

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR**  
**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, September 23, 2024**

**Call to Order, Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; Nil**

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Neil Scarlett, Blair Flowers and Pearl Ivens. Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney and Finance Intern Jadah McLaren.

Guests scheduled: Carl Pahapill and Maryanne Pahapill, Pahapill and Assoc Professional Corp. Guests Observing: Mark Savill

**2023 Year End Results/Financial Information Returns**

Year end audit report and results presented. Management Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements is a new requirement. The financial statements include various boards (District of Parry Sound Social Services, North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit, District of Parry Sound East Home for the Aged – Eastholme). Surplus Analysis for Dec 31, 2023 was reviewed. Revenue surplus \$505,000 (Budget 1,653,363 = 30.5% better, mainly due to tipping fees and investment income). Expenditures Variance under \$17,000 (Budget 4,101,677 = .4% less). Overall 2023 Municipal Surplus was \$522,464. Municipal Debt is our share of 3 Fire Dept loans. Asset Retirement Obligation is a new annual Landfill liability. Tangible Capital Assets indicates Additions and betterments of \$371,389 compared to Annual amortization of \$772,432. Ordinarily, we like to see a lower difference between those numbers which would show the Township is replacing capital assets as the monetary lifespan of current assets diminishes, however it's common for this to occur in cycles as new equipment is needed and purchased and roads are rehabilitated. School Boards payable is rarely so clean as it is in Machar, Admin is on top of tax adjustments. Auditors expressed appreciation for Admin's continued efforts for another clean audit. Treasurer Deputy Clerk reminded Council that Clerk Administrator Paul was also responsible for this achievement and that we endeavor to carry on after her example.

**170-24 Flowers, Scarlett**

THAT we approve Consolidated Financial Statements Dec 31, 2023 and Trust Funds Financial Statements year ended Dec 31, 2023. CARRIED

**171-24 Ivens, McLaren**

THAT we authorize the Mayor and the Treasurer Deputy Clerk to sign auditor communications as follows: Audit Findings letter and Management Representation letter dated Sep 23, 2024 for the year ending Dec 31, 2023. CARRIED

**BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of Sep 9, 2024 minutes, Resolution**

**172-24 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we adopt Sep 9, 2024 minutes. CARRIED

**COMMITTEES**

**2. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Aug, Arena and Fire**

Items provided: Fire Chief's monthly report for Sep 2024 (Discussion point: In the event that no viable business proposals emerge for the former brewery property at 309 Hwy 124, converting it to a fire hall is more cost effective than renovating the existing fire hall), Income Statement for Aug (Revenue 40.12%, Expenses 35.89%), AP Ledger for Aug \$30,184.75 Total Expenditures. Arena Chief Operator report for Aug 2024 (Arena only booked once in Aug), Income Statement for Aug 2024 (Revenue 42.73% and Expenses 59.66%), AP Ledger for Aug \$25,816.65 Total Expenditures.

### **3. Shared Services Fire and Arena Contract Renewal – email response from SR CA**

“South River Council was disappointed in Machar Council's decision to withdraw from the shared contract renewal meetings we had scheduled together earlier this year. Now, with your recent Council decision of September 9th, to make no changes to the shared service agreement to accurately reflect the cost of delivering these services, it seems the two communities are at an impasse. Therefore, the current South River Machar Fire and South River Machar Community Centre agreements will end on Oct 11, 2024.

To review, the Village of South River's June 25th resolution that if the Community Centre operating costs were to remain as current, at 2/3 Village and 1/3 Township, as per your resident's 'usage' argument, then by that same reasoning the Fire Services allotment should be changed to reflect a cost per household formula as all equally receive the service. Should no new agreement be reached by the expiry date of Oct 11, 2024 the Council of the Village of South River is inviting the entire Council of the Township of Machar to a Joint Council meeting on Wednesday November 20th at 6:30 PM to discuss a pathway for going forward. We will then host a joint public forum on Wednesday November 27 to explain to the public how the services will be maintained or reduced as necessary for continued sustainability beginning January 1, 2025.

The Village strongly believes that working together we can continue to offer our exceptional services at a current and fairer cost for everyone.

We are hopeful of a successful resolution but are not prepared to enter into the agreement you presented that continues, after all these years and going forward, to place an unfair financial burden on South River ratepayers and essentially continue to subsidize the growing number of taxpayers of the Township of Machar.”

Council reviewed 2021 census stats compared to shared service funding and governance models. The current proposal by the Village of paying per household would sign the Township up to a funding ratio of 63% Machar 37% South River (both Operational and Capital) while the governance would remain 50-50. Council was not prepared to fund so heavily without the governance or input into administration. Council agreed the Fire Dept strives for the best, but feels based on distance, Fire is unable to provide the same service to all Machar taxpayers equally and it would be unreasonable for us to expect it. The likelihood of a fire hall renovation or retrofit of the former brewery reintroduced the conversation of a second fire hall built in the Township to extend the already great service further into Machar, especially with the addition of the newly full time Fire Prevention Officer. Funding of the Arena was considered. Council would like the public's input on arena usage, but for now, Council agreed to revisit increasing Machar's funding to 50% Arena operational to match Arena capital and Fire. The request is that governance matched 50-50 by resuming Arena Committee. Admin to respond to South River CA, as well as inquiring after SR Council's feedback on the stats Admin expanded on from the population information he had provided.

### **4. Machar Public Works minutes of Sep 12, 2024, Resolution**

Mayor Carleton visited the Park Rd Culvert job site to speak with the Foreman and labourers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> culvert has been placed.

#### **a. Park Rd Culvert Replacement - Additional Contract Administration and Construction Inspection Budget**

Council reviewed the request for additional admin and inspection budget alongside the original quote for engineering. They agreed the 2-week installation timeline was unrealistic for the project; that the engineering firm should have recognised that sooner.

#### **173-24 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Sep 12, 2024.

FURTHER THAT we approve Park Rd Culvert Replacement additional Contract Administration budget from Tatham Engineering in the amount of \$26, 456 plus HST. CARRIED

### **5. NBay Parry Sound District Health Unit Board of Health agenda of Sep 25 posted on website**

[Board of Health Meeting Agenda.](#)

**6. JBC (Joint Building Committee) Permit Summaries for Aug, Resolution**

Reviewed permit fees and project values, permit totals 82 at the end of Aug 2024 (85 in 2023) as follows: Strong 25, Machar 22, Ryerson 12, Sundridge 9, South River 6, Burks Falls 4, July 4.

**174-24 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we accept Building Permit summaries for Aug 2024. CARRIED

**7. E Parry Sound Veterinarian 2024 invoice, AGM minutes, 2023 financial statement, Resolution**

**175-24 McLaren, Scarlett,**

THAT we acknowledge Veterinary minutes of Mar 19, 2024. CARRIED

**8. DPSMA (Distr of Parry Sound Munic Assoc) Fall Meeting Agenda – Sep 27 in Archipelago**

Acknowledged. Those attending have been registered, no staff due to workload.

**9. Almaguin Highlands Health Council minutes of Sep 5, 2024**

Council noted a resolution to return the Village of South River's OTN fund \$2,500 contribution.

**10. Joint Building Committee minutes of Sep 19, 2024, Resolution**

The Chief Building Official's report indicated permits have been slower, that the website has been beneficial, lots of customers are using e-transfer to pay permit fees. Strong Township reps inquired how its going with closing permits. A request was made for a written staff report from the CBO to be done annually in the slower time of the year to show the number of open permits and how old the permits are.

**176-24 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we accept Building minutes of Sep 19, 2024. CARRIED

**11. DSSAB (Distr of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd) CAO Report for Sep 2024 AVAILABLE**

**INFORMATION**

**12. FONOM Call to host the Annual FONOM Conference in 2026, or 2027, 2028**

**13. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC), News Release - Launches Enhanced Microsite to Strengthen Communication on Redevelopment, postcard.**

**14. Municipality of Magnetawan, Councillor Ivens, Seniors Free Intergenerational Field Trip Series**

**15. Tay Valley Township Resolution, the Honorable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, be requested to introduce a Bill to amend the Ombudsman Act to require the Ontario Ombudsman to provide to each municipality, if requested by the municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation, matter or case respecting the municipality that is referred to each of the Ombudsman's Annual Reports to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each such investigation, matter or case**

**16. Springwater Township Resolution, support the Growth and Economic Viability Ad Hoc Committee regarding provincial and federal notification of municipally significant process by the provincial and federal governments.**

**17. City of Quinte West Resolution, AMCTO, Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act**

**18. Brudenell, Lyndoch and Reglan Township Resolutions, regarding support AMO/OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign, Immediate Action Needed To Support Ontario's Forest Sector, Sustainable Funding for OPP Small Rural Municipalities, Regulations for the Importation and Safe Use of Lithium-ion Batteries**

**19. Rainy River Town Resolution, "AMCTO Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act"**

Information emailed to Council around AMCTO's calling for the comprehensive changes to the Municipal Elections Act:

Apr 18, 2024: <https://www.amcto.com/about-amcto/news-announcements/advocacy-update-modernizing-municipal-elections-act-21st-century>

Aug 16, 2024: <https://www.amcto.com/about-amcto/news-announcements/advocacy-update-support-our-municipal-elections-act-recommendations>

20. **Township of Ryerson Resolution, R-133-24** Supporting the MAHC Hospital Project
21. **City of Stratford and City of Toronto Resolution**, Regarding Requesting the Province to Support Family Physicians
22. **Town of Smith Falls Resolution, AMO OMA, Joint Health Resolution Campaign**
23. **Town of Tillsonburg Resolution re: report EDM 24-029 Cellular Coverage Concerns** - mandate timely installation of approved cell tower installations
24. **Save the Date** RED October 17<sup>th</sup>,2024
25. **MSONorth (MMAH) 2024 Northern Treasurer's Forum** – Save the Date Thursday, November 21st
26. **Burk's Falls Art and Crafts**, thank you for donation
27. **OHS Insider**, Is Your Workplace Safe? Learn the Essential Steps for Regular Inspections
28. **PLEASE COME AND LEND US YOUR VOICE!!!**, United Way Centraide North East ON
29. **National Defence**, National Veteran's Week Speakers Program 2024
30. **Ontario Honours And Awards**, 2024 Ontario Senior Achievement Award
31. **AMO Watchfile Sep 12, In This Issue**,
  - Municipal World hosts AMO 2024 Conference podcast series.
  - Funding is now available for flood hazard mapping.
  - Call for proposals on gender-based violence.
  - Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.
  - New Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Fund - webinar.
  - Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund - webinar.
  - Municipal Codes of Conduct virtual workshop - September 19
  - Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors virtual workshop - September 24
  - Managing Communications through Crisis - October virtual workshop.
  - Navigating Conflict Relationships as an Elected Official - October workshop.
  - Knowledge Exchange on Community and Supportive Housing - October 1-2.
  - Foundations in Land Use Planning & Advanced Land Use Planning - October virtual workshops.
  - Our bright idea for your 2025 Budget.
  - Transitioning to Net Zero Buildings with LAS.
  - Blog: Harnessing the Power of AI to Redefine Public Engagement.
  - Policing Board discussion groups.
  - Learn about food waste reduction by businesses.
  - Blue Box Transition engagement session.
  - Opportunity to help project researching future municipal energy needs.
  - Careers.
32. **AMO Policy**, AMO Policy Update-Energy Procurements, AMO Community and Supportive Housing Event
33. **Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, COVID Outbreak Has Ended for SMMH North Wing**

**177-24 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we support agenda item 15. CARRIED

**ADJOURN**

**178-24 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, Oct 15, 2024. CARRIED

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Mayor Lynda Carleton

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Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney