

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR**  
**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 14, 2025**

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Neil Scarlett and Pearl Ivens. Councillor Blair Flowers absent with notice. Staff present: Clerk Administrator Angela Loney and Deputy Clerk Teresa Coombs.

Guests Observing: Mark Savill, Stephen Armstrong and Mark Smuck.

**6:30 pm 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.

**Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; Nil.**

**BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of Sep 22, 2025 minutes, Resolution**

**134-25 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we adopt minutes of Sep 22, 2025. CARRIED

**2. 517 Jim Young Rd Application [Status Update Planning Staff Report](#), [MMAH's One Window Provincial Review Comments re: Draft Official Plan Amendment](#), and [Hutchinson's Eagle Lake Lakeshore Capacity Assessment and Peer Review](#), Resolution**

**135-25 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we accept the Application Status Update, Planning Staff Report of Oct 13, 2025. CARRIED

**3. Lakeshore Road Closing 4-121-10, Resolution**

Submitted with payment of fee and deposit towards costs with required neighbour consents.

**136-25 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we authorize Application to Purchase Lakeshore Road Allowance 4-121-10 for processing.  
CARRIED

**4. Ministry of the Solicitor General – Letter re: Review of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) cost recovery model**

In response to the review, regulatory amendments have been made to Ontario Regulation 413/23 including a 11 per cent cap established on the increase in policing costs owed by municipalities for the 2026 calendar year.

**5. 2026 OPP Annual Billing Statement scheduled for release before Nov 30, 2025**

**6. Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) – Letter re: Blue Box System from Municipal Control to a Producer-run Model, transition will be complete in 2026.**

Ontario is transitioning the blue box system from municipal control to a producer-run model where Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) will be running a province-wide blue box collection system. PROs are not and have never been, responsible for collecting blue box waste from industrial, commercial and institutional sources.

**7. Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) – Letter re: Updates to MECP Compliance Policy – Potential for Low-Risk Incident Referrals to Municipalities**

Types of complaints that the ministry will typically consider for referral to municipalities: odours, noise, dust, waste, and water unless low risk incident persists and the ministry may re-evaluate.

**8. Minister of Transportation (MTO) – Letter Response to 2 + 1 Highway Model Support Letter**

A thank you for highlighting the importance of a safe and efficient highway corridor through Northern Ontario and role in regional development, internal trade, supply chain continuity, and national cohesion.

**9. Near North Snowdrifters Thank You for sponsoring 2025 Golf Tournament**

**10. Budget Report to Sep 30, 2025 & 2025 Tax Rate Comparison, Resolutions**

Revenues are at 57.79%, expenditures are at 52.16%.

Annual comparison of tax rates provided indicates on a median typical property assessed at \$216,000 annual taxes are lowest in Machar at \$2,463.65 increasing to \$2,640.67 in Strong, \$3,476.08 in Joly, \$4,606.24 in Sundridge, and \$4,680.53 in South River. A higher difference of \$177.01 in Strong, \$1,012.42 in Joly, \$2,142.59 in Sundridge, and \$2,216.87 in South River. Year over year percentage increases were also provided: South River = 5.1%, Strong 6.1%, Machar = 5.0%, and Sundridge = 6.9%.

**137-25 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we accept Budget Report to Sep 30, 2025 and Comparison of 2025 Residential Tax Rates. CARRIED

**11. List of Proposed Payments for Sep, Resolution**

**138-25 McLaren, Scarlett**

THAT we approve List of Proposed Payments for Sep, 2025: \$257,416.14 Grand Total. CARRIED

**COMMITTEES**

**12. Community Centre Committee minutes Sep 30, 2025, Resolution**

Discussion: Christmas in the Village, Capital Projects: arena roof, solar and the Olympia – seek funding in 2027, Recreational opportunities jointly promoted.

**139-25 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we accept Community Centre minutes of Sep 30, 2025. CARRIED

**13. Machar Public Works, Municipal Rd North Culvert Replacement Change Order + \$249,645.00 – Revised Culvert Pipe to 6.5m x 4.0m Pipe Arch and eleven week extension from Sep 2 to Dec 19, 2025 with possibility of asphalt deferred until Jun 2026 due to winter weather, Resolution**

**140-25 McLaren, Scarlett**

THAT we authorize Clerk Administrator to sign the Quotation for additional cost of \$249,645 to the Municipal Rd North Culvert Replacement project as a result of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans review requiring a larger pipe to replace the existing pipe. CARRIED

**- Machar Recreation updates;**

**Haunted Halloween Walk 5 – Oct 25, 2025**

Poster approved. Event needs volunteers, especially in the Scare Trail. Volunteers meeting TBD.

**Candle Light Vigil – Sep 11, annually**, as requested by Canadian Mental Health Association

**Possible partnership with South River’s Christmas in the Village at the Arena**, admins to coordinate.

**14. South River Machar Library minutes of Sep 18, 2025, Resolution**

**141-25 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we acknowledge Library minutes of Sep 18, 2025. CARRIED

**15. South River Machar Medical Centre minutes of Sep 9, 2025, Resolution**

**142-25 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we support motions in Medical Centre minutes as follows: adopt the minutes, accept the tender of \$2300/month for cleaning contract to Buffed Cleaning, Pay Lists/Budgetary Control, Adjourned until Oct 21, 2025... CARRIED

**16. Joint Building Committee minutes of Sep 18, 2025, Resolution**

**143-25 McLaren, Scarlett**

THAT we accept Building minutes of Sep 18, 2025. CARRIED

**17. Joint Building Committee permit summaries for Sep 2025, Resolution**

Reviewed permit fees and project values, permit totals 100 at the end of Sep 2025 (91 in 2024) as follows: Machar 32, Ryerson 20, Strong 18, Burk's Falls 13, Sundridge 11, South River 4, and Joly 2.

**144-25 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we accept Building Permit summaries for Sep 2025. CARRIED

- Joint Building 2024 Financial Statements [available](#)

**18. Central Almaguin Planning Board Minutes of [Jul 2](#) and [Aug 6](#), 2025, Resolution**

**145-25 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Jul 2 and Aug 6, 2025. CARRIED

**19. Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board [agenda](#) Oct 8, 2025**

**20. Almaguin Community Economic Development (ACED) 2 Year Joint Services Agreement Invitation**

Reviewed; not interested at this time.

**INFORMATION**

**21. AMO Communications**, Are you ready for Local Government Week? ATTACHED

**22. Municipality of South Huron Resolution**, Support the Bluewater Recycling Association correspondence regarding proposed amendments to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act

**23. Municipality of South Huron Resolution**, Supports the Municipality of Bluewater's Resolution regarding closure of before and afterschool programs and voices similar concerns regarding schools within its boundaries

**24. Town of Petrolia Resolution**, Supports the City of Brantford's concerns around bail reform

**25. Town of Petrolia Resolution**, Formally requests the review of mandatory firefighter certification requirements for volunteer departments

**26. Town of Cobalt Resolution**, Strongly urges the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program a permanent fixture of its support to Northern municipalities and that the Province consider expanding the program eligibility to recognize the significant impact that agricultural equipment and operations have on municipal infrastructure, particularly in rural communities

**27. Town of Parry Sound Resolution**, Directs staff to investigate the possibility of working together with Ontario Municipalities, Provincial and Federal Governments as well as our manufacturing partners to form a working group to ensure that our waste disposal issues can be resolved quickly, efficiently and effectively with the use of incineration, more robust recycling programs and sustainable practices so that our future generations will not suffer from our environmental mismanagement and to request support from these organizations

**28. City of Dryden Resolution**, Respectfully urges the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim -to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario Students

29. **Municipality of Brighton Resolution**, Calls upon the provincial and federal governments to enact electoral reform, adopting proportional systems in which every vote counts and polarization is diminished, in order to safeguard and empower Canadian democracy
30. **Municipality of Shuniah Resolution**, Supports the resolution from Perry regarding Increased Income Support Thresholds for Veterans
31. **Township of Bonfield Resolution**, Urges the Canadian Union of Postal Workers and the Federal Government to promptly return to the negotiating table and calls upon CUPW to reconsider the suspension of flyer deliveries, which includes municipal communications, to ensure the continued dissemination of critical community information
32. **Niagara Region Resolution**, Advocates that the Province support a coordinated approach between the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to address ongoing challenges related to mental health, homelessness and opioid addiction and formally advocates for Provincial funding to address identified gaps in programs and services contributing to the state of emergency including affordable housing, supportive housing, addictions treatment and mental health supports for vulnerable populations
33. **City of Kitchener Resolution**: Requests the Province of Ontario to amend the Municipal Act to permit municipalities the ability to grandfather-out paper billing as the default option, and to permit municipalities to establish fees for paper billing for new accounts that opt for this method of delivery
34. **The Township of Armour Resolution**: Supports the Ministry's consultation on the Future of Community Gas Expansion (NGEP Phase 3) and endorses access to natural gas as an option to other energy solutions to advance the Township of Armour's housing, employment lands, and economic development objectives
35. **Township of West Lincoln Resolution**: Supports the Ministry's consultation on the Future of Community Gas Expansion (NGEP Phase 3) and directs staff to submit comments to ERO 0250923 reflecting priorities, including: priority application types, alignment with Official Plan/Secondary Plans, sites and corridors where gas access would enable development (housing/employment/lands), any Phase 1, and 2 learnings and practical barriers
36. **Town of Newmarket Resolution**, Opposes the Ontario Government's proposal to cancel municipal ASE programs and requests the Premier of Ontario or Minister of Transportation meet with municipal leaders to develop provincial legislation, regulations and standards to ensure municipal ASE programs are fair, transparent and consistent throughout Ontario as opposed to eliminating the programs
37. **City of Pickering Resolution**, Supports the principles of the Elect Respect pledge, encourages elected officials, political organizations, municipalities, and members of the public to sign and support the Elect Respect pledge by visiting: [electrespect.ca](http://electrespect.ca)
38. **Township of Woolwich Resolution**, Calls on the Government of Canada and the Minister of Indigenous Services to reintroduce legislation to ensure First Nations have the right to clean and safe drinking water in the Fall of 2025 in the same form as Bill C-61, Calls on the Government of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment Conservation and Parks to support this Federal legislation
39. **Municipality of Waterloo Resolution**, 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 that Minister McCarthy be asked to provide more information on the estimated \$171M in savings for municipalities through this program
40. **Letter from Jan Simpson, National President Canadian Union of Postal Workers**, Requesting letter of support to demand and immediate halt to the service cuts, and to look instead for ways to increase services and revenues in other areas, demand that no mandate review takes place until Canada Post returns to stabilized operations and demand that any review of Canada Post and the Canadian Postal Service Charter must be done through a full and thorough transparent public review, including public hearings, with all key stakeholders, in every region of Canada
41. **Almaguin Adult Learning**, October 2025 Upcoming "in Person" programs in Powassan and South River
42. **Muskoka Algonquin HealthCare**, New Hospital build in Huntsville Attracts Record Setting \$20 Million Gift
43. **AMO Education**, Indigenous Community Awareness Training, Municipalities have an obligation to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples

44. **AMO Education**, How to master crisis communications, Crises aren't planned, Communication is. Master the message at the Managing Communications through Crisis Workshop Oct 8-9, 2025
45. **AMO Education**, Are you prepared for a cyberattack? Cyberattacks on municipalities are on the rise, Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors Workshop Oct 21, 2025 – Virtual
46. **AMO Education**, Seeking re-election or first-time candidate? AMO's new, free workshop series is for you
47. **AMO Events**, Join AMO's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Healthy Democracy Forum – Oct 18-19, Toronto
48. **AMO Events**, Don't Miss AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum Oct 18-19
49. **AMO Events**, Shape the Future of Local Democracy at AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum Oct 18-19, 2025
50. **AMO Events**, Building Stronger Local Democracy Together – AMO's Healthy Democracy Forum
51. **AMO Events**, Can tariffs improve economic resiliency?
52. **AMO Events**, What's your role in our economic future? AMO's Trade and Tariff Forum Oct 24, 2025
53. **AMO Policy Update**, Response to the Planned Automated Speed Enforcement Ban
54. **AMO Policy Update**, Response to OPP Cost Recovery Model, Continued Automated Speed Enforcement Advocacy, and Consultation on Aggregate Resource Act Program
55. **AMO Communications**, Update & Resources: AMO's Workforce Development Project
56. **AMO Watchfile Sep 18, In This Issue**
  - AMO Work-Learn Institute Municipal Talent Project
  - Funding readiness, protecting communities: Apply for CEPG!
  - Rural Ontario Development Program opens for applications
  - Ontario Community Environment Fund: apply by Sept 24
  - Household Food Waste Prevention Webinar
  - Applications open for 2025 Cyber Security Cooperation program
  - Indigenous Community Awareness Training - September 24
  - Mastering Crisis Communications Training - October 8-9
  - Cybersecurity for Municipal Councillors Training - October 21
  - Healthy Democracy Forum - Important conversations for October 2026 election
  - AMO Trade and Tariff Forum - Understanding and planning for Ontario's future
  - Canoe newsletter - new supplier updates
  - Upgrade your lights before they become obsolete
  - Pembina Institute Guide on Granting Municipal Support Confirmations
  - Register Today for OMSSA's 2025 Virtual Forum!
  - IESO LT2 RFP Q&A Webinar Session
  - CAO Employment Guide
  - Ontario Professional Planners Institute launches Employer Readiness Course
  - AdvantAge Municipal Councillors webinar: The Current LTC Environment
  - Careers
57. **AMCTO Watchfile Sep 25, In This Issue**
  - Get access to MIDAS!
  - MECP best practices for Source Water Protection Program
  - Funding readiness, protecting communities: Apply for CEPG!
  - Household Food Waste Prevention webinar
  - Applications open for 2025 Cyber Security Cooperation Program
  - Mastering Crisis Communications for Elected Officials - October 8-9
  - 2nd Annual Healthy Democracy Forum - Program details
  - AMO Trade & Tariff Forum: Understanding and planning for Ontario's economic future
  - Understanding your Cybersecurity Risks and How to Respond - October 21
  - Show me the money webinar
  - Stay up to date with free webinars from LAS
  - IESO LT2 RFP Q&A webinar session
  - Pembina Institute Guide on Granting Municipal Support Confirmations
  - AdvantAge municipal councillors webinar: The Current LTC Environment
  - Careers
58. **AMCTO Watchfile Oct 2, In This Issue**
  - AMO's Work-Learn Institute Municipal Talent Project
  - MECP best practices for Source Water Protection Program
  - Household Food Waste Prevention webinar
  - Mastering Crisis Communications for Elected Officials – October 8-9

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Healthy Democracy Forum – Program details
  - AMO Trade & Tariff Forum: Understanding and planning for Ontario’s economic future
  - Understanding your Cybersecurity Risks and How to Respond – October 21
  - Addressing growth through asset management
  - Blog – Solutions for Failing Water and Wastewater Infrastructure
  - Show me the money webinar
  - Fluorescent lamps phase-out – Is your municipality ready?
  - MADD Canada releases recommendations for municipalities
  - Pembina Institute Guide on Granting Municipal Support Confirmations
  - OPPI’s Fall Employer Readiness course
  - AdvantAge municipal councillors webinar: The Current LTC Environment
  - Careers
59. **AMCTO**, Claim Your AMCTO Membership Savings
  60. **AMCTO, CORRECTION**, Claim Your AMCTO Membership Savings
  61. **AMCTO Municipal Minute Sep 17**, Federal Initiative to Build Affordable Housing, Turnkey Décor Services for Municipalities, Virtual Event Aims To Inspire Women To Run for Municipal Office, Ontario Investing \$9.6M in Wetlands Conservation To Protect Communities, Ring of Fire Road Funding Praised and Criticized by Community Leaders, Doug Ford Tells Ontario Municipalities He Will Get Rid of Automated Speed Cameras if They Don’t, 4 Municipal Shareholders To Invest \$62M in New Equity in Ontario Utility
  62. **AMCTO Municipal Minute Sep 24**, Ontario Supporting Flood Recovery in Strong and Joly Townships, Ontario Superior Court Upholds Repeal of Municipal Accommodation Tax By-Laws, Nuclear Waste Repository Aiming for 2030 Construction Start, As Ontario Looks To Ban Photo Radar, Windsor Has 5 Speed Cameras Going Live in Dec, Ontario Announces \$400M to Renew Infrastructure in Small, Rural and Northern Communities, FONOM Calling on Ottawa to Safeguard North’s Forestry Sector, Health Care of Ontario Pension Willing and Ready to Invest in Canadian Infrastructure Needs
  63. **AMCTO Municipal Minute Oct 1**, Strong Mayor Powers Used in Windsor, Toronto Most Often Compared to Other Big Ontario Cities, Northern Politicians Weigh In on Kap Paper Closure Announcement, Ontario’s Cities Combat Homelessness, Real Solutions Remain out of Reach, Dryden Council Formally Backs Power Projects, Sawmill Chip Program ‘Another Vital Measure That Will Help Stabilize the Sector’, Bur Oak Resources Data Shows Net Metering Ontario Adoption Accelerates in Rural Communities, Neethan Shan Wins Scarborough Rouge-Park Byelection
  64. **AMCTO The Municipal Experts**, 2026 Municipal Elections Training Login Information. Welcome to the 2026 Municipal Elections Training Program Virtual platform will be available at 4pm
  65. **Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association (FOCA)**, Fall Seminar recap, Postal strike impacts, Low water, fire, and much more
  66. **Census (STATCAN)**, 2026 Census jobs – now hiring in your community
  67. **Global PR Summit Canada 10**, This is your last chance to SAVE \$400 and join over 150 registered delegates at the 10<sup>th</sup> Global PR Summit Canada, taking place Nov 21-22 in Toronto
  68. **Global PR Summit Canada 10**, Final Call: Early-Bird Ends Soon for Canada’s #1 PR Summit!
  69. **Invasive Species Centre**, Interested in supporting beech leaf disease research? We’re looking for volunteers
  70. **Invasive Species Centre**, Media Research, and Events Scan: September 11-25
  71. **Invasive Species Centre**, Protect the Greenbelt from Spotted Lanternfly Workshop
  72. **LAS Quarterly Update** – Q3 Fall Newsletter Helping communities work better
  73. **LAS**, Two upcoming energy-focused webinars
  74. **MPAC**, MPAC Webinar Sep 25, 1-2: Inside the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program
  75. **Nation Defence**, National Veteran’s Week Speakers Program 2025
  76. **ROMA Events**, 2026 Conference: Registration and Hotel Information, Ontario’s Rural Leaders Conference Jan 18-20, 2026
  77. **ROMA Events**, Register Now for ROMA 2026 – Ontario’s Rural Leaders Conference
  78. **Labour Market Group**, Sep Labour Focus
  79. **TMM Cemeteries**, Speaking the Language of Cemeteries: What Plot, Lot, and Grave Really Mean
  80. **Prime Minister’s Awards**, Congratulations 2025 PMA recipients
  81. **National Defence**, Reminder: National Veterans’ Week Speakers Program 2025

146-25 McLaren, Scarlett

THAT we support agenda items 28 and 31. CARRIED

**ADJOURN**

**147-25 Flowers, Ivens**

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Nov 10, 2025. CARRIED

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Mayor Lynda Carleton

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Clerk Administrator Angela Loney

**AL/kk/tb**