



MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF COUNCIL
August 14, 2021

A Public Meeting of the Council of the North Frontenac was held in the North Frontenac Township Office, Council Chambers, 6648 Road 506, Plevna, Ontario with the public participating electronically.

Present: Mayor Ron Higgins; Councillor Wayne Good – Ward 1; Deputy Mayor Gerry Martin – Ward 2; Councillor John Inglis and Councillor Fred Fowler – Ward 3

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Fred Perry – Ward 1 and Councillor Vernon Hermer – Ward 2

Also Present: Cheryl Robson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO); Tara Mieske, Clerk/ Planning Manager (CPM); and Kelly Watkins, Treasurer

1. Call to Order and Purpose of Meeting

The Mayor called the Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Chair's Opening Remarks

Attached.

3. Approval of Agenda

a) Public Meeting - August 14, 2021

Resolution #: 347-21 Moved By: Councillor Good

Seconded By: Councillor Inglis

Be It Resolved That Council approves the Agenda for the Public Meeting of Council regarding the Re-division of Wards and Changes to Council Composition dated August 14, 2021, as circulated.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None noted.

Note: Councillor Hermer arrived at this time.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Re-Division of Wards and Changes to Council Composition

6. Public Input

Ed Roahr advised he has been a resident of Ward 2 for ten plus years. He noted the proposal to reduce the Township to two Wards with four Councillors and a Mayor looks good with respect to population. But when taking a closer look, each of the existing Wards has unique priorities and problems. Ward 2 has the majority of North Frontenac's cottagers. He noted Councillors have specific duties and a lot of work (i.e. liaison appointments and Committees). If there are only two Wards then the five individuals would have an increased workload. Currently there is one member who is away due to illness. His workload is being covered by others or it would get left derelict. If Council was smaller this would be a bigger issue. Also, the balance of power could be left in the hands of one person especially if there was a 2:2 split and the Mayor was the deciding vote. This may lead to the Mayor's Ward having priority. He noted he doesn't think the job pays or could pay enough for a full-time position and there has to be adequate time for assigned tasks and duties. He felt it should be kept as three Wards and the current number on Council the same.

The Mayor advised he doesn't not have power, as the Mayor normally doesn't vote unless a tie. The Mayor stated he votes for what is best for the Township not what is best for himself as the Mayor.

Ed Roahr advised he was not speaking of the Mayor personally but potentially in the future.

Don Bradley advised he is a resident of Ward 3. He used to be a resident of Carp and when Ottawa amalgamated years ago there were supposed to be cost savings and it was supposed to be better. However it became urban versus rural; and the rural area was left out and not considered. He noted you can't go by population. You need to look at the needs to be fair. He advised if it isn't broke don't fix it and things seem to be working well right now. He noted he doesn't believe there will be cost savings as amalgamation doesn't save.

Elaine Palmer advised she has been in North Frontenac for 44 years. She noted there was an issue accessing the Agenda. She advised there are seven people making decisions for a large area. We need broader view points. It is working well and should stay as is.

The Mayor advised the Clerk will have the link to the Agenda fixed.

Barbara Young advised she lives on Norcan Lake and has been involved with the Township for 10 years. She advised she has lobbied different Councillors not just the ones in her Ward. She said there is more opportunity for diversity if the number of Councillors stays as is. She noted it would be a lot more work if there were less

