases going into 2021; and

WHEREAS Joint and Several Liability continues to ask property taxpayers to carry the lion's share of a damage award when a municipality is found at minimum fault; and

WHEREAS these increases are unsustainable and unfair and eat at critical municipal services; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario outlined seven recommendations to address insurance issues including:

1. The provincial government adopt a model of full proportionate liability to replace joint and several liability.
2. Implement enhancements to the existing limitations period including the continued applicability of the existing 10-day rule on slip and fall cases given recent judicial interpretations and whether a 1-year limitation period may be beneficial.
3. Implement a cap for economic loss awards.
4. Increase the catastrophic impairment default benefit limit to \$2 million and increase the third-party liability coverage to \$2 million in government regulated automobile insurance plans.

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5. Assess and implement additional measures which would support lower premiums or alternatives to the provision of insurance services by other entities such as nonprofit insurance reciprocals.
6. Compel the insurance industry to supply all necessary financial evidence including premiums, claims and deductible limit changes which support its own and municipal arguments as to the fiscal impact of joint and several liability.
7. Establish a provincial and municipal working group to consider the above and put forward recommendations to the Attorney General.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Township of Kerns call on the Province of Ontario to immediately review these recommendations and to investigate the unethical practice of preferred vendors who are paid substantial amounts over industry standards, despite COVID 19 delays, as insurance premiums will soon be out of reach for many communities.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming- Cochrane, and all Ontario municipalities.

“CARRIED”

b. Township of South-West Oxford – Automatic Speed Enforcement

2021-035

Moved: Mark Lenover Seconded: Dennis Jibb

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, support the Township of South-West Oxford’s resolution requesting police use Automatic Speed Enforcement (photo radar) within municipalities so more time can be concentrated on other problems such as break and enters, illegal drugs and domestic problems; and

A letter of support be forwarded to the Township of South-West Oxford, the Premier of Ontario, John Vanthof, MPP, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all other Ontario Municipalities.

“CARRIED”

c. Town of Bracebridge – Infrastructure Funding

2021-036

Moved: Carter Seymour Seconded: Loren Runnalls

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns request the Federal and Provincial Governments provide immediate broad and substantial municipal funding opportunities for well-planned, shovel-ready projects already prioritized under municipal asset management plans to provide immediate stimulus to the local, provincial and the federal economies in order to rebound from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

That this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, the Federal Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, the Honourable Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Finance; the Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Federation of Canadian Municipalities; the Local Member of Parliament; and the Local Member of Provincial Parliament.

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d. Town of Augusta – Ontario Fire College

2021-037 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby request that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the Ontario Fire College as it is one of the best and most cost-effective methods for municipalities to train their firefighters which assists in protecting their residents; and

That this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Solicitor General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ontario Fire Marshal.

“CARRIED”

e. Township of Wollaston – Request for Revisions to Municipal Elections

No Action

8. Correspondence for Council’s Information:

- a. Ministry of Transportation – Ontario Regulation 8/03 Off Road Vehicles**
- b. Ministry of Energy Northern Development and Mines – Long-Term Energy Plan**
- c. Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities – January 27th Media Release**

9. Other Business:

- a. Temiskaming Veterinary Services Committee – 2021 VAP Membership Fee**

2021-038 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby direct staff to pay the Temiskaming Veterinary Services’ annual membership fee of \$225.00 to reduce travel costs incurred by its residents when requiring veterinary services for large animals such as sheep, beef, dairy, goats, and horses.

“CARRIED”

2021-039 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge the City of Temiskaming Shore’s Public Works Memo 002-2021-PW outlining a two percent (2%) increase to the rate charged (\$295/tonne to \$301/tonne) to the Township of Kerns for the acceptance of recyclable material at the Spoke Transfer Station.

“CARRIED”

2021-040 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing’s letter dated January 26th, 2021 announcing the launch of the second intake under the Municipal Modernization Program; and

Direct staff to submit a joint completed Expression of Interest form with the Township of Harley, Township of Casey, and Township of Hudson to implement digital modernization opportunities outlined in The Managed

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Municipalities report dated November 13th, 2020 which was prepared under the first intake of the Municipal Modernization Program.

“CARRIED”

2021-041 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of the Township of Hudson’s Firstbrook Pit Municipal Portions report for 2020 and agree to the Township of Kerns’ share of \$7,896.37 for the operation of the joint aggregate pit.
“CARRIED”

2021-042 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of the Township of Hudson’s Landfill Operating Share 2020 report and agree to the Township of Kern’s share of \$15,719.97 for the operation of the joint landfill.
“CARRIED”

10. By-Laws
None

11. Resolution to Move to Closed Session:
None

12. Adjournment:

2021-043 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:40 pm and will meet again on March 2nd, 2021 or at the call of the Reeve.
“CARRIED”

Terry Phillips, Reeve

Jordan Kemp, Clerk-Treasurer