

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 12, 2024**

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 (6:45 pm). Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney and Finance Intern Jadah McLaren.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Jan 22, 2024 minutes, Resolution

24-24 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we adopt Jan 22, 2024 minutes. CARRIED

2. 2024 Spring Newsletter, Resolution

Council would like the STR update removed and suggested maybe a gallery of our annual events.

3. Short Term Rental By-Law comment(s) received

A very supportive review of the proposed By-Law from an owner on Eagle Lake.

4. Magnetawan Watershed Land Trust

The Township was advised of a conservation easement via email: MWLT began in 2009 and all of it's work had been primarily concentrated in Magnetawan. However, 2023 was very busy with a number of land donations and conservation land easements in other areas of the Magnetawan River watershed. The noted property in Machar (King Lake Rd, Con 4, Lots 24 & 25) is just on the outside boundaries of the Magnetawan River watershed however MWLT saw value in its land protection.

5. Ontario Provincial Police, 2024 Annual Billing Statement, OPP Billing Model cost

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 will come into force Apr 1, 2024, replacing the Police Services Act (1990). The 2024 Annual Billing Statements remain in effect after Apr 1, 2024, and municipalities will continue to be billed in accordance with costs in the statements.

6. Min of Northern Development, modernizing of Northern Services Board Act as it pertains to Local Service Boards

The NSBA has not undergone a review since 1999, and the ministry is looking for feedback on potential burden reduction initiatives through changes to the NSBA. The ministry is seeking public feedback on matters which include the following: modernizing admin processes, improving clarity related to the definition of powers, aligning LSB and government fiscal scheduled/year, timing of LSB elections and length of terms of office, mutual aids... As a part of the consultation process, all Ontarians are able to provide comment through the Regulatory Registry.

<https://forms.office.com/r/5qCvy25M91>

7. Pay List by Fund for Jan, Resolution

25-24 McLaren, Scarlett

THAT we approve Pay List for Jan 22, 2024: \$301,165.29. CARRIED

COMMITTEES

8. Shared Services Fire and Arena 2024 1st Draft Budgets, Meeting Update

Deputy Mayor McLaren and Councillor Ivens attended the Village of South River's Joint Arena and Fire Budget meeting Jan 24. The budgets were reviewed line by line for room to come down, to no avail. Fire draft budget was presented at a 5.06% increase from Machar's contribution of \$215,913 in 2023 to \$226,834 in 2024, with a capital purchase of a submersible spreader. Arena draft budget was presented at a 18.69% increase from the Township's contribution of \$161,161 in 2023 to \$194,850 in 2024, and a list of capital expenses itemized to grants not yet shared with Admin. Resurfacing the sports court is planned. Outside facility rentals and public skating revenues are budgeted lower as HOC plans to rent ice more in the evenings in 2024. Follow-up Joint Budget Meeting Fire and Arena 6:30 pm Wed, Feb 21.

9. Machar Public Works, Roads 2014 Pick Up Repair, Surplus 2007 Grader, Resolution

The 2014 half ton is awaiting authorization to repair head gaskets. The value and need of the truck was discussed. Council agreed it was worth more fixed, will consider selling it in the future. The new grader has been delivered. The old grader is currently listed for auction at \$22,000 highest bid so far, closing at 11 am tomorrow.

26-24 Flowers, McLaren

THAT we approve the repair to 2014 4x4 pick-up per Bray Motors' estimate of 11,170 + HST provided Feb 1, 2024. CARRIED

27-24 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we deem the 2007 Grader surplus,
FURTHER THAT we authorize the Superintendent of Public Works to list that grader at auction and process its sale to the highest bidder. CARRIED

10. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of Jan 16, 2024, Resolution

Councillor Flowers explained the snow/vehicle incident, the second one in as many years. He indicated the Board feels the parking is at own risk.

28-24 Flowers, Ivens

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay Lists/Budgetary Control, adjourned until Feb 20, 2024... CARRIED

11. South River Machar Library minutes of Jan 23, 2024, 1st Draft Budget, Resolution

New drafts are to be circulated as those provided have errors. Currently the increase is presented at 23.7% increase from the Township's contribution of \$37,991 in 2023 to \$47,000 in 2024.

