

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, June 12, 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: Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul and Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney.

Guests scheduled: Supernova Fireworks Inc Owner and Lead Fireworks Specialist Matthew Hutchinson, and South River Machar Fire Chief Risto Maki.

Guest observing: Mark Savill.

**GUESTS**

**Canada Day Fireworks Event Eagle Lake Narrows Beach Park permission**

Information presented, including Shoot site fall out zone and questions answered. Clarification on insurance forthcoming. Parking area must be secured before the Fire Dept arrives for the event.

**109-23 Ivens, McLaren**

THAT we give permission to Supernova Fireworks Inc for a Canada Day Fireworks display on Sat, Jul 1, 2023 at Eagle Lake Narrows Beach Park, subject to necessary permissions from the South River Fire Chief. CARRIED

Letter received from Donald Bruce writing to request permission to light up fireworks on Jul 1, 2023 on the water in front of the Eagle Lake Narrows and asking for a contribution to wards the cost of the fireworks display. Permission as indicated above. Contribution to cost denied.

Councillor Ivens indicated she is soliciting and accepting donations for the event, if anyone wishes.

**56. SRM Fire Chief 6.2.4 SRMFD – Potential Service Agreement to cover fire services to Laurier**

Information presented and questions answered. Unfortunately, the Ontario Fire Marshal Office did not share our view that the South River Machar Fire Dept was the best option to continue emergency response on the 11 km section of Highway 11 going north from South River to Trout Creek, that SRMFD has serviced for over 40 years, and Laurier Fire Dept is now striving to do. LFD is also striving to remove SRMFD as back up and have Powassan instead. As SRMFD assessed this situation it brought to light the disparity in fire protection resources between SRMFD and LFD. SRMFD has demonstrated a strong consistent history of providing efficient and effective fire and emergency services. The SRMFD is also located closer to more of the homes and structures in Laurier (accessed via Chemical Rd) than the LFD. The Province should consider saving money and improving fire and emergency services by negotiating a Fire Protection Agreement with the SRMFD. The SRMFD would strongly consider such a proposal as the additional coverage is well within SRMFD capabilities, provides SRMFD growth, makes SRMFD more sustainable, won't increase SRMFD needs, gives SRMFD opportunity, better level of service to Laurier, South River and Machar, and the travelling public. Prompt attention to this review is requested and could save lives.

**110-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we support letter to MPP Graydon Smith suggesting the Province negotiate a Fire Protection Agreement with South River Machar Fire Department to cover fire protection services to Laurier. CARRIED

**BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of May 23, 2023 minutes, Resolution**

**111-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we adopt May 23, 2023 minutes. CARRIED

## **2. Blue Sky Net Tech Talk – Northern Ontario Broadband Report**

Information presented. The Federal Government and the Provincial Government understand the importance of high quality internet access, setting a target for 50/10Mbps for every household by 2030 and 2025, respectively. Although the Federal Government currently states that as of 2021, 91% of Canadian households had access to fixed high speed internet, a recent report by Auditor General Karen Hogan finds that there was a significant digital divide between rural and remote communities and larger urban centres, finding that rural and remote communities were currently at 59.5% high speed internet access.

Blue Sky Net recently completed a study reviewing where Northern Ontario currently fits when it comes to high speed internet access. Blue Sky Net has found that of the 285 Northern Ontario communities, only 74 had at least 50% of their households able to access 50/10Mbps fixed high speed internet. Of those 74 communities, only 47 had at least 75% accessing 50/10Mbps. The study also found that smaller communities in Northern Ontario felt the impact of this digital divide the hardest. According to Census Canada, of the 285 Northern Ontario communities, 187 had populations under 1,000 and only 41 of these communities had at least 50% of their households able to access 50/10Mbps internet.

## **3. Municipal Accessibility Plan review, Resolution**

Mayor Carleton requested accessible picnic tables for the Parks be included (completed 2019).

### **112-23 Ivens, Flowers**

THAT we accept Municipal Accessibility Plan update as amended. CARRIED

## **4. Council Chambers Addition concept plans, Resolution**

Information presented and questions answered. Inquiry to be made on Basement Plan.

## **5. New Provincial Policy Statement overview, Resolution**

Information presented; high level overview of the proposed 2023 Provincial Planning Statement focuses mainly on the proposed changes that apply to us. Resource based recreational uses continue to include recreational dwellings however it states recreational dwellings are not intended to be permanent residences, sewage and water services, specialty crop areas are to be designated and protected for long term agricultural use, within prime agricultural areas a principal dwelling associated with an agricultural operation may be permitted as an agricultural use except where prohibited on remnant parcels of farmland, 2 additional residential units that are subordinate may be permitted in prime agricultural areas subject to meeting certain policy criteria, residential lot creation in prime agricultural areas cannot exceed 3, additional dwelling units are only permitted in settlement areas where there is municipal water and sewer services, as of right permissions for additional dwelling units would not apply because there is no servicing, no change from status quo.

