

# INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF HILTON BEACH

## MINUTES

### Special Council Meeting – July 28, 2021

6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers, Hilton Beach Municipal Office  
3100 Bowker Street, Hilton Beach, Ontario

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The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Hope (by phone) and Councillors Moore, Delvecchio, Bailey Meeks and MacKay. Councillor Moore chaired the meeting.

#### DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

#### DELEGATIONS

1. Kassidy Karns, Northern Rural Net re: placement of tower in the Village of Hilton Beach

Ms. Karns apologized to Council for not coming to Council for approval of the location that they had chosen for the internet tower. She advised that she is in partnership with the Algoma District School Board to provide high speed internet to students and eventually to homes and businesses in the area. Towers have been erected in Richards Landing, Bruce Mines and Desbarats. It will be high speed and free to students. The proposed tower in the Village will feed four of the other towers. She advised that she had signed a lease agreement for the location that suited Northern Rural Net the best.

Councillor Bailey Meeks expressed concern about the closeness of the power lines to the tower. She advised that her contractor did the assessment and felt that it was fine at that location. She noted that they install a 6 ft. x 6ft. cement slab and the tower is placed from 6 – 8 ft. deep so that no additional wires are required. She also advised that no lights for the towers are required because it is under 100 ft. (96 ft.)

Councillor Delvecchio asked why this was considered the best location. Ms. Karns indicated that it is based on a line of sight and it has to be higher than the tops of trees. Concern was expressed that this is right in the centre of the Village and why were the notifications missed. Ms. Karns advised that she thought Algoma District School Board had completed the notifications but they did not. Concern was also expressed that Northern Rural Net had started to install towers in both Bruce Mines and Township of Plummer without receiving prior approval from their municipalities so they were well aware of the legal requirements.

Mayor Hope asked why the Village was not advised to consider zoning and other issues. Ms. Karns again responded that she thought Algoma District School Board had done the notifications. Mayor Hope advised that it is up to Northern Rural Net to reach out and he noted that this company has a history of asking for forgiveness rather than permission. Mayor Hope also asked why the other towers in this area were not used as it is a legal requirement that they be explored for feasibility before another tower is erected. Ms. Karns advised that they were not keen to rent out space from the other towers because they are competition.

Councillor Moore commented that when they were required to fill out an application for the tower, they would need to show documentation. Ms. Karns advised that there were multiple conversations but the whole application was done through the Ministry of Education. When asked why this would be any different than others, Ms. Karns advised that the main reason is that it is a free service to students. They have three towers in Richards Landing on municipal property. When asked if they followed the proper process with Richards Landing, Ms. Karns advised that they had. Ms. Karns was asked if any other sites were considered in the Village and she advised that there was one other site but they felt it was too costly. The line of sight was explained and Council was advised that they have certain areas that are considered to be workable to feed the other towers. Ms. Karns was advised that she should have contacted the Village and there would have been cooperation and suggestions. The direction they took to ignore the Village has caused problems.

Councillor MacKay asked how long they had been in business. Ms. Karns advised they have had their own servers for the last 5 or 6 years. He asked if the School Board is paying for the work they are doing and she advised that they were. It is a pilot program to expand internet service across the community. They are able to provide the service for a reasonable amount because they own their own equipment and they don't have to pay someone to install it. They are trying to make the pilot program run smoothly. If there is a mass black-out, they can mitigate the problem. If it fails, they would worry about it then. They have worked in other areas such as North Bay, Hastings, Superior and Huron. They have built and

powered 15 towers for Algoma District School Board and 4 are in process. Their deadline to get the work done is August 31. There will be penalties to their company if they don't meet the deadlines.

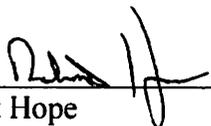
Ms. Karns was asked why they skipped the land use authorities. She confirmed that it was a failure in process and they failed to follow the procedures. She is trying to rectify what was done and not done. It was noted that the requirements are in place by the Ministry and they were not followed. How do you explain to the government that you have come into a community and railroaded this community and others. The Village is now in a predicament because of the timeline but the legal requirements must be met. Council will approach the School Board for their input and further documentation is required.

Council advised that other options must be considered. The partly installed tower must be removed. There continue to be concerns with Algoma Power lines and it was noted that no locates had been obtained before digging. Council advised that the Village wants good internet for the community but there must also be transparency and they cannot build without the required approvals.

Council directed that a letter be prepared from the Village to the School Board and the Federal and Provincial Ministries that are involved. Algoma Power is also to be contacted. Northern Rural Net must check with the other towers to determine if they can be added; provide the Village with other acceptable locations; and remove the pad and tower that was started.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

  
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 Mayor Robert Hope

  
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 Clerk Peggy Cramp

**VILLAGE OF HILTON BEACH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Applications will be received by the Village of Hilton Beach until Tuesday,  
 September 14, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. for the positions of :

- Clerk-Treasurer
- Deputy Clerk-Treasurer
- Marina Manager (Contract Position)

The duties are detailed in the Job Descriptions which are available on the Village website at [www.hiltonbeach.com](http://www.hiltonbeach.com) or at the Municipal Office.

**ALL SEASON SPORT SURFACE VANDALISM**

It is very unfortunate that the basketball nets have been wrecked again. After replacing them twice this season, it has been decided that no further replacement will take place this year. Please contact the O.P.P. if you happen to see someone deliberately causing damage to Village property.

*"It is unfortunate that the actions of a few affect the many"*