

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, September 9, 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 Observing: Mark Smuck.

**GUESTS**

**6:30 pm Lakeshore Road Closing 5-244, Resolution**

**161-24 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we read first, second, third and final time and pass By-Law No. 13-24; to deem Lot 7, Plan M108 not to be a Registered Plan of Subdivision. CARRIED

**162-24 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we read first, second, third and final time and pass By-Law No. 14-24; to close and sell part of the original road allowance lying in front of the Lot 24, Con 8 (Lot 7 Plan M108). CARRIED

**BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of Aug 26, 2024 minutes, Resolution**

**163-24 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we adopt Aug 26, 2024 minutes. CARRIED

**2. Near North Snow Drifters Snowmobile Club annual golf tournament request for prize donation**

Township of Machar logo items donated for a tournament prize.

**3. Pay List by Fund for Aug, Resolution**

Councillor Ivens inquired after the donation of Fall Fair bouncy castle for the South River Machar Agricultural Society since the rain and cold caused cancellations of mechanical rides, bouncy castles and the parade. Mayor Carleton relayed from the Ag Society that the equipment was cancelled in time for the payment to be used next year. Septic pumping at Eagle Lake Narrows is adding up, paired with the increased maintenance and misuse of the changeroom/washrooms, closing them and renting a couple portable restrooms was discussed. Parks Maintenance Contractor to be invited to the next Public Works Committee meeting for a recap of the summer and 2025 goal setting. North Bay Parry Sound (Health Unit) and Township of Armour (By-Law Enforcement) payments were queried.

**164-24 Ivens, McLaren**

THAT we approve List of Proposed Payments for Aug 2024: \$276,649.16 Grand Total. CARRIED

**COMMITTEES**

**4. Shared Services Fire and Arena Contract Renewal – Admin Report**

Dec 10, 2018 – The Village of South River passed a Resolution removing itself from Shared Services Committees effective Dec 31, 2019, Committees that allowed both the Village of South River and the Township of Machar equal representation and contribution requirements.

Aug 23, 2021 – The Township of Machar passed Resolution #135-21 agreeing to cost sharing subject to the same reasonable budget restrictions it holds its own departments to, most notably: limiting annual budget increases with special consideration to Capital projects. This Resolution provided the Township written authority to contribute to Shared Services in the absence of a formal agreement.

Oct 11, 2022 – The Township agreed to enter into a two-year term agreement for Shared Services (Arena and Fire) with the Village of South River.

Mar 27, 2024 – Joint Council Meeting to discuss budgets – Fire & Arena Agreement Renewal (Oct 11, 2024) Ad Hoc Fire and Arena Contract Renewal committee meeting scheduled.

Apr 24, 2024 – Ad Hoc Fire and Arena Contract Renewal committee where members reviewed the current agreement item by item and c) the formula to be used for apportionment of arena operating costs was discussed. Suggestions included leaving the formula as it is, changing it to 50/50, using number of households, using assessments and using recommendations from a KPMG report previously prepared. Cost sharing arrangements within other municipalities in the Almaguin and neighbouring areas were noted. To be more fully discussed at the next meeting.

May 30, 2024 – South River and Machar Ad Hoc Fire and Arena Contract Renewal committee, the Village of South River presented funding ratio & census statistics not included in the meeting's agenda package for committee member's preliminary review.

Jun 10, 2024 – Township of Machar Council agreed, discussions around the agreement were exhausted, the agreed edits should be made and a draft circulated for approval. Ratios status quo and term to be 4 years.

Jun 25, 2024 – The Village of South River passed Resolution 242-2024 demanding fire costs be based on cost/household or all joint services be shared 50/50.

Admin have been investigating several shared service agreements/arrangements in the area, observing the cost apportionment and governance models. Machar and South River currently share Fire Dept costs 50/50, Arena Capital 50/50 and Arena Operational 1/3 Machar 2/3 South River, without the governance of Committees. This ratio has worked for the Township in that even through recent population and household growth, the Township remains 48% seasonal 52% year-round, suggesting Township usage of the Arena to be limited by need, travel distance and seasonal residency. Total households may have increased in the Township, outpacing that of the Village, the fact remains that fire losses and risk remain higher due to distance from the service. In 2023 alone, the Village experienced \$6,500 in total fire losses to \$1,064,000 total value saved when the Township saw \$194,000 in total fire losses to \$485,250 total value saved. Commercial Property differences between the Village and the Township were suggested. Councillor Scarlett expressed the need for grants to increase usage at the Arena, Council agreed and Treasurer Deputy Clerk suggested increased use is a topic for after the agreements have been negotiated. Council reviewed shared services information based and expanded on the documents provided by South River CA in Jun. After discussions Council maintains their agreement to status quo for a 4-year term. Tax payers who would like to weigh in are encouraged to visit the Township's new website [Townshipofmachar.ca](http://Townshipofmachar.ca) and submit their comments to Council.

#### **5. South River Machar Library minutes of Aug 20, 2024, Resolution**

Mayor Carleton relayed staffing concerns and the summer student grant was discussed. Councillor Scarlett reported that the Dungeons and Dragons night did not go according to plan, as registration has been vague and without proper contact information.

##### **165-24 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Aug 20, 2024. CARRIED

#### **6. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of Aug 20, 2024, Resolution**

##### **166-24 Ivens, Flowers**

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes of Aug 20, 2024 as follows: adopt the minutes, Pay Lists, Budgetary Control, adjourned until Sep 17, 2024... CARRIED

#### **7. N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit New Release: Mosquitoes continue to pose health risks in Health Unit region**

## INFORMATION

8. **Township of Russell Resolution**, Calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections
9. **City of Orillia Resolution**, Supports the resolution passed by the City of Toronto on Jun 26, 2024 with respect to a request for the Province to support family physicians
10. **City of Brantford Resolution**, Supports the call of the AMO, ROMA, OMAA, AMCTO, and more than 207 municipalities, for the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them in consultation with municipal governments
11. **Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC)**, Sep Calendar of Events
12. **Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC), News Release COVID Outbreak Lifted for HDMH South Wing**, MAHC, in consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, has confirmed the COVID-19 outbreak on the South Wing at HDMH Site over
13. **Ministry of Natural Resources to By-Law**, re: Response to Bear Question

TDC read aloud:

*The Ministry of Natural Resources has not released any bears into the Kearney area. The proximity to our central area of operation is just too close. We have designated spots where we release our trapped bears, but they are much further North, and more remote than the Kearney area. This uptick in bear activity is district wide this season.*

*This year's bear influx is most likely due to a combination of different factors. The past couple growing seasons have been very good for wild food availability such as berries, hard mast foods, etc. That coupled with our warm winters may have influenced the success of our bear population. Unfortunately, it seems that the raspberry crops this year around the district have failed in comparison to prior years. This may also explain the increased number of bears people are seeing on the landscape.*

*I should also note that hard mast foods such as acorns and beech nuts are biennial, meaning they only mass produce every two years. This is an extremely important food source for bears in this time of year. Last year was a great year for that food source. Its lackluster production this year may be having an effect on bears and could be driving them to search in human populated areas for food.*

*Currently apples are doing very well. As you are probably aware, apple trees tend to be most common around human settled areas. This is almost certainly attracting bears into those areas as they search for the calories needed to put on weight for hibernation.*

*It is especially important this summer and fall that people manage their attractants accordingly to prevent any bears from getting food rewards from unnatural foods such as garbage, dumpsters, bird feeders, dirty BBQs, chicken coops etc. The bears are already in the area and the last thing we want is for them to get habituated to obtaining human foods.*

*If they do not get any food rewards from residences or businesses, there should be no issues.*

14. **AMO Policy**, Revised: AMO Policy Update – Record-Setting AMO 2024 Conference Focuses on Core Municipal Priorities
15. **AMO Watchfile Aug 29, In This Issue**
  - Thank-you to everyone who made AMO125 a success!
  - Launching Municipal Workforce Development Project Roadmap.
  - Call for proposals on gender-based violence.
  - Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund.
  - AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community & Supportive Housing Symposium.
  - Plan your fall education schedule.
  - AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum.
  - Canoe webinar: Accessible Facilities with RothIAMS.
  - The Sewer and Water Line Warranty helped a Windsor homeowner.
  - Blog: What is job order contracting?
  - Foundations for a Municipal Investment Strategy training.
  - McMaster Careers in Municipalities project.
  - Substance Use Crisis Summit for elected officials.
  - Blue Box Transition engagement session.
  - Opportunity to help project researching future municipal energy needs.
  - Careers.
16. **AMO Watchfile Sep 5, In This Issue**
  - 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.
  - AMO Knowledge Exchange on Community & Supportive Housing Symposium.
  - Plan your fall education schedule.

- AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum.
  - Blog: My Experience as a Co-op Student with LAS.
  - Transitioning to Net Zero Buildings with LAS.
  - Join Canada's National Disaster Expo.
  - Why mediation matters: Improving outcomes in FOI appeals.
  - Sewer Safety Week - September 16-20.
  - Register today for OMSSA's 2024 Forum!
  - Blue Box Transition engagement session.
  - Opportunity to help project researching future municipal energy needs.
  - Careers.
17. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute**, Updates to Ontario municipal code of conduct rules further delayed, Invest Ontario launches Partner Portal to streamline investment and collaboration, Southwestern Ontario wardens push province for action on house, infrastructure, B.C. watches closely as Ontario alters harm reduction strategy, Cambridge mayor calls for provincial wide reform for involuntary addictions treatment, Navigating Ontario's strict iGaming regulations for safe, legal online play
  18. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute**, Canada tightens work visa rules, targets temporary foreign workers, Ontario's strategy to prepare municipalities for future jobs, Is a provincial-municipal new deal 'inevitable'?, Ontario protects farmland from solar expansion amid energy boost, London's \$23M boost fast-tracks 17,500 new homes, Bradford and Innisfil to lead small urban voices in Ontario
  19. **MPAC**, Aug 2024 – InTouch
  20. **MPAC**, Webinar Sep 11: MPAC Property Insights and Meeting the Evolving Needs of Our Partners – A Municipal Update
  21. **BAO**, Notice: BAO holds its Annual Meeting on Sep 24, 2024
  22. **MFOA**, Notice of Annual and Special Meeting, Peninsula Room and Livestream Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville Sep 19, 2024
  23. **Row Management**, Registration is Open 2024 ROW Conference, Deer Creek Golf & Country Club Oct 7 & 8, 2024
  24. **TELUS Health**, Streamlining your routine: Tips to create positive habits, Heartbeat Newsletter
  25. **Intact Public Entities**, IPE's Fall Education Centre Lineup is Here, IPE's Education Centre is your insurance & risk management learning destination!
  26. **Commissioner Claire Anderson set to Keynote at Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Community Western Conference & Expo 2024**

#### **ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION**

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

**167-24 Scarlett, Ivens**

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 employee. Time: 7:06 pm. CARRIED

**168-24 McLaren, Flowers**

THAT we come out of Closed Session... Time: 7:50 pm. CARRIED

#### **ADJOURN**

**169-24 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Sep 23, 2024. CARRIED

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Mayor Lynda Carleton

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Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney