



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday February 18th, 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 Public Works Superintendent: Mark Brown
 Labourer /Operator: Neil Albright
 Part-time Labourer: Tannor Elliot
 Bookkeeper: Michelle Tweedy
 Members of the audience present: 1

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
 Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

34/2025
Absence

THAT Council agrees to grant a leave of absence to Mayor Culhane for the Regular Council Meeting of February 18, 2025, due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk.

Carried

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum.

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
 Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

35/2025
Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on February 18, 2025 be adopted with addition to #10 (w) Grant Opportunity for New Sports Equipment.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest:

- Councillor Caza declared a conflict of interest on Item #14 Closed Session – Employees Negotiations.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

- a) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

**36/2025
Regular Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on January 14, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

6. Matters Arising from the minutes: None

7. Deputations, Delegations, and Petitions:

- Steve Ackland and Remi Loranger presented the 2023 Financial Statement to Council.

- Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

**37/2025
Financial Report 2023**

THAT Council have read and approves the 2023 Consolidated Financial Report presented in open meeting by Steven Ackland from Kemp, Elliot Blair dated December 31, 2023.

Carried

8. Correspondence, Information:

- Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**38/2025
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) Minister of Rural Affairs-Rural Economic Development.
- c) Ministry of Finance – Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).
- d) Ministry of Natural Resources – New Regulations.
- e) Thank you, Note from the Committee of the Christmas Food Hampers.
- f) Gold Candle Nugget - Winter 2025

Carried

9. Members Update Report:

- Deputy Mayor and Council gave a verbal report.

10. New Business:

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

**39/2025
Recreation Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on December 3, 2024 and on January 7, 2025 be approved.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**40/2025
Tourist Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Tourist Committee meeting held on November 19, 2024 be approved.

Carried

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

**41/2025
Strategic Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on October 29, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- d) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

**42/2025
2025 Annual Memberships**

THAT Council read the report from the Clerk-Treasurer on the 2025 annual Memberships and authorize the payment of the 2025 Annual Memberships listed in the report.

Carried

- e) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**43/2025
Surplus Land**

THAT Council declares the following properties as Surplus Land and directs the Staff to advertise the following properties:

4 Connell Avenue	-	Starting minimum bid \$8,000.00
6 Colville Street	-	Starting minimum bid \$6,000.00
126 Government Rd	-	Starting minimum bid \$8,000.00
152 Government Rd	-	Starting minimum bid \$8,000.00
9 Cockeram Street	-	Starting minimum bid \$6,000.00
8 Dorfman Street	-	Starting minimum bid \$6,000.00
24 Kearns Avenue	-	Starting minimum bid \$6,000.00
25 Kearns Avenue	-	Starting minimum bid \$6,000.00

12-26 th Street	-	Starting minimum bid \$6,000.00
Mining Claim L13007	-	Starting minimum bid \$20,000.00

And that the successful bidders are responsible for any legal or other costs related to the sale of these properties.

Carried

- f) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **44/2025**
 Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Clerk Report on Stop Signs**

THAT Council read the report from the Clerk-Treasurer on the Stop Signs and direct the staff to purchase new stops signs and any equipment needed to add an additional 4-way stop at the junction of 27th Avenue and 27th Street as per Council request at the January meeting.

Carried

- g) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **45/2025**
 Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Tax Write Off**

THAT Council approves the write off for the taxes owing for the following accounts: 1016, 3971, 5662, 6256, 7593, 7600, 7634, 12774 totaling \$19,269.11 plus interest.

Carried

- h) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **46/2025**
 Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Support Resolution Travel Grant**

WHEREAS the government of the Province of Ontario has made important enhancement to the Northern Health Travel Grant;

AND WHEREAS these enhancements will provide meaningful support through partial reimbursement of travel expenses for those travelling long distances for medical care;

AND WHEREAS upfront costs for airfare, accommodations, and other necessities often reach thousands of dollars with some essential travel expenses continuing to remain ineligible for reimbursement;

AND WHEREAS Hope Air continues to bridge this gap, complementing the government's policy to reduce barriers of distance and cost in access to health care for Northern Ontario patients;

AND WHEREAS the demand for services of Hope Air continues to grow;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of McGarry requests the Ministry of Health consider funding Hope Air, in 2025, to support its vital work in assisting the residents of Northern Ontario to receive access to the Health Care they deserve;

AND FURTHER that the resolution be directed to the Minister of Health; and circulated to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Finance; the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities; the Temiskaming Municipal Association; and the Municipalities in the District of Temiskaming.

Carried

- i) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

47/2025
Housing Crisis

WHEREAS Ontario is facing a significant affordable housing crisis, with many residents struggling to secure safe and affordable living accommodations;

AND WHEREAS the crisis of homelessness in Ontario continues to affect thousands of individuals and families, necessitating urgent and effective housing solutions;

AND WHEREAS the current Ontario Building Code contains regulations that may inadvertently hinder the development of affordable housing by imposing excessive costs and barriers on individuals and developers;

AND WHEREAS current building code regulations may restrict the development of innovative housing solutions designed to address the needs of homeless individuals and families;

AND WHEREAS an increase in affordable housing units is essential to promote economic stability, community well-being, and social equity within Ontario;

AND WHEREAS providing pre-approved affordable housing plans can streamline the construction process, reduce costs, and facilitate quicker access to housing for those in need;

THAT the Council of the Township of McGarry hereby calls on the Ontario government to amend the Ontario Building Code to include provisions for pre-approved affordable housing plans specifically aimed at supporting low income and homeless individuals, including:

1. Standardized Designs: Creating a set of pre-approved housing designs that meet safety and quality standards while being cost-effective and quick to construct.
2. Flexible Design Standards: Allowing for innovative building designs and materials that meet affordability criteria while ensuring safety and livability.
3. Community Integration: Ensuring that these housing designs can be integrated into existing neighborhoods in a way that respects community character and promotes acceptance.
4. Support for Diverse Models Including options for various types of housing, such as tiny homes, modular units, and converted shipping containers, to cater to different needs and preferences.

AND FURTHER the Council of the Township of McGarry encourages the Ontario government to engage with stakeholders, including architects, housing advocates, and service providers, to develop these pre-approved plans that effectively address the needs of low income and homeless individuals;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be provided to Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Micheal Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, Hon. Victor Fedeli, Chair of Cabinet, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Association of Ontario, Ontario Building Officials Association, Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

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

48/2025
MIS Insurance

THAT Council agrees to renew the 2025 Municipal Insurance with MIS Municipal Insurance Services at a cost of \$103,358.00 plus applicable provincial tax.

Carried

- k) Discussion on the 80th Anniversary was deferred to the next meeting.

- l) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

49/2025
Emergency Management Report

THAT Council agrees with the recommendations from the Emergency Management Committee to provide the IMS 100, IMS 200 and EMS 200 and at a cost of approximately \$1,271.25 for the following staff members:

Bonita Culhane – Mayor
Gord Caza – Public Works Superintendent
Mark Brown, Acting Public Works Superintendent
Neil Albright – Fire Chief
Not yet determined - Emergency Information Officer (Must be a staff member)

Carried

- m) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

50/2025
PINCHIN

THAT Council have received and read the Proposal for the 2025-2027 Groundwater Monitoring and Sampling Program – McGarry Landfill from Pinchin and agree with the proposal presented at a cost of:

2025 - \$19,925.00 plus applicable taxes
2026 - \$20,295.00 plus applicable taxes
2027 - \$20,740.00 plus applicable taxes

Carried

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

51/2025
FONOM

WHEREAS under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box, producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only;

AND WHEREAS 'ineligible' sources which producers are not responsible for including businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks;

AND WHEREAS should a municipality continue to provide services to the ‘ineligible’ sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, and processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the costs;

AND WHEREAS these costs will further burden the municipalities’ finances and potentially take resources away from vital infrastructure projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry hereby 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;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Your Local MPP, AMO, ROMA and FONOM.

Carried

- o) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

52/2025
Crime Stoppers Donations

THAT Council agree to a donation of \$100.00 / Silver level to the Kirkland Lake & area Crime Stoppers.

Carried

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

53/2025
Policing Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Community Policing Committee meeting held on November 21, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- q) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

54/2025
Support Resolution

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life;

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT 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;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca); the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca); and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca).

Carried

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

55/2025
World Autism Day

Whereas: World Autism Day is recognized on April 2, 2025, in Canada. Autism Ontario is one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community, and the work we do helps all autistic individuals and families in their communities have access to meaningful support, information, and connections — not only on April 2 but every day throughout the year.

Whereas: Autism impacts more than 135,000 individuals in Ontario, representing 1 in every 50 Canadian children and youth. It not only influences the lives of autistics but also their friends, families, and communities. It's crucial for us to raise awareness, and acceptance, provide support and promote a more inclusive society.

Whereas: Autism is a diverse spectrum that varies widely among individuals. Each person's experience with autism can change over time. This evolving journey highlights the uniqueness of every autistic individual, emphasizing the need for understanding and support tailored to their specific needs.

Whereas: Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism, and since 1973, has been providing support, information, and opportunities for thousands of families and individuals across the province.

Whereas: Autism Ontario is devoted to raising public awareness about autism and addressing the everyday challenges faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who work alongside them. We urge everyone to recognize and celebrate the unique differences and needs of others, fostering an inclusive environment where all individuals can participate fully in activities and discussions. Together, we can create a society that values and includes everyone.

Now Therefore: BE IT RESOLVED that I, Deputy Mayor Elaine Fic, do hereby recognize April 2 as World Autism Day while committing to embrace awareness and acceptance today and every day throughout the year.

Carried

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

56/2025
Health Unit Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Temiskaming Health Unit held on December 4, 2024 have been received.

Carried

- t) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

57/2025
Public Health Board Minutes

THAT the special minutes of the Northern Public Health Board of Health held on January 1, 2025 have been received.

Carried

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

58/2025
TMA Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Temiskaming Municipal Association of January 30, 2025 have been received.

Carried

- v) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Francine Plante

59/2025
Library Minutes

THAT Council have received the Revenue vs Expenses from the McGarry Public Library Board.

Carried

- w) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

60/2025
Sporting Equipment Grant

THAT Council agree that Councillor Plante apply for sporting equipment through a Grant opportunity Planet Youth Timiskaming.

Carried

11. Passing of Accounts:

- Moved by Councillor Francine Plante
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

61/2025
Accounts

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

JANUARY 2025:

Payroll: \$ 41,291.08
General: \$ 189,548.59

Carried

12. Passing of By-Laws:

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

62/2025
By-Law 2025-04

THAT a By-Law respecting construction. Demolition and change of use permits and inspections be passed this 18th day of February 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-04.

Carried

13. a) Submitted questions: None

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

14. Closed Meeting:

- Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Annie Keft

63/2025
Closed Session

THAT Council goes into closed session at 7:13 p.m. under the Municipal Act 2001. C25, s 239, Section (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Carried

- Councillor Caza declared a conflict of interest on item #14 (a)
- Council requested that the staff leave the room as well.
- Council held a discussion on Staff negotiation.
- Staff returned to the room to discuss with Council.

- Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

64/2025
Out of Closed Session

THAT Council come out of close session at 7:50 p.m.

Carried

- Councillor Louanne Caza returned to the room.

- Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francien Plante

65/2025
Cost of Living

THAT Council directs the Clerk to give a 4% cost of living increase to all Employees and the Custodian and bring a By-Law forward at the next meeting for final approval and that this increase be retro-active to January 1, 2025.

Carried

15. Confirmation By-Law:

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

66/2025
By-Law 2025-05

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 18th day of February 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-05.

Carried

16. Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

67/2025
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Carried


DEPUTY MAYOR
BC


CLERK-TREASURER

