

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024**

MINUTES

A Regular Council meeting was held in person on Wednesday November 6, 2024, in the Council Chambers at the Administration Centre located at 5786 County Road 21, Utopia.

In attendance: Mayor Sandie Macdonald
Deputy Mayor Michael Smith
Councillor Pieter Kiezebrink
Councillor Henry Sander
Councillor Liana Maltby

Staff in attendance: M. Mikael, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Rankin, Manager of Parks and Recreation
J. Kolb, Manager of Public Work
D. Dollmaier, Manager of Finance
S. Haniff, Manager of Planning
P. Granes, Chief Building Official
S. Corbett, Deputy Clerk
L. Lehr, Manager of Legislative Services

1. OPENING OF MEETING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Macdonald opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MOTIONS

Resolution No: CR158-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Smith

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the motions duly passed and approved at the Committee of the Whole meeting of this date be approved; and
THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole, Regular Council and Closed Session meetings held on the 16th day of October, 2024 be adopted as circulated.*

---Carried---

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No: CR159-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the items listed in the Consent Agenda dated November 6, 2024, be received for information; and
THAT items A2 and A8 be referred to Staff for action.*

---Carried---

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Minutes of the Nottawasaga Police Services Board

Resolution No: CR160-2024 Moved by: Maltby Seconded by: Sander

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Nottawasaga Police Services Board from their meeting of September 16, 2024 be received.

---Carried---

b. Minutes of the Essa Public Library Board

Resolution No: CR161-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Kiezebrink

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Essa Public Library Board from their meeting of September 23, 2024 be received.

---Carried---

6. PETITIONS

7. MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a. Notice of Motion - OPP Annual Billing Statement

Resolution No: CR162-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Sander

WHEREAS current police services within the Township of Essa (hereinafter referred to as the 'Township') are provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (hereinafter referred to as the 'OPP'); and

WHEREAS the Township and the local OPP detachment have worked in a positive, collaborative and effective manner for decades; and

WHEREAS historical increases in OPP Annual Billing Statements have trended around 2%; and

WHEREAS the OPP submitted their 2025 Annual Billing Statement to the Township on October 4, 2024, that identifies an approximate \$0.62 M (17.1%) increase from 2024 to 2025 that will translate to an approximate 5.2% tax rate increase, on top of what the Township was contemplating for the residents of Essa Township; and

WHEREAS the Township was not consulted nor provided any advance notice from the Commissioner regarding the significant cost increase received for OPP services; and

WHEREAS the Township cannot afford to absorb this unexpected and entirely preventable increase without causing undue financial strain to our taxpayers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Essa wishes to dispute the 2025 OPP Annual Billing Statement; and

FURTHER THAT the Township requests that the 2025 OPP Annual Billing Statement be reduced to an approximate 2% increase that is more manageable for the Township and in line with historical trends; and

FURTHER THAT any increase above 2% be absorbed by the province as the additional costs are directly the result of collective bargaining that was within the control of the OPP and should have been known to be financially unsustainable for the municipalities that now need to pay the bill; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General, MPP Brian Saunderson, the County of Simcoe and all 329 municipalities serviced by OPP.

---Carried---

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

9. **BY-LAWS**

- a. By-law 2024-51 – A By-law to amend DC By-law 2023-32.

Resolution No: CR163-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Smith

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2024-51 be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

---Carried---

10. **QUESTIONS**

11. **CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution No: CR164-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Maltby

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proceed to a Closed Session in order to address matters pertaining to:

a. **Staff Report C014-24, re: ASE**

- Advise Subject to Solicitor-Client Privilege – s.239(2)(f)
- Information Belonging to the Municipality – s.239(2)(j)
- Plans and Instructions for Negotiations – s.239(2)(k)

b. **Staff Report CAO027-24, re: Staffing**

- Personal Matters About an Identifiable Individual – s.239(2)(b)
- Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations – s.239(2)(d)

---Carried---

Council proceeded into Closed Session at 6:43 p.m.

Motion to Rise and Report from Closed Session Meeting of November 6, 2024.

Resolution No: CR165-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council rise and report from the Closed Session Meeting at 7:19 p.m.

---Carried---

The following items were passed by Council:

- a. **Confidential Staff Report C014-24 submitted by the Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk and Deputy Clerk, re: ASE**

Resolution No: CR166-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Maltby

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confidential Staff Report C014-24 be received; and THAT Council direct staff in accordance with Options #2 and #3 as contained within the body of this confidential report.

---Carried---

- b. **Confidential Staff Report C014-24 submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer, re: Staffing.**

Resolution No: CR167-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Smith

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confidential Staff Report CAO027-24 be received; and THAT Council direct staff in accordance with Options #2 and #3 as contained within the body of this confidential report.

---Carried---

12. CONFIRMATION BY-LAW

By-law 2024-52

Resolution No: CR168-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Maltby

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-law 2024-52, that being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, Closed and Council meetings held on this 6th day of November, 2024; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

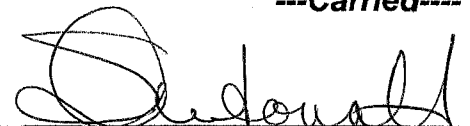
---Carried---

13. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No: CR169-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Maltby

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting of Council of the Township of Essa adjourn at 7:20 p.m. to meet again on the 20th day of November, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

---Carried---



Sandie Macdonald
Mayor



Lisa Lehr
Manager of Legislative Services