

**TOWNSHIP OF KERNS**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**of APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2024**  
**Held at the Kerns Community Hall**

**Present:**   **Reeve:**     Terry Phillips  
                  **Councillors:** Loren Runnalls  
                                  Dennis Jibb  
                                  Mark Lenover  
                                  Carter Seymour  
                  **Staff:**     Krystle Seymour, Clerk-Treasurer  
                  **Others:**    12 Members of the Public, (8 left at 8:15pm, 3 left at 8:20pm)  
**Regrets:**           Guy Godmaire, Road Superintendent

**1. Call Meeting to Order & Adoption of Agenda**

2024-048   **Moved:   Dennis Jibb**                   **Seconded:   Carter Seymour**  
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, open the Regular Meeting of Council of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.  
“CARRIED”

2024-049   **Moved:   Mark Lenover**                   **Seconded:   Dennis Jibb**  
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 March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

2024-050   **Moved:   Dennis Jibb**                   **Seconded:   Mark Lenover**  
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, adopt the following minutes:  
a. Regular Meeting of March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 as presented.  
“CARRIED”

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

None

**4. Delegations:**

a. **Stephen Aitchison – Kerns Ball Field [no item]**

Stephen Aitchison addressed council regarding the Township owned property that currently holds the baseball field, the playground equipment, and the building known as the Milberta Church. He notified council that he was aware of discussions regarding the potential sale of this property from the February 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 regular council meeting. He and other local residents have canvassed the majority of the Kerns community asking them to sign a petition expressing their desire for the ownership of this property to remain with the Township for resident use. The petition was presented to council and was signed by approximately 180 individuals. A request was made for the signed petition to become part of the official record of this meeting. Most petition signatures are from Kerns Township residents; however, several non-residents also signed the petition. A resident who participated in canvassing the community told council that many shared their desire for the property to not be sold. Mr. Aitchison asked why council was considering selling the baseball field property.

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Reeve Phillips outlined the reason for Council's prior discussion on the matter. Kerns Council was approached in February by several individuals who were inquiring if the Township had any land that could be sold to them in order to build a private school on and if a school was permitted in the Township. Several options were discussed during that delegation including if a severance on a farm property would be permissible, and also if the property that houses the baseball field and Milberta Church was a possibility. Reeve Phillips outlined that through information gathered from the municipal planner, most of Kerns Township is designated as prime agricultural land and therefore severances would not be permitted for these purposes in most instances.

Several individuals who attended the meeting spoke about their desire for Kerns Township to keep the property so residents and neighbours of all ages could use the field and playground equipment for years to come, and said it does get used often by many. The group said that in gathering petition signatures, it became know that there are many young children in the Township who use this recreational space all year long.

Mr. Aitchison asked Council again why they would consider selling it and Councillor Jibb reiterated to the group that council was approached and therefore listened to the delegates presentation at the February 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 council meeting. One resident said she would like to see the park beautified and would be willing to assist with this work. Another, stated that since so many people are against it, council should not consider it further. A member of the public asked how they find out when council meetings are held. The Clerk-treasurer explained that Township information is available on the municipal website.

Fire Chief Lenover said the Fire Department will continue using the Milberta church structure for several more years to assist with Fire Department training. The history of the church and ball field were discussed and Reeve Phillips stated the ball park started in 1976 and he inquired if there was any interest in having a baseball team again to participate in the youth slow pitch tournament held in the City of Temiskaming Shores. Reeve Phillips asked if the ball field at Kerns Public School was available for use, and several believe it would be difficult to use for this purpose since the property is owned by the School Board.

Council thanked the group for attending and expressing their desire to use the recreation facility, and also for letting them know that other residents still have a desire to use the park.

2024-051

**Moved: Mark Lenover                      Seconded: Loren Runnalls**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge and accept Stephen Aitchison's presentation regarding the Kerns Baseball Field, including the signed petition; and

That it be filed along with the minutes of the regular meeting  
"CARRIED"

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**5. Payment of Accounts – Voucher No. 2024-03**

2024-052    **Moved: Carter Seymour**                      **Seconded: Mark Lenover**  
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns, do hereby, approve the payment of accounts as presented:

Roads	\$11,969.79
Fire	\$2,784.03
Admin	\$71,732.97
Total Voucher 2024-03	<u>\$86,486.79</u>
“CARRIED”	

**6. Reports from Staff & Others**

**a. Road’s Department Report**

The Roads Report states that the spring run-off has been going well. The boundary markers at the Wabi Pit were repaired and necessary reporting was submitted. Bridge sweeping and washing will begin as soon as weather permits.

**b. Fire’s Department Report**

The Fire Department reported that they received one call out to Kenabeek for a vehicle incident but were called off by OPP before arrival on scene. Ebert Welding fabricated a new part to repair a drain on the pumper truck that was broken. The Fire Chief notified council that the firefighter mandatory certification continues to be difficult for all members to complete. The Department continues to work on the Community Risk Assessment Report.

**c. Others**

**i. Eco-Logix’s Landfill Report – February 2024**

**ii. Earlton-Timiskaming Regional Airport – Minutes of January 2024 & Financials**

**iii. Timiskaming Heath Unit – Minutes January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**iv. TMSA Minutes Feb 1 2024\_Financials 2023\_Planning Fees Letter**

2024-053    **Moved: Dennis Jibb**                      **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. Eco-Logix’s Landfill Report – February 2024**

**ii. Earlton-Timiskaming Regional Airport – Minutes of January 2024 & Financials**

**iii. Timiskaming Health Unit – Minutes January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**iv. TMSA Minutes Feb 1 2024\_Financials 2023\_Planning Fees Letter**

“CARRIED”

**7. Correspondence for Council’s Consideration:**

**a. City of Clarence-Rockland – 9-8-8 National Suicide Crisis Hot Line**

2024-054    **Moved: Dennis Jibb**                      **Seconded: Loren Runnalls**



