

---

## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LA VALLEE

---

The Regular Meeting of the Township of La Vallee was held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 13, 2023 with Reeve Lucille MacDonald and Councillors Ken Badiuk, Elaine Hughes, Brendan Hyatt and Steve Loshaw in attendance.

Also present were Patti McDowall, Clerk/Treasurer, Neil MacDonald, Road Superintendent and Tyrell Griffith, Fire Chief.

**Conflict of Interest:** None

**Delegations:** None

**Fire Department Report:** The Fire Chief's status report was reviewed. The Fire Chief gave a brief report on the legacy Program. Council has agreed to write a letter on behalf of the Fire Dept. to the Office of the Fire Marshall regarding the legacy program and other training related matters.

**Road Department Report:** The Bridge Report was discussed. Cain Road Bridge is now in good condition after some minor repairs. The required repairs will be done to the Boxalder Road Bridge. Landfill issues were discussed including expansion and monitoring wells.

**Council Discussion:** Committees and Boards were discussed along with columbariums.

**Council Reports:** None

**Resolutions:**

191. HYATT/LOSHAW: BE IT RESOLVED that we accept the Agenda as presented. CARRIED
192. HYATT/LOSHAW: BE IT RESOLVED that we accept the November 8, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes as presented. CARRIED
193. HYATT/LOSHAW: BE IT RESOLVED that payroll items numbering from 522 to 610 in the amount of \$303,144.85 for December 13, 2023 be passed and paid. CARRIED
194. LOSHAW/BADIUK: BE IT RESOLVED that we accept the November 30, 2023 Financial Statements as presented. CARRIED
195. BADIUK/HYATT: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee direct Neil MacDonald, Road Superintendent, to explore the feasibility of dewatering trenches at the landfill which includes testing the site for compliance. CARRIED
196. HUGHES/BADIUK: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee authorizes Sharp Group to do the required repairs on the Boxalder Road Bridge. CARRIED
197. LOSHAW/HYATT: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee agrees to issue a one-time \$100 cheque to each residence on Tausendfrende Road as goodwill for the inconvenience during the waste haul to the landfill. CARRIED
198. LOSHAW/HATT: BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of La Vallee hereby make an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant for a generator for the Municipal Building and radios for the Fire Department. (Resolution No. 189 is to be rescinded). CARRIED

199. HYATT/BADIUK: WHEREAS the International Bridge between Fort Frances and International Falls is a strategic and essential asset to both The Town of Fort Frances and the City of International Falls; and

WHEREAS this International Bridge is a strategic and essential asset between the Province of Ontario and the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS this International Bridge is a strategic and essential asset between Canada and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS several hundred thousand vehicles cross this International Bridge each year; and

WHEREAS this International Bridge is a critical economic and community link connecting the Town of Fort Frances and the City of International Falls; and

WHEREAS this International Bridge is a critical piece of infrastructure binding not just two communities but the entire “borderland” region together; and

WHEREAS this International Bridge was constructed over a hundred years ago; and

WHEREAS this International Bridge requires regular maintenance; and

WHEREAS parts of this International Bridge may soon need to be replaced; and

WHEREAS the Federal Governments of Canada and the United States of America didn't step in to buy their respective sides of this International Bridge when they were put up for sale to ensure that this strategic and essential community asset remained viable; and

WHEREAS Rainy River First Nations showed leadership in acquiring ownership to ensure that this International Bridge remained viable when Resolute put this International Bridge up for sale; and

WHEREAS tolls represent a significant economic and social barrier across this historically integrated region; and

WHEREAS the current owner has indicated that the tolls will triple in the coming months; and

WHEREAS there may now be an opportunity to take this International Bridge into public ownership and to reduce or entirely remove the tolls.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Reeve and Council of the Township of La Vallee call on the Government of Canada to:

- a) Enter into negotiations to purchase the International Bridge for a fair price from Aazhogan LP;
- b) Maintain and operate the International Bridge with minimal or no tolls;
- c) Construct a new International Bridge between Fort Frances and International Falls, that will operate toll free; and
- d) That the Government of Ontario support and make every effort to cooperate and coordinate with the Government of Canada to facilitate the purchase of the existing bridge and the building of a new bridge.

CARRIED

200. LOSHAW/HUGHES: BE IT RESOLVED that we now go in-camera at 10:01p.m. for the following reasons:

- Security of property;
- Personal matters regarding an identifiable individual, including employees;
- Proposed or pending acquisitions or disposition of real property;
- Labour relations and employee negotiations;
- Litigation or potential litigation, including matter before administrative tribunals affecting the municipality or local board;
- Advice subject to a solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- Any matter with respect to which a council, local board or committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under any other statute; Council Training.
- Consideration of a request under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

201. LOSHAW/BADIUK: BE IT RESOLVED that we now close our in-camera session at 10:25p.m. and continue with the regular meeting of Council.

CARRIED

202. BADIUK/HYATT: BE IT RESOLVED that we adjourn to the next regular meeting or the call of the clerk.

CARRIED

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reeve

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clerk