

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024**

**MINUTES**

A Regular Council meeting was held in person on Wednesday December 4, 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

Regrets: Councillor Liana Maltby

Staff in attendance: M. Mikael, Chief Administrative Officer  
C. Rankin, Manager of Parks and Recreation  
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 6:11 p.m.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

**3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MOTIONS**

**Resolution No: CR177-2024 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 Special Budget, Public Meeting, Committee of the Whole, and Regular Council meetings held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024 be adopted as circulated.*

**---Carried---**

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Resolution No: CR178-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander**

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the items listed in the Consent Agenda dated December 4, 2024, be received for information; and  
**THAT** items A5, A8 and A9 be referred to Staff for action.*

**---Carried---**

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution No: CR179-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Sander

a. Minutes of the Nottawasaga Police Services Board

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Nottawasaga Police Services Board from their meeting of October 15, 2024, be received.*

---Carried---

b. Minutes of the Essa Public Library Board

Resolution No: CR180-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Essa Public Library Board from their meeting of October 28, 2024, be received.*

---Carried---

6. PETITIONS

7. MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a. Proclamation Declaring December as Christian Heritage Month

Resolution No: CR181-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Kiezebrink

*WHEREAS Canada was founded on the words of Psalm 72:8, "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea," acknowledging our nation's spiritual foundation; and*

*WHEREAS the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms recognizes God, affirming the importance of faith in shaping our values; and*

*WHEREAS Christianity, the largest and most ethnically diverse religion in Canada, has deeply influenced the principles of compassion, justice, and service that define our nation; and*

*WHEREAS Christians, representing diverse backgrounds from all continents, have contributed significantly to Canada's spiritual and cultural heritage; and*

*WHEREAS December is dedicated to celebrating Christmas, a holiday that embodies love, unity, and generosity;*

*NOW THEREFORE, let December be proclaimed as Christian Heritage Month, honoring the enduring legacy of Christianity and its impact on the growth and values of Canada.*

---Carried---

**b. Resolution – Request County of Simcoe Council to Repeal Wage Increase**

**Resolution No: CR182-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander**

***WHEREAS** Council of the Township of Essa recognizes the increasing cost of living and the impact those costs have on their taxpayers; and,*

***WHEREAS** these increases disproportionately affect those on fixed incomes; and,*

***WHEREAS** tax rates at the municipal, provincial and federal level continue to put an increasing burden on taxpayers; and,*

***WHEREAS** increases to the County of Simcoe's budget are passed onto the municipalities within the County; and,*

***WHEREAS** all members of County Council sit on municipal Councils for which they receive additional pay;*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** Council of The Corporation of the Township of Essa urge County Council to repeal their wage increase to all members of County Council; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Hon. Doug Ford; Simcoe-Grey Member of Provincial Parliament, Hon. Doug Downey, and all municipalities within the County of Simcoe.*

**---Carried---**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**9. BY-LAWS**

- a. By-law 2024-56 – A By-law to appoint a Deputy Chief Building Official, Plumbing Inspector, Property Standards Officer and Zoning Administrator.

**Resolution No: CR183-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Sander**

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** By-law 2024-56 be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.*

**---Carried---**

**10. QUESTIONS**

**11. CLOSED SESSION**

**Resolution No: CR184-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Sander**

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

- a. **Staff Report CAO029-24, re: Property Tax Re-evaluation.**
- *Plans and Instructions for Negotiations – s.239(2)(k)*

Council proceeded into Closed Session at 6:23 p.m.

**Motion to Rise and Report from Closed Session Meeting of December 4, 2024.**

**Resolution No: CR185-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Kiezebrink**

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council rise and report from the Closed Session Meeting at 6:32 p.m.*

**---Carried---**

The following items were passed by Council:

- a. **Confidential Staff Report CAO029-24 submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer, re: Property Tax Re-evaluation.**

**Resolution No: CR186-2024 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Kiezebrink**

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Confidential Staff Report CAO029-24 be received; and **THAT** Council direct staff in accordance with Option #2 as contained within the body of this confidential report.*

**---Carried---**

**12. CONFIRMATION BY-LAW**

**By-law 2024-57**

**Resolution No: CR187-2024 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Smith**

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** leave be granted to introduce By-law 2024-57, that being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, Closed and Council meetings held on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.*

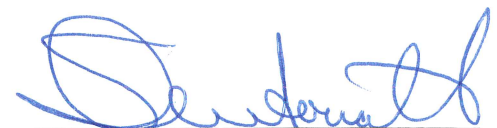
**---Carried---**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution No: CR188-2024 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Kiezebrink**

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT** this meeting of Council of the Township of Essa adjourn at 6:34 p.m. to meet again on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.*

**---Carried---**



Sandie Macdonald  
Mayor



Lisa Lehr  
Manager of Legislative Services