



MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 09, 2026

Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillor Blair Flowers, Councillor Pearl Ivens and Councillor Neil Scarlett, Mayor Lynda Carleton absent with regrets, and Clerk Administrator Angela Loney

Wendy Main, and Mark Savill.

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Township of Machar acknowledges the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties on the land of the Anishinabek that we meet today. We seek to work respectfully with Indigenous people, and are thankful for their teachings and stewardship of the land.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof; Nil.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Adoption of Jan 12, 2026 minutes, Resolution

008-2026

Moved By Scarlett

Seconded By Ivens

THAT we adopt Jan 12, 2026 minutes.

Carried

4. Business

4.1 Letter to Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal - Request for Revocation or Exemption from Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (o. Reg. 343/22)

Clerk Administrator summarized the resolution and follow correspondence that led to the meeting with the Deputy Fire Marshal.

4.2 Village of Sundridge - Letter to Minister of Government Transformation - Canada Post - Reduced Rate Distribution of Library Resources

Division 2, Section 197 of Bill C-15 no longer requires Canada Post to guarantee a reduced postal rate for library materials, including items sent through interlibrary loan. Clerk Administrator advised the Library Board will be discussing the matter at their next meeting, that we can follow suit to support their comments.

4.3 Almaguin Highlands Special Olympics - Special Olympics Canada National Summer Games in Alberta, Aug 10-16, 2026.

Approved \$250 towards the team heading to the Special Olympics Canada National Summer Games in Medicine Hat, Alberta Aug 10-16, 2026 to represent Special Olympics Ontario.

4.4 South River Friendly Circle Donation Request

Approved \$1,000.

- 4.5 Good Happenings Food Bank Donation Request**
Approved \$2,100.
- 4.6 Almaguin Ice Devils Thank You**
Appreciated.
- 4.7 Near North Crime Stoppers, Awareness Request**
Reviewed.
- 4.8 Police Retirees of Ontario - Annual Teddy Bear Campaign, Sponsorship Request**
Reviewed.
- 4.9 2026 Powassan Maple Syrup Festival - Tourism Opportunity**
Reviewed.

5. Accounts

- 5.1 List of Proposed Payments, Dec 2025, Resolution 009-2026**
Moved By Scarlett
Seconded By Flowers
THAT we approve List of Proposed Payments for Dec, 2025: \$371,415.34 Grand Total.
Carried
- 5.2 List of Proposed Payments, Jan 2026, Resolution 010-2026**
Moved By Ivens
Seconded By Scarlett
THAT we approve List of Proposed Payments for Jan, 2026: \$405,153.97 Grand Total.
Carried

6. Boards and Committees

- 6.1 Shared Services Monthly Reports for Dec; Fire and Arena**
Items provided: Fire Chief's monthly report for Jan 2026, Income Statement for Dec 2025 (Revenue 71.84%, Expenses 72.53%), AP Ledger for Dec \$31,034.53 Total Expenditures.
Arena Chief Operator report for Dec 2025, Income Statement for Dec 2025 (Revenue 91.87% and Expenses 90%), AP Ledger for Dec 2025 \$20,455.57 Total Expenditures.
- 6.2 Public Works Committee minutes of Dec 11, 2025 and Jan 15, 2026, Resolution 011-2026**
Moved By Scarlett
Seconded By Flowers
THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Dec 11, 2025 and Jan 15, 2026.
Carried
- 6.3 South River Machar Medical Board minutes of Nov 18, 2025 and Jan 20, 2026, Resolution**
Lower level tenants have moved into their new facility in Sundridge.

012-2026

Moved By Flowers

Seconded By Ivens

THAT we support motions in Medical Board minutes for Nov 18, 2025 and Jan 20, 2026 as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay Lists/Budgetary Control, Adjourned until Feb 17, 2026...

Carried

6.4 South River Machar Library minutes of Jan 15 2026, Resolution

013-2026

Moved By Ivens

Seconded By Scarlett

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Jan 15, 2026.

Carried

6.5 Joint Building Committee - Year End Reports, Resolution

014-2026

Moved By Scarlett

Seconded By Flowers

THAT we accept Joint Building Year End Reports 2025.

Carried

6.6 Joint Building Committee draft minutes of Jan 15, 2026, 2026 Budget, and 5-Year Permit Fee Average, Resolution

015-2026

Moved By Scarlett

Seconded By Ivens

THAT we accept Building minutes of Jan 15, 2026 including Committee's recommendation to adopt the 2026 JBC Budget as presented in the amount of \$365,700, representing a 2% increase from 2025.

Carried

6.7 Joint Building Committee permit summaries for Jan 2026, Resolution

Reviewed permit fees and project values, permit totals 3 at the end of Jan, 2026 (7 in 2025) as follows: Machar 2, and South River 1.

016-2026

Moved By Ivens

Seconded By Flowers

THAT we accept Building Permit Summaries for Jan, 2026.

Carried

6.8 OPP Detachment Board minutes of Nov 12, 2025, draft minutes of Jan 14, 2026 and draft 2026 Board Budget

Reviewed. Local Rep Councillor Scarlett described the proposed staff appreciation and recognition initiative: presentation of awards and a dinner, or the purchase of hockey jerseys for Detachment members participating in joint games with local high school students. Councillor Scarlett wishes to attend neighbouring Council meetings to gauge their thoughts before committing.

6.9 District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) 2026 approved Budget

The 2026 budget for the DSSAB was approved with a 1.77% increase to the municipal levy from the prior year. Machar's share for 2026 is up 1.8% to \$114,141.

6.10 District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board CAO Report

Reviewed.

6.11 DSSAB Housing and Homelessness Plan - Focus Group

Reviewed.

6.12 FONOM - Media Release - Homelessness Crisis Accelerating in Northern Ontario

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities is raising renewed concern after new provincial data show homelessness is growing fastest - and most severely - in Northern Ontario, outpacing the capacity of local systems and communities to respond.

6.13 FONOM - Planned Closure of LifeLabs Laboratory in Greater Sudbury

017-2026

Moved By Scarlett

Seconded By Ivens

Planned Closure of LifeLabs Laboratory in Greater Sudbury

WHEREAS LifeLabs has announced its intention to close its Greater Sudbury laboratory, and the transfer of medical specimen processing from Northern Ontario to laboratories in southern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury laboratory provides essential diagnostic services to communities across Northern Ontario, including urban, rural, and remote municipalities, and plays a critical role in ensuring timely and reliable medical testing for Northern residents; and WHEREAS patients with chronic illness, newborns, long-term care residents, and individuals on time-sensitive medications depend on predictable laboratory turnaround times to support clinical decision-making; and

WHEREAS transporting medical specimens long distances to southern Ontario increases the risk of delays, specimen degradation, and retesting, particularly during frequent winter highway closures—potentially jeopardizing patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario is already experiencing shortages of health-care professionals, and the closure of this laboratory further undermines regional workforce stability, training capacity, and recruitment and retention efforts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Machar calls on the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to take immediate action to ensure that essential medical laboratory services remain accessible within Northern Ontario, including maintaining local laboratory processing capacity in Greater Sudbury; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be urged to ensure reliable, timely, and medically appropriate laboratory turnaround times for Northern Ontario patients, recognizing the unique geographic and climatic challenges of the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be requested to protect and support the Northern Ontario health-care workforce, including medical laboratory technologists, by preventing further service centralization that disproportionately impacts Northern communities

Carried

7. Information

7.8 AMCTO 2026 Conference - Deerhurst in Huntsville, Jun 7-10, 2026

Staff attendance is planned - to some degree.

7.18 Earth Day Canada - New Year, New Commitments

9. Additional/Round Table/Notice of Motion

10. Adjournment

018-2026

Moved By Ivens

Seconded By Scarlett

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Feb 23, 2026.

Carried

Ron McLaren, Deputy Mayor

Angela Loney, Clerk Administrator