

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HURON SHORES
December 16, 2020 (20-29) - Regular

The regular meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores was held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, and called to order by Mayor Georges Bilodeau at 7:09 p.m.

PRESENT (Council Chambers): Mayor Georges Bilodeau, and Councillors Debora Kirby and Jock Pirrie

PRESENT (electronically): Councillors Jane Armstrong, Gord Campbell, Nancy Jones-Scissons, Blair MacKinnon, and Dale Wedgwood

REGRETS: Councillor Darlene Walsh

STAFF (Council Chambers): Clerk/Administrator Deborah Tonelli

STAFF (electronically): Deputy Clerk Natasha Roberts; and Treasurer John Stenger (left at closed session)

GALLERY (electronically): Jim Falconer (left at ~8:25 p.m.), Thomas Mills (left at ~8:00 p.m.), Jon Cavanagh (left at 8:25 p.m.), Joanne Falk (left meeting at 8:28 p.m.), Michael Groh (left meeting at 8:25 p.m.), Lawrence Allcorn (left at 8:28 p.m.), J.C. Labbe (entered at 7:10 p.m.; left at 8:28 p.m.), Emilie Currie (left at 9:30 p.m.), Reginald Gardiner (left at 8:43 p.m.), Mary Johnson (left at closed session), Joseph Hickey (left at closed session), and Nancy Richards (sent to waiting room during closed session).

AGENDA REVIEW

Council concurred with switching the Delegation Presentations and moving Agenda Items 8d-10 and 8d-11 to be the first items addressed under General Business.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Wedgwood declared a pecuniary interest respecting Item 5c, pertaining to the Hughes Supply account.

Councillor Kirby declared a pecuniary interest respecting Item 5c, pertaining to the Tulloch Engineering account.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

20-29-01 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopts the **Minutes** of the D. Wedgwood Special Meeting, Regular Meeting and Closed Session held N.Jones-Scissons Wednesday, November 18 and Special Meeting held November 25, 2020, as circulated. CARRIED.

ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS

20-29-02 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves payment of the J. Pirrie **General Accounts**, excluding items of Pecuniary Interest, J. Armstrong for the period from November 9, 2020, to November 27, 2020, the amount of **\$517, 058.01**. CARRIED.

20-29-03 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves payment of the N.Jones-Scissons **Tulloch Engineering** account, dated November 9, 2020 B. MacKinnon and November 27, 2020, in the amount of **\$7,098.62**. CARRIED.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: D. Kirby

20-29-04 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves payment of the G. Campbell **Hughes Supply** account, dated November 27, 2020, in the J. Pirrie amount of **\$494.03**. CARRIED.
DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST: D. Wedgwood

DELEGATIONS AND PETITIONS

On a query from Mr. Gardiner, Mayor Bilodeau explained the purpose of switching the delegations is in order that questions posed by Mr. Gardiner might be answered by Mr. Hickey.

Reg Gardiner, appeared before Council via Zoom. He thanked Council for allowing him the time to receive him as a delegate this evening in order to express concerns and raise questions on behalf of concerned ratepayers of the Community, with regard to the incorporation of a new corporation. He reassured everyone that this group of ratepayers are not opposed to projects that provide better broadband to our area but, simply don't know enough about the various aspects of the H&M COFI project in order to support further action until several concerns are addressed. Acknowledging that it is Council's intention this evening to vote on incorporating a corporation, Mr. Gardiner presented some of the most pressing concerns of the group, with his presentation focusing particularly on the formation of a corporation. Mr. Gardiner offered to have an expert from the group speak with Rock Networks respecting concerns regarding the technical aspects of the project. He asked that at the end of the presentation, Council take the opportunity to answer as many questions as can be addressed. He advised that the questions will be made available, in writing, to the Municipality tomorrow, in order that a response may be received.

Mr. Gardiner posed the following questions and provided comment/information respecting some of the questions:

1. How will the corporation be structured?
2. Has the Municipality followed the requirements of incorporating a corporation, as per the Municipal Act: (a) held at least one public meeting; (b) provided 30 days written notice of the public meeting; (c) making the proposed by-law and attached business case study available to the public 30 days prior to the meeting to adopt the by-law?
3. Has the Municipality conducted a public competition process, as per the Municipal Act, to select any investor in the corporation who is a private person?
4. Have any municipalities come forward to participate as shareholders of the proposed corporation?
5. Who will the officers and directors be?
6. Will there be officers' and directors' liability insurance and at what cost?
7. Will the operating company (i.e. Rock Networks) be a shareholder of the proposed corporation?
8. (a) Has Council completed a high-level due diligence process, including researching potential investors, shareholders or corporations in terms of such aspects as enterprise value, technical ability, and marketing expertise?
(b) Has a search been done to determine whether any of the above, as well as proposed officers or directors, have any pending litigation involving vendors, CRA, or others?
9. Confirm whether the proposed business partner will have a financial stake in the enterprise.
10. Will all partners, vendors, service providers, etc. doing work for the corporation be required to post a performance bond?
11. Will any director or officer of this corporation receive financial compensation in the form of a salary, shares, stock options, etc.?
12. Are there allowances in the 2020 budget for costs in setting up, maintaining and winding up the provisions of the proposed corporation, as well as the dissolution of the corporation?

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13. Based on the group's recommendation at the October 6th meeting, has the Municipality approached other municipalities and first nations to contribute a small amount (i.e. \$500.00) to offset the costs of incorporation, legal and audit advice, etc.? If so, how many have shown their support through a contribution?
14. How much has been spent to-date on this endeavor, including administration costs such as staff hours, legal and audit fees, etc.?
15. Have you obtained letters of opinion on the merits of this project from your legal counsel and auditor?
16. Did Council support the resolution from FONOM in its support of Starlink? Mr. Gardiner spoke to the Starlink solution and advised that additional information will be made available to Council in their mailboxes tomorrow that further explains this opportunity.

Mr. Gardiner summarized by noting that the intent of the presentation was to ensure there was an official record of the concerns regardless of the final outcome of the H&M COFI Project and to ask each Councillor to consider the many aspects of such a large and costly endeavor. He also noted that in contacting the other municipalities and first nations within the H&M COFI Project catchment area, many thanked them for posing the questions as they also did not have substantive information to make an informed decision regarding the project. He noted that the group of concerned ratepayers continues to grow and appreciates Council's consideration of this very important matter. This group will continue to represent the larger group. Mr. Gardiner thanked Council.

Mayor Bilodeau advised that as a result of the October 6th Meeting with the group of concerned ratepayers (with Councillor Jones-Scissons, Councillor Debbie Kirby and Broadband Committee member Helen Bilodeau), a page has been set up on the Municipal Website to update and keep the public informed regarding the H&M COFI Project. Mayor Bilodeau furthered that the questions that were previously posed by the group have been forwarded to Rock Networks to be vetted and hopefully after receiving the questions posed tonight, Council will have further opportunity to review them and provide answers at a later date. Mayor Bilodeau thanked Mr. Gardiner for his time.

Mayor Bilodeau advised that Mr. Joe Hickey, President of Rock Networks, in partnership with Huron Shores, has answers to a lot of the questions previously posed and will have answers to concerns brought forward this evening. Mayor Bilodeau furthered that he and Councillor Jones-Scissons spoke with Brian Cullen from Pictou County regarding the broadband project they are working on with Rock Networks. They gathered information respecting questions posed by the group that will also be made available. Mayor Bilodeau spoke briefly to the discussion held with Mr. Cullen.

Joe Hickey, Rock Networks, appeared before Council via Zoom. Mr. Hickey read and provided answers to seven questions posed in the letter received from the group of concerned ratepayers following the October 6th meeting. He noted that the responses to the questions were provided, in writing, to Council and, upon confirming with the Mayor, will be posted to the H&M COFI Webpage after tonight's meeting. That document is attached as Appendix "A". Mr. Hickey agreed that the concerns of the ratepayers are valid and that a community survey and feedback tool is being launched to engage the community. He advised that no input will go unanswered and encouraged everyone to sign up to the community survey. Mr. Hickey closed by talking about the various ways to build networks and technology choices (i.e. low earth orbit networks, fixed wireless access, fibre) and that Rock Networks' job is to build networks that are optimized for the various

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needs of the community. Fibre will be used to the extent that it is feasible and other network applications will cover the remainder of the catchment area as determined by the business case. Some of the more remote areas may choose a satellite service. Mr. Hickey explained the evolution of download/upload speed expectations over the years. He advised that, based on history, the need for bandwidth will continue to increase.

Mayor Bilodeau permitted Reg Gardiner one question to Rock Networks. Mr. Gardiner asked what the financial enterprise value of Rock Networks is. He furthered that they are ultimately the company with which the Municipality would have the contract (the company that would bid on the project) and he asked if they can do it. Mr. Hickey advised that the company is private and would not divulge its finances but, did advise that they have been the 23rd fastest growing company in Canada over the past 5 years. He advised that Rock Networks is a leading company for building out community broadband networks across Canada.

GENERAL BUSINESS

As per the Agenda review, the following two General Business Items were moved forward on the agenda.

8d-10. to support the hmcofi.com website and Rural Internet Project Data Collection tool

20-29-05 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council supports, in principle, Rock
N.Jones-Scissons Networks development of an **hmcofi.com website** and a
J. Armstrong **Rural Internet Project Data Collection tool**, in order to
better inform and gather information from those residing in
the catchment area respecting the Huron Shore and
Manitoulin Island Community Owned Fibre Infrastructure
(H&M COFI) Project. CARRIED.

8d-11. to incorporate a corporation

On a query from Councillor Armstrong, Mayor Bilodeau advised that volunteers and individuals with certain expertise in business, technology, finance and legal are being sought and a list of tentative members is being compiled.

On a query from Councillor MacKinnon, Mayor Bilodeau confirmed that, from his understanding, the corporation will be for-profit. Mayor Bilodeau also confirmed that, although he cannot currently divulge the sources, funding commitments have been made to the corporation as soon as it is set up.

Councillor Jones-Scissons reported that the corporation will be set up in consultation with the Municipality's Solicitor.

20-29-06 WHEREAS Council has considered information received
D. Wedgwood from members of the Community respecting concerns
D. Kirby regarding the plan to proceed with incorporating a
corporation;
AND WHEREAS Council strongly supports the Huron Shore
and Manitoulin Island Community Owned Fibre
Infrastructure (H&M COFI) Project and believes it will
provide the best solution for the area in providing effective
and efficient broadband solutions;

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20-29-06 - cont. NOW THEREFORE Council **proceeds with incorporating a numbered for-profit corporation** in order that the **H&M COFI Project** may continue in its efforts to solicit the funding necessary to bring the project to fruition and provide the services deserving of the catchment area;
AND THAT all costs associated with creating the corporation be submitted to H&M COFI, once established, for full reimbursement to the Municipality. **CARRIED.**

RECORDED VOTE:

G. Bilodeau	Yea		
J. Armstrong	Yea	B. MacKinnon	Nay
G. Campbell	Yea	J. Pirrie	Nay
N. Jones-Scissons	Yea	D. Walsh	Absent
D. Kirby	Yea	D. Wedgwood	Yea

COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS

Environmental Report:

Deputy Clerk provided a written report to Council entitled, "Waste Site Punch Cards effective January 1, 2021". This will be addressed further under Item 8d-7.

GENERAL BUSINESS – cont.

8a. Planning Act Matters

8a-1. Motion: Council decision re: Provisional Consent for Application File No. 2020-C-04

20-29-07
N.Jones-Scissons
D. Kirby

WHEREAS an Application for Consent File No. 2020-C-04 for a new lot has been received from property owner of 162-164 Mosher Road, to sever one new parcel, approximately 9 hectares in size, from property described as CON 1 PT LOT 2 PCL 2693 Day Township;
AND WHEREAS Planning Consultant Peter Tonazzo, by Planning Report dated November 13, 2020, recommends approval of the application;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, under the provisions of Section 53 of the Planning Act, Council grants **Provisional Consent to File No. 2020-C-04** to sever one new lot, subject to the following conditions:

1. That a 10m (33') access easement be formalized to grant the retained parcel access over the severed parcel;
2. The following documents must be provided for the transaction for Planning Act Approval to be granted:
 - a. Draft Transfer Application Form - two copies to be provided for each of the lots;
 - b. Schedule to the Draft Transfer Application form - on which is set out the entire legal descriptions of the subject parcels in question. This Schedule must also contain the names of the party(ies) indicated on Page 1 of the Transfer Deed of Land Form or Transfer Application form;
3. Plan of Survey
 - a. A Reference Plan of Survey which bears the Land Registry Office registration number and

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20-29-07– cont.

signature as evidence of its deposit therein, illustrating the parcels to which the consent approval relates.

- b. Provide two paper copies and one digital copy of said reference plan of survey;

That any public road allowance for Mosher Road fronting and lying within the limits of the severed parcel be laid out as separate parts on the reference plan of survey, and that such road allowance be conveyed free and clear of any and all encumbrances to the Municipality at no cost to the Municipality.

8a-2. Motion: Council decision re: Provisional Consent for Application File No. 2020-C-05

20-29-08

J. Pirrie
D. Wedgwood

WHEREAS an Application for Consent File No. 2020-C-05 for a lot addition has been received from property owner at 22 Ansonia Road, to sever and convey 3 parts totaling 0.53 acres from property described as CON 4 PT LOT 9 PCL 435 ACS, Kirkwood Township, and conveyed to property described as CON 4 LOT 9 1R1334 PARTS 1 and 2 PT PCL 5688 ACS, Kirkwood Township.

AND WHEREAS Planning Consultant Peter Tonazzo, by Planning Report dated November 13, 2020, recommends approval of the application;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, under the provisions of Section 53 of the Planning Act, Council grants **Provisional Consent to File No. 2020-C-05**, subject to the following conditions:

1. That Parts A, B and C (all being adjacent lands) as identified on the sketch attached to the Application be tied to the existing land title of 120 Shaw Road using the provisions of Section 118 of the *Land Titles Act* creating one parcel to ensure that the new parts can never be sold separately from the main parcel;
2. The following documents must be provided for the transaction described in order that *Planning Act* Approval may be granted:

- a. Draft Transfer Application Form - two copies to be provided;

- b. Draft Schedule to the Transfer Application form - on which is set

out the entire legal description of the parcel in question. This Schedule must also contain the names of the party(ies) indicated on Page 1 of the Transfer Deed of Land Form or Transfer Application form

3. Plan of Survey

- a. A Reference Plan of Survey which bears the Land Registry Office registration number and signature as evidence of its deposit therein, illustrating the parcels to which the consent approval relates.

- b. Provide two paper copies and one digital copy of said reference plan of survey.

That any public road allowance for Shaw Road fronting and lying within the limits of the severed parcel be laid out as separate parts on the reference plan of survey, and that such road allowance be conveyed free and clear of any and

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20-29-08- cont. all encumbrances to the Municipality at no cost to the Municipality. CARRIED.

8b. By-laws

8b-1. By-law #20-59: to Execute an Extension Agreement with James MacFarlane for provision of Cemeteries Caretaker Services

20-29-09 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-59**, being a by-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores to D. Kirby **Execute an Extension Agreement with James N.Jones-Scissons MacFarlane for provision of Cemeteries Caretaker Services** was read a first, second and third time and passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020. CARRIED.

8b-2. By-law #20-60: to Execute an Extension Agreement with Jason Smith for provision of By-law Enforcement & Animal Control Officer Services

20-29-10 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-60**, being a by-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores to J. Pirrie **Execute an Extension Agreement with Jason Smith D. Wedgwood for provision of By-law Enforcement & Animal Control Officer Services** was read a first, second and third time and passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020. CARRIED.

8b-3. By-law #20-61: to Execute an Extension to the Cleaning Caretaker Agreement with Dorianne Goodmurphy of Clean-4-U
Clerk/Administrator advised that Mrs. Goodmurphy has requested a \$20.00 per month increase due to a staff wage increase. Council concurred with the increase.

20-29-11 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-61**, being a by-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores to B. MacKinnon **Execute an Extension to the Cleaning Caretaker G. Campbell Agreement with Dorianne Goodmurphy of Clean-4-U** was read a first, second and third time and passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020. CARRIED.

8b-4. By-law #20-62: to establish a Cash Float and rescind By-law #00-13

20-29-12 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-62**, being a by-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores to J. Armstrong **Establish a Cash Float and rescind By-law #00-13** was B. MacKinnon read a first, second and third time and passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020. CARRIED.

8b-5. By-law #20-63: to enter into an agreement with Leroy Construction for the plowing/sanding of a portion of Dean Lake Road including Dean Lake Bridge

Clerk/Administrator advised that only one bid was received. She advised of the bid and equipment to be used.

20-29-13 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-63**, being a by-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores to D. Wedgwood **Enter into an agreement with Leroy Construction for D. Kirby the plowing/sanding of a portion of Dean Lake Road including Dean Lake Bridge** was read a first, second and

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20-29-13- cont. third time and passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020. CARRIED.

8b-6. By-law #20-64: for the purpose of appointing signing authorities and to rescind By-law #18-73

Clerk/Administrator confirmed that this by-law is to allow for Treasury to make electronic payments without requiring signatures on a cheque.

20-29-14 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-64**, being a by-law of N.Jones-Scissons the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores **for the Purpose of Appointing Signing Authorities and to Rescind By-law #18-73** was read a first, second and B. MacKinnon third time and passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020. CARRIED.

8b-7. By-law #20-65: to enter into an agreement with GSD Roy Logging to access Old Mine Road during the winter season

20-29-15 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-65**, being a by-law of G. Campbell the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores to D. Wedgwood **Enter into an agreement with GSD Roy Logging to access Old Mine Road during the winter season** was read a first, second and third time and passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020. CARRIED.

8b-8. By-law #20-66: to adopt the 2020 – 2024 Accessibility Plan

20-29-16 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-66**, being a by-law of N.Jones-Scissons the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores to D. Wedgwood **Adopt the 2020-2024 Accessibility Plan** was read a first, second and third time and passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020. CARRIED.

8c. Minutes – Boards and Committees (internal)

8c-1: Municipal Emergency Management Control Group and Emergency Management Program Committee Meeting – December 13, 2019

8c-2: Ad Hoc Broadband Committee - November 17, 2020

8c-3: Economic Development Advisory Committee – October 8, 2020

8c-4: Joint Health and Safety Committee – October 27, 2020

20-29-17 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the **Minutes** of the J. Armstrong following municipal committees:
J. Pirrie -Municipal Emergency Management Control Group and Emergency Management Program Committee Meeting – December 13, 2019
-Ad Hoc Broadband Committee - November 17, 2020
-Economic Development Advisory Committee – October 8, 2020
-Joint Health and Safety Committee – October 27, 2020 CARRIED.

Minutes - Boards and Committees (joint/external)

8c-5: Thessalon Town and Township Cemetery Board - September 28, 2020

8c-6: Algoma Public Health Board – October 28, 2020

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20-29-18 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the **Minutes** of the
D. Kirby following board/organization on which the Municipality has
D. Wedgwood representation:
– Thessalon Town and Township Cemetery Board -
September 28, 2020
–Algoma Public Health Board – October 28, 2020
CARRIED.

8d. Motions

8d-1. to authorize use of municipal logo
The motion was deliberated.

20-29-19 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes the use of the
N.Jones-Scissons **Municipal Logo** on gifts and accessories for use by Staff
G. Campbell and Council;
AND THAT said gifts and accessories be purchased at the
individuals' own expense. CARRIED.

8d-2. to appoint David Smith to the Volunteer Fire Dept. (Stn 1)

20-29-20 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council appoints **David Smith** to
J. Pirrie the **Huron Shores Fire Department**, Station 1, subject
B. MacKinnon to medical approval. CARRIED.

8d-3. to accept the resignation of Chantal Deschamps from the Volunteer
Fire Dept. (Stn 2)

20-29-21 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts, with regret, the
G. Campbell **resignation** of **Chantal Deschamps** from the **Huron**
D. Wedgwood **Shores Volunteer Fire Department**, effective
November 20, 2020. CARRIED.

8d-4. to adopt the Personal Vehicle for Municipal Use Policy
Council discussed the occurrence and Clerk/Administrator reported the
practices of other municipalities in the area.

20-29-22 WHEREAS the back side window of an employee's car was
B. MacKinnon broken in the course of duties and while using the vehicle
N.Jones-Scissons to travel from work site to work site;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council
authorizes the replacement of said window, with like, at
the Municipality's expense, to a maximum of \$500.00;
AND THAT a **Personal Vehicle for Municipal Use Policy**
be adopted to be referenced for all future occurrences.
CARRIED.

8d-5. to pay AMCTO Membership of Deputy Clerk
Council deliberated the staff memberships to AMCTO.

20-29-23 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes that **Deputy**
J. Pirrie **Clerk Roberts** submit an application as a New
D. Wedgwood Professional Member to the **Association of Municipal**
Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
(AMCTO) at a cost of \$215.00 + HST;
AND THAT the expenditure be drawn from
Subscriptions/Memberships as per the 2021 Budget.
CARRIED.

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8d-6. to delay Public Works equipment purchases to 2022

20-29-24
J. Armstrong
D. Wedgwood

WHEREAS Public Works Hadikin was authorized, by Resolution No. 20-18-24, to obtain cost estimates for a new tandem plow truck and a replacement for the 2005 half-ton truck for consideration in the 2021 budget;
AND WHEREAS COVID-19 has caused financial peril to those who were affected by shutdowns to nonessential services and workers;
AND WHEREAS the overall concern of Council is to be cautious with respect to expenditures;
AND WHEREAS this is a time when we should be curtailing any large expenditures;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, barring emergency circumstances, Council delay consideration of any new vehicle purchases to budget year 2022.

CARRIED.

8d-7. to approve Environmental Committee recommendations re: Waste Site Punch Cards

Council recommended that "Punch Cards Required" signage be installed at the Waste Sites once initiated. Councillor Jones-Scissons explained the plan. Deputy Clerk Roberts explained the number of punch cards provided to property owners and that the distribution was based on the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation coding for the property. The Key Holder Agreements will also be amended to reflect the required punch card system. Council deliberated the sharing of cards and the requirement of the two private waste collector businesses that operate in the Municipality. Councillor Wedgwood reported that the Committee expects ratepayer questions and concerns and that Council may have to tweak the program moving forward. The letter/distribution package will include the encouragement of the use of clear bags. Clerk/Administrator identified that with this being a new program, staff is seeking ratepayer input.

20-29-25
J. Pirrie
D. Kirby

WHEREAS Council, in an effort to preserve our waste disposal sites, has endeavored to implement a garbage bag tag system;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accept the recommendations brought forward by the Environmental Committee regarding the implementation of **Waste Site Punch Cards**, effective January 1, 2021;
AND THAT all Waste Site Key Holder Agreements for 2021 and beyond be amended to include a provision for punch cards in the monthly reporting requirements. CARRIED.

8d-8. to approve COOP Imagery Project (further to letter of intent)

On a query from Councillor MacKinnon, Clerk Administrator advised that the municipality would have no say in others wishing to purchase the orthophotography and she would have to investigate the query further.

20-29-26
B. MacKinnon
N. Jones-Scissons

WHEREAS Council, via resolution 20-27-03, dated November 25, 2020, authorized Clerk/Administrator Tonelli to sign the required Letter of Intent for the Municipality to participate in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNR) 2021 Central Ontario Orthophoto Project (COOP) to provide digital orthophotography of the majority of the Municipality;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the Municipality's participation is the **2021 Central**

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20-29-26 – cont. **Ontario Orthophoto Project** for a total cost of \$3,463.00 + HST, to be included in the 2021/2022 Municipal Budget. **CARRIED.**

8d-9. to renew the Municipal Insurance Policy for year 2021
 Clerk/Administrator reported on the pending fee.

On a query from Councillor Jones-Scissons, Treasurer Stenger reported that the policy does include a Councillor errors and omissions section. He will provide it to Council members.

20-29-27 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council renews the **Municipal Insurance Policy for 2021 with Algoma Insurance.**
 J. Pirrie
 D. Wedgwood **CARRIED.**

8e. Notices of Motion

Councillor Armstrong identified a notice of motion respecting the need for Council to approach our members of parliament to address the exorbitant insurance fees.

Councillor Wedgwood requested that Council address a matter in closed session regarding a personal matter about a staff member. This will be added to the motion under that section of the Agenda.

9. LETTERS & COMMUNICATIONS FOR ACTION

9-1. Moms Stop The Harm (MSTH) – The Overdose Crisis

9-2a. Huron North Community Economic Alliance – Universal Broadband Fund Rapid Response Application

9-2b. Huron North Community Economic Alliance – draft letter of support for Leepfrog

Mayor Bilodeau and Councillor Jones-Scissons spoke to the matter.

20-29-28 WHEREAS Leepfrog Telecom is providing internet services within Iron Bridge, initiated under CENGN's Northern Ontario Residential Broadband Project funding;
 J. Pirrie AND WHEREAS the Huron North Community Economic Alliance has requested a letter of support from its participating communities in supporting Leepfrog Telecom in an application to the Rapid Response Stream of the Universal Broadband Fund;
 B. MacKinnon AND WHEREAS Council wishes to support Leepfrog Telecom in its endeavors;
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council invites **Leepfrog Telecom** to a (virtual) meeting to address the success of its ISP services in Iron Bridge and to discuss partnership potential with the Huron Shore & Manitoulin Island Community Owned Fibre Infrastructure (H&M COFI) Project. **CARRIED.**

9-3. Matt Seabrook – letter of concern re financial contribution to Physician Recruitment

9-4. Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing – Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act: Accelerating Infrastructure Initiatives Municipal Engagement

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20-29-29 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Clerk/Administrator be authorized to respond to the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Ontario Rebuilding and Recovery Act: Accelerating Infrastructure Initiatives Municipal Engagement** online survey to outline the financial hardship and need for funding for our Municipal roads and bridges infrastructure. CARRIED.
N.Jones-Scissons
B. MacKinnon

9-5. Howick Township – request that OMAFRA consider lowering the interest rate on Tile Drain Loans
This matter was deferred to the January 13th Meeting of Council.

9-6a. ROMA – A Path to Better Connectivity – ROMA Launces Municipal Broadband Resources

9-6b. ROMA – Funding and Resources for Improved Connectivity Reminder – Universal Broadband Fund and Improving Connectivity for Ontario
This matter was deferred to the January 13th Meeting of Council.

9-7. Region of Peel – Motion regarding Property Tax Exemptions for Veteran Clubs

9-8. Bang the Table – Community Engagement Invitation – December 18/20

9-9. City of Hamilton – Temporary Cap on Food Delivery Service Charges

9-10. City of Hamilton – Request for Interim Cap on Gas Plant and Greenhouse Gas Pollution and the Development and Implementation of a Plan to Phase-Out Gas- Fired Electricity Generation

9-11. Town of Thessalon – request for letter of support for application to Inclusive Community Grant Program

20-29-30 BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores supports, in principle, the Corporation of the **Town of Thessalon** in its application to the **Inclusive Community Grants Program** to develop an Age-Friendly Community Plan and outdoor exercise area at Peace Park. CARRIED.
D. Wedgwood
G. Campbell

9-12. New Democratic Party – request for endorsement of Bill C-213, *The Canada Pharmacare Act*

9-13. Town of Blind River – amended resolution of support for H&M COFI Project

9-14a. Peter and Joanne Falk, Reg Gardiner, Tim Currie, Dave Smith – Broadband Access in the Municipality of Huron Shores and Surrounding Areas

9-14b. Joanne Falk – letter for consideration to municipalities and first nations re above

Council deliberated the matter. Council instructed that, if possible, Mr. Hickey's presentation be extracted from the Meeting recording and put on the H&M COFI page of the website. Mr. Hickey, who was still in the gallery, advised that he had no issue with the recording being added to the website and that, as mentioned during his presentation, a summary of his responses will also be provided for posting to the Webpage.

20-29-31 WHEREAS Council has received a **letter of concern**, dated December 2, 2020, from Peter and Joanne Falk, Reg Gardiner, Tim Currie and Dave Smith, respecting **broadband access** in the Municipality of Huron Shores and surrounding areas;
D. Wedgwood
J. Pirrie

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20-29-31 – cont. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a letter of response be provided and date established for a Virtual Meeting with Rock Networks to further address the concerns outlined. CARRIED.

9-15. Janet O'Malley, Iron Bridge Lions – request to plow in front of Lions Hall

With information provided from Councillor Jane Armstrong, advising that Armstrong Enterprises is the contractor and would not be charging the Iron Bridge Lions Club for snowplowing services this season, Council concurred that the motion prepared for this item be withdrawn.

9-16. Elliot Lake Retirement Living – support for H&M COFI Project

10. LETTERS & COMMUNICATIONS FOR INFORMATION

- 10-1. Huron North Community Economic Alliance – Member Update November 13, 2020
- 10-2. Ontario Good Roads Association – Call for Nominations to Serve on Ontario Good Roads Association Board of Directors
- 10-3. Fort Erie Ontario – Amending the AGCO Process to Consider Radial Separation From Other Cannabis Locations
- 10-4a. Municipality of Chatham-Kent – Support Resolution for Cannabis Production Facilities, The Cannabis Act and Health Canada Guidelines
- 10-4b. Town of Lincoln – re: above
- 10-4c. Municipality of Leamington – re: above
- 10-5a. Municipality of Chatham-Kent – Support Resolution for Illicit Cannabis Operations
- 10-5b. Town of Lincoln – re: above
- 10-6a. Town of Fort Erie – Land Use Management and Enforcement Issues regarding Bill C-45 – *Cannabis Act*
- 10-6b. Municipality of Chatham-Kent – re: above
- 10-6c. Township of Huron-Kinloss – re: above
- 10-7a. Municipality of Chatham-Kent – Support Regulations Governing Retail Cannabis Stores
- 10-7b. Township of Huron-Kinloss – re: above
- 10-8. AMO Watchfile – November 19, 26, December 3,10, 2020
- 10-9. Gravel Watch – introduction and considerations
- 10-10. Township of Amaranth – Municipal Elections Act support resolution
- 10-11. Township of Huron-Kinloss – request consider amendment to Bill 124
- 10-12. Township of Huron-Kinloss - request for restrictions on car rallies
- 10-13. Township of Amaranth – aggregate resource properties
- 10-14a. County of Frontenac – AODA Website Compliance Extension and Funding/Resource Support
- 10-14b. Municipality of Marmora and Lake – re: above
- 10-14c. Township of Larder Lake – re: above
- 10-15a. AECOM – Ward 1 – Thessalon Landfill Site 2017-2020 Environmental Monitoring Report
- 10-15b. AECOM – Ward 2 – Day and Bright Landfill Site 2018-2020 Environmental Monitoring Report
- 10-16. Joanne Falk – thank you for Committee Volunteer Poinsettia
- 10-17. AMO, et al – proposed regulation, and proposed regulatory amendments, to make producers responsible for operating blue box programs ERO #019-2579
- 10-18. Howick Township – Request for amendments to the *Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act*

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- 10-19. Municipality of Southwest Middlesex – re: concerns regarding municipal drainage matters and need for coordination regarding municipal drainage matters and need for coordination with the national railways
- 10-20. Henk VanDelft – thank you for turkey

CLOSED SESSION

20-29-32 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proceed in Closed Session
D. Wedgwood at 9:39 p.m. in order to address a matter pertaining to:
J. Pirrie

- litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the Municipality or Local Board.
- Personal matter affecting a staff member CARRIED.

20-29-33 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council returns to Open Session at
J. Pirrie 10:00 p.m. CARRIED.
N.Jones-Scissons

CONFIRMING BY-LAW

20-29-34 BE IT RESOLVED THAT **By-law #20-67** being a by-law of
D. Kirby the Corporation of the Municipality of Huron Shores to
N.Jones-Scissons **Adopt the Minutes** the Special Council Meeting held
Wednesday, November 25, 2020, and Special and Regular
Council Meetings held Wednesday, December 16, 2020
authorizing the taking of any action authorized therein and
thereby, was read a first, second and third time and
passed in open Council this 16th day of December, 2020.
CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

20-29-35 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council does adjourn at 10:02 p.m.
D.Kirby CARRIED.
N.Jones-Scissons

MAYOR

CLERK

APPENDIX 'A'

Response to Letter from Concerned Citizens of our Community

Q1. At this point, it would seem the Municipality of Huron Shores council is focused solely on the H&M COFI project, to the exclusion of other potential opportunities for better service, one example being Leepfrog. A focus on one solution while blocking others, some of them immediate and shovel-ready, does not seem to be in the best interest of constituents.

A1. The Municipality of Huron Shores has already provided a letter of support for the Iron Bridge's initial project. Leepfrog is free to pursue its project as it sees fit. Having limited resources, we have focused on the H&M COFI design, which is open to all ISPs in the region and will create a network covering 100% of residents in the Huron and Manitoulin regions. The 100% coverage is consistent with the Federal Government's goal of connecting 100% of Canadians to High-Speed Internet. Also, the H&M COFI initiative has been selected by the Ontario ICON program to proceed to a Stage 2 submission, so we have independent validation that our project is a shovel ready project. We are not aware of any plans by Leepfrog for a similar approach to serving 100% of our residents. In their submission to the HNCEA RFP from earlier this year, they indicated that many of our residents were in the NWD category. When we asked what that meant, we were told that it was "Not Worth Doing." NWD is utterly inconsistent with the federal government's goal, and we have aligned our H&M COFI plan to serve 100% of our residents as we consider EWD "Everyone Worth Doing."

Q2. Council has stated that the total cost of the project is \$150 million. It should be pointed out that the initial cost of a project is typically 20%, with another 80% in maintenance over a 5-year period. This would put the total cost more in the neighbourhood of \$600-750 million. (Gartner Group concept of Total Cost of Ownership).

A2. The Gartner Group concept of Total Cost of Ownership that you refer to is based on an IT model where the life cycle of equipment is three years or less. The telecom model, especially fibre-based networks, is not the same as the assets are much longer lived and therefore, replacement and upgrade costs are not the same. The numbers quoted are simply not realistic, and if you look at the financials of any telecom company like Bell, Rogers or Telus, you will see that is simply not the case. Any submission for funding to the ICON Program or Universal Broadband Fund will have the business case vetted by professional advisors to these programs. We are preparing our business case for review by these groups.

Q3. A claim has also been made that the project would generate \$40 million per year in monthly fees from 37,000 homes and businesses. That number represents a 90% adoption rate. Best in class adoption rates, upon deploying new initiatives, are typically 20%. Page 2 of 3

A3. A little bit of math utilizing a round number, for example, \$100 per month for internet service (we know that we all pay more than this for services today) x 12 months per year = \$1,200 per year x 10 years = \$12,000 per home. Multiply by 37,000 = \$444 million per year or over \$440 million over ten years. The business case that we are developing is not dependent on a 90% adoption rate. As mentioned earlier, our assumptions will be validated by independent advisors to the ICON and UBF programs. It merely is not a valid statement regarding the comment about Best-in-Class adoption rates of 20% for new initiatives. Would the Canadian Federal Government make available \$1.75 billion and the Ontario Government make available \$1.0 billion in funds if there was only a likelihood adoption rate of 20%? Is that what you feel is the % of people that need a broadband connection in our region? In terms of adoption rates for community broadband networks in the US, we see over 85% adoption rates. To put out that only 20% of our community would sign up for high-speed internet is simply a false and misleading statement.

Q4. Our region includes large Mennonite and Amish communities, aging populations, and many seasonal residents. As well, many communities already have satisfactory service, and not all municipalities have endorsed the project. This would indicate that a 90% adoption rate is unattainable.

A4. The goal of the Federal Government is to enable 100% of Canadians to have internet access by 2030, and with the recent funding announcements, the government is looking to accelerate this date. Again, the goal is 100% of Canadians! To suggest that Mennonite, Amish, Aging

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People and Seasonal Residents do not require internet is a broad statement that is not consistent with the government's goal. Again, our business case, which will be vetted by independent advisors of the ICON and UBF programs, is not based on a 90% adoption rate. You should also consult the Canadian Broadband Availability Map for our region. Your comment that many communities have satisfactory service again is a false and misleading statement. Nearly ALL COMMUNITIES in our area have less than the federal broadband standard of 50 Mbps download speed, and 10 Mbps upload speed. The majority are 5 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up.

Q5. Therefore, there is a significant risk that less than 10% of the total overall cost would be covered by revenue, a challenge considering that federal and provincial funding would cover no more than 75%. This is cause for concern in terms of liability for municipalities and ratepayers.

A5. Investing in technology like a fibre-based network will deliver an asset to our community for the next 30 to 50 years. This network is designed to be an open-access network available to any Internet Service Provider who wants to access the network. Our goal is to ensure that the Page 3 of 3 network revenues will pay for any costs incurred by the community, and as such, the only costs will be to pay for the internet access itself. Experts will evaluate the soundness of our financial plan in the field at ICON and UBF.

Q6. Rock Networks Inc. is the chosen partner in this endeavour. Our concerns regarding their ability to manage and deliver on a project of this magnitude remain unanswered. They are already committed to a significant project in Pictou County, Nova Scotia, which after three years has yet to deliver service. Further, Rock operates on a revenue-sharing model, while assuming no liability.

A6. ROCK Networks was recently ranked the 23rd fastest-growing company in Canada over the past five years and the #1 fastest growing telecommunications company. ROCK Networks works with partners to deliver the solution, including companies such as Nokia, a top 3 global telecom player. That they have won a project with Pictou County should give you comfort that they know what they are doing. As for the timeframe of three years for the Pictou project, that is simply not correct. ROCK Networks announced its initial design contract award from Pictou County in October 2019. This work was completed, and due to COVID, there was a delay at the beginning of the construction phase. ROCK Networks and Pictou County recently announced the start of Phase 1 construction of the network. The contract that ROCK Networks has signed with Pictou County is a Design-Build Contract. Pictou County is the owner of the network. Funds to build the network will be from Pictou, Government Grants and Revenues generated from the network. There is not a formal revenue-sharing agreement with Pictou. And ROCK Networks is contractually obligated to deliver the network to a statement of work and deliverables, so again your statement is factually incorrect.

Q7. To date, we are unaware of any public consultation in any of the communities involved. We are still left with many questions about this undertaking and some of the decisions that have been made so far.

A7. The H&M COFI team, in conjunction with ROCK Networks, has participated in numerous council presentations across the region, and Mayor Bilodeau has shared updates with all councils during the process. All municipal, provincial, and federal politicians have heard a resounding cry across rural Canada for better internet access. We are responding in conjunction with other elected officials to this need and working to provide a solution that serves our region's long-term future needs. We will continue to engage with the local community on this critical initiative. We are in the process of launching a community survey feedback and sign-up tool for this purpose. Our next milestones are the ICON submission in January and Universal Broadband Fund submission in February.