



**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, December 15, 2025**

**Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillor Blair Flowers, Councillor Pearl Ivens and Councillor Neil Scarlett, Clerk Administrator Angela Loney.**

**Chris Bevan, Kennedy Insurance 6:30 - 7:00 pm.**

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**1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

The Township of Machar acknowledges the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties on the land of the Anishinabek that we meet today. We seek to work respectfully with Indigenous people, and are thankful for their teachings and stewardship of the land.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof; Nil.

**2. Guest**

**2.1 2026 Insurance Renewal, Resolution**

Chris Bevan, Kennedy Insurance Broker, walked Council through the efforts by staff on the back end to perform the market survey to compare two insurance providers proposals.

**155-2025**

**Moved By** Scarlett

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we accept Insurance Renewal for Jan 1, 2026 – Jan 1, 2027 from Intact Public Entities Inc in the amount of \$67,443 representing a 8.6% decrease.

**Carried**

**3. Adoption of Minutes, Resolution**

**156-2025**

**Moved By** Flowers

**Seconded By** McLaren

THAT we adopt minutes of Nov 24, 2025.

**Carried**

**4. Business**

**4.1 By-Law to Prohibit The Depositing of Snow on Highways Within the Township of Machar, Resolution**

**157-2025**

**Moved By** McLaren

**Seconded By** Flowers

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading to By-Law No. 17-25 to prohibit the depositing of snow on highways within the Township.

**Carried**

**4.2 By-Law for Prohibiting or Regulating the Obstructing, Encumbering, Injuring or Fouling of Highways or Bridges, Resolution**

**158-2025**

**Moved By** McLaren

**Seconded By** Flowers

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading to By-Law No. 18-25 for prohibiting or regulating the obstructing, encumbering, injuring or fouling of highways or bridges in the Township.

**Carried**

**4.3 By-Law to Control Noise within the Township of Machar, Resolution**

**159-2025**

**Moved By** Scarlett

**Seconded By** McLaren

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading to By-Law No. 19-25 to control noise within the Township.

**Carried**

**4.4 By-Law to Appoint Integrity Commissioner, Resolution**

**160-2025**

**Moved By** Scarlett

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, pass, sign and seal By-Law No. 20-25 to appoint an Integrity Commissioner.

**Carried**

**4.5 MPAC - 2026 Municipal Levy**

MPAC's Board of Directors approved the 2026 budget with a total municipal levy increase of 3.9%. The annual 2026 levy amount for us will be \$41,292.56 or a 3.21% increase.

**4.6 OPP - 2026 Annual Billing**

Reviewed. Package contains 2024 cost reconciliation; \$21,295 balance owing. Grand Total Billing for 2026 is capped at \$270,379 compared to 2025 revised amount \$243,584 = up \$26,794 11%. Calls for Service Counts and details for 2021 to 2024 provided.

**4.7 Parry Sound Area Recreation & Culture (PARC) Committee - Letter re: Celebrating 25 Years & Update on Organizational Transition**

Letter reviewed: update on the wind-down and dissolution under the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act; balance of 2025 donation returned.

**4.8 The Labour Market Group: Oct Jobs Report, and Nov LabourFocus**

**5. Accounts**

**5.1 2026 Budget Presentation**

A preliminary conversation starter outlining the confirmed grants and proposed capital projects, and noting any special considerations ie: election costs & reserve repayment. Proposed Capital Expenditures include resurfacing Municipal Rd North and Ottawa Ave, rehabilitating 2 more large culverts, and 2 Public Works fleet/equipment replacements.

**5.2 List of Proposed Payments for Nov, Resolution**

**161-2025**

**Moved By** Ivens

**Seconded By** Scarlett

THAT we approve List of Proposed Payments for Nov, 2025: \$883,076.44 Grand Total.

**Carried**

a. **Almaguin Ice Devils - Donation Request**

Approved \$100.

**6. Boards and Committee Items**

**6.1 Shared Services Monthly Reports for Nov, Fire and Arena**

Items provided: Fire Chief's monthly report for Dec, Income Statement for Nov (Revenue 70.73%, Expenses 60.82%), AP Ledger for Nov \$17,387.20 Total Expenditures. Arena Chief Operator report for Nov (included engineering report: detailed structure condition assessment of roof structure), Income Statement for Nov (Revenue 90.28% and Expenses 86.08%), AP Ledger for Nov \$14,451.60 Total Expenditures.

**6.2 Machar Public Works minutes of Nov 20, 2025, Resolution**

**162-2025**

**Moved By** Scarlett

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Nov 20, 2025.

**Carried**

**6.3 Machar Emergency Control Group minutes of Nov 20, 2025, Resolution**

**163-2025**

**Moved By** Flowers

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we accept Emergency Control Group minutes of Nov 20, 2025.

**Carried**

**6.4 South River Machar Library minutes of Nov 20, 2025, Resolution**

**164-2025**

**Moved By** Scarlett

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Nov 20, 2025.

**Carried**

**6.5 Joint Building Committee permit summaries for Nov, Resolution**

Reviewed permit fees and project values, permit totals 122 at the end of Nov, 2025 (110 in 2024) as follows: Machar 37, Strong 26, Ryerson 23, Burk's Falls and Sundridge 13, South River and Joly 5.

**165-2025**

**Moved By** Scarlett

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we accept Building Permit Summaries for Nov.

**Carried**

**6.6 Joint Building minutes of Nov 21, 2025, Staff Report re: South River Letter, and R2025-018, Resolution**

**166-2025**

**Moved By** Scarlett

**Seconded By** McLaren

THAT we accept Building minutes of Nov 21, 2025.

**Carried**

**6.7 Central Almaguin Planning Board minutes of Oct 1, 2025, Resolution**

**167-2025**

**Moved By** McLaren

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we accept Planning minutes of Oct 1, 2025.

**Carried**

**6.8 North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health minutes of Sep 24 & agenda for Nov 26, and Personnel Policy, Labour/Employee Relations Committee minutes for Apr 23, 2025 & agenda for Nov 26**

Reviewed.

**6.9 North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Medical Officer of Health: Report to the Board of Health**

Reviewed.

**6.10 FONOM - Support Requested: Nation-Building Improvements to Highways 11/17 (2 + 1 & Four Lane Options, Resolution**

**168-2025**

**Moved By** Flowers

**Seconded By** Scarlett

Whereas Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors; and

Whereas four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor; and

Whereas the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway; and

Whereas modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

Whereas a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay --+ Cochrane, then Cochrane --+ Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew-+ Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie--+ Sudbury; Thunder Bay--+ Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

Whereas analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, (FONOM) demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Machar formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project; and

That the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction; and

That the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit):

That the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and

That both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and

That the program incorporate corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials); and

That this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for support, and the County of Renfrew for information.

**Carried**

**6.11 FONOM - 2026 Conference May 11 - 13, 2026 in the City of Timmins**

Deferred to determine those wishing to attend (deadline May 12, 2026).

**7. Informational Items**

**7.1 Town of Kingsville - Request for Support re: Opposition to Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities, Resolution**

**169-2025**

**Moved By** Scarlett

**Seconded By** McLaren

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990 (the "Act"), originally enacted in 1946, was established to allow municipalities to form conservation authorities that are equipped to develop and deliver local, watershed-based conservation, restoration and natural resource management programs on behalf of the province and municipalities;

AND WHEREAS there are thirty-six (36) conservation authorities in Ontario, each of which is distinct and reflects the unique environmental, geographic and community needs of its watershed;

AND WHEREAS on October 31, 2025, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation which would amend the Act to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven (7) regional conservation authorities.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Machar wishes to formally state that it opposes the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities without knowing the full financial and operational impact to municipalities and the conservation authorities.

**Carried**

**7.2 Eagle Lake Conservation Association - Article Submitted for Publication in the December Edition of the ELCA Eagle Eye**

Reviewed.

**7.3 Almaguin Adult Learning Centre Dec 2025 Calendar**

**7.4 FONOM - Migration Report**

**7.5 FONOM - Release: FONOM Welcomes Federal Support for Steel and Lumber Sectors Impacted by U.S. Tariffs**

**7.6 Invasive Species FREE Terrestrial Invasive Plant Training now live**

**8. In-Camera (Closed) Session**

**170-2025**

**Moved By** Flowers

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board; labour relations or employee negotiations; litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board. Time 8:26 pm.

**Carried**

**171-2025**

**Moved By** Flowers

**Seconded By** McLaren

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 9:10 pm.

**Carried**

**9. Additional Items/Round Table/Notice of Motion**

**10. Adjournment**

**172-2025**

**Moved By** Flowers

**Seconded By** Ivens

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Jan 12, 2025.

**Carried**

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Lynda Carleton, Mayor

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Angela Loney, Clerk Administrator