

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 25, 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 Councillors Neil Scarlett and Pearl Ivens. Councillor Blair Flowers absent with notice. Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney and Finance Intern Jadah McLaren.

Guests observing: Mark Savill, John Mowat and Jason Newman.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Mar 11, 2024 minutes, Resolution

a. Bradley/Livingston emails follow up on own presentation in response to ELCA funding request

Mr. Livingston wished to reiterate concerns: road salt leading to higher Chloride levels in Eagle Lake (request: outfit trucks with salt tanks to distribute pre-dissolved salt), boats being a primary carrier of non-indigenous invasive species when they are trailered from one lake to another (request: install boat washing station at Eagle Lake Estates Boat Launch), and watershed erosion bringing sediment and nutrients into Eagle Lake (request: include in the Newsletter an encouragement for residents to report damaged culverts, stream erosion and other infrastructure damage to Township staff). Mr. Livingston also shared a Green Shores webinar: Applying Nature-Based Solutions on the Foreshore, the date for which had passed, but the material source was noted by Council.

Council agreed they are not prepared to implement the equipment changeover required to move to pre-dissolved salt, and still believe they use a minimal salt to sand ratio. Deputy Mayor McLaren suggested the Ribbon of Life and Mayor Carleton noted the Tree Canopy By-Laws are tools in erosion prevention.

b. O'Neill email in support of ELCA funding request

Mr. O'Neill has requested Council approve the ELCA's funding request, specifically bringing the lake markers up to current standards.

Council are not comfortable taking on the cost and risk associated with the marker program.

58-24 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we adopt minutes of Mar 11, 2024. CARRIED

2. Application to Purchase Lakeshore Road Allowance, Resolution

59-24 McLaren, Scarlett

THAT we accept Application to Purchase & Close Lakeshore Road Allowance 5-244-00 for processing. CARRIED

3. Service Ontario Mobile Service Centre in Burks Falls on Thursdays 10:30 am – 3:30 pm

The mobile service centre will be located 220 Centre St, Burk's Falls Arena. Services include: driver's licences, vehicle permits and plates, stickers for commercial vehicles, accessible parking permit, driver and vehicle records, health card and insurance (OHIP), organ and tissue donation, birth, marriage and death, photo card, apostille/authentication of documents, fishing, hunting and camping, housing and property, and taxes. Mayor Carleton advised this is not the same service that visits the South River Machar Union Public Library. More information can be found at:

[ServiceOntario mobile service centres.](#)

4. South River Friendly Circle Annual Contribution

Council approved \$1,200 donation.

5. South River Lions Club 2024 Canada Day Event

The Canada Day Parade and BBQ will take place Sat, Jun 29, 2024. Councillor Scarlett will be attending Canada Day committee meetings and can relay any requests for assistance that arise. Mayor Carleton inquired after the Canada Day fireworks display, TDC advised Admin has not received a request, the date remains unknown.

COMMITTEES

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

Items provided: Fire Chief's monthly report for Mar 2024 (Fire Prevention Officer completed NFPA Inspector 1 course), Income Statement for Feb (Revenue 87.08%, Total Expenses 7.49%), AP Ledger for Feb \$1,993.79 Total Expenditures. Arena Chief Operator report for Feb 2024 (the leak on the roof of the new addition continues to be a problem, buckets in place, will tar in the spring), AP Ledger for Feb \$7,608.69 Total Expenditures, and Income Statement for Feb (Revenue at 17.54% and Expenses 6.39%).

a. Proposed steps for tennis and pickleball court rejuvenation

The report was very thorough and well done. In 3 steps, the group proposes the court rehabilitation and reconfiguration is estimated at \$25,500 over 3 years. South River ultimately will decide as Machar is a cost share partner.

7. Joint Meeting Mar 27

Agenda package will be distributed this evening.

8. Machar Public Works minutes of Mar 7, 2024, Resolution

Deputy Mayor McLaren spoke on the Health and Safety meeting last week in response to the Safety Audit Presentation by Kevin Plant of Workplace Safety North. Health & Safety Committee has started implementing the suggestions provided by Mr. Plant.

60-24 Ivens, Scarlett

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Mar 7, 2024 including 2024 Landfill Budget in the amount of Net \$173,835 (down 4%) and 2024 Road Budget in the amount of \$1,980,653 (up 10.8%) subject to overall Township budget requirements. CARRIED

9. South River Machar Library 2024 Budget up 16.1%, Resolution

Council discussed the percentage increases that other departments were able to achieve while faced with budgeting challenges and felt the Library Board should be mindful of their costs as well.

10. AH OPP (ON Provincial Police) Detachment Board, Council rep

Councillor Scarlett is very happy to be supported by Machar, South River and Joly as their 1st rep.

11. NBay Parry Sound District Health Unit agenda for Mar 11, 2024 posted on Health Unit website

www.myhealthunit.ca/boh-meetings

12. NBPSDHU and Renfrew County and District Health Unit not moving forward with merger

Renfrew County and District Health Unit and the North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit participated in a merger feasibility study funded by the Ministry of Health. The study looked at the pros and cons of

the two health units merging, including the ability to deliver public health programs and services to all communities within the new proposed catchment area. North Bay Board voted unanimously in favour of merging, however Renfrew County voted not to.

13. FONOM (Fed of N ON Munic), Elliott Lake is a Kraft Hockeyville Finalist

Elliott Lake is very excited to be a finalist, voting is open Mar 29th - 30th. The ultimate goal was to win and receive \$250,000 towards much needed repairs for the Centennial Arena, which has been closed since Sep 2023.

14. FONOM, Identifying Supports and Structures to Help Small and Rural Communities in Northern Ontario Respond to Disruption, Focus Group Invitation and Consent

Invitation to participate in a focus group that is part of a study exploring the experience of small and rural Northern Ontario communities' COVID-19 response. This event has been scheduled immediately before the 2024 FONOM conference.

15. ACED (Almaguin Community Economic Development), Almaguin Map for Community Guide

As a non ACED member, up to 3 points of interest can be listed for a fee of \$25/each. Council discussed and decided the Township's 3 public lake access points could be listed: Narrows Beach, Eagle Lake Estates Boat Launch and Bray Lake Park.

16. Armour Mayor Rod Ward update on MAHC Hospital Local Share, Weekly Hospital Redevelopment Updates, Almaguin Highlands Health Council minutes of Mar 7, 2024, Progress Status Mar 2024

Both facilities still on track, the goal is to submit a final proposed model by the end of 2024 which would keep the project on schedule to start construction in 2029.

17. DPSSSAB (Distr of Parry Sound Social Serv Admin Bd) letter of support for the Children's Aid Society of the District of Nipissing and Parry Sound for a Youth Wellness Hub located in North Bay

Full details at www.140elmwood.com. Council would like a letter of support drawn up.

18. DPSSSAB 2024 Levy up 3.87%

Levy notices sent out Mar 15, per area rep.

19. DPSSSAB Resolution that supports NOSDA (N ON Service Deliverers Assoc) and their Reaching Home Funding Resolution

Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across Canada, providing funding to urban, indigenous, rural, and remote communities to help them address their local homelessness needs. Only 5 of the 11 NOSDA members are funded to deliver the Reaching Home Program and they have been informed that their funding will be cut by 57% in 2026-2027. This is a loss of 2.6 million annualized.

20. DPSSSAB CAO (Chief Administrative Officer) Report Mar 2024 AVAILABLE

INFORMATION

21. Short term Rentals, North Bay Nugget, The time is nigh for West Nipissing's short term rental by-law ATTACHED

22. Massive dock in Armour concerns local residents and nearby municipalities, North Bay Nugget, Armour By-Law #34-2023 to regulate the use of bubblers, aerators, and/or de-icers in association with in-water or on-water structures and buildings ATTACHED

Discussion ensued around large docks and common reasons for bubblers/aerators.

23. **Township of Limerick Resolution**, Support the Municipality of Calvin urging the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting
24. **Township of Amaranth Resolution**, Request that the Province of Ontario pause advancement on proposed highway 413 and redirect the approximate \$8 billion cost for highway 413 to support municipal infrastructure costs and housing construction initiatives and that at least 50% of those funds be allocated for small urban and rural Ontario with populations less than 50,000
25. **Town of Grimsby Resolution**, Support the resolution from County of Prince Edward for a review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates
26. **Tay Valley Township 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, amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002, provide annual funding, investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software
27. **Tay Valley Township Resolution**, Officially declares a climate change crisis for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment in our climate change action plan to protecting our local ecosystems, local economy, and our community from climate change
28. **Municipality of Brighton Resolution**, Expresses its support for the migration of ride-share regulations and licensing from the municipal level to the provincial level
29. **Town of Aurora Resolution**, Request for Amenity Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with School Boards for Everything/Weekend Gymnasium Use
30. **City of Quinte West Resolution**, Calls on the Federal Government to re-evaluate their lack of funding for municipalities with a population less than 50,000 in rural Ontario and to make available funding for infrastructure programs to help build infrastructure to help build much-needed new homes
31. **Township of McMurrich/Monteith Resolution**, Support Municipality of St. Charles relating to a fully funded Municipal Equipment Operator Course
32. **Town of Cobourg Resolution**, Support correspondence from the County of Renfrew regarding the affordability of water and wastewater systems in rural and small urban municipalities
33. **Town of Aurora Resolution**, Supports the call of action AMO has submitted to the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them, in consultation with municipal governments
34. **Town of Aurora Resolution**, Requests that the Mayor reconsider using strong mayor powers to alter the current structure of Council and/or committee meetings, but rather remains the same as officials were originally elected to do
35. **Town of Cobourg Resolution**, Regarding correspondence from the Architectural Conservancy Ontario regarding Proposed Amendment to Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from municipal heritage registers
36. **Town of Goderich Resolution**, Call upon both the ROMA & OGRA boards to re-establish a combined OGRA & ROMA annual conference
37. **Township of Amaranth Resolution**, Call on the Province of Ontario to treat all municipalities fairly and provide equivalent representative operational budget funding amounts to all Ontario municipalities
38. **Township of Lanark Highlands Resolution**, Supports the resolution from the Village of Merrickville Wolford regarding Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus
39. **Town of Bracebridge Resolution**, Calls on 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
40. **Township of Puslinch Resolution**, Supports Bill 165: Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024
41. **Loyalist Township Resolution**, Regarding solutions to resolve significant financial and budgetary pressures relating to infrastructure development, maintenance and repairs
42. **Loyalist Township Resolution**, Request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources
43. **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**, 2024-2025 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the Algonquin Park Forest
44. **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry**, 2024-2025 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the French-Severn Forest
45. **AMO Events**, Improved Registration Rate! Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillor's

46. AMO Events, New Registration Rate! Disability Inclusion Workshop and Panel Discussion

47. AMO Events, Indigenous Community Awareness Training Apr 2, 2024

48. AMO Policy Update, Provincial Government Advocacy Ahead of 2024 Budget

49. AMO Watchfile Mar 7, In This Issue

- Application for the PJ Marshall Awards is open
- Information to assist Municipalities in flood preparedness
- Consultation on *Ontario Energy Board Act* changes
- Consultation on *Northern Services Boards Act*
- Consultation on *Seniors Active Living Centres Act*
- Nominations open for Lieutenant Governor's Award
- Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy
- Land use planning framework for energy project siting
- Applications open: My Main Street Fund
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
- Consultation: 2025 National Construction Codes
- OSUM 2024 Conference – Program release
- Cyber Security Education for Municipal Councilors
- Advances Councillor Training Series to Revitalize Your Leadership
- Disability inclusion workshop and discussion: Beyond AODA compliance
- Managing Communications through Uncomfortable Times – Limited space
- Anti-Semitism and Anti-Islamophobia: Spring workshops
- Indigenous Community Awareness training
- Land Use Planning – Foundations and Deeper Dive workshops
- Strategies for Navigating Conflict Relationships for Strong Council Outcomes
- Learn more about municipal investments – Upcoming workshops
- Blog: Mitigating Auto Theft Risk for High-Target Vehicles
- LAS webinar: LiDAR, Imagery, and AI for a High-Tech Future
- Upcoming webinar: Financial Analysis for Energy Projects
- Invasive Specie Action Fund
- 20241 Farmland Forum: The Future of Ontario Farmland
- Ontario Age-Friendly Communities 2024 Conference
- Future of Aging Summit next May
- Careers

50. AMO Watchfile Mar 14, In This Issue

- Application for the PJ Marshall Awards is open
- Information to assist Municipalities in flood preparedness
- Consultation on *Ontario Energy Board Act* changes
- Consultation on *Northern Services Boards Act*
- Consultation on *Seniors Active Living Centres Act*
- Nominations open for Lieutenant Governor's Award
- Consultation: Rural Economic Development Strategy
- Land use planning framework for energy project siting
- Applications open: My Main Street Fund
- Applications open: Rural Transit Solutions Fund
- Consultation: 2025 National Construction Codes
- AMO Conference - Early Bird Rate closes March 18
- OSUM 2024 Conference - Program release
- Cyber Security Education for Municipal Councilors - NEW registration rate
- What is digital accessibility and why does it matter?
- Advanced Councillor Training Series to Revitalize Your Leadership
- Managing Communications through Uncomfortable Times - Limited space
- Anti-Semitism and Anti-Islamophobia: Spring workshops
- Indigenous Community Awareness training
- Land Use Planning - Foundations and Deeper Dive workshops
- Strategies for Navigating Conflict Relationships for Strong Council Outcomes
- LAS webinar: LiDAR, Imagery, and AI for a High-Tech Future
- LAS consulting service for municipal energy reporting
- City of Elliot Lake named finalist in Top 4 Community Kraft Hockeyville!
- Invasive Species Action Fund
- Ontario Age-Friendly Communities 2024 Conference
- Future of Aging Summit: May 15-17
- Careers: City of Vaughan and Peel Regional Police

51. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Mar 6, AMCTO supports AMO's Call for a Social and Economic

Prosperity Review, Province Introduces Omnibus Bill – Get It Done Act, Thunder Bay District Municipal League Concludes with Key Updates and MPP Speeches, Child-care wait lists balloon in many Ontario regions amid \$10-a-day program, Toronto's new parking levy: A burden on retailers and consumers, City of Ottawa approves new framework for green and social projects, Local student

attends “Model Parliament” at Queen’s Park through provincial program, Reduced load restrictions began in Greater Sudbury

- 52. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Mar 13**, ‘Almost there’: Ontario tourism industry recovering, Bracebridge council asking province to review funding practice, Federal budget hoped to tackle major issues in Canada, Stouffville meets housing target while remaining York Region municipalities fail, Ottawa council backs call for stiffer penalties for misbehaving councillors
- 53. **ROMA**, Mayor Robin Jones is running for AMO President!
- 54. **Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)**, More Program Highlights for the 2024 OSUM Conference
- 55. **LAS**, Reminder: LAS Board Member Opportunity
- 56. **LAS**, Reminder: Road & Sidewalk Assessment Webinar, Mar 20
- 57. **Ius Laboris Canada Global HR Lawyers MathewsDinsdale**, CPD Webinar, Addressing the Workplace Needs of Transgender Employees
- 58. **Ius Laboris Canada Global HR Lawyers MathewsDinsdale**, Complimentary Webinar, Canadian Immigration Trends and Updates
- 59. **Bereavement of Ontario (BAO)**, Notice: The BAO seeks nominations for 12 openings on its advisory committees
- 60. **BAO**, Notice: Cemetery and Funeral Establishment Requirements for audit reports and engagement review reports

61-24 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we support agenda item(s) 23, 27 and 38. CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

62-24 Ivens, Scarlett

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 and labour relations or employee negotiations. Time: 7:15 pm. CARRIED

63-24 Ivens, Scarlett

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time: 8:15 pm. CARRIED

ROUND TABLE

Councillor Scarlett would like to plan a second Candlelit Vigil in June, if Council is in favour of it; they are.

Councillor Scarlett queried Council on revamping the Ball Diamond at the South River Machar Arena grounds in order to organize a Gazelles annual baseball game. Councillor Scarlett also suggested the Arena donate the Community Centre (upstairs of arena) one day a week for kids for supervised play e.g. organized games, knitting. Council was supportive but the Village is responsible for operational items like these. Council were in favour of the suggestions being introduced at Joint Council.

ADJOURN

64-24 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Apr 8, 2024. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney

AL/BP/tb