

REGULAR MINUTES
TOWNSHIP OF MACDONALD, MEREDITH & ABERDEEN ADDITIONAL
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
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, Adam Chevis, Shelly Bailey

Staff: Lacey Kastikainen, Cody Jarrell

1. Call Meeting to Order

#25-211

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

#25-212

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we adopt the agenda as presented.”

CD.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

#25-213

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that the Minutes of Council held on August 19, 2025, be accepted as presented.”

CD.

5. Delegations/Public Presentation

6. Staff & Committee Reports

a) Road Supervisor

- Equipment repair – Truck 12-5 was repaired at Stobie Mechanical and returned today.
- Bar River Bridge – Water proofing project not complete yet. Laird township is managing the project. There are concerns about the weight limit on the bridge, without engineering approval, and we are due for OSIM inspection again in 2026.
- Ditching Updates – Two remaining projects identified by our drainage engineer. 600m on Watson Road to direct the water flow away from private property and 250m on Bar River Road to keep road water out of the farmers field.

#25-214

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we accept the quote from Case Construction to complete ditching projects on Bar River Road and Watson Road, for \$8,500.00 + HST.”

CD.

- Sand Tender – Council was advised that a formal tender process was not required, as the dollar value of the project falls within the procurement policy threshold requiring only quotations. Three quotes were obtained, with the lowest submission being \$17.00 per tonne, including loader services to pickle and pile on site.

#25-215

“RESOLVED that we accept the quote from Possamai Construction for 1200 tonnes of winter sand, price \$17.00/tonne + HST, includes loader to pickle and pile.”

CD.

- Cottage Road Winter Maintenance

#25-216

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“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, 2026, and conclude on December 31, 2026. The pricing for the service will remain at \$520.00 per round trip. All other relevant terms and conditions of the original agreement shall remain in full force and effect.”

CD.

- Roadside Grass Cutting – second round completed September 11th. May look at widening even further in future years.

b) Leisure Services Coordinator

- Sportsplex
 - Fall Ball hockey running for month of September.
 - Olympia Sponsorship in the works with Northshore Sports & Auto.
- Ice Booking Procedures – Council reviewed the current process for booking procedures. No formal policy to be implemented at this time.
- Public Skate Sponsorships
 - Council receptive of the idea to offer sponsorship opportunities for our free skate and shinny. We will offer single purchase, 6 pack purchase and full season purchase options and send to local businesses and contractors/suppliers that we utilize.

c) Fire Chief

#25-217

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that Council authorize staff to submit an application to the Office of the Fire Marshal Fire Protection Grant (Year Two) for cancer prevention, PPE, and lithium-ion fire suppression equipment.”

CD.

#25-218

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that Council authorize staff to submit an application to the FireSmart Communities Grant Program for the development of a Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan and Fire Hazard Maps.”

CD.

#25-219

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

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

CD.

d) Treasurer’s Report

#25-220

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Treasurer to pay bills for August 2025:

Invoices: \$446,139.15

Payroll: \$56,307.96

Total: \$502,447.11.”

CD.

** Councillor Bailey declared a conflict and left Council Chambers.

#25-221

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we authorize the Treasurer to refund Kassidy Henderson \$100.00 for day camp cancellation.”

CD.

** Councillor Bailey returned to Council Chambers.

e) Cemetery Board – Next meeting September 22nd

f) Planning Board – Next meeting September 23rd

g) Police Detachment Board – Next meeting September 22nd

h) Algoma District Services Administration Board

i) Algoma District Municipal Association – Looking to re-schedule virtually for October 9th.

j) Landfill/Recycling

- Transition date of October 1, 2025, under the new provincial recycling program.
- Recycling Hours – Update

k) Sewer and Water

- Echo Bay Water Tower Re-lining & Painting pre-construction meeting update
 - Landmark to begin mobilization latter part of next week. Projected to be completed by early November. Notice to be sent in water & sewer billing.
- Additional Water Tower Project Add-Ons: Vent system and relocation of electrical conduit.

#25-222

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED THAT Council approve additional work to the Echo Bay Water Tower Rehabilitation Project by Landmark Municipal Services ULC as follows:

1. Upgrade vent system and remove/cap old panels – \$7,600.00 + HST;
2. Relocate electrical conduit and antenna cabling – \$8,200.00 + HST.”

CD.

- RFP Result & Recommendation – RE: Environmental Centre HMI Upgrade

#25-223

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that Council accept the proposal submitted by the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) for the Environmental Centre HMI Upgrades at a cost of \$25,683.00 plus HST, as reviewed and recommended by Kresin Engineering Corporation, and that the CAO/Clerk and Mayor be authorized to enter into the contract on behalf of the Township.”

CD.

7. By-Laws

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

- a) 2025 Benefit Renewal

#25-224

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we renew our Employee Benefit package with Canada Life for 1 year commencing October 1, 2025, with a total decrease of 0.03% and keeping the benefit coverage the same.”

CD.

- b) OTF Capital Grant – Project Update & Procurement Authorization

#25-225

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED THAT Council authorize the CAO/Clerk to obtain and accept quotes and award contracts for the Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital grant in accordance with the Township’s Procurement Policy and approved budget.”

CD.

- c) Employment Insurance Reduction Program – We were approved for the EI reduction program as our benefits package covered short term disability.

- d) AMCTO Fall Zone – Elliott Lake

#25-226

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we authorize the CAO/Clerk & Administrative/Treasury Assistant to attend the Fall Zone Workshop in Elliot Lake, October 9-10, 2025, registration fee \$225.00.”

