

REGULAR MINUTES
TOWNSHIP OF MACDONALD, MEREDITH & ABERDEEN ADDITIONAL
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2024
7:00 p.m. – Council Chambers

Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, and the Historic Metis Council.

Mayor: Lynn Watson

Council: Derek Hansen, Parker Brockelbank, Shelly Bailey, Adam Chevis

Staff: Lacey Kastikainen, Catie Stevens, Cody Jarrell, Trisha Daynard

Delegation: Kyle Low – Northern Insurance

1. Call Meeting to Order

#24-333

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we open our Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.”

CD.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

3. Adoption of Agenda

#24-334

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we adopt the agenda as presented.”

CD.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

#24-335

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that the Minutes of Council held on October 15th, 2024, be accepted as presented.”

CD.

5. Delegations/Public Presentation

7:00 p.m. Northern Insurance Brokers – Kyle Low

#24-336

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we renew our Insurance Policy with Marsh Canada through Northern Insurance Brokers from December 1, 2024 to December 1, 2025, in the amount of \$85,960.00 + HST.”

CD.

6. Staff & Committee Reports

a) Road Supervisor

- Equipment Maintenance – backhoe and dozer repaired
- Landfill Bulldozer

#24-337

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we accept the bid from Tom Fremlin (Northshore Tractor Ltd.) for the used 750B John Deere Bulldozer located at the landfill, for a bid of \$5,151.00. Bidder is responsible for all mobilization and must be paid in full and removed from the landfill by December 15th, 2024.”

CD.

- Cottage Road – Case Construction completed this years Cottage Road upgrades replacing 4 culverts, widening in various areas, and tree removal, and a job very well done
- Cottage Road Winter Maintenance Agreement

#24-338

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“WHEREAS The Parties previously entered into an agreement for the provision of Winter Maintenance on Cottage Road, which commenced on October 15, 2023.

AND WHEREAS The agreement includes all the Schedules and Appendices to the Agreement.

AND WHEREAS Pursuant to the agreement, the Parties may renew for an additional term of at least twelve (12) months by providing written notice to the contractor prior to the expiration date of the agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mayor and CAO/Clerk are authorized to enter into a renewal agreement with Stobie Mechanical and Welding for the provision of Winter Maintenance on Cottage Road. The renewal term will commence on January 1, 2025, and conclude on December 31, 2025. The pricing for the service is updated to \$520.00 per round trip. All other relevant terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain in full force and effect.”

CD.

- Sewer Main Flushing – Took place on the west side of the village as well as Lake Street and Bay to the lift station.
- Winter Sand – ready to go for this season
- Bridge Inspections Report – Biannual bridge inspections completed this year over all they are in pretty good condition for the short-term. The Jarrell bridge and the Bar River bridge will need some work in the near future. Jarrell bridge has an undermined footing that may need replacement, Bar River Bridge abutment walls failing due to rot may require possible replacement. Ritter Bridge showing signs of surface rust. Possible removal, sandblast, and painting required.
- Cemetery Columbarium’s – Delivered on October 29th to all three cemeteries.
- Fibre Project – Plan is to be completed by Dec 31, 2025, in our area. Most fibre will be above ground on Algoma Power poles. Underground areas so far include Alton Lane to the Drive, and down Mick Street. A section of Government Road to Bar River Road, under the tracks on Bar River Road and a section of Highway 17B near the Headrick drain.
- East Algoma Road Supervisors Association – Special meeting held on Oct 29th. President has now been replaced and Dan See is the new president, Mike Pigeon new Vice President.
- Hodgkinson Water & Sewer Hookup – the proposed water and sewer connection to service the new lots on Lake Street north will require a full road closure to take place in the coming weeks. Road super will provide proper notification through signage and will contract Fire, Police and Ambulance about the closure. CAO/Clerk also to deliver letters to all affected parties to ensure proper notice is given.

#24-339

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that the Mayor and CAO/Clerk are authorized to enter into an agreement with Trimount Construction Group Inc. to extend water and sewer services to three proposed residential lots owned by the Hodgkinson’s. This extension will be on a cost recovery basis, with all costs charged back to the Hodgkinson’s, as outlined in the attached connection plan.”

CD.

