

TOWNSHIP OF KERNS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of DECEMBER 5TH, 2023
Held at the Kerns Community Hall

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

1. Call Meeting to Order & Adoption of Agenda

2023-144 **Moved:** **Mark Lenover** **Seconded:** **Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, open the Regular Meeting of Council of December 5th, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.
“CARRIED”

2023-145 **Moved:** **Carter Seymour** **Seconded:** **Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, accept the agenda as presented.
“CARRIED”

2. Adoption of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting of November 7th, 2023.
- b. Closed Session Meeting of November 7th, 2023.

2023-146 **Moved:** **Mark Lenover** **Seconded:** **Dennis Jibb**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, adopt the following minutes:

- Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 7th, 2023 as presented.
- Minutes of the Closed Session Meeting of November 7th, 2023 as presented.

“CARRIED”

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

None

4. Delegations:

None

5. Payment of Accounts – Voucher No. 2023-11

2023-147 **Moved:** **Dennis Jibb** **Seconded:** **Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns, do hereby, approve the payment of accounts as presented:

Roads	\$75,064.00
Fire	\$3,168.59
Admin	\$52,133.47
Total Voucher 2023-11	<u>\$130,366.06</u>

“CARRIED”

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6. Reports from Staff & Others

a. Road Department Report

The Roads Superintendent reports that Plow Truck 19 is back in service. New clutch brake and clutch were repaired under warranty. Winter operations have begun. The Superintendent reminds residents that as per the Highway Traffic Act, no one is permitted to push snow across the roadways at any time. The gate and “No Trespassing” signs are missing from the Wabi Pit and will be replaced to be compliant with aggregate regulations. Staff will make the necessary repairs to the gate and installations of required signage, which have been ordered. Boundaries need to be marked out and staff may need to hire someone to assist with boundary demarcations. Lastly, the cemetery clean up of trees, shrubs etc. did not occur this year as planned and is rescheduled for next season.

b. Fire Department Report

The Fire Chief reports that there were no calls in the month of November. Fire Chief Lenover asked staff to look into the ENR By-Law to see if it includes interior attack. Certification was discussed at their last meeting. The Department will work towards completing this in the new year. One individual would like to join the Department. Chief Lenover and Josh Dufresne attended the Emergency Table Top exercise in Earleton on November 15th.

c. Others

- i. Eco-Logix’s Landfill Report – October 2023**
- ii. Timiskaming Health Unit – Minutes October 11th, 2023**
- iii. Earleton-Timiskaming Airport – Minutes September 2023 & Financial Statements**
- iv. Treasurer’s Report November 2023**
Additionally, the Clerk-Treasurer verbally notified council that the TMSA has hired a fully qualified planner who is scheduled to begin on January 3rd, 2024.

2023-148 **Moved: Carter Seymour** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**

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 Department Report
 - b. Fire Department Report
 - c. Others
 - i. Eco-Logix’s Landfill Report – October 2023
 - ii. Timiskaming Health Unit – Minutes October 11th, 2023
 - iii. Earleton-Timiskaming Airport – Minutes September 2023 & Financial Statements
 - iv. Treasurer’s Report November 2023
- “CARRIED”

7. Correspondence for Council’s Consideration:

- a. Guy Bourgouin, MPP James Bay, Preparation of Bill – Passing on Double Yellow**

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2023-149 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
WHEREAS police services in Ontario do not currently have the legal tools to penalize the dangerous maneuver of vehicles passing vehicular traffic on the left on two solid yellow lines;

AND WHEREAS this dangerous maneuver has had devastating effects on the residents of Northern Ontario Municipalities which center around Highways 11 and 17, and who must use these highways as main thoroughfares;

AND WHEREAS Guy Bourgouin, MPP Mushkegowuk-James Bay, is preparing a bill to make it completely illegal for a vehicle to pass on the left side of a lane when it is marked with two solid yellow lines;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Kerns, hereby resolves to support the initiative of MPP Bourgouin in the preparation of this very important bill.
“CARRIED”

b. Municipality of Wawa – Bill C-310 – Support Tax Credit Firefighter

2023-150 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
WHEREAS Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

WHEREAS many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and

WHEREAS without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and

WHEREAS in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals, and calling on the federal government to increase this tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour;
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required;

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- It would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Kerns' call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and

Direct municipal staff to issue a copy of this resolution to the Municipality of Wawa.

“CARRIED”

c. Township of Coleman – Conservation Officer Reclassification

No Action

8. Correspondence for Council's Information:

None

9. Other Business:

a. Memo-23-012 – Timiskaming OPP Detachment Board (South) Appointment

2023-151 **Moved: Carter Seymour** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of Memo-23-012 regarding the Timiskaming OPP Detachment Board (South) Appointment; and

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby appoint Terry Phillips as the Township of Kerns council representative to the Temiskaming OPP Detachment SOUTH Board. (Board 3).

“CARRIED”

b. Memo-23-013 – Insurance Renewal - 2024

2023-152 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of Memo 23-013 regarding the Township of Kerns' 2024 insurance renewal proposal provided by McDougall Insurance; and

Agree to add Critical Illness coverage to the insurance policy at the quoted price of \$500; and

Direct Municipal Staff to prepare and present a by-law for council's consideration at the Regular Meeting of December 5th, 2023, authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to execute an Insurance Program Proposal with an annual premium of \$38,035.00 provided by McDougall Insurance.

“CARRIED”

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10. By-Laws

- a. By-Law 2023-15** Being a by-law to authorize the signing of a municipal insurance renewal proposal 2024
[three readings]

2023-153 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That **By-Law No. 2023-15**, being a by-law to authorize the signing of a municipal insurance renewal proposal for 2024 be received and read a first and second time.
"CARRIED"

2023-154 **Moved: Carter Seymour** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That **By-Law No. 2023-15**, being a by-law to authorize the signing of a municipal insurance renewal for 2024 be read a third time and that the same be engrossed in the by-law book.
"CARRIED"

Councillor Jibb requested if it was possible to change the council meeting time from the current 8:00pm to 7:30pm. Staff responded that this can be done if council approves an amendment to the Kerns Township procedural by-law. Council members verbally agreed to this change and asked staff to bring the necessary by-law to the next regular council meeting with an amendment to the council meeting starting time for councils consideration.

11. Resolution to Move to Closed Session:

None

12. Adjournment:

2023-155 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:10 pm and will meet again on January 2nd, 2024 or at the call of the Reeve.
"CARRIED"


for Terry Phillips, Reeve


Krystle Seymour, Clerk-Treasurer