

The Council Chamber and gallery area to observe Council meetings are open to the public in person with limited capacity. Please contact the Municipal Office to register if you wish to observe.

Please note all parties wishing to observe must register in advance, and individually with the Municipal Office. You can reach the Municipal Office at 705-386-7741.

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 27, 2023**

6:30 pm Call to Order, Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; nil.

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Pearl Ivens and Blair Flowers. Councillor Neil Scarlett was absent with notice.

Staff present: Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul and Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney. Staff scheduled to observe by teleconference: By-Law Enforcement Officer Caitlin Deevey.

Guest scheduled: Liz Bradley. Guests observing in person: John Mowat, Tamara Brash, Barb and Doug Farren, Linda McKenzie, and Faye Oei. Guests registered to observe by teleconference: Fay Boyd and Mike Mitchell, Anne and Phil Pelletier.

Presentation re Short Term Rentals, Septic Systems, Election, Fireworks

Ms. Bradley proceeded to hand deliver a By-Law Enforcement and Short Term Rental petition which she indicated was from last summer and contained 100 resident signatures. The petition is dated May 2022 and reads as follows: “Dear Mayor Carleton and Council Members, We the undersigned, believe that the elected Council of the Township of Machar has a paramount duty to protect lake quality and the safety, security and the quiet enjoyment of its residents in the Township by enforcing the existing by-laws.

Furthermore, we believe that the issue of short-term rentals and their potential over-taxed septic systems should be addressed to prevent negative impacts on the lakes in the township.

By my signature, I am declaring that I am an eligible voter in the Township of Machar and concur with the statements of this petition.”

Ms. Bradley then directed pre-registered questions related to the petition per her presentation outline and an added question to Council, summarized as follows:

“STR – Please explain Council’s recent decision not to address STR.”...

“Septic Systems – Please advise if addressing over taxed septic systems is a prior for this council.”...

“Enforcement of Existing By-Laws – How does council intend on enforcing existing by laws such as fireworks, noise and non compliance to property standards?”

“Final question – For the next election would council support telephone and online voting?”...

Added question – Fireworks By-law: Canada Day, and the weekend directly before and after it.

Mayor Carleton highlighted the continuous and extensive information gathering on Short Term Rentals, information is still being received, explaining some municipalities have acted and rescinded, and listed municipalities that regulate and those that don’t, expressing we’ve been working on Short Term Rentals and are intending on proceeding. The by-law will require confirmation that the septic system is adequately sized. Ms. Bradley submitted a Huntsville Doppler article to us titled “Huntsville STRA program has become self-sustaining: Nagy”. Mayor Carleton has been in touch Huntsville Chief Building Official Christopher Nagy. It was noted that the Town of Huntsville (pop. 20,000+) won’t be the same as ours, it’s comparably different and much larger than the Township of Machar (pop. 2,000-).

The Clerk Administrator advised our Vote by Mail is very successful, we achieved one of the highest voter turn-outs in the Province. The Voters’ List will be new next election under Election Ontario. Telephone and internet voting isn’t recommended for the reasons as indicated, as well as cost, necessary infrastructure and our responsibility to ensure the integrity and results of the election. It was noted the Municipal election is the only level of government to offer the convenience of Vote by Mail.

Ms. Bradley posed a question on interpretation of the Fireworks By-Law intending fireworks only be permitted on Canada Day. Canada Day is on a Sat this year. The Fireworks By-Law indicates fireworks will be permitted on Canada Day, between 8-11 pm on Jul 1, and the weekend directly before and after it.

Ms. Bradley concluded her presentation as follows, and joined the audience: “Machar is known for good roads, and good taxes, is that going to be your legacy, is that all you’re going to be good for?”

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Mar 13, 2023 minutes, Resolution

56-23 Ivens, Flowers

THAT we adopt Mar 13, 2023 minutes as amended. CARRIED

2. ELCA (Eagle Lake Conservation Assoc) problems with Short Term Rentals

Letter received to inquire what action Council intends to initiate to reduce Short Term Rental complaints. ELCA reps Fay Boyd and Mike Mitchell registered to observe by teleconference.

3. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry update on floating accommodations, ERO (Environmental Registry of ON) number 019-6590, comment period closes on Apr 11, 2023

An update to the proposal to make amendments to ON Regulation 161/17 under the Public Lands Act regarding the use of floating accommodations. The update proposes to amend the regulation to clarify the structures or things that cannot be placed and used for overnight accommodation on water over public land. Changes proposed in the original posting have been removed through the update. We encourage you to review the updated proposal by ERO number and provide feedback.

4. Almaguin Adult Learning Centre requesting support

Approved \$200.

5. Almaguin News renewal

Approved 1 subscription.

COMMITTEES

6. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Feb; Arena and Fire

Items provided for Arena: Chief Operator Report for Feb 2023, AP Ledger for Feb \$9,827.40 Total Expenditures, Income Statement 23.28% Revenue and 4.94% Expense. Items provided for Fire: Fire Chief’s Report Mar 2023, AP Ledger for Feb 2023 \$11,390.63 Total Expenditures, Income Statement 55.62% Revenue and 4.49% Expense. Information included: Ontario Modernizing its Emergency Response System, Investment in 911 system will help emergency operators and dispatchers save more lives. Additional PSAP NG911 Transition Funding information just received. \$620,000 in funding will cover 100% of the cost transition to NG911 Dispatch. This will allow the Fire Dept to maintain self-dispatching in the digital world and not increase response times as a result of using a third party provider. Today, the alternative cost of third party dispatch service is only a few thousand dollars per year but that could change at any time. Fire Chief to be asked for presentation.

7. Shared Services Proposed 2023 Budgets; Arena and Fire, Resolutions

Items provided for Fire: Draft 3 of proposed 2023 Budget = our share \$215,913 (up 12.98% or \$24,808). Information included: Apparatus listing: Tanker 1, Rescue 2, Pumper 3, Pumper 4, Unit 5 disposed 2023, Rescue 6, and Rescue 7. Items provided for Arena: Draft 4 of proposed 2023 Budget = our share \$167,235 (up 43.30% from final budget 2022 or \$50,533), grass cutting at Tebby Park will no longer be applied to a joint services account, Comparison Chart for 2019, 2022 and 2023 for Wages to Ice Rental Revenue (2023 budget reflects 1210 ice rental hours compared to 7787 total hours paid/wages). Information included: North Bay Nugget article Coun. Lowery looks for hiring freeze at city hall, Operations graph 2019 \$214,686 to 2023 \$307,818 (Machar share 2019 \$83,562

to 2023 \$173,856 per Draft 3). Additional information on Near North School Board ice request just received. NNDSB has entered into a tentative Joint Use Agreement with Strong for use of the Strong, Joly, Sundridge Arena at no cost for the use of ice time which is consistent with similar programs with the Town of Parry Sound, Township of Seguin and Town of Mattawa. At this stage of the planning the school has estimated a cost of \$3,864 for ice rental at the South River Machar Arena (38 on ice skill sessions at twice a week). This cost will be assumed by the students and for some it may be a deterrent to participating in the proposed Hockey Skills Academy program at Almaguin Highlands Secondary School for the Sep 2023 school year. South River Council will welcome a presentation and indicated they may also want to reach out to Machar. South River has indicated the cost could be significant. Machar Council is interested in a presentation if offered.

The Resolution to approve Draft 4 of the Arena Budget couldn't achieve a mover and seconder. Council discussed it for some time and then directed that Arena Budget be sent back.

The Clerk Administrator requested clarity; the Fire Budget got approval at the Shared Services meeting, and it was Arena Budget that Council were directing be sent back. Council confirmed.
*The 2 shared services (Fire and Arena) proposed 2023 Budgets were in the same Resolution.

8. Machar Public Works minutes of Mar 16, 2023, Resolution

Reviewed. Mayor Carleton attended Ontario Power Generation Pre-Freshet Education Session. Information session revealed a hydro shortfall is expected by 2029. Note to Municipalities on Aerosols provided by Councillor Ivens to ARI Hazmat Committee Secretary. Councillor Ivens queried if Ontario by Bike Route Eagle Lake Loop event was on our website. We're not sure as we had to source the map provided to Committee, Administration will check and update.

57-23 Ivens, Flowers

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Mar 16, 2023. CARRIED

9. South River Machar Medical minutes of Feb 21, 2023, Resolution

Reviewed. Councillor Flowers reported on toilets and that the septic system appears to be satisfactory, Conference Room may be sourced for the additional Loan Cupboard space required.

58-23 Flowers, McLaren

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes of Feb 21, 2023 as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay Lists, Budgetary Controls, rent increase, 2023 budget, adjourned until Mar 21, 2023... CARRIED

10. South River Machar Union Public Library minutes of Mar 7, 2023, Resolution

Reviewed. Information requested on new hours. Poster provided and put on our website; Events.

59-23 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Mar 7, 2023. CARRIED

11. Joint Building minutes of Mar 16, 2023 and 2023 Budget, Resolution

Reviewed. A full time employee has been hired for the DCBO/Bldg Inspector position with a starting date of Mar 27. Budget recommended to municipalities, currently funded through building permits.

60-23 McLaren, Flowers

THAT we acknowledge Building minutes of Mar 16, 2023, including 2023 budget of \$338,844. CARRIED

12. Armour Mayor Rod Ward update on MAHC Hospital Local Share, potential quarterly meeting

Possible topics: quick update on MAHC Hospital Local Share, Planning, Growth and Housing.

a. Burks Falls Mayor Chris Hope Net Zero 2050, proposed to add to Apr 27 meeting

13. FONOM 2023 Conference, Connecting the North, May 8-10, Parry Sound, concerning email

Reviewed. Information received: Conference Agenda. Mayor Carleton and Councillor Ivens to be registered for Full Delegate Package. Deputy Mayor McLaren to be registered for Mon, May 8. Several municipalities have received an email claiming to be associated with FONOM, it's false.

14. FONOM (Fed of N ON Munic) Call to Action on Housing and Homelessness, Resolution

61-23 Flowers, McLaren

THAT we support FONOM Call to Action on Housing and Homelessness. CARRIED

15. FONOM pleased to present next video in Go North series, featuring Split Rail Brewing Co, Manitoulin Island, visit <https://fonom.org/>

16. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; Food Insecurity Advocacy, Request for Support

62-23 Flowers, Ivens

THAT we support North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit efforts on the important public health issue of food insecurity as 1 in 6 households experience food insecurity, and 1 in 5 children live in a food insecure household. CARRIED

17. District of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd area rep; CAO Report Mar 2023 AVAILABLE

INFORMATION

18. Short term Rentals 4-083 Huntsville Doppler; Huntsville STRA program has become self-sustaining: Nagy (Huntsville Chief Building Official Municipal Accommodation Tax MAT) ATTACHED

19. Municipality of Magnetawan Resolution, Requests the Almaguin Community Hatchery Program to be permitted to continue its invaluable work in restocking walleye and educating students about stewardship in the Almaguin Area, and that Staff is directed to forward this resolution to the Magnetawan River Watershed Communities as well as the Hon. Graydon Smith seeking support

20. Municipality of Chatham-Kent Resolution, Express support for Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act which would require the code of conduct for Municipal Councillors and members of locals boards to include a requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies and permit municipalities and local boards to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat if the Commissioner's inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement

21. Township of Malahide Resolution, Recommends further notice and enhanced consultation with municipal governments when drafting when implementing legislation and regulations related to cannabis production, as there is a direct impact on local municipal operations, local residents, and in some cases, serious issues of non-compliance with local municipal by-laws

22. Town of Carleton Place Resolution, Recognizes the issues of violence in rural communities as serious to the health and wellness of local families, recognizes the rural Renfrew County inquest as important to all rural communities and based on the statistics of 4815 crisis calls and service provisions to 527 women and children in our local community, the Council declares IPV (intimate partner violence) and VAW (violence against women) an epidemic as per recommendation #1 of the Renfrew County jury recommendations

23. Huron County Resolution, Advocate for improvements to the Cannabis Act and current legislative framework for cannabis in Canada by sending the report titled Report for Council: Cannabis Act Information, including correspondence found in the appendices, to the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC) for discussion and consideration

24. Municipality of North Perth Resolution, Urges the Provincial Government to, require all school buses to have stop arm cameras installed and paid for by the Province for the start of the 2023-2024 school year, and underwrite the costs for the implementation and on-going annual costs for Administrative Monetary Penalties in small and rural municipalities

25. Town of Essex Resolution, Direct administration to send a letter to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and any other relevant bodies, to investigate the tax classification of short-term rental units and consider taxing them as commercial as opposed to residential

26. Town of Essex Resolution, The correspondence dated Feb 24, 2023 from the Niagara Region regarding the Declarations of Emergency for Homelessness, Mental Health and Opioid Addiction be received and supported

- 27. Town of Essex Resolution**, Direct administration to send a letter to all relevant taxation bodies, including the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, Essex County Council, MPP Anthony Leardi, Association of the Municipalities of Ontario and all other municipalities of Ontario urging them to re-instate previous legislation that permitted a Municipality to apply for and retain the surplus proceeds from a tax sale in their jurisdiction
- 28. Town of Petrolia Resolution**, Calls on the Provincial Government to urgently; Acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic, and health crisis, Commit to ending homelessness in Ontario, Work with AMO and broad range of community, health, Indigenous and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal
- 29. District of Parry Sound Social Services Board Resolution**, Supports the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) in requesting that the Federal government create a Housing Benefit as outlined in the CAEH report and proposal
- 30. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, Inspection of 2023-2024 Annual Work Schedule for Algonquin Park Forest
- 31. MNRF**, Inspection of 2023-2024 Annual Work Schedule for French-Severn Forest
- 32. AMO Watchfile Mar 9, 2023 In This Issue**
- AMO member resolution campaign on homelessness
 - AMO responds to Minister's reporting regulation on planning matters
 - NG9-1-1 Transfer Payment Program
 - Proposed updates to Normal Farm Practices Protection Board due April 3
 - Community Transit Technology Guide available
 - Drainage advocacy to Minister of Transport and CN
 - OSUM Conference: Registration and accommodations are open
 - OSUM Conference: Exhibitor information
 - Save the date for AMO's Ending Homelessness Symposium May 2-3, 2023
 - Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
 - AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information
 - New dates available for AMO's Land Use Planning training
 - Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Councillor Training
 - Save the date for AMO-LAS 2023 Energy Symposium: November 2 - 3
 - New dates for Navigating Conflict for Elected Officials and Human Rights & Equity
 - Building capacity to help municipalities analyze energy
 - Canoe vendor spotlight: Quadiant Canada, Toshiba, Konica Minolta
 - Book your Summer Road & Sidewalk Assessment today
 - IESO provides municipal access to de-identified electricity data
 - Ontario Bike Summit returns April 30
 - Careers and RFP: Whitchurch-Stouffville, MMAH, and Espanola
- 33. AMO Watchfile Mar 16, 2023 In This Issue**
- AMO member resolution campaign on homelessness
 - AMO responds to Minister's reporting regulation on planning matters
 - Call for nominations for 2023 OSUM Executive Committee
 - Applications now open for 2023-24 Inclusive Community Grants
 - NG9-1-1 Transfer Payment Program
 - Proposed updates to Normal Farm Practices Protection Board due April 3
 - Community Transit Technology Guide available
 - Drainage advocacy to Minister of Transport and CN
 - OSUM Conference: Registration and accommodations are open
 - OSUM Conference: Exhibitor information
 - Registration now open for AMO's Ending Homelessness Symposium May 2-3
 - Register for the AMO 2023 Annual General Meeting and Conference
 - AMO Conference 2023: Exhibitor and sponsorship information
 - New dates available for AMO's Land Use Planning training
 - Strengthen your leadership: AMO's New Councillor Training
 - 4S Webinar: WSIB double rebates for Municipal Health & Safety Programs
 - LAS Blog: Putting it to the test: The Foodcyclers
 - Canoe vendor spotlight: RadioMobile, Genesys
 - Canoe fuels fleets in 2023
 - Municipal Natural Assets Initiative's legal primer on natural asset management
 - IESO provides municipal access to de-identified electricity data
 - Ontario Bike Summit returns April 30
 - Careers: Peel, Niagara, Halton, London, and Kitchener
- 34. AMO Communications, AMO Policy Update**, Housing and Homelessness Update, AMO and Partners Publish Open Letter to Premier Ford, Federal Housing Accelerator Fund Launched, Province Announces Doubling of Economic Immigration

35. **AMO Events**, AMO Local Authority Services (LAS) Energy Symposium, Showcase your Initiative and Innovation, Call for Proposals and Sponsors Nov 2-3, 2023
36. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Mar 15 2023**, Ontario cities, police forces ban TikTok on devices while others consider the move, Building up can help save farmland, says Ontario ag advocate, Volkswagen to build electric vehicle battery plant in Canada, Rural municipalities in Canada lead the way in 4-day work weeks to combat high turnover rates, Sault moves to protect heritage trees, Tewin owners get city exemption to clear cut for farming, How the pandemic exposed Northern Ontario's hidden homeless crisis, Public Health considering local solution for water testing, Proposed Changes to the 2023 Financial Information Return...
37. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Mar 22, 2023**, Four municipalities in greater Kawarthas region receiving almost \$1.2 million in provincial disaster recovery funding, City of Ottawa to pledge to help build 151,000 homes in next decade, Brockton municipal council takes stand on bail reform, Town halls brace for amalgamation talks led by province (examine six regional governments), Hamilton's budget would see a 6.7% tax hike – biggest in years – many, but not all councillors support it, Blind River to explore alternative work options, Sault Ste Marie joins others – will ban Tik Tok on city devices, Bird flu in Brampton confirmed after tests on dead animals...
38. **AMCTO The Municipal Experts, Advocacy Update**, Municipal Reporting Regulation and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
39. **Ius Laboris Canada, Global HR Lawyers Mathews Dinsdale**, Ontario Proposes Amendments Impacting Remote Workers and New Hires
40. **Ius Laboris Canada, Global HR Lawyers Mathews Dinsdale**, Minimum Age of Employment Increase in the Federal Sector
41. **Ius Laboris Canada, Global HR Lawyers Mathews Dinsdale**, Ontario Introduces Working for Workers Act, 2023
42. **West Nipissing East Sudbury Agricultural Support Projects (WNESASP)**, Currently accepting farmer applications for a possible 2023-2024 NOHFC Tile Drainage Project until May 1, 2023
43. **Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) News Release, Indigenous Patient Navigator Services Introduced at MAHC**, MAHC is working to improve care closer to home in the communities we serve by introducing two new providers dedicated to better supporting specific patient populations
44. **N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, News Release, Think You'll Win? Know The Odds of Winning Big**, The N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit and the Community Counselling Centre of Nipissing are relaunching Think You'll Win? A gambling harm reduction campaign that adds perspective to the odds of winning big. The campaign features four new scenarios that may seem unbelievable, but are statistically more likely to happen than winning big

63-23 McLaren, Flowers

THAT we support Agenda item 19. CARRIED

**INFORMATION – COVID-19
ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION
CLOSED SESSION**

64-23 Flowers, McLaren

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, labour relations or employee negotiations, litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board. Time 8:07 pm. CARRIED

65-23 McLaren, Flowers

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 8:42 pm. CARRIED

ADJOURN

66-23 Flowers, Ivens

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Tue, Apr 11, 2023. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT