

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 5:00 PM Closed Session and 6:00 PM Open Session Held via WebEx Video, Teleconference and In-Person

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT		STAFF PRESENT
Mayor:	John Beddows	Shellee Fournier, CAO
Councillors: Colin Brown Matt Harper		Penny Kelly, Clerk/CEMC
		Melanie Kirkby, Treasurer
Patrick Kirkby		Jeff Johnston, Manager of Parks and Recreation
	Anne-Marie Koiner	Brenda Guy, Manager of Planning and Development
	Vicky Leakey	Gord Howard, Fire Chief
	David Osmond	
Regrets: David		David Armstrong, Manager of Public Works
		Scott Gee, Police Chief

4	Call Masting to Order		
1.	Call Meeting to Order		
	Mayor Beddows called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.		
2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof		
	 Mayor Beddows declared a Conflict of Interest with respect to the appointment of the Trees and Trails Advisory Panel, as he held discussions with the individual regarding applying for the vacant position on the Panel. Mayor Beddows declared a Pecuniary Interest regarding the Class III Development Permit Application – DP2023-15 – 337 King Street East, as his spouse is employed by PharmaSave. Councillor Brown declared a Pecuniary Interest regarding the Class III Development Permit Application – DP2023-15 – 337 King Street East, due to his association with the owner. Councillor Harper declared a Pecuniary Interest regarding Report Council-REC-2023-27 – Town Owned Properties as his employer is named in the report. Councillor Kirkby declared a Pecuniary Interest regarding Report Council-REC-2023-27 – Town Owned Properties as his summer employer is named in the report. Councillor Osmond declared a Conflict of Interest regarding the correspondence from the Gananoque Senior Islanders as he is affiliated with the team. 		
3.	Closed Meeting of Council (Beginning at 5:00 PM)		
	Move into Closed Session		
	Moved by Deputy Mayor Leakey that the Council of the Town of Gananoque, in accordance with Section 239.2 of the <i>Municipal Act</i> , moves into Closed Session at 5:02PM for the purpose of discussing one (1) item under Personal Matters Concerning an Identifiable Individual, Including Municipal or Board Employees, regarding the Trees & Trails Advisory Panel, and; one (1) item under A Proposed or Pending Acquisition or Disposition of Land by the Municipality.		
	CARRIED – UNANIMOUS		
4.	Move Out of Closed Session at 5:31 PM		
	Council resumed the Open Session at 6:00 PM.		

Reporting Out of Closed Session - Matters Arising A Closed Meeting was held. Council discussed one (1) item under A Proposed or Pending Acquisition or Disposition of Land by the Municipality. There was nothing to report out on this item. Council also discussed one (1) item under Personal Matters Concerning an Identifiable Individual, Including Municipal or Board Employees, with respect to the Trees & Trails Advisory Panel. Council considered the following recommendation. ***Mayor Beddows declared a Conflict of Interest with respect to the Trees & Trails Advisory Panel recommendation to appoint as he held discussions with the individual regarding applying for the vacant position on the Panel. The Mayor vacated the Chair and left the room. ***Deputy Mayor Leakey took the Chair. Motion #23-251 - Trees & Trails Advisory Panel - Appointment Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey Seconded by: Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE HEREBY APPOINTS ALAN SMITH TO THE TREES & TRAILS ADVISORY PANEL FOR THE REMAINING TERM OF COUNCIL (NOVEMBER 14, 2026). CARRIED – UNANIMOUS, by those present and voting ***Deputy Mayor Leakey vacated the Chair. ***Mayor Beddows returned to the room and resumed the Chair. Canadian National Anthem The National Anthem was sung. 7. Land Acknowledgement Statement Mayor Beddows read the Land Acknowledgement Statement. Public Question / Comment (Only Addressing Motion(s) or Reports on the Agenda) 8. A Member of the public addressed Reports listed on the Agenda. Disclosure of Additional Items 9. 1. Correspondence – Megan Birchfield – Marina Rates 10. **Delegations** – None 11. Presentations / Awards / Deputations – None 12. Mayor's Declaration - None 13. **Public Meetings** ***Mayor Beddows and Councillor Brown declared a Conflict of Interest, and both left the room. 1. Class III Development Permit Application – DP2023-15 – 337 King Street East – EJK Property Holdings Inc. – (+Report Council-PD-2023-20) A Public Meeting was held with respect to a Proposed Class III Development Permit Application (DP2023-15) received from EJK Property Holdings Inc., Applicant on behalf of Eric McElwain, Owner, for the property municipally and

legally described as 337 KING STREET EAST CON 1 PT LOT 14 PT LOT 15 RP;28R4194 PART 1 GAN RIVER ES, TOWN OF GANANOQUE, to construct a new commercial building for the purposes of a pharmacy including relief of the

The Chair requested the Manager of Planning and Development present

Brenda Guy, Manager of Planning and Development provided an overview

rear yard setback, parking spaces and size of the loading space.

the Application to Council.

of Council Report PD-2023-20.

- The Chair asks the Applicant/Owner if they have anything to add to the Staff overview.
 - Neither the owner or applicant were present.
- The Chair asked if any Member of Council have questions or comments pertaining top the Application.
 - Councillor Koiner, member of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), provided an overview on discussions held during the PAC meeting regarding this Application.
- The Chair advised that under the Development Permit By-law, comments may be made by the public, however, once a Permit has been approved the only party able to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal is the Applicant.
- The Chair asked if any member of the public had any questions or comments – None
- The Chair asked if the Applicant / Owner had any additional questions or comments. – Neither were present.
- Council considered the following recommendation.

Motion #23-241 - Class III Development Permit Application - DP2023-15 - 337 King Street East - EJK Property Holdings Inc.

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey Seconded by: Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE APPROVES DP2023-15 EJK PROPERTY HOLDINGS INC – 337 KING STREET EAST, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHARMACY WITH A REDUCTION IN PARKING TO 21 PARKING SPACES, REDUCED LOADING SIZE AND REDUCED REAR YARD SETBACK OF 4.6M SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- ALL FINAL PLANS TO BE SUBMITTED AND APPROVED BY THE TOWN,
- CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL WITH THE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER FOR ACCESS OF A STAIRCASE,
- THE OWNER IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE MUNICIPAL BACKFLOW BY-LAW AND SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF UTILITIES,
- THAT ALL REGISTERED SITE PLAN AGREEMENTS BE REMOVED FROM TITLE ON THE PROPERTY PRIOR TO THE REGISTRATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AGREEMENT,
- THE OWNER ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT AGREEMENT WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR OF THE NOTICE OF DECISION OR THE APPROVAL MAY LAPSE; AND
- ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH FULFILLING THE CONDITIONS OF THIS DECISION ARE BORNE BY THE OWNER.

AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) AND AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL-PD-2023-20.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS, by those present

14. Unfinished Business

Council-REC-2023-27 – Town Owned Property Lease Agreement Rates

***Councillors Harper and Kirkby declared a Conflict of Interest and left the room.

***Moved by Councillor Osmond and seconded by Councillor Brown to divide the recommendation as presented in Report Council-REC-202-27, to consider "FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS" and "NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS" individually.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS, by those present

Motion #23-242 – Town Owned Property Lease Agreement Rates – For-Profit Organizations

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by:** Councillor Osmond BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE APPROVES STAFF'S PROPOSAL TO CHARGE "FOR PROFIT" ORGANIZATIONS BASE RENT PLUS ADDITIONAL RENT BASED ON LOCAL INDUSTRY AVERAGE AT THE TIME OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT REC-2023-27.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS, by those present

Motion #23-243 – Town Owned Property Lease Agreement Rates – Non-Profit Organizations

Moved by: Councillor Koiner Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Leakey BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE APPROVES OPTION #2 (CHARGE ADDITIONAL RENT ONLY – COST-RECOVERY OF OPERATING EXPENSES AND CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES FOR THE BUILDING, IN FULL, PER SQUARE FOOT, PER YEAR), WITH REGARDS TO "NON-PROFIT" ORGANIZATIONS, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT REC-2023-27.

POSTPONED - 4 Ayes, 1 Nay, by those present

***Councillors Harper and Kirkby returned to the room.

***At this point, the Chair called a recess at 7:33 PM.

***The meeting reconvened at 7:43 PM.

15. Approval of Minutes - November 21, 2023

Motion #23-240 - Approval of Minutes - November 21, 2023

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by:** Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE HEREBY ADOPTS THE REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES OF TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

16. Staff Reports

Council-UTIL-2023-15 – Award of Contract – Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Level Transmitter Replacements

By-law No. 2023-114 – Award of Contract – Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Level Transmitter Replacements

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS
BY-LAW NO. 2023-114, BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND
CLERK TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH CAPITAL CONTROLS AND
INSTRUMENTATION INC., FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF MATERIALS AND
SERVICES TO REPLACE EIGHT (8) ULTRASONIC LEVEL TRANSMITTERS AT
THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT, TO AN UPSET LIMIT OF \$53,948.13 (PLUS
THE TOWN'S PORTION OF THE HST @ \$949.48 TOTALLING \$54,897.61),

AND FURTHER THAT THE BUDGET FUNDING SHORTFALL OF \$3,897.61 BE FUNDED FROM THE WATER RESERVES, AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL-UTIL-2023-15.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-FIRE-2023-08 – Fire Department Paid On-Call Compensation and Amend the Establishing and Regulating By-law No. 2018-007

Motion #23-244 – Pay Schedule for Gananoque Paid On-Call Firefighters – Amended

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by:** Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE

APPROVES THE AMENDED PAY SCHEDULE FOR GANANOQUE PAID ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS, AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL-FIRE-2023-08.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

By-law No. 2023-117 – Fire Department Paid On-Call Compensation and Amend the Establishing and Regulating By-law No. 2018-007

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by:** Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE A PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-117, BEING A BY-LAW AMEND THE ESTABLISHING AND REGULATING BY-LAW NO. 2018-007 TO REMOVE IN ITS ENTIRETY, SCHEDULE 'F' REFERENCING COMPENSATION AND BENEFIT, AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL-FIRE-2023-08.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS

Council-CAO-2023-26 – Amend General Fees and Rates By-law – Fees for Visitor Centre – Schedule 'N'

***Councillor Brown declared a Pecuniary Interest and left the room.

By-law No. 2023-115 – Amend General Fees and Rates By-law – Fees for Visitor Centre – Schedule 'N'

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by:** Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-115, BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE GENERAL FEES AND RATES BY-LAW NO. 2016-047, SCHEDULE 'N' - VISITOR CENTRE, AS PRESENTED IN REPORT COUNCIL-CAO-2023-26.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS, by those present

***Councillor Brown returned to the room.

Council-REC-2023-26 – Amend General Fees & Rates By-law – Municipal Marina Rates, Schedule 'K' and Community Recreational Services, Schedule 'H'

***Moved by Councillor Kirkby and seconded by Councillor Harper to amend the recommendation presented in Report Council-REC-2023-26, to remove in its entirety the following: "1. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SEASONAL BOAT SLIPS BY 15 TO 359 SLIPS OVERALL AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRANSIENT BOAT SLIPS BY 15 TO A TOTAL OF 25 SLIPS."

CARRIED - 6 Ayes, 1 Nay

By-law No. 2023-116 – Amend General Fees & Rates By-law – Municipal Marina Rates, Schedule 'K' and Community Recreational Services, Schedule 'H'

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by:** Councillor Kirkby BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-116, BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND THE GENERAL FEES AND RATES BY-LAW NO. 2016-047, MUNICIPAL MARINA SERVICES, SCHEDULE 'K', TO:

- 1. INCREASE 2024 SEASONAL SLIP HOLDER RATES BY 10%.
- 2. INCREASE 2024 TRANSIENT SLIP HOLDER RATES BY 12%.
- 3. INCREASE 2024 SEASONAL PARKING RATES TO \$250.
- 4. INCREASE 2024 ANCILLARY FEES AS RECOMMENDED

AND FURTHER AMEND SCHEDULE 'H', TO REMOVE IN ITS ENTIRETY THE FEES AND RATES FOR THE RENTAL OF THE KING STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE,

AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT REC-2023-26.

CARRIED – 6 Ayes, 1 Nay, as amended

Council-FIN-2023-49 - 2023 Third Quarter Operating Income Statement

Motion #23-245 – 2023 Third Quarter Operating Income Statement

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE

RECEIVES THE 2023 THIRD QUARTER OPERATING INCOME STATEMENT, AS

AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2023-49.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-FIN-2023-50 - 2023 Tourism Advisory Panel Summary

Motion #23-246 – 2023 Tourism Advisory Panel Summary

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by:** Councillor Brown BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION THE 2023 TOURISM ADVISORY PANEL SUMMARY, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2023-50.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-CSC-2023-12 - 2022 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Review

Motion #23-247 – 2022 to 2027 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Review
Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey

Seconded by: Councillor Koiner
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE
RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION, THE 2022 TO 2027 MULTI-YEAR
ACCESSIBILITY PLAN, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT CSC-2023-12.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

17. | Motions (Council Direction to Staff)

1. Elimination of Council Grants - Mayor Beddows

***Moved by Councillor Osmond and seconded by Councillor Brown to remove in its entirety the words "AND DIRECTS ALL APPLICANTS TO THE COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM AND/OR THE MUNICIPAL ACCOMMODATION TAX (MAT) FUNDING PROGRAM.".

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Motion #23-248 - Elimination of Council Grants

Moved By: Mayor Beddows

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Leakey
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE
CANCELS POLICY NO. ADM17-2015, THEREBY ELIMINATING COUNCIL
GRANTS.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS, as amended

2. Amend By-law No. 2019-086 – Community Grants Program Policy – Mayor Beddows

Motion #23-249 – Amend By-law No. 2019-086 – Community Grants Program Policy

Moved By: Mayor Beddows

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Leakey
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS
A BY-LAW, BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NO. 2019-086, BEING A BYLAW TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM POLICY, BY
AMENDING SCHEDULE 'A', AS FOLLOWS:

A. AT PARAGRAPH 3, AUTHORITY, AMENDING THE PARAGRAPH TO READ:

"THE TREASURER OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE HAS DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT, EXECUTE, MONITOR, AND ADMINISTER THIS POLICY AND TO REVIEW AND APPROVE GRANT APPLICATIONS. THE TREASURER OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE IS DIRECTED TO REPORT TO COUNCIL QUARTERLY ON THE STATUS OF THE COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM."

- B. CHANGE THE AMOUNT ALLOCATED UNDER PARAGRAPH 4 POLICY, SUB-PARAGRAPH TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET FROM "\$60 000" TO READ "5% OF CASINO REVENUES, AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE".
- C. DELETING THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES FROM THE PARAGRAPH TITLED "FREQUENCY OF APPLICATION":

 "APPLICATIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR UP TO TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS AND IF THEY MEET THE CRITERION, WILL BE FUNDED ON A DECREASING SCALE, GENERALLY 50% OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S ALLOCATION." AND "AN APPLICATION WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE RECEIVED FUNDING THREE (3) TIMES IN ANY FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD."
- D. ADDING A REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO LIST OTHER GRANT APPLICATIONS REQUESTED FROM ANY SOURCE IN SUPPORT OF THE EVENT CITED ON THE COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION.
- E. THE TREASURER IS DIRECTED TO REVIEW GRANT CRITERIA AND, AS WARRANTED FROM TIME TO TIME, RECOMMEND AMENDMENT OF GRANT CRITERIA BY COUNCIL TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTENT OF THE POLICY.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

18. Correspondence

- 1. Accounts Payable November 13 to 27, 2023
- 2. Katrin Schubert Water Meter Installation
- 3. Gananoque Islanders Request for Signage for Home Games

***Councillor Osmond declared a Conflict of Interest and left the room.

Motion #23-251 – Gananoque Islanders – Request for Signage for Home Games

Moved by: Councillor Brown

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE

APPROVES PLACEMENT OF THE GANANOQUE ISLANDERS SIGN AT THE

GORD BROWN HOCKEY RING FOR THIS SEASON, SETTING ASIDE BY-LAW

NO. 2005-041 WITHOUT PRECEDENCE.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS, by those present

***At this point, Mayor Beddows moved to extend the meeting curfew.

Motion #23-252 - Extend Meeting Curfew

Moved By: Mayor Beddows **Seconded by:** Councillor Brown BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE EXTENDS THE 9:00 PM CURFEW FOR THE DECEMBER 5, 2023, MEETING TO 9:10 PM.

CARRIED – 4 Ayes, 2 Nays

***Councillor Osmond returned to the room.

- 4. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks Letter of Support Town of Gananoque
- 5. Gananoque Lions Club Support for Town Park Playground

Motion #23-253 – Gananoque Lions Club – Support for Town Park Playground

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Leakey **Seconded by**: Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE DIRECTS STAFF TO BRING BACK A REPORT ADDRESSING AN UPGRADED

	TOWN PARK PLAYGROUND, AS PRESENTED IN THE GANANOQUE LIONS CLUB CORRESPONDENCE DATED NOVEMBER 20, 2023.			
	CARRIED – UNANIMOU			
	 Ministry of Solicitor General – Announcement of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9 1-1) Transition Support Allocations – Successful Funding Application Gananoque Police Service – Cram-A-Cruiser 2023 – December 9, 2023 United Counties of Leeds & Grenville – Maple View Lodge Fundraising Update 			
	United Counties of Leeds & Grenv November 23, 2023	ille – Counties Council Highlights from		
19.	Notice Required Under the Notice By-law - None			
20.	Committee Updates (Council Reps)			
	 Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed during the next regular Council meeting. 			
21.	Discussion of Additional Items			
	1. Correspondence – Megan Birchfield – Marina Rates (attached)			
	**This item was considered with Report Council-REC-2023-26, entitled "Amend General Fees & Rates By-law – Municipal Marina Rates, Schedule 'K' and Community Recreational Services, Schedule 'H'".			
22.	Questions from the Media - None			
23.	Confirmation By-law			
	By-law No. 2023-113 – Confirming By-law – December 5, 2023 Moved By: Deputy Mayor Leakey Seconded By: Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-113, BEING A BY-LAW TO CONFIRM THE PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 TH , 2023, BE READ THREE TIMES AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 5 TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2023. CARRIED – UNANIMOUS			
24.	Next Meeting(s):			
	Budget Deliberations – Special – Thursday, December 7 and Friday, December 8, 2023, and;			
	2. Regular Council – Tuesday, Decei	mber 19, 2023 @ 6:00 PM		
25.	Adjournment			
	Moved By: Deputy Mayor Leakey Be it resolved that Council hereby adjourns this regular meeting of Council at 9:09PM. CARRIED – UNANIMOUS			
As. Baddos		CernyKelly.		
John S. Beddows, Mayor Penny Kelly, Clerk / CEMC				

From: Megan Birchfield

Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 11:04 AM To: Penny Kelly <clerk@gananoque.ca> Subject: GMM Report - Council-REC-2023-26

Importance: High

Good morning Ms. Kelly,

My apologies for sending this to you in such short order, however, the subject report came to my attention yesterday evening. I am writing to you as a concerned patron of the Gananoque Municipal Marina in response to the recommendations staff are bringing to Council. Though, I am unable to delegate this evening, I ask that this correspondence be shared with Council members in advance of this evening's meeting at 6:00 pm.

Many of the patrons at the GMM are residents from other towns, and many lovingly call Gananoque home for about half the year. During this time, tourism is at its peak in Gananoque. In addition, many of the marina patrons contribute significantly to local businesses, grocery stores, and restaurants throughout the spring, summer, and fall. After an increase to fees at the marina in 2023, the proposed increases for 2024 are troublesome. The increases proposed are well beyond the cost of living and surpass the national inflation rate.

The report presented to Council states that "the capital infrastructure is in serious decline as funds have not been utilized for maintenance and upkeep over the years" and goes on to state that the "capital projects have not been completed or were delayed in the past and the marina is in need of investment to replace aging infrastructure". It is not clear as to why the funds were not utilized and the report fails to mention why these increases have specifically been chosen to be placed on patrons and how the increase amounts were determined. Are patrons expected to cover the costs of capital improvements that have previously been dismissed? Furthermore, there is no staff commitment to improved services for patrons of the marina as a result of the fee increases. The Operating budget shows a surplus of almost \$200,000 that went to reserves from the Marina for underutilizing the budget from just 2022 alone, funding that could be pulled back out of reserves to use for capital investments and improved services.

The closest comparable municipal marina to the GMM is the Trent Port Marina with 375 slips. The seasonal slip rates are \$67.03 including 30 and 50 Amp power service. The facility offers free laundry service to its clients and has impeccable washrooms, a boaters lounge, and a canteen on site. In addition, the facilities are very clean overall. The proposed change to the GMM rates is \$8.56 or 12.7% higher than Trent Port and does NOT include 50 amp or dual 30 amp power service in those fees. Patrons of the GMM do not receive free laundry service, in fact to complete 1 load of laundry it costs \$8.00 overall. An average couple requires 2 to 3 loads of laundry per week.

A breakdown of some of the percentile increases are noted below in addition to the proposed 10% seasonal rate and 12% Transient rate increases.

50 amp / 2 x 30 amp Power: 9.99%

Seasonal Parking: 18.15%

Seadoo Ramps Dockage: 6.8%

Seasonal Slip Hold Fees 20 ft. and under: 75% increase

Seasonal Slip Hold Fees up to 29 ft.: 42.85%

Seasonal Slip Hold Fees Over 29 ft.: 50%

Seasonal Slip Hold Fees Seadoo/Dinghy: 150%

Seasonal Slip Hold Fees Administration Fee: 100%

General Administration Fee: 6.66%

I urge Council to decline recommendations 2 through 5 of this report and direct staff to reevaluate the proposed increases and present Council, patrons and residents with a comprehensive plan for capital and operating expenditures for 2024 and 2025. If patrons are required to pay additional fees, patrons should receive a commitment to improved services.

Many thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Megan Birchfield