

Regular Council Meeting – May 10, 2004

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River was held on Monday, May 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers.

In attendance were the following: Mayor Glen Armstrong, Councillors Brent Anderson, Larry Armstrong, Gerry Marchuk and Debbie Ewald.

Absent were Councillors Ed Tymkin and Dennis Ewald.

Delegates in attendance were Robin Jenson and Cathy Hoszowski.

The minutes were recorded by the Municipal Administrator, Debora Bowman.

Opening of Meeting

Mayor Glen Armstrong opened the meeting with a moment of silence and a salute to the Queen.

Additions to the Agenda

Property:

- **Rentals**
- **Lawnmower**

Fire Department – Sale of Old Pumper Truck

Delegations:

- **Robin Jenson**
- **Cathy Hoszowski, DSSAB**

Motion # 04-0076 – Debbie Ewald – Gerry Marchuk

“That the agenda be accepted as amended.”

Carried

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Delegations

Robin Jenson

Robin Jenson explained that she had provided Council with a letter prior to the meeting. The purpose of this letter was to express her concerns over a lack of guidelines and procedures for the rental of town owned properties. Ms. Jenson indicated that she would like a copy of these guidelines and procedures once they were developed.

Mayor Glen Armstrong acknowledged the receipt of her letter and thanked Ms. Jenson for attending the Council meeting. Ms. Jenson was also informed that the Council would be meeting as a Committee of the Whole in order to discuss the procedures for rentals and that her concerns would be addressed at that time.

Cathy Hoszowski – Social Housing Manager

Ms. Hoszowski presented the Council with an information package regarding District Social Housing (i.e types of tenants and housing, funding and legislation). A copy of these notes is available on file at the Town Office for further review.

Minutes

Under Economic Development, Councillor Larry Armstrong thought that the meetings referred to should be named in the minutes. The Administrator confirmed that Councillor Ed Tymkin had attended the Great Rendezvous III meetings and workshops (including NOMA, NOACC and NODN).

Motion # 04-0077 – Gerry Marchuk – Debbie Ewald

“To approve the minutes of the regular council meeting of April 13, 2004 as amended.”

Carried

Business Arising

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Accounts

Councillor Larry Armstrong had some questions regarding cheque numbers 17563 and 461. The Administrator indicated that she would put a copy of these receipts in his box for his perusal.

Motion # 04-0078 – Gerry Marchuk – Debbie Ewald

“That the accounts for the month of April 2004, having been paid in the following amounts, be hereby approved.”

Town General	\$128,717.92
Water	\$ 10,376.50
Sewer	\$ 11,199.73
Cemetery	\$ 1,558.37

Carried

Correspondence

No comments were made in relation to the correspondence.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Personnel/Health and Safety Committee – Brent Anderson (Chair), Ed Tymkin and Debbie Ewald

Chairperson Brent Anderson had no reports to make regarding the Finance Committee.

Sables-Spanish Rivers Resolution

Motion # 04-0079 – Brent Anderson – Gerry Marchuk

“That the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers in their resolution that the Agricultural Sector be supported, through the attached letter to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, in their efforts to ensure the future of ongoing financial support from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.”

Carried

It was noted that the seconder of this motion was changed to Councillor Gerry Marchuk as Councillor Ed Tymkin was not in attendance.

Property/Medical Centre/Cemetery Committee – Gerry Marchuk (Chair), Dennis Ewald and Debbie Ewald

Councillor Larry Armstrong questioned whether the subleasing referred to in the motion for Ms. Murray would only occur on the days that she was renting. The Committee members indicated that this was their understanding of the agreement.

Melanie Murray – Shared Rental

Motion # 04-0080 – Gerry Marchuk – Debbie Ewald

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby authorizes Melanie Murray to sublet the office space which she has rented at the Rainy River Clinic.”

Carried

Recreation Centre – Tennis Court

There were some questions regarding motion # 04-0081 to authorize assistance in dismantling the tennis court. The Administrator explained that, in her discussions with Foreman Bob Jenson and Councillor Dennis Ewald, the Recreation Board had decided to leave the fence up but would cut it lower. The fence should not present any problems in the removal of surface materials, as one side could be taken down to allow access to equipment.

Motion # 04-0081 – Debbie Ewald – Gerry Marchuk

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby authorizes the Town Crew to assist the Rainy River Recreation Board in providing machinery and operators for the removal and hauling of surface and fencing materials as per their plan for renovation of the tennis court area.”

Carried

Lawnmower Purchase

Motion # 04-0081A – Debbie Ewald – Gerry Marchuk

“That the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby approves the purchase of a John Deere Lawn Tractor from De Gagne Equipment Ltd. in the amount of \$5,750.00 including taxes.”

Carried

Rental Request – Cooper Chiropractic

A discussion ensued regarding the letter from Dr. Chris Duchnicki requesting rental space at the Rainy River Clinic. Chairperson Gerry Marchuk stated that the Property Committee had some concerns regarding how to proceed with of rentals.

The Council decided that this item should go back to the Property Committee for review. The Property Committee could make a recommendation and then the Council would decide if approval would be given.

Old Fire Truck

Before authorizing the sale of the old pumper truck, the Council decided that this issue should be taken back to the Committee level for further discussion.

Public Works/Water and Sewer/Recycling – Larry Armstrong (Chair), Gerry Marchuk, Brent Anderson

MOE Inspection and Annual Drinking Water Systems Report

Motion # 04-0082 – Larry Armstrong – Gerry Marchuk

“The Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River has received, reviewed and accepted the MOE Water and Sewer Inspection and Annual Drinking Water Systems Report.”

Carried

Hydro One Networks – Power Outages

Councillor Debbie Ewald reported that she had met with a Hydro One representative in Thunder Bay. She was informed that a Hydro One representative would be touring our area in the Fall and could be available at that time for further discussion. This meeting, however, did result in Hydro One agreeing that the Town Crew could assess power outage situations and report back to them. If the problem was merely a switch they would be able to disperse only one individual to repair the problem rather than waiting for a full crew to come to town. It was emphasized, however, that Hydro One could not authorize the Town Crew to work on their facilities.

Economic Development/Tourism/Rainy River District Municipal Association Committee – Gerry Marchuk (Chair), Ed Tymkin

Economic Development

Councillor Gerry Marchuk reported that he had attended the Ministry of Tourism Partnership Forum which was held Dryden. The issue of ice shacks being left out on the lake had been addressed. It was felt that the Chamber send their recommendations in this regard directly to the Minister of Natural Resources.

RRDMA

Mayor Glen Armstrong reported that a meeting of the Rainy River District Municipal Association would be held on May 19, 2004. Councillor Larry Armstrong indicated that he would possibly attend this meeting as well.

Fire Department/OPP – Dennis Ewald (Chair), Gerry Marchuk

Mayor Glen Armstrong reported that there had been a recommendation made by the Finance and Personnel Committee to nominate Sgt. Dave Saunders and his staff at the Rainy River OPP detachment for the 2004 Award of Excellence for Fighting Crime.

Rainycrest Home for the Aged – Larry Armstrong

Councillor Larry Armstrong explained that a Rainycrest meeting would be taking place this week to once again address their budget issues. He also went on to explain the purpose of forwarding the following motion.

Funding Shortfall

Motion # 04-0083 – Debbie Ewald – Gerry Marchuk

“WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care made a ruling in 2003 not to re-open 20 long-term interim beds as they became vacant at the Rainy River District Home for the Aged (Rainycrest) in Fort Frances; and

WHEREAS there is an unprecedented need by senior citizens in the Rainy River District and First Nations Communities to have these long-term beds re-opened so that seniors may remain in their own environment and receive proper care at a reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS the daily costs associated with seniors remaining in hospital care versus Home for the Aged is exorbitant comparatively and the permanent care that seniors require is underprovided due in part that hospitals are not long-term care facilities; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in projecting the need for additional long-term care beds have ignored the Rainy River District;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of each Municipality hereby implores the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to re-open 20 long-term care beds that are sitting empty at the Rainy River District Home for the Aged which are in high demand and a vital necessity to senior citizens in our area; and

THAT each Municipal Council, an advocacy on behalf of municipalities in the Rainy River District of Northwestern Ontario, be requested to petition the Province, demanding that it is imperative for the unoccupied long-term care beds at Rainycrest Home for the Aged be reinstated immediately; and further,

THAT a copy of the resolution be forwarded to: the Honourable Dalton McGuinty; Premier of Ontario; the Honourable George Smitherman; Minister of Health and Long-Term Care; the Honourable John Gerretsen; Minister Responsible for Seniors; the Honourable Howard Hampton, MPP; and the Honourable Bill Mauro, MPP; NOMA Executive; for direct action of this critical issue on behalf of senior citizens in the District of Rainy River.”

Carried

External Boards (Library/Recreation) – Brent Anderson, Debbie Ewald

There was nothing to report at this time.

By-Law/AMBIS Committee – Larry Armstrong (Chair), Brent Anderson, Ed Tymkin

It was noted that a Public Meeting would be held on May 25th in order to review the User Fees By-Law, Procurement By-Law and the Tax Ratio By-Law.

DSSAB Committee – Glen Armstrong

Land Ambulance

Mayor Glen Armstrong reported that he had met with the Minister of Health in Thunder Bay regarding land ambulance issues. The Mayor informed the Council that he would also be attending a DSSAB meeting next week.

Other Business

A=STEPP – CVA and MPAC Resolution Endorsement

Motion # 04-0084 – Debbie Ewald – Gerry Marchuk

“That the Town Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River hereby supports the attached A=STEPP resolution to petition the Premier of Ontario to implement a methodology for real property assessment in Ontario, which would alleviate the current instability created by the present CVA method, to both municipalities and property owners and to implement the measures.”

Carried

Motion # 04-0085 – Debbie Ewald – Brent Anderson

“There being no further business the meeting adjourn.”

Carried

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor

Municipal Administrator