



DRAFT

COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Item 8.b.

Date: November 13, 2019

C-_____ -13/11/19

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

Whereas the Township passed Resolution 24-18/01/19 and continues to be an unwilling host to the Bala Falls Hydro Generating Station;

And Whereas in the Spring of 2013, 2016 and 2019, the Township experienced record flooding, causing Hundreds of Millions of dollars of damage to many of the properties on Lake Muskoka;

And Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed Management Plan requires updating to address the impacts of climate change;

And Whereas municipalities in Muskoka have urged the Province to initiate the update of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan, as evidenced by Council Resolutions in 2013, 2016, 2017, and 2019.

And Whereas approximately 90 % of the Muskoka Watershed exits through Bala and are controlled by two control structures/dams;

And Whereas the Province has and currently operates the two control structures/dams in Bala;

And Whereas a private company, Swift River Energy Limited has constructed the Bala Falls Hydroelectric Generating Facility upstream of the north control structure/dam in Bala;

And Whereas the operation of the Bala Falls Hydroelectric Generating Facility will adversely affect the flow characteristics impacting safety and the local economy in Bala and Muskoka Lakes;

And Whereas the Province is proposing to enter into an agreement with Swift River Energy Limited to transfer operating responsibility of both control structures/dams in Bala to Swift River Energy Limited without any consultation with the public, or stakeholders, or any of the other signatories to the Muskoka River Watershed Management Plan;

And Whereas the Township has no assurance that the control structures/dams will be operated by Swift River Energy Limited in the best interest of the public;

And Whereas there are no negative or financial consequences for Swift River Energy Limited for operating the control structures/dams contrary to the interests of the public;

And Whereas the Environmental Study Report Addendum dated October 2009, prepared by Hatch Ltd. and prepared for Swift River Energy Limited, identified that the operation of the Bala Fall Hydro Generating Station would negatively impact the "Purk's Place" business, due to the location of a safety boom east of the Canadian Pacific Railway line;

And Whereas the Bala Generating Station Public Safety Measures Plan dated August 2019, prepared by WSP Ltd. proposes to locate safety buoys in a conical arrangement extending from the north Lake Muskoka outlet, east of the Canadian Pacific Railway Bridge, in order to discourage boating in that area;

And Whereas the proposed location of the safety buoys will have a negative of both the "Purk's Place" business and the Township public dock and adjacent businesses;

Now Therefore be it resolved that:

1. The Province immediately amend Muskoka River Water Management Plan to address the impacts, such as increased levels of flooding as a result of climate change.
2. The Province continue to operate both of the dams /water control structures in Bala, in accordance with a revised Muskoka River Water Management Plan to protect the best interest of the public.
3. The Province not permit the operation of the Bala Falls Hydro Generating Station during the in-water recreation period from May 1 to November 1 each year (in accordance with 24-18/01/19).
4. That the Province require Swift River Energy Limited to compensate both Purk's Place and the Township for negative economic and recreational hardship caused by the relocation of safety buoys and the operation of the Hydro Generating station.
5. The Province will indemnify and hold harmless, the Township of Muskoka Lakes, from any and all actions howsoever caused.

RECORDED VOTE:	NAYS	YEAS	
COUNCILLOR BRIDGEMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS (Deputy Mayor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COUNCILLOR HAYES (Acting Deputy Mayor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COUNCILLOR JAGLOWITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COUNCILLOR KELLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COUNCILLOR MAZAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COUNCILLOR ROBERTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COUNCILLOR ZAVITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MAYOR HARDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
TOTALS			
Recorded Vote Requested by: _____	_____	_____	DEFEATED <input type="checkbox"/> CARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> _____ MAYOR