

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, August 14, 2023**

Call to Order, Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; nil.

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Neil Scarlett, Pearl Ivens, and Blair Flowers. Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney, and Administrative Assistant Planning Teresa Coombs.

Guests scheduled: Mark Savill.

Guest observing: Mark Smuck.

GUESTS

Mark Savill, new President/Executive ELCA (Eagle Lake Conservation Assoc)

Mr. Savill opened by saying the Clerk Administrator has requested he speak to Council in his new capacity as President of the ELCA and he would like to change the relationship from an adversarial “us vs them” to a more co-operative one. Mayor Carleton expressed that we did not see our relationship as such, she has on many occasions encouraged sharing of interesting subject matter with ELCA. Mr Savill mentioned the Phragmites cut, and he had just passed someone cutting at the Narrows & Merripark today. He noted an article in FOCA newsletter saying “as Phragmites go, so do property values on the lake” and Eagle Lake is a revenue generator for the Township, it is in everyone’s best interest to keep it clear and healthy.

Mr. Savill advised the Association is looking to tighten the scope of activity to it’s founding objects of 1979 “To promote, foster, and improve the quality of the air, water, flora, fauna and the community in and around the region of Eagle Lake, Machar Township and to provide a vehicle in which persons living on or owning property on said lake may make their interests and views known to all municipal and other government authorities and each other, for the mutual benefit of the community”. The Association has a number of projects for which it would like to partner with the municipality, for which it will bring forward in Nov, closer to the Township’ budget discussions. Short term rentals and septic have previously been items of concern. The Association would encourage the setting a Committee of Council to investigate septic By-Laws and regulations. There is a wealth of intellectual assets on the lake, people who would love to help establish process for ensuring faulty septic systems are policed properly beyond “it stinks, call someone” (The North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority). Mr. Savill indicated septics are an issue for the Twp, not just Eagle Lake. Mayor Carleton described a survey was done in the late 80’s early 90’s by students going door to door asking property owners to volunteer information on their current systems. They were not received well. Mr. Savill advised the flavour of the community around the lake has changed. Mayor Carleton suggested he may have saw/heard of surveying happening and advised we are proceeding with a retaining wall at the Narrows Beach to prevent erosion.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Jul 10, 2023 minutes, Resolution

164-23 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we adopt Jul 10, 2023 minutes. CARRIED

a. Information Article; Almaguin gets new options to pay for economic agency

Newspaper article from North Bay Nugget Apr 1, 2022 explains: The municipalities making up the Almaguin Community Economic Development (ACED) were being asked to start thinking about how the organization will be funded after Jun 2023, when the FedNor grant of \$425,000 over three years runs out. The Village of South River is a member, and may be expected to pay between \$20,940 (based on assessment) and \$36,000 (based on population) as it’s share.

2. Blue Sky Net; Let Blue Sky Net Help you with your Community Broadband Action

The Blue Sky Economic Growth Board of Directors suggested at their Spring meeting that as many communities as possible should engage their citizens in taking speed tests and completing surveys regarding their Broadband availability. Treasurer Deputy Clerk requested everyone visit <https://connectednorth.ca/> for more broadband information and/or <https://www.cira.ca/en/net-good/internet-performance-test/> to complete the speed test and submit the data, even if you've done so previously.

3. Blue Sky Net; AMO-MOE Technical Working Group on Broadband update

The project awarded to Bell is actually a robust project, a number of roads for sure are pegged to receive it, but none of these Accelerated High – Speed Internet Projects are not very quick, a difficult task with labour and supply chain issues.

4. Blue Sky Net; Where can you find Blue Sky Net on the web, website re-launched:

<https://blueskynet.ca> and follow us on Facebook [@blueskynetnorth](https://www.facebook.com/blueskynetnorth).

