



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday May 13th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room via in person or by phone.

1. Call to order:

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

2. Roll Call: The Deputy 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Also Present

Clerk-Treasurer - Karine Pelletier

Superintendent - Mark Brown

Members of the audience present: 6

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

162/2025
Absent

THAT Council agrees to grant a leave of absence to Councillor Francine Plante and Mayor Bonita Culhane for the Regular Council Meeting of May 13, 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 Annie Keft

163/2025
Adoption of Agenda

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on May 13, 2025 be adopted with the removal of Item #13 – close session.

Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest: Councillor Louanne Caza declared a Pecuniary Conflict on item #5 (f) and item #5 (g).

5. Adoption of the Previous Minutes and matters arising from the Minutes:

- a) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **164/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Regular Council Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on April 8, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **165/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Special Council Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on April 2 , 2025, April 16, 2025 and April 29, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **166/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Close Session Regular Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the close session of the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 11, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- d) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **167/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Closed Session Special Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the close session of the Special Meeting of Council held on March 19, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- e) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **168/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Closed Session of Special Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the close session of the Special Meeting of Council held on April 2, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- Councillor Caza – Deputy Mayor declared a conflict of interest and left the room. Councillor Fic took over as Chair.

- f) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **169/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Closed Session of Regular Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the close session of the Regular Meeting of Council held on April 8, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- g) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **170/2025**
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Closed Session of Special Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the close session of the Special Meeting of Council held on April 16, 2025 be adopted.

Carried

- Councillor Caza / Deputy Mayor came back into the meeting room and resume as Chair of the meeting.

6. Delegations, Petitions and Presentations: None

7. Correspondence, Information:

- a) Installation of new utility poles in Howick Township through the Accelerated High-Speed Internet Project.
- b) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness.
- c) Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities- Current cabinet.
- d) Northeastern Public Health- 2025 Budget.
- e) Ministry of Finance- OMPF Funding allocation for 2025.
- f) Ministry of Municipal Affairs- annual Repayment Limit.
- g) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – Financial Statement for 2024.
- h) Northeastern Public Health – Minutes of February 27, 2025.

8. New Business:

- a) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **171/2025**
 Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Policing Minutes**

THAT the minutes of the Community Policing Committee meeting held on January 30, 2025 be approved.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **172/2025**
 Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Spring Clean up**

THAT Council discuss the Spring Clean up for 2025 and will be picking up door to door on June 17 for Virginiatown, June 18 for North Virginiatown and June 20 for Kearns.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **173/2025**
 Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **K.L. O.P.P. Support**

BE IT RESOLVD THAT WHEREAS the Office of the Solicitor General notified the former Kirkland Lake Police Services Board that on April 1, 2024, the community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA) would come into force, and that all new O.P.P. detachment boards were expected to be ready to comply with the CSPA and its regulations on that date;

AND WHERAS the new O.P.P. Detachment Board includes council representatives from Beaverhouse First Nation, The Townships of Larder Lake, Gauthier, McGarry, the Municipality of Matachewan and the Town of Kirkland Lake, which positions have all been formally appointed.

AND WHEREAS there remain two (2) vacancies for community representatives, and two (2) vacancies for provincial representatives (Ministry appointments) on the new O.P.P. Detachment Board;

AND WHEREAS a Report from the Town Kirkland Lake presented on February 20, 2024 noted an executive decision was made to remove the responsibilities of the Town of Kirkland Lake Municipal Clerk as the former Boards Secretary, and further that the O.P.P. Detachment Board would be responsible to fill the vacancy of the position of Secretary;

AND WHEREAS as per a meeting held on January 31, 2024 between administrative representatives of the new Detachment Boards' consortium, and the regionally assigned Police Services Advisor from Office of the Solicitor General, a Working Group led by the Police Services Advisor was to be conducted with appointed members during the transition to the new Detachment Board in keeping with the CSPA and its regulations in ensuring that milestones were met in terms of the CSPA's responsibilities and requirements;

AND WHEREAS there has been no substantive movement by representative(s) from the Office of the Solicitor General to assist the new O.P.P. Detachment Board to meet its requirements of the CSPA;

AND WHEREAS attempts were made by an appointment Kirkland Lake Council representatives to hold said meeting, however, members of the new O.P.P. Detachment Board have not completed the requirement training, and singular representatives do not have authority to provide directions to other members regarding completion of requirements;

AND WHEREAS a draft letter was circulated to the consortium of the new O.P.P. Detachment Board to be forwarded to the Office of the Solicitor General requesting assistance for the new Board to come into compliance with the CSPA, which the Township of Larder Lake's Council has resolved to seek this assistance;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry resolve to support the request from the appointed members of the O.P.P. Detachment Board in their request for support from the Office of the Solicitor General, as attached;

AND FINALLY THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to Beaverhouse First Nation, the Township of Larder Lake, Gauthier, the Municipality of Matachewan, the Town of Kirkland Lake, the Office of the Solicitor General, and Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Timiskaming-Cochrane, John Vanthof.

Carried

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

174/2025
OCWA Report

THAT Council have received and read the McGarry Water & Wastewater Systems Quarterly Operations Report from Ontario Clean Water Agency.

Carried

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

175/2025
Resignation Of Policing Member

THAT Council accept with regrets the resignation of Member Daniel Quevillon from the Community Policing Committee.

Carried

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

176/2025
Vested Properties

THAT Council have received and read the report on Vested Properties from the march 19, 2025 Tax Sale and declare the following properties as surplus land:

- 31 Kearns avenue
- 32 Lynch Avenue

AND FURTHERMORE, THAT the Council direct Staff to advertise the properties for sale and that all fees associated with the cost be the responsibility of the purchases with the stipulation that 32 Lynch Avenue be demolished within a year of the purchase at the purchaser's cost.

Carried

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

177/2025
Aylmer Support

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets and planning decisions;

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminishes the role of elected municipal Councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of McGarry opposes the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers;

AND THAT the Council formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor Powers to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Ontario Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Ontario municipalities, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for further action.

Carried

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

178/2025
Tourist Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Tourist Centre Committee meeting held on March 18, 2025 be approved.

Carried

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

179/2025
Library Board Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Library Board meeting held on March 31, 2025 be approved.

Carried

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

180/2025
Financial Plan – Drinking Water

THAT Council has received and read the Township of McGarry, Virginiatown-Kearns, drinking Water System, Financial Plan #280-301, for 2025 to 2031 and are in agreement with the submitted plan dated May 5, 2025.

Carried

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

181/2025
Recreation Minutes

THAT the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held on April 1, 2025 and April 4, 2025 be approved.

Carried

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

182/2025
CLI ECA Project

THAT Council have received and read the CLI ECA project Proposal from Ontario Clean Water Agency and direct the Staff to accept the scope of work described in the proposal at a cost of \$13,750.00 plus HST.

Carried

9. Passing of Accounts:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

183/2025
Accounts

THAT the following accounts be approved for payment:

APRIL 2025:

Payroll: \$ 33,884.73

General: \$ 207,218.84

Carried

10. Passing of By-Laws:

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

184/2025
By-Law 2025-20

THAT a By-Law to establish tax ratios for 2025 be read three times and passed this 13th day of May, 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-20.

Carried

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

185/2025
By-Law 2025-21

THAT a By-Law to set and levy the tax rates of taxation for 2025 be read three times and passed this 13th day of May, 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-21.

Carried

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

186/2025
By-Law 2025-22

THAT a By-Law to authorize the adoption of the 2025 operating budget and capital budget be read three times and passed this 13th day of May, 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-22.

Carried

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

187/2025
By-Law 2025-23

THAT a By-Law to establish a yearly water and sewer charge be read three times and passed this 13th day of May, 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-23.

Carried

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

188/2025
By-Law 2025-24

THAT a By-Law amend By-Law 2024-28 being a bylaw to levy capital sewage rate be read three times and passed this 13th day of May, 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-24.

Carried

11. Reports of Municipal Officers and Members Verbal Update:

- Municipal Officers, Mayor and Council gave a verbal report.

12. Question Period:

- A question period was held.

13. Closed Meeting: None

14. Confirmation By-Law:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

189/2025
By-Law 2025-25

THAT a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 13th day of May 2025 and numbered By-Law 2025-25.

Carried

15. Adjournment:

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

190/2025
Adjournment

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Carried


MAYOR


CLERK-TREASURER