The new PPS is still in draft form and may be subject to changes after the public review period and then through the final review at the Ministry, timing is unknown. Our Official Plan is due for an update, so potentially after the new PPS is approved, it may be a good time to start looking at an update. Our planners can't recall a time where there have been more changes to legislation and moving parts from the Province than within the last 2-3 years. The Province has extended the comment period for PPS review to Aug 4, 2023. Report from the Municipality of South Huron provided for additional information. If the Province's intention is to permit 3 residential lots from every farm parcel, this has the potential to result in thousands of non-farm related lots in the agricultural areas across the County. Due to the impacts of Minimum Distance Separation, 3 residential lots may not be possible, increased area that would no longer be eligible for the construction of a livestock barn due to Minimum Distance Separation setback requirements to these new lots, settlement area would still require consideration of adequate servicing, the Minister will

be given power to make regulations regarding the powers of municipalities to regulate demolition and conversion of residential rental properties, including to pass a by-law requiring a landowner to provide compensation. Official Plan Schedule A and Zoning Map 45-12 provided for information.

**113-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we acknowledge Planner's Memo on Proposed 2023 Provincial Planning Statement. CARRIED

**6. Pay List for May, Resolution**

Information presented and questions answered. Clarification forthcoming on 2 invoices (pages 1, 2).

**114-23 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we approve List of Proposed Payments for May 2023: \$261,842.69 Grand Total. CARRIED

**COMMITTEES**

**7. Shared Services Monthly Reports for May; Arena and Fire**

Information presented, the new Condenser has arrived and is scheduled to be installed the week after May 25. South River is also advertising for the part time Arena for the busy summer months. Discussion ensued on recreation programs, soccer has went from 42 last year to 97 this year and starts Jun 29, pick up basketball on Fri is being encouraged, proposal to upgrade the baseball field is forthcoming, and Youth Group suggested. We appointed reps per the Ad Hoc Arena Budget Committee meeting on Apr 19, 2023 recommendation and advised South River on Apr 27, 2023 but we haven't received any further update from South River. Council instructed that we inquire.

**8. Machar Public Works; Eagle Lake Narrows Retaining Wall Project options, Resolution**

Information presented, options reviewed. Previous grant application started and discussed.

**115-23 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we approve Eagle Lake Narrows Beach Park Retaining Wall Project Option 4, FURTHER THAT we authorize Administration to proceed to get a tender document prepared. CARRIED

**9. South River Machar Union Public Library 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

The Library is planning a 50's Block Party in their parking lot on Aug 20, 2023 with community engagement organizations and a fun family event from 3-10 pm. It will start in the afternoon with a vendor market and information booths, a game passport and activities for the kids. The CEO is trying to arrange for short eats on site for dinner to purchase by attendees, a vendor market set up with a bake table to fundraise for the Library (calling for bakers), music for dancing, popcorn, drinks and cake. 2 items are requested from each municipality; set up a table with whatever information we'd like to showcase with a volunteer to man it and answer questions, and a donation of \$250 to help cover the costs. Deputy Mayor McLaren and Councillor Scarlett may be available to do the table. No donation approved as we already fund the library. The Lions have donated \$500.

**10. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of May 16, 2023, Resolution**

Councillor Flowers reported on the Special meeting called for tomorrow night, per Dr. Seidler's request to support Powassan and Area Family Health Team Primary Care Expansion Expression of Interest. The PAAFHT Executive Director has also approached Machar and South River individually.

**116-23 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we approve motions in Medical Centre minutes of May 16, 2023 as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay Lists/Budgetary Control, now adjourned until Jun 20, 2023... CARRIED

**11. Central Almaguin Planning minutes of Apr 5, 2023, Resolution**

**117-23 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Apr 5, 2023 minutes. CARRIED

**12. Joint Building Committee minutes of May 31, 2023, Resolution**

Councillor Scarlett reported; there has been some pressure to open Bldg, at least by appointment.

**118-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we acknowledge Building minutes of May 31, 2023, including changes to the JBC policies C-1.5 and C-5.1 as presented. CARRIED

**13. Joint Building Permit Summaries for May, Resolution**

**119-23 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we accept Building Permit Summaries for May 2023. CARRIED

**14. Joint Building DCBO Appointing By-Law, Resolution**

**120-23 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we repeal By-Law No. 6-23. CARRIED

**15. District EMS (Emergency Medical Services) minutes of May 25, 2023, Resolution**

Councillor Ivens reported; a new EMS Station is planned in Burks Falls. We hope SR isn't impacted.

**121-23 Ivens, Flowers**

THAT we acknowledge EMS minutes of May 25, 2023. CARRIED

**16. POA (Provincial Offences Act) Advisory minutes of Nov 24, 2022, Resolution**

Councillor Ivens reported; satellite courts pose a challenge in the north. Sundridge is a satellite.

**122-23 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we acknowledge POA minutes of Nov 24, 2022. CARRIED

**INFORMATION**

- 17. Short Term Rentals 4-083:** Cottage Life, Seguin Township rejects recommendation for STR licensing and by-law program ATTACHED
- 18. City of Cambridge Resolution,** Requests that the Ontario Government amend s.205.1 of the Highway Traffic Act to permit municipalities to locate an Automated Speed Enforcement system permanently or temporarily on any roadway under the jurisdiction of municipalities and as determined by municipalities and not be restricted to only community safety zones and school safety zones
- 19. Village of Burks Falls Resolution,** Supports the Township of Armour's resolution to support efforts to raise awareness about the loopholes in current regulations regarding water aerodomes that allow proponents to build massive docks and boathouses without municipal consultation, approval, or adherence to by-laws and regulations
- 20. Township of Limerick Resolution,** Supports the Resolution from Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County regarding Changes to the Provincial Policy Statement
- 21. County of Lanark Resolution,** Express its support for legislative measures to help first responders from violence, particularly those found in Bill C-321
- 22. Town of Plympton-Wyoming Resolution,** Support the Resolution from the Council of the Municipality of Tweed regarding Bell-Hydro Infrastructure, Calls on the Province of Ontario to facilitate, coordinate, and regulate pole development measures across the Province of Ontario to prevent unnecessary duplication of poly infrastructure and that the Province of Ontario encourage Bell Canada and Hydro One to work together to provide access for poles to better service the infrastructure needs of Ontarians

- 23. Municipality of Huron Shores Resolution**, Authorizes Mayor Seabrook to draft a letter to the Minister of Health to address the current health care crisis occurring in rural and Northern Ontario
- 24. Municipality of Mississippi Mills Resolution**, Supports South Glengarry's resolution that the Province of Ontario through the Minister of Education, provide an update on the status of any review of rural education funding, including the RNEF and the 2018 Pupil Accommodation review guidelines
- 25. Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters**, Turtles on the Move Presentation June 1, 2023, Top 10 Least Wanted Invasive Species in Almaguin Highlands Presentation Jun 14, 2023
- 26. Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC)**, New 5 Part Fresh Start begins next Monday, Sign up today!
- 27. AALC**, June Calendar of Events, Skills for Success Bootcamp begins June 19
- 28. FONOM**, Health Sciences North (HSN), June 13, 2023 Virtual Annual Meeting, Panel Discussion Social Accountability at HSN
- 29. AMO Watchfile, May 18, In This Issue**
- Recent AMO housing submissions
  - AMO submission to Ministry of Energy
  - Submit your entry for the 2023 PJ Marshal Awards
  - Applications open for 2023 Ontario Community Environment Fund
  - Federal Housing Advocate Review on Homeless Encampments
  - EnAbling Change Program funding opportunity
  - Expanding Access to Primary Health Care Expression of Interest
  - Support for Municipal Disability Management Programs
  - Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
  - Additional accommodations available for AMO 2023
  - AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information
  - Request your delegation meetings at AMO 2023
  - Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials: June workshop
  - AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness: November workshop
  - Navigating the Road to Resilience Risk Management symposium: October 4-5
  - eScribe webinar: Member spotlight on the Township of Scugog
  - Energy Planning Tool makes reporting energy easy!
  - Canoe vendor spotlight: Niu Toilet
  - Building Linkages in Emergency Management Symposium: October 17-18
  - Careers: Brantford Police Service, Wasaga Beach, Hastings, Orillia, and Essex
- 30. AMO Watchfile, May 25, In This Issue**
- Submissions on Tenant Protection and Site Plan Control
  - Applications open for 2023 Ontario Community Environment Fund
  - Federal Housing Accelerator Fund
  - Federal Housing Advocate Review on Homeless Encampments
  - EnAbling Change Program funding opportunity
  - Support for Municipal Disability Management Programs
  - Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
  - Additional accommodations available for AMO 2023
  - AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information
  - Request your delegation meetings at AMO 2023
  - Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials: June workshop
  - AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness: November workshop
  - Navigating the Road to Resilience Risk Management symposium: October 4-5
  - LAS Blog: AMO's Work on Ending Homelessness
  - Canoe vendor spotlight: Unifirst Corporation
  - Register for FCM's Gender-Based Analysis course
  - Building Linkages in Emergency Management Symposium: October 17-18
  - Careers: Township of South Glengarry and County of Simcoe
- 31. AMO Watchfile, Jun 1, In This Issue**
- EnAbling Change Program funding opportunity
  - AMO & CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund Webinar: June 7
  - Support for Municipal Disability Management Programs
  - Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
  - Additional accommodations available at AMO 2023
  - Request your delegation meetings at AMO 2023
  - Councillor training: Fall dates
  - Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials: June workshop
  - AMO-OFIFC Indigenous Community Awareness: November workshop
  - Human Rights and Equity Training: November Workshop
  - New incentives for your lighting projects!

- Existing Building Commissioning workshops
- It's easy to use the Canoe Procurement Group
- New funding programs supporting municipal action on invasive species
- Careers

**32. AMO Watchfile, Jun 8, In This Issue**

- MPAC Board Positions – Call for Expressions of Interest
- Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
- Additional accommodations available for AMO 2023
- June 9 Deadline to Request your Delegation Meetings at AMO 2023
- Councillor training: Fall dates
- Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials: June workshop
- AMO-OFIC Indigenous Community Awareness: November few spots available
- Human Rights and Equity Training: November workshop
- AMO Webinar: Meet the Partners!
- Canoe Vendor Spotlight: WESCO
- Important TSSA Advisory for Ontario's Ice Rink Owners
- Careers: Durham, Niagara, and Simcoe

**33. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, May 24,** Ontario announces intent to dissolve Peel Region, Who's next in line for a breakup? These Ontario regions say they don't want to be split, Editing the oath: Calls grow for Ontario to mention treaty rights in the municipal oath of office, A northwestern Ontario Council is appointing mayor and deputy mayor replacements, is that allowed? Farmers say Bill 97 imperils 'the future of agriculture' in Ontario, John Mascarin named recipient of the OBA's 2023 Award of Excellence in Municipal Law, Automated speed enforcement coming back to Council for more discussion, Roadside zoo season is set to begin in Ontario and advocates say it's time to shore up animal welfare laws, Master of lights since 1958, Paramedics are increasingly not available when we need them in Ontario, iSiLIVE Accessibility Webcasting Services, Ontario university researchers attempt to put price tag on value park brings to a city, Elected officials 'not above the law': Burlington Council agrees

**34. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, May 31,** These cities have the lowest property taxes in southern Ontario, Ontario's proposed planning policies could create problems in northern cities, Mayor Sutcliffe, Council urge province to back bill to oust wayward councillors, Thunder Bay insurance adjuster works through 'backlog' of pothole damage claims, 'Everything should be on the table': Collingwood mayor opposes motion rejecting potential County of Simcoe dissolution, Want to combat an invasive species in southwestern Ontario? There's funding for that, Emergency declared in Meaford after fire prompts water contamination concerns, Durham Regional Council adopts new Regional Official Plans

**35. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Jun 7,** Ontario plans to make naloxone kits mandatory in all workplaces, Ontario bill giving cities power to expand boundaries for housing passes, How 7-Eleven won liquor licence for nearly all of its Ontario locations, Peel councillors propose 'sunset clause' as solution to get shovels in the ground of housing projects sooner, Toronto summer festivals feeling the pinch amid rising policing costs and other price hikes, Chatham-Kent councillors now may accept stipend if serving on regional boards, CK gets more provincial funding to cover costs of Wheatley gas explosion, FCM fed funding studies to enhance efficiency and performance for municipally owned-buildings across Ontario, Ontario bill to allow removal of councillors who violate codes of conduct fails

**36. ROMA Communications Update, May ROMA Board Meeting Highlights,** Taking action on 'trains and drains', Rural access to services, Improving Safety through Speed Cameras

**37. Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA),** Welcome to the Long Weekend, FOCA EAlert May 2023

**38. FOCA,** Regional update: Wireless home internet availability has expanded in your area

**39. Environmental Assessment and Permissions Division,** Reducing Burden for Small Scale Breweries Through Self-Registration and Exemptions

**40. Pierrette Desrochers,** Grow Ontario Market Initiative Intake Now Open

**41. Minister Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA),** June is Seniors Month, it is an opportunity to acknowledge and recognize the amazing seniors across this province and the positive impact they have made in our lives

**42. Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO),** Notice: The value of displaying the BAO licensing fee and giving it a descriptive name the public prefers

**43. SRMAS, June Events,** Golf to Support Agriculture Jun 10, 2023 and Summer Craft Sale Jun 24, 2023

44. **Almaguin Chamber of Commerce**, Offering free use of the Chamber Perks Mobile App as part of your chamber membership, The app will allow chamber members, their employees, and the general public, to locate your company using the app's search and map features
45. **Explorer's Edge**, Updates Jun 2023
46. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release, Aging with Confidence Symposium**, The NBPS Stay on Your Feet (SOYF) Coalition invites you to stop by the Aging with Confidence Symposium, a free in-person seniors fair taking place in N Bay and Parry Sound to celebrate Senior's Month on Jun 8, 15
47. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release, Smoke from Forest Fires Affects Air Quality in Health Unit Districts**, As smoke from forest fires in Quebec and Ontario continue to affect the air quality across the N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit region, the Health Unit is reminding people to take precautions
48. **Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility**, Seniors Active Living Centres Prgm Expansion for 2023-2024
49. **Ontario Public Service (OPS)**, Apply to the OPS 2023 Indigenous Internship Program now!
50. **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)**, Watch and replay your AC2023 favourite moments, More than 1,500 municipal leaders from across Canada gathered in Toronto last week for Local Action, National Results: FCM's 2023 Annual Conference and Trade show
51. **FCM**, Resolutions adopted at AC2023, Carole Saab joins the What Works Cities Committee
52. **Ius Laboris Canada, Global HR Lawyers Mathews Dinsdale**, Employer's Requirement for Proof of Canadian Citizenship or Permanent Residency Held to be Discrimination
53. **MPAC May 2023 In Touch**, New Assessment Forecast Identifies More Than \$42 Billion, Ontario Residential Building Permits Return to Pre-pandemic Levels, MPAC's Commitment to Getting it Right, Spring Conference Roundup
54. **Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ontario (MFOA)**, Annual Conference, MFOA Messenger

Discussion ensued on 17. Citizen 4-083 approached Mayor Carleton on several matters at the recent Almaguin Lake and Watershed Assoc meeting on Sat, Jun 10, 2023. Discussion on STRs and regulation ensued and possibly holding off as more information is coming. Further to the fire in Quebec, Quebec is coming out with a framework and hoping Ontario will follow. Newfoundland has had legislation for quite awhile. Magnetawan is getting a ruling from their lawyer. Citizen 4-083 has been advised the STR By-Law is in draft form and submitted for fine approval, it won't be happening this year, maybe next year, if it happens. Council suggested we speak to By-Law Enforcement at the end of the summer to inquire on STR complaints received for the season. Citizen 4-083 again expressed concerns about Fireworks and anomaly this year (\*answered at Council Mar 27, 2023).

#### **INFORMATION – COVID-19**

55. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Public Service Announcement, COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics in Jun**, Upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics include: Mattawa Jun 26, N Bay Jun 8, 22, Parry Sound Jun 13, 28, Sundridge Jun 14

#### **ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION**

57. **Powassan and Area Family Health Team Executive Director letter of support for Powassan and Area Family Health Team Primary Care Expansion Expression of Interest**

Information presented, request from PAAFHT and draft letter of support received.

#### **123-23 Flowers, Scarlett**

THAT we provide a letter of support for Powassan and Area Family Health Team Primary Care Expansion Expression of Interest for the proposed addition of new staff members to the PAAFHT including a nurse practitioner, registered practical nurse, social worker and physiotherapist, as well as supporting administrative staff which is crucial for improving health equity for the patients in the South River and Machar area. CARRIED

Councillor Ivens asked to bring forward 2 things. Can we request an update from our Eastholme area representative Jim Coleman? Eastholme meets once a month and there's currently an outbreak there that we didn't know. We'll request an update.

Can a North Bay company purchase Landfill entry? A Landfill entry card is limited and regulated, restricted to waste generated from 1 property (1 unit) only, in specified municipalities, as listed in our Landfill Disposal Fees: \*South River, Lount, Laurier and Ballantyne, plus tipping fees.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**124-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

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. Time 8:23 pm. CARRIED

**125-23 McLaren, Scarlett**

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 9:05 pm. CARRIED

**ADJOURN**

**126-23 Flowers, Scarlett**

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Jun 26, 2023. CARRIED

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Mayor Lynda Carleton

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Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

**BP/tb**