- Algoma Power Road Supervisors Annual Meeting – no projects to take place here next year.
- Propane Training – Looking to host training locally here on December 4th
- “Collins” Municipal Drain – Update – We are moving forward with the next steps as outlined in the Drainage Act. Engineers are working on reports.

b) Leisure Services Coordinator

- Sportsplex

#24-340

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we amend the Helmet Policy 2023-1 as presented.”

CD.

- 2025 Summer Students

#24-341

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Leisure Services Coordinator to apply for 6 Summer Students for 2025. 1 Museum/Lending Library Assistant, 2 Recreational Activities Assistants, 1 Park & Recreation Assistant, 1 Recreational Activities Counsellor, and 1 Office Administration Assistant.”

CD.

- Central Algoma EarlyON

#24-342

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Leisure Services Coordinator to attend the “How Am I Growing Clinic” for families hosted by Central Algoma EarlyON, at the Echo Bay Hall on December 2, 2024, to share information about our recreational programs.”

CD.

c) Fire Chief

- Emergency Calls – Gas leak Echo Bay, Trailer fire Laird, MVC Laird Twp
- Fire Hall Maintenance – garage door seals to be replaced this month.
- Equipment Maintenance – Auto extrication equipment will be serviced by MES tech in Dec.
- Training – Auto Extrication and will finish with vehicle fires. Also update on EV firefighting techniques and EV extrication.
- Personnel – Nothing new to report
- New Business – 7 new sets of bunker gear have been ordered.

d) Treasurer’s Report

#24-343

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Treasurer to pay bills for October 2024:

Invoices: \$267,888.16

Payroll: \$65,144.95

Total: \$333,033.11.”

CD.

#24-344

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we accept the reports from the Road Superintendent, Leisure Services Coordinator and Fire Chief as presented.”

CD.

e) Cemetery Board – Next meeting November 25th at 7:30pm.

f) Planning Board

- E2024-14 - Applicant Hodgkinson

#24-345

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that Council recommend consent be given for E2024-14, applicant Hodgkinson, with the condition that the new lot must have an individual sewer and water connection integrated into the municipal system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the installation of this connection and the restoration of municipal infrastructure, including Lake Street North and respective road allowance, shall be completed at the expense of the applicant.”

CD.

g) Police Detachment Board - First meeting November 25th at 7:00pm

h) Algoma District Services Administration Board – Next meeting November 28th

i) Algoma District Municipal Association

j) Landfill/Recycling

k) Sewer and Water

7. By-Laws

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

- 2024 Budget Overview – Presented this years numbers to date.
- Special Council Meeting with Staff – Proposed date of Tuesday December 10th - No special council meeting with staff this year. Will do the Staff and Council Christmas skate instead.
- 2024 EMO Exercise & Training – Wednesday November 20th, Laird Hall – 5:30p.m. – All members of the control group must attend.
- MMAH Council Training workshop November 28th, Echo Bay Hall at 1p.m
- 2025 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) Allocation – 2025 allocation has increased to \$663,400.00 which is a 7.5% increase over this year.
- Asset Management Plan – Update – Continuing our 30 hours consulting with Marmak.

g) 2024 Food Bank Donation

#24-346

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOVLED that we make an additional donation of \$1,500.00 to the Echo Bay United Church, Echo Bay and Area Food Bank for 2024.”

CD.

h) Schedule first 2025 Regular Council Meeting

#24-347

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOVLED that we schedule the first Regular Council meeting of 2025 for January 14, 2025.”

CD.

i) Building Permits

#24-348

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we acknowledge the Chief Building Official approved building permits to Rob Ringrose to build a garage, Richie Catli to build a fence, Elizabeth Filice for sea-can converted to an office & storage with site plan, Darren Vaughan to re-shingle west side of roof, Hunter Ralph for a single family dwelling and detached steel garage, Brian Wallenius to rebuild existing shed with sauna, Graziella Stach for a single family dwelling and Ed Lapish for a single family dwelling.”

CD.

10. Presenting, Referring or Passing of Account**11. Closed Session-Permissive****12. Correspondence**

a) Good Roads – RE: Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

#24-349

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“WHEREAS official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

AND WHEREAS, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

AND WHEREAS, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

AND WHEREAS, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario’s already strained rural strained health care system;

AND WHEREAS, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario’s rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario’s rural roads; and

FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.”

CD.

b) FONOM – RE: Support Ontario’s Forest Industry in the 2025 Ontario Budget

#24-350

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“WHEREAS, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) recognizes how vital the Forestry Industry is to the Economy in Ontario;

WHEREAS, the success of the forest sector is critical to the economic and social prosperity of Ontario communities, employing 137,000 people;

WHEREAS, the forest industry has invested over \$3.8 billion in Ontario since 2018;

WHEREAS, Ontario has an opportunity to market global investment in the bioeconomy, similar to critical minerals and electric vehicle manufacturing, and become a leading international jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, the North American pulp and paper sector has seen a significant rationalization in production capacity, with investment dollars going to competing international jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, in the last year, Ontario has seen three pulp, paper, and containerboard mills idle or close, negatively impacting communities and the solid wood mills that depend on these facilities as markets for mill by-products and pulpwood;

WHEREAS, U.S. tariffs on softwood lumber are expected to double in 2025, to approximately 30%;

WHEREAS, Ontario should work with federal colleagues to pursue a softwood lumber settlement that works in the best interests of Ontario lumber producers and advocate for a financial backstop;

WHEREAS, Ontario has an opportunity to procure greater amounts of energy (i.e., electricity, heat, fuels, biochar, etc.) from forestry by-products and forests to assist in heavy industry decarbonization and Ontario's forecasted electricity demands;

WHEREAS, Ontario's successful and oversubscribed *Forest Biomass Program* should continue post-2027;

WHEREAS, Ontario will actively seek investment to restart idled softwood kraft lines in Ontario and Quebec to provide immediate relief for some sawmill producers;

WHEREAS, Ontario's \$10 million *Sawmill Chip Program*, ending March 25, 2025, will likely need to continue and expand in the absence of an immediate restart of a currently idled pulp mill to avoid curtailments at solid wood facilities;

WHEREAS, 5-year bilateral power purchase agreements (PPAs) with forest biomass-fired electrical generation facilities are insufficient and should be expanded both in terms of length and volume to provide communities, industry, and workers with a certain future;

WHEREAS, the public *Forest Access Roads Funding Program*, which provides for the public use of Ontario's forests, should be increased to \$75 million/year to reflect inflationary pressures and support legacy infrastructure upgrades (i.e., roads, bridges, and water crossings).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) support the implementation of the Ontario Forest Industries Association's 2025 Ontario Budget Recommendations in support of attracting investment and maintaining forest operations and employment in Ontario.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Minister Vic Fedeli, Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Minister Graydon Smith, Natural Resources, Associate Minister Kevin Holland, Forestry and Forest Products, Minister Andrea Khanjin, Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister Todd McCarthy, Environment, Conservation and Parks, Minister George Pirie, Mines, Minister Steven Lecce, Energy and Electrification, Associate Minister Sam Oosterhoff, Energy Intensive Industries, Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy, Finance, local MPP Mike Mantha, the leaders of the Opposition Parties, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA, and OFIA."

CD.

- c) Algoma Public Health – Meeting Minutes June 26, 2024

#24-351

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

"RESOLVED that we accept the Algoma Public Health meeting minutes from June 26, 2024, as presented."

CD.

- d) Ontario Filmmaker the film & television production directory – Rec'd as information.

- e) Dr. Harold Trefry Memorial Centre – RE: Thank you for 2024 Contribution – Rec'd as information

13. Mayor & Councillors Comments

- Councillor Bailey would like the drainage area on Maple Leaf Road looked at by the drainage super when they are in the area next.
- Mayor Watson requested that all members of Council channel any questions about the possibility of a future wind farm through the CAO to ensure consistency.
- Donation to the Outreach/Christmas cheer for 2024.

#24-352

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

"RESOVLED that we make a donation of \$500.00 to the Outreach/Christmas Cheer for 2024."

CD.

14. Passing of Confirmatory By-law

#24-353

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we pass By-law #24-2234 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on November 19, 2024.”

CD.

15. Adjournment

#24-354

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that this Council shall now adjourn to December 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. or until the call of the chair.”

CD.

THAT we accept the minutes this 17th day of December 2024.

MAYOR

CAO/CLERK