5. South River Machar Ag Society Fall Fair is Sep 9, 2023

Planning for this year's Fall Fair is well underway. The Fair Book is available on the Events page of the Township website in addition to <https://southrivermacharagsociety.ca/fall-fair-book>

6. Pay List by Fund for Jul, Resolution

165-23 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we approve List of Proposed Payments for Jul 2023: \$306,947.84 Grand Total. CARRIED

COMMITTEES

7. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Jun & Jul; Arena and Fire

Councillor Scarlett let everyone know at one of the kid's soccer days that had 40°C weather the Fire Chief asked if he could come spray down the kids with the firetruck. They sprayed not once but twice and it was very appreciated. Councillor Scarlett would like Admin to send a Thank You.

Councillor Ivens was frustrated to read the Arena's Chief Operator noting in the monthly report there were no Community Centre bookings for July when herself and Mayor Carleton have been eager to meet with South River Council reps to brainstorm remedies for same. Councillor Scarlett expressed his frustration with working the Soccer program and not having the support of the Chief Operator. Items provided: Chief Operator Report for Jun 2023, AP for Jun \$5,116.51 Total Expenditures, Income Statement reflecting Revenues 34.18% and 30.87% Expenses, Fire Chief's Monthly Report Jul 2023, AP Ledger for Jun \$9,715.29 Total Expenditures, Income Statement reflecting Revenues 256.96% and 114.40% Expenses. Chief Operator Report for Jul 2023, AP for Jul \$11,926.69 Total Expenditures, Income Statement reflecting Revenues 41.79% and 34.80% Expenses, Fire Chief's Monthly Report Aug 2023, AP Ledger for Jul \$3,355.50 Total Expenditures, Income Statement reflecting Revenues 256.97% and 124.79% Expenses.

8. Shared Services; Recreation Committee to increase Arena usage

Reply from South River reviewed. South River has no volunteer Councillors to discuss recreation activities with Machar at this time. South River prefers a Joint Council meeting take place soon. Councillor Ivens does not understand why, since they had interested Councillor volunteers at the Ad Hoc meeting on April 19th where the recommendation was made. Councillor Scarlett suggested if protocols were shown to be followed, he wouldn't be averse to meeting, but that is rarely the case. They won't meet the recommendation from the Ad Hoc 2023 Arena Budget Committee Meeting.

9. Shared Services; Solicitor General reply on Laurier Fire Dept

They value the obvious commitment and pride in the delivery of fire protective services. The Province is committed to the Northern Fire Protection Program (NFPP) which includes Laurier. They encourage the Fire Chief to continue to have discussions with the Office of the Fire Marshal.

10. Machar Public Works minutes of Jul 13, 2023, Resolution

Councillor McLaren inquired; Admin has not heard from Tatham on the surveying at the Narrows beach. We are hoping to move quickly towards a tender process and construction this Fall. There were concerns from residents in Maeck's subdivision in regards to the public school's new bus loop. The project was approved through South River ahead of our knowledge of it, hopefully the investment in the Public School is indicative of its importance to the area.

166-23 McLaren, Flowers

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Jul 13, 2023. CARRIED

a. Granular A Tender amendment

167-23 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we amend 2023 Granular A Tender from Riding Ranch Rd to Municipal Rd N per Superintendent of Public Works recommendation. CARRIED

11. Machar Emergency Plan, Council external copies, Resolution

168-23 Ivens, Flowers

THAT we accept Emergency Plan Revised 2023 external copy. CARRIED

12. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of Jul 18, 2023, Resolution

#6 should read "he is working on this" re: Board Member Nick Loney and the air exchanger. The Doctors requesting sound barriers be installed into the basement ceiling tiles, Councillor Flowers clarified, to mitigate sound transfer between tenants.

169-23 Flowers, Ivens

THAT we support motions in Medical minutes as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay Lists/Budgetary Control, adjourned until Sep 19, 2023... CARRIED

13. South River Machar Library minutes of Jun 13, 2023, Resolution

170-23 Flowers, Scarlett

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Jun 13, 2023. CARRIED

a. 50th Anniversary Block Party – Aug 20 at 3 – 10 pm

Councillor McLaren has volunteered to be in attendance to represent Machar.

14. ARI (Almaguin Recycling Initiative) minutes of Jun 15, 2023, Resolution

Next meeting: 6pm Nov 23, 2023 at the Township of Armour Council Chambers as the Township of Strong has a booking conflict. Councillor Ivens and WMC will volunteer for Aug 26th HAZMAT day.

171-23 Ivens, Scarlett

THAT we acknowledge ARI minutes of Jun 15, 2023. CARRIED

15. N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; Board of Health minutes of Apr 26 have been posted

16. District of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd; CAO Report Jul 2023, AVAILABLE

17. FONOM (Fed of N ON Munic); 2024 Annual Conference moved to May 6-8, 2024, Sudbury

18. **FONOM Housing Resolution seeking support; need for affordable housing and support for people at risk of homelessness impacts every community across Ontario**
19. **FONOM and NOMA will host the Northern Hospitality Suite at AMO Conference on Mon, Aug 20, 2023 in London**
20. **ACED (Almaguin Community Economic Development); Housing Task Force Terms of Ref, Armour's application to Fednor to renew ACED's funding for 3 years, regional community bus partnership**
21. **Huntsville Hospital Foundation approved to have its own MRI imaging technology**

The public is invited to contribute independently through the link, also posted on the Township's website. <https://huntsvillehospitalfoundation.ca/mri/>

INFORMATION

22. **Short Term Rentals Admin; City to impose regulations, license Orillia short-term rentals**, As of Jan 1, 2024, STRs will have to pay \$2,000 annual licence fee, pay 4% accommodation tax and an array of other regulations, city hiring staff to deal with issue ATTACHED
23. **Short Term Rentals Admin; Huntsville Approves 24 Hour Phone Hotline for Short Term Rental Companies**, Additional measure to keep track of and enforce public complaints, 30 complaints the past year, staff now recommend a 24 hour phone hotline using a 3rd party that will log complaints and information, notify the property owner, request a follow up and notify the By-Law Dept or OPP, currently use a 3rd party to identify STRAs and confirm ownership, ensure licensed, at a cost of \$18,000 per year, estimated cost for the 24 hour hotline would be an additional \$13,500 per year which would come from the STRA Reserve Fund, will budget the new system in for a trial basis for the period of 1 year ATTACHED
24. **Short Term Rentals Admin; Lake of Bays Denies Short Term Rental**, Submitted by a real estate office, 1 bedroom apartment on the 2nd floor, Council denied and recommended that it continue to exist as a long-term rental unit only ATTACHED
25. **Municipality of Wawa Resolution**, Requesting that the Government of Ontario maintain OHIP coverage for chronic pain treatments and continue to provide much-needed care for the people of Ontario
26. **Town of Amherstburg Resolution**, Support Town of Essex Resolution requesting that the province of Ontario recognize the dangerous strain facing our local emergency response infrastructure and urgently work to address these gaps in our healthcare system
27. **City of Ottawa Resolution**, Council wave Subsection 41(4) of By-Law No. 2000-50, as amended, and approved the donation of one ambulance to the Embassy of Ukraine
28. **MPAC**, Assessments and the Jul 8 Toronto Star Article entitled "Is Your Property Tax Fair?"
29. **MPAC**, New Application for Direction of School Support – Action Requested
30. **MPAC**, Jun/Jul 2023 InTouch
31. **MAHC News Release, New X-ray Suite Improves Diagnostic Care for All Ages**, MAHC and Huntsville Hospital Foundation are celebrating the reopening of the X-ray suite at the HDMH Site, replacing 15-year-old equipment with new state-of-the-art X-ray technology that will improve diagnostic care for residents and visitors of all ages around the region
32. **MAHC News Release, MAHC Board of Directors Bestows Awards of Excellence**, Five deserving team members were honoured as recipients of the 16th annual Board of Excellence during the annual meeting of MAHC on Jun 26
33. **AMO Communications**, Notice of the 2023 AGM of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario – Notice includes Proposed By-Law Amendments
34. **AMO Communications, Policy Update**, Property Tax Reassessment
35. **AMO Communications, Policy Update**, Ontario Begins Audit of Municipal Finances
36. **AMO Watchfile, Jul 13, In This Issue**
 - ROMA encourages rural municipalities to apply for Housing Accelerator Fund
 - Provide your feedback on AMO's digital communications
 - MPAC Board positions - Call for expressions of interest
 - Off-road vehicle consultation
 - AMO 2023 is just over a month away - Register today!
 - Take advantage of Land Use Planning Training at the AMO Conference

- LAS & IPE 2023 Risk Symposium - Are you safe?
- Registration for the one of a kind AMO-LAS Energy Symposium is now open!
- BLOG: Accelerating Digital Services
- Mini workshop: Uncovering Savings in Water/Wastewater Plants
- Canoe supplies for your summertime activities
- Webinar: Aging Well and Financial Security
- No Hot Pets campaign
- Careers: LAS, Niagara Region, King, Simcoe, Ottawa, and Greater Madawaska

37. AMO Watchfile, Jul 20, In This Issue

- ROMA encourages rural municipalities to apply for Housing Accelerator Fund
- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS) upgrade
- Provide your feedback on AMO's digital communications
- MPAC Board positions - Call for expressions of interest
- AMO 2023 is just over a month away - Register today!
- Take advantage of Land Use Planning Training at the AMO Conference
- LAS & IPE 2023 Risk Symposium - Are you safe?
- Registration for the one of a kind AMO-LAS Energy Symposium is open!
- Blog: LAS Goes on a Road Trip
- Careers

38. AMO Watchfile, Jul 27, In This Issue

- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS) upgrade
- MPAC Board positions - Call for expressions of interest
- Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant
- Release of public information service
- Housing Accelerator Portal now open
- AMO 2023 is less than a month away - Register today!
- LAS & IPE 2023 Risk Symposium - Are you safe?
- Registration for the one of a kind AMO-LAS Energy Symposium is open!
- LAS and Partners at the AMO Conference
- The heat is on!
- Gravel road assessments now available through LAS
- Careers: LAS, Durham Region, Drummond/North Elmsley and Brampton

39. AMO Watchfile, Aug 3, In This Issue

- Join ROMA meeting on Rural Drainage Act dispute with national railways
- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS) upgrade
- Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant
- Release of public information service
- Housing Accelerator Portal now open
- AMO 2023 is less than a month away - Register today!
- LAS & IPE 2023 Risk Symposium - Are you safe?
- Registration for the one of a kind AMO-LAS Energy Symposium is open!
- LAS one step closer to speed camera program
- Learn with LAS at the Conference!
- Mental health in later life: multilingual handouts
- Careers: LAS, Simcoe, Sioux Lookout, Haliburton, and Niagara Region

40. AMO's 2022 Annual Report, pleased to provide and will form part of the Secretary-Treasurer's Report at the AMO AGM on Mon, Aug 21, 2023

41. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Jul 12, Ontario making historic investments in wetlands restoration, Province asks northern cities for housing targets, Ontario wants to expand Bruce Power, Canada's first new large-scale nuclear build in 3 decades, Mayors, transportation minister meet over drainage-fees dispute with CN, Council calls on province to strengthen codes of conduct, Sudbury launches ride matching and sharing app, Master of lights since 1958, Invasive fungus that kills oak trees was near the border in 2021 – now its spreading across Ontario, Toronto landlord launches \$1.6M lawsuit after city gave stranger approval to rent her condo on Airbnb, Land Tribunal decision gives County flexibility to respond to infrastructure needs, Expropriation an option for land needed for Ontario Place redevelopment report says

42. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Jul 19, Should city hall spend \$240K to help recruit family doctors to London? Northeastern Ontario municipalities lift their fire bans, following the provinces lead, Toronto asylum seekers moved to North York churches as fed boost funding for shelter support, City

to impose regulations, license Orillia short-term rentals, Internet infrastructure 'is not there,' say Bourgouin, Sudbury municipal workers agree to new deal with 3% wage hike, Adjala-Tosorontio council broke Municipal Act in relation to in camera meetings: Ontario ombudsman, Nipissing group seeks declaration of intimate partner violence as an 'epidemic', City committee moves to save former St. Jules school from demolition, Ontario family unable to use driveway for months due to city fence around unsafe neighbours home

43. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Jul 26**, Should Ontario cyclists be allowed to cross on walk signals? Advocates speak out amid fines, Commercial building codes lack strong wildfire-management provisions, indoor air quality controls, experts say, Potential price hike for bottled, can drinks on pause as Ontario government tweaks recycling plans, Byelection will be a measure of publics frustration with health care in Ontario, opposition parties say, More careless driving charges dropped in Ontario as courts grapple with pandemic backlogs, Research links river poisoned by paper mill to First Nations youth suicide attempts, AMO, municipalities call for return of property assessment while chamber wants system overhaul, Ontario hospital nurses, health care professionals receive major wage increases in decision that cities the need to retain staff
44. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Aug 2**, Ontario launches audits of 6 municipalities to look at how housing law will affect budgets, Affordable housing may rise on city-owned land in Hyde Park, Here's how each Ontario city is doing on hitting provincial targets for building new homes, Hockey team out of luck for lottery license but Township of Wilmot takes shot at changing Ontario rules, Building registry could solve Sudbury's derelict structure woes, City of Greater Sudbury fined \$150K in worker's death, County begins to sketch out plan for public art. Pelham gets funding to support Municipal Natural Asset Management Plan, Automated speed enforcement cameras get green light in Barrie, Building a blueprint for a more dynamic way to use municipal land, Reflecting on the devastating 2013 storm, Mississauga takes lead in municipal flood resilience
45. **AMCTO The Municipal Experts**, Legislative Express, Introduction & Highlights, Policy Spotlight, Policy Updates, Bill & Lawmaking, Resources
46. **Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada**, The Immigration Matters team invites you to participate in Welcoming Week, from Sep 8-17, 2023
47. **Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)**, Extension of Hours for Ontario Liquor Sales Licensees During FIFA Women's World Cup 2023
48. **Enbridge Gas**, 2022 Utility Earnings and Disposition of Deferral & Variance Account Balances, Ontario Energy Board Notice of Application
49. **Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC)**, Aug Calendar and Programs
50. **Pierrette Desrochers**, West Nipissing East Sudbury Soil and Crop Improvement Association Aug 16, 2023
51. **Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA)**, Welcome to the Civic Holiday Long Weekend FOCA Elert early Aug 2023
52. **Ministry of Energy**, Powering Ontario's Growth, which outlines our government's plan for the province's clean energy future
53. **MAHC (Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare) Political Leaders Forum**, minutes of Jul 7, 2023

INFORMATION – COVID-19

54. **MAHC News Release, Masking Requirement Changes at MAHC**, MAHC has updated mandatory masking requirements at both hospital sites that have been in place for much of the COVID-19 pandemic as the risk of COVID-19 transmission declines locally
55. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit News Release, Health Unit Advises Waiting Until Fall for COVID-19 Booster Dose**, The Health Unit is recommending individuals aged five and older delay getting their COVID-19 booster dose until fall 2023, this aligns with the updated guidelines put forward by the Ontario Ministry of Health earlier this month

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

CLOSED SESSION

172-23 McLaren, Scarlett

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; security of property of the municipality or local board; personal matters about identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; labour relations or employee negotiations; litigation or potential litigation,

including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board. Time 7:50 pm. CARRIED

173-23 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:10 pm. CARRIED

ADJOURN

174-23 McLaren, 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, Sep 11, 2023. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney

AL/BP/tb