

APRIL 21, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Council reviewed and discussed a delegation request from a property owner in regard to the 2018 Minimum Tax Challenge as well as a request to defer outstanding property taxes. Administration sought legal advice to provide Council options on how to proceed. After much discussion, Council denied the request to defer the outstanding property taxes and directed Administration to forward the property owner a letter in this regard.
- Council had a delegation take place in “closed session” from Metrix Group LLP Partner Jeff Alliston. Mr. Alliston provided Council and Administration a brief update on the 2019 Municipal audit.
- Council reviewed Bylaw 647-20 being the Municipal Emergency Management bylaw. After reviewing the document, council made a motion to proceed with first and second reading. This item will be brought back to the May 19 council meeting for third and final reading.
- Council reviewed Bylaw 648-20 being the Innisfree/Minburn Intermunicipal Development Plan. After carefully reviewing the document council made a motion to proceed with first reading. A Public Hearing will be held on May 19, 2020. More details will be advertised.
- Council approved the appointment of Municipal Planning Services as the Village of Innisfree Subdivision Authority.
- Council approved Municipal Assessment Services Group Inc. as the Village of Innisfree’s Municipal Assessor for a term of 5 years.
- Council reviewed and approved a new member to the Innisfree Library Board. Congratulations Deborah McMann.
- Council reviewed and approved the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework Agreement as presented.
- Administration presented new Utility Rates to council in accordance with the Minister of Municipal Affairs Directives as per Ministerial Order MSL:095/18. After reviewing the proposed rates, Council felt it was best to defer this item to the May 19, 2020 Regular Council meeting for further discussion. This will also give Administration time to double check our figures before moving forward with cuts to Utilities.
- The Village of Innisfree’s Management Consultant, who assisted the Village with applying for a \$10,000.00 CARES grant to assist with the preparation of an Economic Development Plan, recommended the Village take time to look at the Village’s internal operations and fiscal capabilities in order to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. After careful consideration, Council passed a motion to seek a project extension and reassess the global environment in six (6) months. In the meantime, review the provincial economic recovery plan and the Village’s operating capacity to remain an independent entity.
- Mayor, Council and Administration discussed the Birch Lake Recreation Facility and the effect COVID-19 will have on the opening of our campground. The Campground will remain closed until further notice; however, Council will be discussing this item at the May 19, 2020 Council meeting.
- The Innisfree Fire Department has requested that the Village purchased a new Heavy Duty/Industrial Washing machine that would be used for washing bunker gear. Council has directed Administration to obtain quotes and will revisit this item at the May 19, 2020 Council Meeting.
- Council presented reports from organizational boards they are members of.
- Administration presented a CAO Report and Action List, Financial Report’s and website report. Administration was happy to announce to Council that funding was now available for projects applied for in 2019. Projects include road rehabilitation, waterline & Sewer rehabilitation/replacement, upgrades to Administration building and the demolition of old public works building.
- Council also passed a motion to waive penalties on outstanding Utilities for a period of 90 days effective April 1, 2020 to assist those effected by the COVID-19 pandemic.