29-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Jan 23, 2024. CARRIED

12. Machar Recreation, Family Fun Day Eagle Lake Narrows Sun, Feb 18, 3-7 pm

Councillor Flowers is available to source the canteens for hot chocolate and Council agreed to contribute the hot chocolate. Councillor Scarlett requested SPW deliver the tiki torches and fire pit (currently stored at the Landfill) to the Narrows Beach, as SPW had volunteered at previous meeting. Councillor Scarlett also requested all Council and staff who intend to drop by, be present at 3:00 pm for a group photo.

13. Central Almaguin Planning minutes of Dec 6, 2023, Resolution

30-24 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Dec 6, 2023. CARRIED

14. NBay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health agenda of Jan 24 posted on website

www.myhealthunit.ca/en/about-us/boh-meetings.aspx

15. NBay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health minutes of Nov 22 and 29 posted on website

www.myhealthunit.ca/en/about-us/boh-meetings.aspx#2023_1

16. Joint Building Committee minutes of Jan 18, 2024, Resolution

Councillor Scarlett was not in attendance, however did hear that a new lease agreement was proposed with a rent increase at Township of Strong municipal office.

31-24 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we accept Building minutes of Jan 18, 2024. CARRIED

17. Joint Building Committee permit summaries for Jan 2024, Resolution

No permits have been issued in Machar for Jan 2024; Sundridge and Joly lead with 2 and 1.

32-24 Flowers, Ivens

THAT we accept Building Permit summaries for Jan, 202. CARRIED

18. FONOM, Municipal comprehensive social and economic prosperity review, Resolution

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario has released its 2024 pre-budget submission, [social and economic prosperity review](#), calling on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together on a joint review of municipal finance, including a detailed analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs.

33-24 Ivens, Scarlett

THAT we support FONOM Resolution dated Feb 2, 2024 re: Comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario. CARRIED

19. Armour Mayor Rod Ward update on MAHC Hospital Local Share, Regional Fire, expanded shared services

Looking to organize another Almaguin Mayors Meeting Feb 22 or Mar 7 to discuss the current status and next steps of the MAHC Hospital, Regional Fire, and expanding shared services (by-law, building inspections, etc).

20. Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Feb 2, 2024 minutes

Delegations by CEO and President of MAHC Cheryl Harrison re: Made in Muskoka Healthcare, the presentation used at the community chat in Burl's Falls. Other items discussed: BFFHT funding for branding, recruiter brochure, annual municipal requests and possible request for support, and public and media communications.

INFORMATION

21. Short Term Rentals Admin North Bay Nugget, Temagami considering short term rental property licensing ATTACHED

22. Short Term Rentals Admin North Bay Nugget, Callander puts short-term rental By-Law on ice ATTACHED

23. Almaguin seeing mini housing boom despite higher interest rates Admin North Bay Nugget, Machar has issued 71 building permits worth \$13.3 m the last 2 years, led the pack of 7 municipalities that make up the Joint Building Committee ATTACHED

Mayor Carleton felt the article appeared well. Mr. Frangione plans to connect with the Mikisew Warden about all the activities at the park outside of the regular season.

24. **City of Sarnia Resolution**, Write a Letter to the Federal Government (and copied to other Municipalities for their consideration) strongly urging them to cancel the carbon tax which is financially hurting our citizens at a time when affordability concerns are at an all-time high to ease the financial and inflationary pressure on our Citizens
25. **Township of Greater Madawaska/Township of Ryerson Resolutions**, Support Municipality of Wawa to call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000
26. **City of Mississauga Resolution**, Regarding a Notice of Motion for significant reforms at the Landlord and Tenant Board to alleviate the housing and homelessness crisis in Mississauga
27. **County of Prince Edward Resolution**, Regarding support for the Province to expand the lift span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements
28. **Municipality of East Ferris Resolution**, A request for a review of the governance structure of territorial district homes
29. **Town of Orangeville Resolution**, Requests the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario
30. **Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) Resolution**, Requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of “employer” to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project
31. **Town of Orangeville Resolution**, On behalf of the Orangeville Services Board regarding Intimate Partner Violence
32. **Town of Hanover/Prescott and Russell Resolution**, The Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances
33. **City of Brantford Resolution**, Requests that the Federal Government enact the necessary legislative and regulatory provisions: providing VIA and Metrolinx with priority right of way over freight lines, and directing CN Rail to work positively and cooperatively with municipal and provincial governments in the processing of land development applications, and the prompt and timely enforcement of municipal property standards
34. **Letter from the Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry**, Crown Land Disposition in Northern Municipalities
35. **Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC)**, Soft Skills for Employment and Fresh Start, Managing Change beginning this week
36. **AALC**, Feb Calendar of Events
37. **Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce**, Event Reminder – Free Tax Help for Small Businesses Webinar, Jan 30, 2024
38. **Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce**, Monthly Newsletter, Jan Recap
39. **Blue Sky Net**, Jan 2024 Tech Talk Newsletter
40. **Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC)**, Jan 26, Political Leader Forum, Important Capital Redevelopment Update, Made-in-Muskoka Healthcare Community Chats
41. **MAHC News Release, Introducing the Made-in-Muskoka Healthcare System of the Future**, As hospital redevelopment continues to evolve, MAHC is sharing the details of the proposed Made-in-Muskoka Healthcare system, a different model of care for the future that positions Muskoka’s new hospitals to enhance the quality of local healthcare and bring new services to the area and beyond the walls of the hospitals
42. **MAHC News Release, Bracebridge Community Chat Relocated to Sportsplex Auditorium**, MAHC appreciates the flexibility of the Town of Bracebridge to make programming changes at the Sportsplex so that the auditorium could be available for a large audience to discuss hospital redevelopment on Feb 6 at 7pm
43. **MAHC News Release, Hospital to Home Program Celebrates First Anniversary**, MAHC and Closing the Gap Healthcare, in partnership with the Muskoka and Area Ontario Health Team, are thrilled to celebrate the success of a collaborative Hospital to Home program that in its first year has positively impacted more than 65 patients locally
44. **FONOM**, 2024 FONOM Registration

- 45. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA),** Letter from the Honourable Lisa Thompson regarding the Rural Economic Development (RED) Program, intake open now until Feb 21
- 46. OMAFRA,** Save the Date Feb 29, Rural Economic Development Summit, Exploring Opportunities
- 47. OMAFRA,** The Honourable Lisa Thompson Invites You to the Rural Economic Development Summit
- 48. AMO Policy Update,** 2024 Pre-Budget Submission
- 49. AMO Events,** Join us in beautiful Ottawa Aug 18-21, 2024 as we celebrate AMO's 125th year!
- 50. AMO Watchfile Jan 18, In This Issue**
- AMO podcast: Looking back and moving forward
 - Webinars for New Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund
 - Survey: Help advance Ontario's modular housing sector
 - Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
 - AMO Education 2024 – Feb workshops
 - New Year's resolution – Upgrade LEDs in municipal buildings!
 - Free webinar – Check out the latest version of RETScreen Expert!
 - Climate change resources for residents
 - Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents
 - Data standards for planning and development applications
 - IESO Procurement #2 – Feedback on proposed process
 - Future of Aging Summit in May 2024
 - Careers: AMO, Windsor and Simcoe
- 51. AMO Watchfile Jan 25, In This Issue**
- Municipal Employee Survey results
 - Webinars for New Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund
 - Rural Economic Development Program Intake open
 - Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy
 - Survey: Help advance Ontario's modular housing sector
 - Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
 - AMO Education 2024
 - Blog: 2024 Risk Trends
 - Reminder: Time to post your Notice of Participation
 - Make buying easy in 2024 with Canoe!
 - Free webinar – Check out the latest version of RETScreen Expert!
 - Housing access in higher education host communities survey
 - Climate change resources for residents
 - Kraft Hockeyville nominations open – Your community could win!
 - Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents
 - Future of Aging Summit in May 2024
 - Careers: Brampton, Peterborough, Ajax and Georgina
- 52. AMO Watchfile Feb 1, In This Issue**
- Municipal Employee Survey results
 - Webinars for New Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund
 - Electrification and Energy Transition Panel Report
 - Energy project siting webinar Feb 9
 - Rural Economic Development Program Intake open
 - Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy
 - Survey: Help advance Ontario's modular housing sector
 - Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
 - Register for Feb Councillor Training
 - Municipal Codes of Conduct: Feb workshop
 - Anti-Semitism and Anti-Islamophobia: Winter workshops
 - Navigating Conflict – Pre-requisite for NEW advanced strategies course
 - New AMO workshops for municipal councillors – Spring dates
 - LAS supports for Municipal Energy Reporting
 - Calls to action for municipalities on economic abuse
 - Housing access in higher education host communities survey
 - Climate change resources for residents
 - Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents
 - Future of Aging Summit in May 2024
 - Careers: Clarington, York, and Ottawa

53. **AMCTO Advocacy Update**, AMCTO at the 2024 ROMA Conference
54. **AMCTO Advocacy Update**, 2024 Pre-Budget Submission
55. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Jan 24**, Calling all Clerks: Register for the Municipal Clerks Institute! Celebrate the International Day of Education by enrolling in the Executive Diploma in Municipal Management, Welcome to the AMCTO Members Discussion Forums, Taxi By-Laws, Ontario public health units show interest and concern over plans to merge, Nuclear waste safety top of mind for politicians after Ontario disposal site approval, Windsor held the line on taxes for years, Staff say that can't continue with current service levels, Ontario township overturns ban on Pride flag on community flagpole, Burdened by shortfalls, Ontario municipalities resort to steep property tax hikes, Enbridge appealing Ontario Energy Board ruling on natural gas costs
56. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Jan 31**, Ontario civil servants awarded salary increases after Bill 124 renegotiation, Western wardens continue advocacy on housing, mental health, other priorities, Ontario looking at how to transfer regional services to municipalities of Peel, Future of airports is up in the air, says advocacy group, Ontario is proposing rules to help newcomer job seekers, Nova Scotia is watching, Suspected fraudulent Norval Morrisseau painting removed from Queen's Park
57. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Feb 7**, Announcing our new Forum Student Passes, Don't miss out on the Municipal Finance Forum, Member Discussions, Industry News, A new provincial-municipal partnership is needed in every part of ON, E ON Wardens' Caucus joins call to review provincial-municipal fiscal framework, City gets \$60,000 grant to upgrade Pointe Des Chenes' accessibility, ON municipal staff say \$85.5 m cut risks success to \$10 a day child care program, Idling rules could get tougher as city looks at by-law changes, Why this ON city is passing an anti-renoviction policy, 2024 Pre-Budget Submission...
58. **Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario**, MFOA Messenger
59. **Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA)**, Register for upcoming events, plus advocacy & environmental updates
60. **ROMA**, Fill the Gaps Closer to Home News Release and Backgrounder
61. **Pierrette Desrochers**, Northern Newsletter, Feb 2024
62. **Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO)**, LifeLine: College funeral programs offer greater accessibility plus embalming labs in Windsor and Ottawa
63. **Ius Laboris Canada**, **Global HR Lawyers Mathews Dinsdale**, NAV CANADA permitted to establish multiple pay equity plans
64. **Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund (MOI)**, Final Webinar Feb 7 regarding Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF), HEWSF is an application-based program for \$200 million for the repair, rehabilitation and expansion of core water infrastructure to protect communities and enable new housing development
65. **AMO Communications**, Ministry of Infrastructure Survey on Design of New Housing Enabling Water Infrastructure Financing

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

100 year celebration – McLean's homestead – Mr. McLean reached out to Councillor Ivens for a Certificate from the Township in commemoration of their Oct 20, 1924 Heritage Anniversary to be celebrated in Jul/24.

Water testing – Councillor Ivens inquired if there was any further information available on the water testing that a business in the Township commissions. Mayor Carleton has left a message with the business but will follow up to see if they would share the information. Councillor Ivens suggested Sundridge has been approached about water testing on Lake Bernard, that we could ask them if they plan to proceed.

CLOSED SESSION

34-24 Flowers, Ivens

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; security of the property of the municipality or local board; personal matters about identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; labour relations or employee negotiations. Time 8:25 pm. CARRIED

35-24 Ivens, Flowers

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:45 pm. CARRIED

ADJOURN

36-24 Ivens, Flowers

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Feb 27, 2024. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney

BP/AL/tb