CD.

- e) NORDS funding – Update

- We have been approved to reallocate the 3 years of NORDS funding originally set aside for the Echo Lake Road Bridge replacement to the Water Tower Rehabilitation project, as the bridge project will not be completed by the required deadline of March 31, 2026.

- f) Part-Time Arena Caretaker job posting

#25-227

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that Council authorize the CAO/Clerk to post, advertise, and fill the position of part-time Arena Caretaker.”

CD.

- g) Expected Conduct Policy - Deferred

- h) AMCTO – Virtual Lottery Licensing Webinar – October 7, 2025

#25-228

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that Council authorize the CAO/Clerk to participate in the AMCTO Lottery Licensing Refresher Course on October 7, 2025, virtually, at a cost of \$110.00 plus HST.”

CD.

i) Asset Management – Update
#25-229

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that Council accept the quote from Marmak for asset management software, including RFAM (facilities and fleet), Balance (linear assets), Comtrack (work orders/service requests), and Subzero (ice management), at an annual cost of \$6,000.00, and further authorize the continuation of consulting and support services from Marmak at an annual cost of \$5,000.00 to assist the Township in completing its Asset Management Plan in accordance with O. Reg. 588/17.”

CD.

j) Building Permits
#25-230

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we acknowledge the Chief Building Official approved building permits to Luke Amelotte to demolish a 6’ X 8’ shed, Mardie Jondeau to build new stairs and railing on deck, Theresa Robinson to replace existing deck and re-shingle porch, Jeffrey Mogg to re-shingle dwelling, Greg Nicholson to construct 24’ X 26’ garage addition, Greg Kennedy to construct 40’ X 44’ seacan structure with roof, Devon Gridale to construct 24’ X 26’ garage, and Shelley Evoy to demolish cottage.”

CD.

k) 2nd Annual Staff & Council Holiday Skate – December 7th – 11am – 2pm at Sportsplex - Information

10. Presenting, Referring or Passing of Account

11. Closed Session-Permissive

#25-231

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that this Council proceed into Closed Session at 8:18p.m. to consider the following subject matter in accordance with the Municipal Act Section 239 (2):

- b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;
- f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;”

CD.

To discuss:

- 1) Litigation Matter – Statement of Claim
- 2) Algoma Steel Oil Spill – Investigation Request
- 3) Laird Fire Agreement
- 4) MNR Crown Land Disposition
- 5) Personnel Update

#25-232

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we come out of Closed session at 8:40p.m. and continue our Regular Council Meeting.”

CD.

#25-233

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that Council authorize the Mayor and the CAO/Clerk to enter into the Fire Protection Services and Cost Sharing Agreement with the Township of Laird for the renewal term of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026, as presented.”

CD.

#25-234

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“WHEREAS the Township has been contacted by an investigator with the Wildlife Enforcement Division of Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding the oil spill incident that occurred in 2022;

AND WHEREAS the investigator has requested a Victim Impact Statement from the Township, and invited residents and businesses impacted by the incident to provide their own submissions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorize staff to prepare and submit a Victim Impact Statement on behalf of the Township, including the challenges and difficulties faced during the emergency, subject to any necessary redactions in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA);

AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize staff to provide notice to residents and businesses of the opportunity to submit a Victim Impact Statement, including circulation of information with the next water and sewer billing.”

CD.

12. Correspondence

a) FONOM – RE: Consultation on Natural Gas Expansion in Ontario

#25-235

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“WHEREAS the Province has posted ERO 0250923, *Consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion*, seeking feedback from municipalities, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders on how Phase Three (3) could best support access to natural gas for community development;

AND WHEREAS expanding access to natural gas is identified as a tool to support affordability and economic growth in Ontario communities, with Phases One (1) and Two (2) estimated to enable connections for approximately 17,000 buildings across 59 communities, and 16 projects completed to date;

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is working toward its housing and employment land goals that contribute to Ontario’s broader objective to build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031 and recognizes that timely servicing solutions, including natural gas where appropriate, can help enable these targets;

AND WHEREAS Ontario’s energy future relies on a balance of affordability, reliability, and sustainability by leveraging a mix of energy solutions—including natural gas, electricity, and emerging energy technologies—to meet growing community needs, and natural gas continues to play a critical role in supporting energy affordability, economic competitiveness, and enabling housing and employment growth across the province;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional:

1. Supports the Ministry’s consultation on the Future of Community Natural Gas Expansion (NGEP Phase 3) and endorses access to natural gas as an option, alongside other energy solutions, to advance the Township’s housing, employment lands, and economic development objectives.
2. Directs staff to submit comments to ERO 0250923 reflecting the Township’s priorities, including priority application types, alignment with Official Plan/Secondary Plans, sites and corridors where gas access would enable development (housing/employment lands), and any practical barriers such as timing, permitting, costs, or land access.
3. Forwards this resolution to the local MPP(s), the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Ontario Energy Board, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and neighbouring municipalities.”

CD.

13. Mayor & Councillors Comments

14. Passing of Confirmatory By-law

#25-236

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we pass By-law #25-2257 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on September 16, 2025.”

CD.

15. Adjournment

#25-237

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derk Hansen

“RESOLVED that this Council shall now adjourn to October 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. or until the call of the chair.”

CD.

THAT we accept the minutes this 21st day of October 2025.

MAYOR

CAO/CLERK