

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 26, 2024**

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 and Councillor Pearl Ivens. Councillors Neil Scarlett and Blair Flowers absent with notice. Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney and Finance Intern Jadah McLaren.

Guest observing: Mark Savill and Mark Smuck.

GUESTS

6:30-6:45 pm Michelle Thiessen, South River Machar Library CEO, Annual Library Review

Did not appear.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Feb 12, 2024 minutes, Resolution

37-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we adopt minutes of Feb 12, 2024. CARRIED

2. 2024 Spring Newsletter, Resolution

Featuring the new grader now.

38-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we approve 2024 Spring Newsletter. CARRIED

3. South River Lions Club, Thank you

The Lion's Club thanks the Township of Machar for the gift bag donation to the silent auction. The Club raised over \$2,000 from the silent auction and almost \$3,000 from the live auction. They would not be able to raise these funds without the generous support from the local business community. Those funds will be used over the next year to support individuals, families and other organizations that require financial assistance.

4. South River Machar Agricultural Society donation request for 143rd Fall Fair

The SRMAS is requesting a donation to help support one inflatable for the children at the 2024 Fall Fair. The Township of Machar has been a proud sponsor of the Fall Fair for at least 17 years and is happy to provide entertainment to the local youth again this year with a donation of \$1,819.30.

5. South River Machar Agricultural Society request to jointly purchase an LED sign

The SRMAS is asking Machar, South River, and the South River Lions to jointly purchase an LED sign with the Agricultural Society. Their proposal includes all four agencies working together to research the best company provider, look together for grants to help lower the cost between the organizations, placement of the sign on the main highway in South River in a highly visible area such as the brewery and the sign message changes to be through the Village. Also proposing that the sign may be used by other non-profits in the area free of charge with no business advertising. More information is required, ie cost estimates, Admin to respond as such.

6. N Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority 2nd Notice of Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan Updates

Planner has reviewed and advised many of the updates in the new draft were technical in nature. When the Township undertakes its next housekeeping amendment to the Zoning By-Law, updates are required to implement the recommendations contained within the Source Protection Plan. Through the Clean Water Act, the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority co-ordinated the development of the Source Protection Plan (SP Plan) to protect the sources of five municipal drinking water systems in their watershed: Callander, Mattawa, North Bay, Powassan and South River. nbmca.ca/watershed-management/drinking-water-source-protection/. Signage on Broadway St. mark the area affected in the Township, as well as Schedule B of the Zoning By-Law.

7. Ministry of Transportation re proposed changes to License Plate Renewal in Ontario

The government has announced on Feb 15, 2024, it will be introducing legislation related to the renewal of license plates in the coming days, and more details regarding the proposed changes will be released over the coming months; Plate denial information will continue to support municipal fine collection. As a plate nears its exp date, the automated system will check if the plate has fines, outstanding tolls, or insurance issues. If none, the plate will be renewed automatically for one year. If the plate has any of these issues, renewal will not proceed and the vehicle owner will be notified that they need to take action, which will include paying any fines or their plate will expire.

COMMITTEES

8. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Jan, Arena and Fire

Items provided: Fire Chief's monthly report for Feb 2024 (Fire Prevention Officer completed Part 2 Joint Health and Safety course and working on Fire Inspector 1 course), Income Statement for Jan (Revenue 0%, Expenses 6.74%), AP Ledger for Jan \$16,668.96 Total Expenditures. Arena Chief Operator report for Jan 2024 (Ice plant compressors are running a little more with the unseasonably warmer weather, currently looking for a new floor scrubber), Income Statement for Jan 2024 (Revenue 3.36% and Expenses 2.46%), AP Ledger for Jan \$15,882.62 Total Expenditures. Admin asked to inquire about -\$333.64 balance in expense line 1-80-081-100-100 Arena – Salaries Full & Part Time Staff where you would typically see positive balances, and its early in the year for adjustments.

9. Shared Services Arena and Fire Budget Meeting #2,

Deputy Mayor McLaren and Councillor Ivens attended the Village of South River's Joint Arena and Fire Budget meeting Feb 21. The budgets were reviewed. Fire draft budget was reduced overall by \$3,650 at a 4.21% increase from Machar's contribution of \$215,913 in 2023 to \$225,009 in 2024. Arena draft budget remains unchanged at a 18.69% increase from the Township's contribution of \$161,161 in 2023 to \$194,850 in 2024. A list of capital provided; 2024: chiller, dehumidifier, brine pump, floor scrubber, cooling loop, ice pad design, 2025: ice pad and heater. SR Councillor Brandt has requested at the Jan meeting the design for 2025 ice pad to look at the cost of enlarging the ice surface and reducing the size of the lobby (the ice is not currently regulation size). The desire for more public skating was expressed, however it needs to be on a consistent basis for the public to recognize its availability. Councillor McLaren indicated SR is hopeful the Summer Day Camp will be brought back at a \$57,000 cost = \$185-\$200/attendee, no meals, excursion add-ons ie. waterskiing. SR CAO has suggested Councils consider funding for the arena parking lot.

Year End 2023 pre audit Results, Joint Meeting Mar 20

Councillor McLaren mentioned that at the Budget meeting South River Council asked them their opinion of moving the 2023 Arena Surplus into Arena reserve (\$111,916.40 = \$47,723.86 operating + \$64,192.54 Capital). 2023 Fire also came in at a surplus (\$77,531.72) to be transferred to Reserve. Councillor Ivens has relayed confirmation for Joint Council Mar 20th at 6:30 p.m. in South River.

10. Machar Public Works minutes of Feb 15, 2024, Resolution

Council reviewed the minutes and were not prepared to pass the Roads budget as presented at Public Works, indicating that like Landfill budget, there were areas that needed to come down.

Landfill draft budget was presented at \$173,835 (down 4%) and Road Draft Budget is \$2,071,789 (up 15.9% but down from initial 51.5%).

37-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Feb 15, 2024. CARRIED

11. South River Machar Library minutes of Feb 6, 2024, Resolution

38-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Feb 6, 2024. CARRIED

2024 Budget 2nd Draft

Councillor McLaren was looking for clarification on the library increasing their number of working hours for 2024? The budget indicates a 4.8% cost of living increase but the wages are budgeted at a greater increase than that. Mayor Carleton will bring budget back to the Library Board Mar 5.

12. CAPB (Central Almaguin Planning Board) notice of proposal to delegate land use planning authority to the Municipality of Magnetawan

Email from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing advising Council of the public comment period ending Apr 1 re: delegate land-use planning authority to the Municipality of Magnetawan (instead of the Central Almaguin Planning Board). Council has no comments. The planning board is funded by it's application fees, not municipal contribution.

13. ARI (Almaguin Recycling Initiative) minutes of Dec 7, 2023, Resolution

Hazmat dates: May 25 & Aug 24 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 31 Machar households attended in Aug/23. Councillor Ivens relays the committee's wish that residents recycle empty & dried up paint cans at their resident landfill, and only bring partially filled or full paint cans to hazmat day for disposal.

39-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we acknowledge ARI minutes of Dec 7, 2023. CARRIED

14. JBC (Joint Building Committee) 2024 Budget, proposed changes to By-Law, minutes of Feb 15, 2024, Resolution

Chief Building Official proposed \$200 - \$300 annual permit maintenance fee to replace the Special inspection fee for permits that remain open after 2 years, invoiced by the municipalities. Committee has opted for a capital item of \$60,000 (replacement JBC vehicle). Due to current operating funds, JBC will not need to invoice the municipalities for 2024.

40-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we acknowledge Building minutes of Feb 15, 2024, including 2024 budget of \$397,200 and proposed changes to the Building By-Law as presented by the CBO. CARRIED

15. DPSSSAB (Distr of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd) area rep, Budget update, CAO Report

The Board will be reviewing the budget end of Feb and hopefully passing it Mar 14. Council reviewed the very thorough report from the CAO of Social Services.

16. EMS (Emergency Medical Services) agenda and zoom link Feb 22, 2024 meeting

events.parrysound.ca/Council/Detail/2024-02-22-1830-EMS-Advisory-Committee-meeting

INFORMATION

17. Short term Rentals Councillor Ivens CBC News, As unruly guests disturb the peace, Muskoka Lakes considers licenses for short term rentals, Renters say responsible property owners are being

punished for the actions of a few bad apples ATTACHED

18. **Town of Petrolia Resolution**, Call upon both the ROMA and OGRA boards to re-establish a combined OGRA and ROMA annual conference
19. **Municipality of Wawa Resolution**, Requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers
20. **Municipality of Wawa/Town of Plympton-Wyoming/Township of McMurrich/Monteith/Township of Central Frontenac Resolutions**, Request a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements

Councillor McLaren felt the resolution originating from the County of Prince Edward relating to a request to the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements, would resonate with the Fire Chief.

21. **Township of Ramara/Municipality of Calvin Resolutions**, Request for an economic and prosperity review to promote stability and sustainability in municipal finances across Ontario
22. **County of Renfrew Resolution**, Regarding the affordability of water and wastewater systems in rural and small urban municipalities
23. **Township of Lanark Highlands Resolution**, Supports Coleman Township regarding the Ontario Conservation Officer's Association (OCO) in their efforts to have Conservation Officers in the Province of Ontario reclassified as Enforcement Officers and be represented fairly
24. **City of Hamilton Resolution**, Expresses its support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end the gas pipeline subsidy and requests that the Ontario Government allow the decision to stand
25. **County of Prince Edward Resolution**, Support for the Province to review the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates
26. **City of Cambridge Resolution**, Requesting additional funding in Ontario's legal system to support a meaningful resistance to the current "catch and release" practice, including hiring sufficient court staff, with a specific focus on additional assistant Crown Attorneys
27. **Town of Plympton-Wyoming Resolution**, Support City of Sarnia to write a letter to the Federal government 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

Council expressed interest in supporting the resolution re: cancelling the carbon tax which is financially hurting Canadians.

28. **Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce**, Media Kit 2024
29. **Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare Centre (MAHC)**, MAHC Committed to Reconsideration of Hospital Redevelopment Proposal
30. **MAHC News Release, Second Meeting in Bracebridge for Hospital Redevelopment**, MAHC has quickly organized a second meeting in Bracebridge on Mon, Feb 12 regarding the hospital redevelopment proposal
31. **FONOM**, 2024 FONOM Northeaster Ontario Municipal Conference Keynote Speaker on May 6, Global News Anchor Alan Carter
32. **FONOM**, with the generous support of FedNor, created our second series of eight Promotional GoNorth Videos, showcasing Northern Ontario as a Healthy Place to work and live
33. **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**, Update: Regulation of Development for the Protection of People and Property from Natural Hazards in Ontario – MNRF and Extension of Minister's Fee Direction
34. **AMO Communications**, AMO President's Board Update
35. **AMO Policy Update**, Advancing Energy, Environmental, Social and Economic Prosperity Advocacy, AMO's Advocacy on IESO Energy Procurements
36. **AMO Events**, Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors, Mar 20, 2024
37. **AMO Events**, AMO's Governance and Leadership Workshops
38. **AMO Watchfile Feb 8, In This Issue**
 - Application for the PJ Marshall Awards is open
 - Consultation on Seniors Active Living Centres Act
 - Nominations open for Lieutenant Governor's Award
 - Electrification and Energy Transition Panel report
 - Energy project siting webinar Feb 9

- Rural Economic Development Program Intake open
- Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solution Fund
- Register for AMO 2024 Conference
- Connect with AMO delegates as an exhibitor
- 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 consulting service for Municipal Energy Reporting
- Blog: Workflows with Professional Digital Signatures in 2024
- Occupational Health & Safety free webinar
- Battery energy storage systems fire safety webinar
- 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 20224
- Careers

39. AMO Watchfile Feb 15, In This Issue

- Application for the PJ Marshall Awards is open
- Consultation on Seniors Active Living Centres Act
- Nominations open for Lieutenant Governor’s Award
- Electrification and Energy Transit Panel report
- Rural Economic Development Program Intake open
- Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
- Register for AMO 2024 Conference
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- 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
- Using Energy Planning Tool for your 5-yr Conservation Plan
- Upcoming webinar: Financial Analysis for Energy Projects
- Guidelines for acoustical engineering services
- Ontario Age-Friendly Communities 2024 Conference
- 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

40. AMO Watchfile Feb 22, In This Issue

- 2024 is an AMO Board Election Year!
- Meet the 2024 AMO Youth Fellows
- Consultation on *Seniors Active Living Centres Act*
- Nominations open for Lieutenant Governor’s Award
- Electrification and Energy Transition Panel report
- Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
- Cyber Security Education for Municipal Councillors
- Advanced Councillor Training Series to Revitalize your Leadership
- Disability Inclusion Workshop and Panel Discussion – Beyond AODA compliance
- Managing Communications through Uncomfortable Times – Limited space
- Navigating Conflict - Pre-requisite for NEW advanced strategies course
- Upcoming Webinar: Financial Analysis for Energy Projects
- Blog: Supporting and Strengthening Local Leadership
- Register for OMERS Annual Meeting on April 3, 2024
- Guidelines for acoustical engineering services in Land-use Planning Process
- Ontario Age-Friendly Communities 2024 Conference
- Calls to action for municipalities on economic abuse
- Housing access in higher education host communities
- Helpful condo living tips for Ontario residents

- Future of Aging Summit next May
- 2024 Farmland Forum
- Careers

41. **Explorers Edge**, RTO12 Update Feb 2024, Draft 2024-2025 Business & Operational Plan, Business Confidence Index: WAVE 3, EOIs Deadline Feb 16, Women In Tourism Event Announced, Regional Partnership Program 2024/2025
42. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Feb 14**, Ontario making licence plate renewals automatic, Ford says, Pleas for help mount from Ontario municipal leaders as number of overdoses grow, As unruly guests disturb the peace, Muskoka Lakes considers licences for short-term rentals, CFIB challenges municipalities to streamline permitting to speed up housing starts, OFA Viewpoint: Farmers advocate for rural community investments, Ontario to repeal wage-cap law after Appeal Court rules Ford governments Bill 124 unconstitutional
43. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Feb 21**, Doug Ford calls his next big bill the Get It Done Act, Here's what's in it, New rules for rooming houses in Toronto come into effect next month, Could new legislation help Ontario newcomers find jobs in their fields? Ontario streamlining complex approval processes, Health unit mergers will not result in front-line job loss or additional municipal costs, Goodman: You can influence how Canada develops online-voting standards
44. **AMCTO Advocacy Update**, Response from Provincial Staff on Implementing Strong Mayor Legislation
45. **AMCTO**, 2022 Municipal Elections Survey Key Findings, Voter turnout declined for most municipalities between 2018 and 2022, however increased in municipalities with populations under 2,500, several municipalities reported needing to make significant changes to their voters list...
46. **ROMA**, Watch tonight: TVO The Agenda features ROMA Panel on Access to Primary Health Services
47. **Land Information Ontario**, Ontario Road Network (ORN) Composite Product
48. **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)**, Reminder: Rural Economic Development Summit Feb 29, 2024
49. **Ontario Farmland Trust**, Invites you to our annual Farmland Forum on Mar 21, 2024
50. **Municipal Employer Pension Centre Ontario (MEPCO)**, Update: New AMO appointee to OMERS, results of municipal employee survey
51. **Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)**, Registration is Now Open for OSUM's 2024 Conference hosted by the City of Orillia, May 1-3
52. **Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund (MOI)**, Final Presentation Webinar

41-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we support agenda item(s) 20 & 27. CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

42-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administration tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board; information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them. Time: 7:17 pm. CARRIED

43-24 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time: 7:43 pm. CARRIED

ADJOURN

44-24 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Mar 11, 2024. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney

AL/BP/tb