



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday January 14th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber via in person or by phone.

1. Opening of Meeting and call to order:

Mayor Culhane called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Roll Call: The Mayor took a roll call

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Louanne Caza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Elaine Fic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Francine Plante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Also Present

Clerk-Treasurer Karine Pelletier

Acting Superintendent: Mark Brown

Members of the audience present: 2

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

01/2025
Absence

THAT Council agrees to grant a leave of absence to Councillor Caza for the Regular Council Meeting of January 14, 2025, due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum.

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

02/2025
Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on January 14, 2025 be adopted with addition to #10 ® McGarry Volunteer Fire Department – Request for the Community Centre for the Poker Run free of charge.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest:

- Councillor Keft declared a conflict of interest on Item #10 (r) Summer Students Report.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- a) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **03/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Regular Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on November 12, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **04/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Special Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held November 20, 2024, December 18, 2024 and December 20, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **05/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Closed Session Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Meeting of Council held November 20, 2024 and December 20, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters Arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations, Delegations, and Petitions:

- Jeff Manners – Presented on Community Safety & Well Being Plan.
- Eric Neilson from Ontario Clean Water Agency gave Council an update for the year 2024 and 2025.

8. Correspondence, Information:

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **06/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Correspondence**

WHEREAS there is a significant amount of correspondence received at the Township through paper and electronic form;

AND WHEREAS the Clerk forwards this correspondence to Council who may request that specific correspondence items be included as business for discussion on a meeting agenda;

AND WHEREAS correspondence is included as business for discussion on a meeting agenda upon any request from a member of Council or at the discretion of the Clerk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the below list of correspondence items, which have been forwarded to Council, be received for information:

- a) I create to Govestack – End of life announcement
- b) Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks – Potential Cyber Attacks to water and wastewater plants
- c) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – 2025 Preliminary Assessment Forecast Report
- d) Tribunals Ontario – Changes to Electronic Payment Systems
- e) Ministry of Natural Resources –Enabling and regulating geologic carbon storage in Ontario
- f) Realtax Fee Schedule 2025 – Increased fees
- g) AMO – OPP Billing
- h) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Changes to the Planning Act
- i) RPRA – Municipal Funding Allocation for 2025
- j) Fall Newsletter from John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane
- k) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – 2025 Municipal Levy and Assessment Change Summary
- l) Ontario Provincial Police – 2025 Annual Billing discount
- m) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Proposed Municipal Accountability Act, 2024
- n) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Growth planning Ontario – Provincial Planning Statement

Carried

9. Members Update Report:

- Mayor and Council gave a verbal report.

10. New Business:

- a) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **07/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Recreation Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on October 1, 2024 and on November 5, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **08/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Tourist Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Tourist Committee meeting held on October 2, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **09/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Policing Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Community Policing Committee meeting held on October 17, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- d) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

10/2025
Tax Sales Options

THAT Council have received and read the report from the Clerk-Treasurer on Options after a Tax Sale and direct the Clerk register notice of vesting and vest the properties that were not sold in the November 20, 2024 tax sale and write off all amounts owing.

Carried

- e) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

11/2025
Tourist Member Resignation

THAT Council accepts with regret the resignation of Renate Schmitz from the Tourist Committee.

Carried

- f) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

12/2025
Staff Report on Stop Signs

THAT Council have received and read the report from the Clerk-Treasurer and the Acting Public Works Superintendent on the Stop Signs and direct the Staff to purchase and install new stop signs as per the suggestion of the Acting Public Works Superintendent.

Carried

- g) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

13/2025
TMSA Minutes

THAT Council have received and read the minutes from the Temiskaming Municipal Services Association meeting held on October 17, 2024.

Carried

- h) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

14/2025
Support Resolution Evanturel

THAT we, the Council of the Township of McGarry, hereby resolves to support the letter from the Township of Evanturel in their request urging the Government of the Province of Ontario to investigate and remedy the situation regarding the replacement of road signage on highways in the District of Temiskaming;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be directed to John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane, and forwarded to the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria-Ministry of Transportation and other entities noted in the letter; and the Municipalities in the District of Temiskaming.

Carried

- i) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

15/2025
Deputy Mayor Schedule

THAT Council agrees to the following monthly Deputy Mayor schedule for the year 2025.

January 2025	-	Louanne Caza
February 2025	-	Elaine Fic
March 2025	-	Annie Keft
April 2025	-	Francine Plante
May 2025	-	Louanne Caza
June 2025	-	Elaine Fic
July 2025	-	Annie Keft
August 2025	-	Francine Plante
September 2025	-	Louanne Caza
October 2025	-	Annie Keft
November 2025	-	Elaine Fic
December 2025	-	Francine Plante

Carried

- j) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

16/2025
Strategic Minutes

WHEREAS the assessment cycle is an essential process for maintaining the fairness and predictability of property taxes in our province;

AND WHEREAS the pause in the reassessment cycle has created uncertainty and instability in the property taxation, impacting both residential and commercial property owners;

AND WHEREAS the government has delayed an assessment update again in 2024, resulting in Ontario's municipalities continuing to calculate property taxes using 2016 property values;

AND WHEREAS both current and outdated assessments are inaccurate, increase volatility, and are not transparent;

AND WHEREAS frequent and accurate reassessments are necessary to stabilize property taxes and provide predictability for property owners, residents, and businesses alike;

AND WHEREAS the staff at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation would benefit from further skill enhancement and training in assessments, recognizing the importance of ensuring accurate evaluations for 100% of our municipality;

AND WHEREAS the pause in the reassessment cycle has created uncertainty and instability in the property taxation, impacting both residential and commercial property owners;

AND WHEREAS the Government has announced a review of the property assessment and taxation system with a focus on fairness, equity, and economic competitiveness, and therefore further deferring new property assessment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry hereby calls upon the Premier to promptly resume the assessment cycle to ensure the stability and predictability of property taxes while the Government conducts its review of the property assessment and taxation system, or respond with an alternative method for every municipality in Ontario to achieve fair taxation;

AND FURTHER THAT all Municipalities in Ontario and their constituents are encouraged to apply pressure to the Premier, daily, weekly, and monthly, to resolve the situation before it causes undue stress to everyone in the Municipality;

AND FINALLY THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the relevant provincial authorities, the Association of Municipality in Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, and all the municipalities in Ontario for their consideration, to make proper changes as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Carried

- k) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

17/2025
Library Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Library Board held on October 28, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

- l) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

18/2025
Vested Properties Bids

THAT Council have received the report from the Clerk-Treasurer for the vested properties and the minimum bid and direct the Clerk to list the properties at the starting bid listed on the report for each property and include on the advertisement that the successful bidders will be responsible for any legal or other costs related to the sale of these properties.

Carried

- m) Correspondence from Blanche River Health – Support for Physician Recruitment.

- n) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

19/2025
Dormant Fee Options

THAT Council have reviewed the Dormant Fee Options from the Temiskaming Municipal Services Association and direct the Clerk to move forward with the proposed by-law and bring it forward at the next meeting for approval.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

20/2025
TMSA Planning Services

THAT Council have received the correspondence from Temiskaming Municipal Services Association regarding the recommendation to adopt planning services as a mandatory service and that the Council of the Township of McGarry is in agreement and recommends that the Board choose Option #1 “THAT TMSA Board pass a resolution endorsing the adoption of planning services as a mandatory offering.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

21/2025
TMSA Building & Planning Fees

THAT Council have received the information from the Temiskaming Municipal Services Association regarding the new building and planning fees.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

22/2025
TMSA Board

THAT Council have received the correspondence from the Temiskaming Municipal Services Association regarding the options to put their name in for nomination to sit on the TMSA Board. No member of the Council of the Township of McGarry is interested in putting their name forward to sit on the TMSA Board at this time.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

23/2025
TMSA Minutes

THAT Council have received and read the minutes of the Temiskaming Municipal Services Association held on September 11, 2024.

Carried

- o) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

24/2025
Board of Health Meeting

THAT the minutes of the Board of Health for the meeting held on October 2, 2024 and on November 6, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- Councillor Keft declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting room.

- p) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

25/2025
Summer Student Report

THAT Council have read the report from the Clerk-Treasurer on Summer Students and direct the Staff to apply for the job subsidy listed in the report.

Carried

- Councillor Keft returned to the meeting room.

- q) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

26/2025
Trillium Grant

THAT Council held a discussion on the Trillium Grant and direct the Staff to apply for the Tourist Centre Building repairs and upgrades.

Carried

- Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

27/2025
Canada Post Grant

THAT Council held a discussion on the Canada Post Grant and to apply for Kitchen upgrades & repairs in the Community Centre.

Carried

- r) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

28/2025
Snowmobile trail

THAT Council agree to grant the use of the Gymnasium, Canteen and Kitchen for the weekend (beginning Friday evening to Sunday morning) free of charge. (On February 14, 15 & 16 2025) to the Volunteer Firefighters for the Poker run.

Carried

11. Passing of Accounts:

- Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

29/2025
Accounts

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

NOVEMBER 2024:

Payroll: \$ 28,258.27
General: \$ 162,735.62

DECEMBER 2024:

Payroll: \$36,019.08
General: \$124,330.33

Carried

12. Passing of By-Laws:

- a) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

30/2025
By-Law 2025-01

THAT a By-Law to provide for an interim tax levy and the payment of interim taxes for the year 2025 be passed this 14th day of January 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-01.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

31/2025
By-Law 2025-02

THAT a By-Law to authorize the temporary borrowing with Royal Bank of Canada be passed this 14th day of January 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-02.

Carried

13. a) **Submitted questions:** None

- b) **Audience Question:** A question period was held.

14. **Closed Meeting:** None

15. **Confirmation By-Law:**

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

32/2025
By-Law 2025-03

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 14th day of January 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-03.

Carried

16. **Adjournment:**

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

33/2025
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Carried

DEPUTY MAYOR

CLERK-TREASURER