

TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 24, 2025

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Neil Scarlett and Pearl Ivens. Councillor Blair Flowers absent without notice. Staff present: Clerk Administrator Angela Loney.

Guests Observing: Mark Savill and Wendy Main.

6:30 pm 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.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; Nil.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Nov 10, 2025 minutes, Resolution

149-25 Ivens, McLaren

THAT we adopt minutes of Nov 10, 2025. CARRIED

2. By-Law to authorize Vote by Mail for the 2026 Municipal Election, Resolution

150-25 McLaren, Ivens

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to By-Law No. 16-25; to authorize voting by mail for the 2026 Municipal Election and to enable the entering into of an agreement to provide Vote by Mail services. CARRIED

3. Removing HST/GST from New Homes to Support Housing Affordability, Resolution

151-25 Scarlett, Ivens

WHEREAS housing affordability is one of the most pressing issues facing Ontario families;

WHEREAS the federal government recently announced GST relief for first-time homebuyers on new homes, and the Province of Ontario removed the provincial share of HST on new purpose-built housing; and

WHEREAS the current HST rate on new homes in Ontario is 13%, which adds tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical home, e.g. about \$91,000 on a \$700,000 home in the Township of Machar before any existing rebates;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Machar calls on the Government of Canada to remove the GST/HST from all new homes purchased as primary residences, and to work in partnership with the Government of Ontario to ensure full elimination of the provincial portion as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; and to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Housing, our local MP and MPP, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. CARRIED

4. Suspend the Aerial Spraying Initiatives in the Timiskaming Forest, Resolution

Concern was expressed for the future use of “Round up” for farming applications if glyphosate-based herbicides are banned for forestry applications.

5. Eagle Lake Conservation Association (ELCA) re: Conservation Update and Request for Info

Reviewed.

6. Mun Finance Officers Assoc of ON (MFOA) [Summary of 2025 Federal Budget](#)

Reviewed.

COMMITTEES

7. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Oct, Arena and Fire

Items provided: Fire Chief's monthly report for Nov 2025 (Medical/Resuscitator Calls being the bulk of calls for Service at 33.33% Jan-Oct), Income Statement for Sep (Revenue 60.08%, Expenses 58.09%), AP Ledger for Oct \$13,451.71 Total Expenditures. Arena Chief Operator report for Oct 2025, Income Statement for Oct 2025 (Revenue 78.87% and Expenses 84.40%), AP Ledger for Oct \$11,706.36 Total Expenditures.

8. Community Centre Committee Agenda Nov 18, 2025

Minutes received as Additional and reviewed. Peever Dance proposal discussed and recommended for Apr-May, 2026 as an 8-week trial. Christmas in the Village set for Sun, Dec 21, 2025. Capital Projects discussed: Arena roof, Solar, and Olympia. The compressor #1 noted to need replacing in 2027. Committee had discussed the concept of sharing a recreation director with economic development duties: programming like T-Ball, soccer, and games nights. The potential cost of \$10,000-\$15,000 per community was thought to be too great of an expense. South River Councillor Brooks suggested a large screen (85") TV for potential movie/sports nights. Cost of licensing to be investigated.

9. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of Oct 21, 2025, Resolution

152-25 Scarlett, Ivens

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes of Oct 21, 2025 as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay List, Budgetary Control, adjourned until Nov 18, 2025... CARRIED

10. Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board minutes Nov 12, 2025

Reviewed. Councillor Scarlett was not in attendance.

11. POA (Provincial Offences Act) agenda for Nov 20, 2025, Area Rep report - forthcoming, Court Manager's Q3 Report, Draft 2026 Budget, Draft Ledger

2026 Draft budget reflects a 2% decrease from \$889,966 in 2025.

12. District of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd area rep; National Housing Day Poster, and [CAO Report Nov 2025](#) AVAILABLE

13. Almaguin Highlands Health Council minutes of Oct 2, 2025

INFORMATION

14. Rob Burton - Mayor, Town of Oakville, Insights from Enbridge CEO's Empire Club Acres Address on Canada's Future

15. Municipality of Wawa Resolution, Supports the Elect Respect pledge

16. Municipality of Wawa Resolution, Request the Province of Ontario provide adequate protection against excessive and malicious rent increases for all rental units occupied for residential purposes while maintaining the ability for landlords to operate a viable and sustainable business

17. Town of East Gwillimbury Resolution, Endorses the position of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in requesting that municipalities be included in the development of any regulatory frameworks related to Special Economic Zones

18. Tay Valley Township Resolution, Support Municipality of Tweed in investing the possibility of working together with Ontario Municipalities, Provincial and Federal Governments and manufacturing partners to form a working group to ensure that waste disposal issues can be resolved quickly, efficiently and effectively with the use of incineration, more robust recycling

programs and sustainable practices, so that future generations will not suffer from our environmental mismanagement

- 19. Township of McGarry Resolution**, Calls on the Government of Canada to remove the GST/HST from all new homes purchased as primary residences, and to work in partnership with the Government of Ontario to ensure full elimination of the provincial portion as well
- 20. Township of Selwyn Resolution**, Strongly urge the Province to re-instate the eligibility for curbside blue box collection as of Jan 1, 2026, for non-profit organizations, such as food banks
- 21. Northern Ontario Women's Association Resolution**, Calls on the Province of Ontario to ensure that women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people – particularly from Indigenous and Northern Communities – are actively engaged at the forefront of all planning, consultation, and implementation processes under Bill 5, from concept to completion
- 22. Town of Goderich Resolution**, Supports the resolution from the Municipality of Wawa regarding the Accessible and Effective Alcohol Container Return System in Ontario
- 23. Town of Goderich Resolution**, Supports the resolution from East Gwillimbury regarding the Opposition to Protect by Unleashing Our Economy act, 2025
- 24. United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Resolution**, Calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands
- 25. Township of South-West Oxford Letter**, Council directed staff to write a letter in opposition to the Provincial decision on Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Cameras
- 26. Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC)**, Nov 2025 Calendar
- 27. Explore Almaguin, ACED**, You're Invited to The RED Gala on Dec 9, Advancing Almaguin: AI At Work, featuring Avery Swartz, CEO of CampTech
- 28. AMO Watchfile Oct 30, In This Issue**
 - Deadline Extended: Nov 3rd! 2026 Youth Fellowship Program applications
 - Excess Soil and Records of Site Condition Regulatory Amendment
 - Webinar: Permission changes for storm water management works
 - MECP best practices for Source Water Protection Program
 - Request for Proposals for AMO AGM and Annual Conference
 - Seeking re-election or first-time candidate? AMO's new, free workshop series is for you
 - Request your delegations at the ROMA Conference
 - ROMA Trade show – over 50% sold out!
 - How Municipalities Can Spot – and Stop – Professional Identity Fraud
 - Provide sewer and water line protection for homeowners
 - Partnering for Impact: Collaborating on Municipal Solutions
 - Register now for Magnetic North Conference 2025 at Science North
 - Call for proposals inviting municipalities to apply for infrastructure projects funding
 - Careers
- 29. AMO Watchfile Nov 13, In This Issue**
 - AMO's new voter turnout resource is full of strategies and tactics
 - Take a look at AMO's updated Local Democracy Solutions Bank
 - Pothole Prevention and Repair Program
 - Ontario Energy Board Plans 2026 review of Model Franchise Agreement
 - Applications now open: Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy
 - ROMA Conference program update
 - Free Workshop: Everything You Need to Know as a Diverse Candidate – Dec 3
 - Seeking re-election for first-time candidate? AMO's new, free workshop series is for you
 - Request your delegations at the ROMA Conference Deadline is Nov 18
 - ROMA Trade Show – selling out fast!
 - Request for Proposals for AMO AGM and Annual Conference
 - How Municipalities Can Spot – and Stop – Professional Identity Fraud
 - Provide sewer and water line protection for homeowners
 - Growing solutions: Seniors' Housing Forum 2025 on Nov 20
 - IESO LT2 Q&A Session, today
 - Partnering for Impact: Collaborating on Municipal Solutions
 - Careers
- 30. AMO Communications**, Webinar: Why Partner with Post-Secondary Institutions?

31. **AMO Policy Update**, 2025 Federal Budget Focuses on Infrastructure and Responding to Ongoing Trade Uncertainty
32. **AMO Policy Update**, Changes to OMERS Governance
33. **AMO Policy Update**, 2025 Fall Economic Statement
34. **AMO Policy Update**, Special Economic Zones Advocacy, CWELCC Program Extended, Pothole Prevention and Repair Program, New Road Safety Initiatives Fund
35. **AMO**, Registration Open: Virtual Town Halls on Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE)
36. **AMO Education**, Free Workshop: Insights & Strategies for 2026 Municipal Candidates from Underrepresented Communities
37. **AMO Communications**, Save the Date: OMERS Governance & Bill 68 Webinar
38. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute Nov 5**, Ontario Supporting Flood Recovery in Township of Madawaska Valley, One Year to Ontario's Municipal Elections: Cities Want Delivery, Not Debate, Ontario Housing, Construction Bill Impacts, Municipal Powers, Climate Initiatives, Speed Cameras Across Ontario To Be Removed in 2 weeks, Transportation Minister Says, Ontario Report Card: Oct 2025, Ontario Proposes To Rebate HST for Some First-Time Homebuyers
39. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute Nov 12**, Municipal Leaders, Builders and Miners Weigh In on Carney's Budget, Ontario Property Tax Hikes Loom As Mayors Battle 'Outdated' Funding Structure, This Ontario Town Is on a Mission To End Homelessness by 2027, Ontario Announces Small-Town Pothole Repair Funding, What Ontario's Consolidation of Conservation Authorities Means for Stakeholders, Ontario's Proposed Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 and What It Means for Development, Municipal Leader 'Dismayed' by Immigration Cuts, a Pro-Cyclist Court Decision Could Create Headaches for Rural Ontario
40. **AMCTO**, Take Advantage of AMCTO Membership Benefits Now & Into 2026!
41. **AMCTO**, Municipal Monitor, Municipal Management & Leadership
42. **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)**, Save the date, 2025 Virtual Northeast Municipal Workshop Series
43. **Mathews Dinsdale**, SAVE THE DATE: Complimentary Webinar – Federal Sector Update 2025 – Dec 2, 2025
44. **City of Sarnia**, Sarnia's War Fallen: Where They Called Home
45. **Invasive Species Centre**, Media, Research, and Events Scan: Oct 24-Nov 6
46. **Invasive Species Centre**, 2026 Invasive Species Forum Registration and Award Nominations
47. **Invasive Species Centre**, Upcoming Webinar Nov 27: Not Lost in the Weeds: Using genomic tools for invasive seed detection
48. **Invasive Species Centre**, Be on Alert for Spotted Lanternfly Workshops
49. **Explorers Edge**, Update Nov 2025
50. **BAO**, Lifeline: Interim CEO/Registrar's Update: Licensing guidance video for FE&TS operators

ADDITIONAL

Fire Chief Draft Letter, Resolution

153-25 Scarlett, McLaren

WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 343/22 mandates that firefighters performing specific fire protection services be certified to a prescribed standard by July 1, 2026, with certain technical rescue disciplines requiring certification by July 1, 2028;

AND WHEREAS many fire departments in Ontario are staffed predominantly by volunteer firefighters who balance full-time employment with their emergency service commitments;

AND WHEREAS the certification programs are still under development, and current availability does not adequately reflect the operational realities of volunteer fire departments—particularly in rural communities—where training opportunities are limited and certification demands place undue pressure on personnel and municipal resources;

AND WHEREAS existing training programs and established level of service are designed to meet the needs identified in the current Community Risk Assessment and ensure the continued safety of the community;

AND WHEREAS it is unreasonable to expect volunteer firefighters—who already balance full-time employment and community service—to independently develop curriculums and in-house training programs that meet provincial standards and adequately prepare them for certification exams;

AND WHEREAS these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers, and reliance on volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of these requirements, without additional flexibility or provincial support, may negatively impact the Township’s ability to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and to provide adequate fire protection services to its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Machar formally opposes the mandatory firefighter certification requirements as currently outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Ontario Fire Marshal, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all neighbouring municipalities for their support. CARRIED

ADJOURN

154-25 McLaren, 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, Dec 15, 2025. CARRIED

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Angela Loney

AL/tb