

**MINUTES**

Special Meeting

June 30, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Present:	Absent:
Reeve: Rodney Wood	
Councillors: Mike Garside	
Pat Garside	
Dianne Holt	
Dave Leask	
Road Superintendent:	Lyn Garside
Clerk Treasurer: Valerie Obarymskyj	

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

This Special Meeting was called to adopt the Central Algoma Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and to review the survey responses that were part of compiling the Plan.

2021-46

Moved by Mike Garside

Seconded by Pat Garside

Resolved that we do accept the Agenda as amended. \*Carried\*

The requirement for each municipality to adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan came into place with new legislation under the Police Services Act, 1990 (PSA) in January 2019. As a result of the pandemic and the need for engaging with various agencies, the deadline had been postponed to July 1, 2021. Due to the pandemic restrictions lasting longer than expected, some community partners were unable to participate. Given the option of municipalities working together to compile a Joint Plan, area municipalities followed that route.

An Advisory Committee was formed and made up of area Clerks and representatives from Algoma Public Health, Child Care Algoma and the OPP. A survey was drafted and distributed to residents by both mail and online options. The responses to the survey helped to identify what residents consider the priority risks for our community, as well as, obtaining a sense of their satisfaction with services provided and opportunity to address areas that may require more attention.

Council reviewed the final version of the CSWB Plan, as well as, residents' responses to several of the Comment sections. Risks identified by the public responses included speeding vehicles and ATVs; increased crime; increased instances of drugs and addictions; increased stress and isolation. The latter concern could certainly be related to the pandemic and its effect on individuals. In addition to risks, residents also had the opportunity to comment on how improvements could be made to their community.

Based on the overall responses to the survey from the eight participating municipalities, the CSWB Plan addressed two priority risks: #1: Mental Wellness and Substance Use/Addiction and #2: Community Safety and Crime Prevention. Having identified the priority risks, the Advisory Committee then focused on how best to address those risks. A number of steps have been identified in the Plan that include compiling an inventory of services currently available and promoting awareness of these supports, as well as, compiling an inventory of statistics from the OPP to identify which types of crimes are happening in each municipality.

Improving on communication between the OPP and municipalities was also recommended. The Clerk noted that OPP Inspector Tyler Sturgeon spoke to the misunderstanding about how the OPP billing model works in terms of calls to the police for non-urgent matters. Inspector Sturgeon noted a reluctance by residents to call the police is a major public safety concern and hampers the ability of the OPP to effectively respond to operational issues and crime/traffic trends. The Clerk was asked to contact the OPP and invite them to a future council meeting to review the OPP billing model once attendance restrictions have been lifted.

Council noted its sincere appreciation for the efforts made by Hilton Township residents in responding to the area-wide survey. A total of 181 surveys were submitted by June 18th with 52 (29%) coming from Hilton Township.

Beyond the concerns raised about crime and mental health, a number of residents addressed improvements that could be made locally: better internet; new recreation opportunities for both youth and seniors; ensuring health services remain available on the Island; more affordable housing.

In terms of providing recreation opportunities, Council noted its current efforts working with the Federal and Provincial Governments to provide an all-year pedestrian nature trail on its W Line property. The possibility of investigating grant opportunities for the construction of a pickleball court at this same location was also discussed.

2021-47

Moved by Dave Leask

Seconded by Pat Garside

Resolved that Council for the Corporation of the Township of Hilton adopts the Central Algoma Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, as presented. \*Carried\*

As noted in the survey responses, many residents complained about the speed at which ATVs travelled the roads, as well as, the launching of ATVs at municipal beaches. The Clerk confirmed she had received such complaints from a Twin Lakes resident along with pictures of the individuals launching their watercrafts using an ATV. It is against the law to launch personal watercraft at public beaches or non-designated boat launches. There are additional concerns with boating in a swimming area and the OPP will lay charges under each of these circumstances. Both our municipal parks have signs stating ‘No ATVs Permitted’. It was recommended new signs be ordered for each park given the current ones are starting to show deterioration.

2021-48

Moved by Mike Garside

Seconded by Pat Garside

Resolved that we do pass By-Law No. 1298-21 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of this meeting. \*Carried\*

2021-49

Moved by Dave Leask

Seconded by Dianne Holt

Resolved that we do adjourn at 9:38 p.m., Council to meet again at the Hilton Township Municipal Office at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 for the next regular meeting of Council or at the call of the Reeve. \*Carried\*

Reeve, Rodney Wood

Clerk, Valerie Obarymskyj

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**M and N Landfill/Recycling:**

**SUMMER Hours in Effect from May 15, 2021 to September 15, 2021**

Wednesday: 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Holiday Mondays: 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sunday: 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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**No Launching Watercraft from Municipal Beaches**

The Township of Hilton reminds its residents and visitors that it is **illegal** to launch boats or personal watercraft at public beaches or non-designated boat launches. This has been witnessed recently at Twin Lakes Park with the individuals using their ATVs.

In addition, anyone boating or seadooring in a swimming area creating a safety issue for swimmers could face a fine of \$430 by the OPP for operating a vessel in a careless manner.

Parents are also reminded that youth under the age of 16 are not permitted to operate a personal watercraft regardless of supervision. The operator may be fined \$125 and the owner who allowed the operation could face a \$305 fine.

Anyone witnessing such occurrences is encouraged to contact the OPP and report the incident.

The Township of Hilton offers a boat launch at Milford Haven where anyone can legally launch their boat or personal watercraft.

Visitors to Twin Lakes Park and Big Point Park are reminded that ATVs are not permitted anywhere within the park grounds with signs posted on-site advising this.

We ask for the public’s co-operation in adhering to these rules to ensure the safety of all swimmers and protection of our municipal beach waterfronts.