

# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

## MINUTES

TRI-COUNCIL MEETING August 28, 2023

The combined in-person/virtual TRI Council meeting of the Councils of the Township of Armour, the Village of Burks' Falls, and the Township of Ryerson was held on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 7:00pm at the Young at Heart Seniors Centre, hosted by the Village of Burk's Falls.

### **Attendance:**

Council members in attendance were:

Township of Ryerson Council present included Mayor George Sterling; Councillors Beverly Abbott, Glenn Miller, Delynne Patterson, and Dan Robertson; Staff: Nancy Field, Deputy Clerk, Brayden Robinson, CAO/Treasurer

Village of Burk's Falls Council present included Mayor Chris Hope, Councillors Ryan Baptiste, Sean Cotton, Ashley Brandt, and John Wilson; Staff: Tammy Wylie, Treasurer, Camille Barr, Senior Administrative Assistant, Graham Smith, Arena Manager, Candy Shuker, Finance Clerk

Township of Armour Council present included Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, Dorothy Haggart-Davis, and Wendy Whitwell; Staff: John Theriault, Clerk-Treasurer/Administrator, Charlene Watt, Deputy Clerk, Kaiyla Hoffman, Building Administrative Assistant.

Guests: Ruth Fenwick (Vice Chair Library Board), Nieves Guijarro (CEO, Library), JJ Blower (Communication Officer, DSSAB), Tammy Mackenzie (CAO, DSSAB), Josie Woodman (Library), Wilma Robert (Agricultural Society), Sarah Bissonnette (Almaguin News), Albine Cook

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Chris Hope. Mayor Chris Hope welcomed all participants to the meeting.
2. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**  
Resolution 08-28-01 Moved by Rod Blakelock - Seconded by Delynne Patterson  
That the TRI Council of the Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson, and the Village of Burk's Falls approve the notes of the regular meeting held on May 29, 2023. Carried.
3. **Presentation:** Nieves Guijarro and Ruth Fenwick of the Burk's Falls, Armour, and Ryerson Union Public Library presented on the library expansion project. They shared stats, future of the library regarding service beyond the lending of books, and the increase in patronage over a 10-year period of 56%. Space constraints were emphasized and a desired future location of a new build behind the Health Centre (off Main St. in Burk's Falls) was identified. It was specified that the main sewage line on the property would not have to be moved for the build. The cost to build on this site with the goal square footage of 5000 is estimated at \$3 million. The rough estimate cost to renovate the current location is also \$3 million. It was said that up to 90% of the funding for a new building could come from sources such as Trillium, Fed-Nor etc. Questions were posed to Council such as who would own the new library. Council posed questions such as does the proposed sq footage of 5000 meet the requirements for projected growth in the area. Nieves Guijarro said it is a 20-year projection. In addition to the build, more staffing will be required. Mayor Ward encouraged the library to keep their options open as a new build may not be financially attainable based on multiple municipal priorities. TRI Council will take the information back to their own individual council meetings for further discussion.
4. **Presentation:** Tammy MacKenzie and JJ Blower of the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board provided Tri-Council with an overview of service provided statistics of service usage for the district. Currently 101 people experiencing homelessness. Ontario Works payments have maintained at 733.00 per month for a single person which has not increased since 2018. Councillors Jerry Brandt and Ryan Baptiste are the TRI Council area representatives and will provide each council with information related to the work of DSSAB as received.

5. **Agricultural Society's Fall Fair:** Councillor Rod Blakelock would like the financial request for support for the Agricultural Society's Annual Fall Fair concluded and an annually budgeted amount set aside by the three individual municipalities. A donation of \$2500.00 annually from each municipality would be beneficial and said to enable expansions to the fair. Council inquired as to what plans the Society has for the future to become self-sustaining. The long-term sustainability needs to be discussed. Councillor Blakelock feels that overcharging will deter attendance.  
TRI Council is invited to attend the meetings of the society held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Councillor Rod Blakelock will attend each of the Council's November meeting to suggest an annual contribution amount.

The request for assistance with set up and take down of the fair was posed to the group.

6. **Fairgrounds Property and Possible Tri Services Funding:** Mayor Chris Hope presented possible needs of the fairgrounds to enhance useability. Examples were a portable stage and PA system. The topic of needs and future funding will require further discussion.
7. **Water Expansion/Fire Hall/EMS/ Hospital Health Care Services and Health Centre:** Items under this heading were discussed in combination with a presentation from Mayor Rod Ward- *Community Priorities Review* by the Council of Armour. The Local Share for the hospital was discussed and a built for purpose health and wellness building is proposed in Armour. Discussed the 20% local share contribution that is to stay in Almaguin and its relation to the build. Mayor Ward shared Armour's priorities and touched on where the following rank: Health care, EMS/Fire Hall, water/sewer expansion, Arena, Library, and others.  
Mayor Chris Hope suggested an Almaguin Health Care Plan.  
  
Concept of the Health and Wellness Centre in Armour will be presented at the next Almaguin Highlands Health Council meeting in September.
8. **Arena Manager Report:** Arena Manager Graham Smith shared that the facility has seen a successful summer with 580 hours used in July and August. The Arena staff have received compliments on the facility and ice conditions. Ice is booking for fall and winter as well more bookings are coming in for the Karl Krozier room.
9. **Jr. Hockey Team:** A new league is starting, and conversations were had regarding the use of the Arena. There is potential for the Jr. Hockey team to begin the fall of 2024.
10. **2024 Shared Services Budget:** It was proposed that draft budgets be presented at the October 2024 meeting with a deadline given for feedback to be received determined that TRI Council meeting. Final budgets would be ready for February 2024 TRI Council meeting for approval. It was agreed this is the process. Discussion arose about adding the Library as a TRI Council shared service. It was confirmed this could be done however the shared service agreement would need to be opened back up.
11. **Rental Rates:** In follow up to last TRI Council meeting, a report was provided showing actual rent paid by the Fire Department and the Library compared to market value.
12. **Other Business:**  
The Legion is hosting a family dance prior to the fireworks on September 2, 2023. All are welcome. Firework donations were discussed, and it was recommended cars are not stopped to suggest e-transfer due to already backed up vehicle lineups.
13. **Next Meeting:** October 23, 2023, with the Township of Ryerson hosting
14. **Adjournment**  
Resolution 08-28-02 Moved by George Sterling - Seconded by Wendy Whitwell

That the TRI Council of the Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson and the Village of Burk's Falls adjourn this regular TRI Council meeting at 9:52 p.m. until the next regular TRI Council meeting scheduled for Monday October 23, 2023, to be hosted by the Township of Ryerson.  
Carried.

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MAYOR

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CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK