



MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 23, 2026

Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillor Blair Flowers and Councillor Pearl Ivens. Councillor Neil Scarlett absent with regrets. Fire Chief Risto Maki and Clerk Administrator Angela Loney.

Mark Savill.

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Township of Machar acknowledges the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties on the land of the Anishinabek that we meet today. We seek to work respectfully with Indigenous people, and are thankful for their teachings and stewardship of the land.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof; Nil.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Adoption of Feb 9, 2026 minutes, Resolution

019-2026

Moved By Flowers

Seconded By McLaren

THAT we adopt minutes of Feb 9, 2026.

Carried

4. Business

4.1 2026 Spring Newsletter, Resolution

020-2026

Moved By Ivens

Seconded By Flowers

THAT we approve 2026 Spring Newsletter.

Carried

6. Boards and Committees

6.1 Shared Services Monthly Reports for Jan, Fire and Arena

Items provided: Fire Chief's monthly report for Feb 2026, Income Statement for Jan 2026 (Revenue 13.67%, Expenses 3.11%), AP Ledger for Jan \$14,558.92 Total Expenditures, Arena Chief Operator report for Jan, Income Statement for Jan (Revenue 6.19% and Expenses 4.52%), AP Ledger for Jan \$20,907.46 Total Expenditures.

6.2 Shared Services; Fire and Arena 2026 Budget Drafts

Items provided for Arena: Draft 1 of Proposed Arena and Community Centre 2026 Budget - our share \$181,011 (down 57.76% or \$247,553 from 2025). Includes Salaries for a part time (1 day per week recreation director for a one-year trial.

6.3 Machar Public Works minutes of Feb 12 & 2026 Draft Budgets, Resolution

Roads Draft 2 of proposed 2026 Budget \$2,371,000 (0% increase).

Landfill Draft 2 of proposed 2026 Budget \$139,525 (11.6% increase). It was the hope that Landfill funding could be brought back up to its former allocations, as it has bore the brunt of other department's increases. That may not be feasible this year as we monitor the overall 2026 Township budget.

021-2026

Moved By McLaren

Seconded By Flowers

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Feb 12, 2026.

Carried

6.4 Central Almaguin Planning Board minutes of Nov 5 & Dec 3, 2025 & Jan 7, 2026, Resolution

022-2026

Moved By McLaren

Seconded By Ivens

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Nov 5, Dec 3, 2025, and Jan 7, 2026.

Carried

6.5 Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board Jan 14 minutes, Feb 11 agenda, 2026 Revised Draft Budget, Resolution

023-2026

Moved By Ivens

Seconded By Flowers

THAT we acknowledge the OPP Detachment Board minutes of Jan 14, 2026.

Carried

6.6 N Bay Parry Sound Health Unit; Food and Housing Affordability in the Nipissing & Parry Sound Districts - Request for Support

024-2026

Moved By Flowers

Seconded By McLaren

WHEREAS improved financial stability allows municipal residents to participate, contribute, and invest in their local economies and communities; and

WHEREAS poverty puts additional pressure on municipalities, who are responsible for delivering necessary public and social services to support residents who are struggling with the consequences of inadequate income; and

WHEREAS poverty, homelessness and food insecurity have detrimental impacts on physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS income is an important social determinant of health that greatly impacts a household's ability to pay for the basic costs of living, including housing and food; and

AND WHEREAS the 2025 North Bay Parry Sound food affordability results show that

households reliant on social assistance do not have enough money for the costs of living; and

NOW THEREFORE Be It Resolved, That the Township of Machar support efforts to raise

awareness about, and work to reduce poverty, homelessness and food insecurity; and

FURTHERMORE Be It Resolved, That the Township of Machar endorse the recommendations

from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit and call on the Province of Ontario to

increase Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates to reflect the costs of

living, and index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and

FURTHERMORE Be It Resolved, That the Township of Machar provide correspondence of these

resolutions to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, neighbouring municipalities,

Victor Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), Graydon Smith, MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka), John Vanthof,

MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane), the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier), the Honourable Michael

Parsa (Minister of Children, Community and Social Services), the Honourable Sylvia Jones

(Minister of Health), Pauline Rochefort, MP (Nipissing-Timiskaming), Scott Aitchison, MP (Parry

Sound-Muskoka), District of Parry Sound Social Services

Administration Board (DSSAB), District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH).

Carried

6.7 N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; Board of Health & Finance and Property Committee agendas Feb 25

6.8 FONOM Draft Resolution: The Birth of Change

025-2026

Moved By Ivens

Seconded By McLaren

WHEREAS prescription drug diversion, particularly involving regulated opioids and other controlled medications, presents a serious and growing risk to public health, community safety, and vulnerable populations across Ontario, including Northern and rural communities; and

WHEREAS evidence from law enforcement, health professionals, and community drug strategy partners demonstrates that diverted prescription medications are contributing to substance misuse, criminal activity, and increased strain on health, social, and enforcement systems throughout Northern Ontario

WHEREAS the Partnership and Collaboration Project, “The Birth of Change” (written by the North Bay Police Services and Community Drug Strategy of North Bay & Area), brings together law enforcement, addiction medicine specialists, pharmacists, public health partners, and community organizations to address prescription diversion through a collaborative, evidence-based, and multi-sector approach

WHEREAS the project identifies practical regulatory, prescribing, dispensing, and prevention measures intended to reduce diversion while maintaining appropriate access to medically necessary pain management and addiction treatment services; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Northern Ontario are experiencing the downstream impacts of prescription diversion, including pressures on emergency services, policing, housing stability, and community well-being;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Machar formally supports the Partnership and Collaboration Project, “The Birth of Change” and its objectives to reduce prescription drug diversion through coordinated, evidence-based action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Machar calls on the Province of Ontario, including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, to review and give serious consideration to the project’s recommendations, including regulatory, prescribing, dispensing, and prevention strategies aimed at mitigating prescription diversion while protecting patient care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township of Machar encourage continued provincial engagement with municipalities, law enforcement, health professionals, pharmacists, and community partners to ensure that solutions are practical, regionally appropriate, and responsive to the realities faced by Northern Ontario communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Sgt. Brad Reaume, Northern Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, NOMA, AMO and ROMA.

Carried

6.9 DSSAB (Distr of Parry Sound Social Services Admin Bd) CAO Report for Feb 2026

7. Information

7.1 Resolution - Bell Fibre Internet, Municipality of Magnetawan, Resolution

026-2026

Moved By Ivens

Seconded By Flowers

WHEREAS reliable, high-speed internet access is essential infrastructure that supports economic development, housing construction, healthcare, education, municipal operations, and overall community well-being;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has recognized the importance of digital infrastructure through the Accelerating Access to Broadband for Ontario Act, 2021, which seeks to expand broadband access to all Ontarians, particularly in underserved and rural communities;

AND WHEREAS access to affordable high-speed internet is a necessary precondition to achieving provincial and federal housing, economic development, and population growth targets;

AND WHEREAS Bell Canada currently offers dedicated fibre internet services at the following indicative rates under a five (5) year term within a regulated area: 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps \$1,010 per month, 500 Mbps / 500 Mbps \$3,090 per month and 1 Gbps / 1Gbps \$3,250 per month.

AND WHEREAS such pricing structures place dedicated fibre services beyond the financial reach of many municipalities, small businesses, housing developments, non-profit organizations, and community facilities;

AND WHEREAS unaffordable broadband infrastructure costs undermine the intent of provincial and federal legislation aimed at universal access to high-speed internet, including federal programs administered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and regulatory oversight by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC);

AND WHEREAS affordable, high-speed internet access is essential infrastructure and a foundational requirement for inclusive growth, housing delivery, and community resilience and municipalities are required to plan for growth, housing, and economic competitiveness, yet have no say in telecommunications pricing and market structures;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Machar calls upon the CRTC to examine the affordability of dedicated fibre pricing and its impact on municipal infrastructure, housing development, and equitable internet access;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Machar calls upon the Government of Ontario to work with telecommunications providers to ensure that broadband infrastructure costs do not impede the objectives of the Accelerating Access to Broadband for Ontario Act, 2021 and the Building Faster Homes and More Choice Act, 2022;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Machar calls upon Bell Canada to review and revise its dedicated fibre pricing models to ensure they are affordable, transparent, and scaled appropriately for municipalities, community institutions, and local development projects;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Machar calls upon the Government of Canada, including ISED, to strengthen affordability requirements tied to federal broadband funding and universal access programs;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney, the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, Bell Canada, the CRTC, FONOM, AMO, NOMA, and all Ontario municipalities through AMCTO.

Carried

9. Additional/Round Table/Notice of Motion

***9.1 MuniSoft General Ledger Upgrade - scheduled office closure: Apr 23, 2026.**

027-2026

Moved By McLaren

Seconded By Ivens

THAT we authorize the office to be closed Apr 23 for a mandatory software update and staff training.

Carried

028-2026

Moved By Flowers

Seconded By Ivens

THAT we authorize Mayor Lynda Carleton and Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren to sign the MuniSoft Security Authorization form.

Carried

***9.2 Candidates Information Session Apr 16, 2026**

***9.3 Joint Audit Compliance Committee Advertisement**

10. Adjournment

029-2026

Moved By Flowers

Seconded By Ivens

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mar 9, 2026.

Carried

Lynda Carleton, Mayor

Angela Loney, Clerk Administrator