

**REGULAR MINUTES**  
**TOWNSHIP OF MACDONALD, MEREDITH & ABERDEEN ADDITIONAL**  
**TUESDAY DECEMBER 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

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

#25-284

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**

#25-285

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we adopt the agenda as presented.”

CD.

**4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

#25-286

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that the Minutes of Council held on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the minutes of the Committee of Adjustments held on November 18, 2025, be accepted as presented.” ”

CD.

**5. Delegations/Public Presentation**

**6. Staff & Committee Reports**

a) Road Supervisor

- Equipment Maintenance – Plow 12-5 was down with a seized alternator, now repaired.
- Winter Maintenance – Winter works going well, Sand usage is at 85 tonnes so far this season, Cottage road has been plowed and sanded 7 times so far.
- Blueberry Point Winter Maintenance – We’ve had a request from residents on Blueberry Point for winter maintenance. Emergency vehicle access is a consideration, and staff have recommended we can complete this area with our backhoe.

#25-287

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that Council approve the provision of winter maintenance on Blueberry Point Road, effective immediately, as recommended by the Road Superintendent.”

CD.

- Landfill

#25-288

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that Council authorize the acceptance of up to three (3) triaxle loads of non-hazardous contaminated material from Lajoie Bros., pending confirmation that all regulatory, environmental, and municipal requirements are satisfied;  
AND THAT staff be directed to coordinate delivery and ensure all documentation is received prior to placement.”

CD.

c) Leisure Services Coordinator

- Sportsplex – LSC is continuing training on the Olympia. Sportsplex furnace needs to be replaced.
- Seniors Community Grant – We have applied for funding through this grant opportunity for a seniors pickleball program.
- Community Economic Development Workshop – Report received as information

## d) Fire Chief – Nothing new to report

#25-289

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

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

CD.

## e) Treasurer’s Report

#25-269

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

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

Invoices: \$324,199.42

Payroll: \$46,479.92

Total: \$370,679.34.”

CD.

## f) Cemetery Board

- November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting update

#25-291

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that Council approve, in principle, the recommendation of the Cemetery Board to transfer annual net proceeds from columbarium niche sales to the Cemetery Capital Reserve; and

THAT staff bring forward the journal entry for the current fiscal year—and in each subsequent year—for Council approval once net proceeds have been determined.”

CD.

## g) Planning Board

- Official Plan Progress & Planning Board Operations

#25-292

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVD that the report from the Planning Board Secretary-Treasurer regarding the Official Plan process and Planning board operations be received.”

CD.

## h) Police Detachment Board

- November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting update
- 2026 Annual Billing Statement - \$262,039.00 increase of \$25,968.00 (11%).

## i) Algoma District Services Administration Board

- Meeting minutes September 25, 2025

#25-293

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we accept the Algoma District Administration Board Meeting minutes from the September 25, 2025, meeting as presented.”

CD.

- Local development update – The ADSAB has purchased a property here in the village close to Echo Bay school where they will be building and operating a daycare.

## j) Algoma District Municipal Association – Next meeting to be held in SSM in April 2026.

## k) Landfill/Recycling

## l) Sewer and Water

#25-294

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that Council confirm that Financial Plan #278-301 for the Echo Bay Drinking Water System applies to the required six-year period of 2026–2031;

AND THAT this resolution be submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks in support of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence renewal application.”

CD.

- Water Tower Project Update – Interior is complete. Will be discussing with our Engineers early in the new year to resolve the exterior portion of the project.

**7. By-Laws****8. Unfinished Business**

**9. New Business**

a) Insurance Renewal  
#25-295

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we renew our Insurance Policy with Marsh Canada through Northern Insurance Brokers from December 1, 2025, to December 1, 2026, in the amount of \$102,099.00 + HST; and

THAT we also accept and purchase the option Cyber Liability coverage at a premium of \$1,900.00 plus a \$185.00 policy fee; and

THAT the Mayor and CAO/Clerk be authorized to execute all necessary documents pertaining to the insurance renewal.”

CD.

b) 2026 Municipal Election – Voting Method, Voter List Management and Election Preparation  
#25-296

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that Council approve the transition to Internet/Telephone voting as the voting method for the 2026 Municipal Election; and

THAT the CAO/Clerk be directed to prepare a by-law under Section 42(1) of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* authorizing the use of this alternative voting method for Council’s consideration in early 2026; and

THAT the CAO/Clerk be further directed to continue procurement activities to secure vendor availability early in 2026.”

**A recorded vote was requested**

**Recorded Vote:**

Councillor Bailey – For

Councillor Brockelbank – Against

Councillor Chevis – For

Councillor Hansen – For

Mayor Watson – For

**Result: Carried.**

c) CAO Report – Received as information

d) MTO – Legislative changes regarding Highway closure request (Parade of Lights)

e) Staff Christmas Bonus

#25-297

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we give full-time staff a \$200.00 Christmas Bonus.”

CD.

f) First Meeting of 2026 – Recommended January 13, 2026 due to ROMA Conference

#25-298

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that the first Regular Council meeting of 2026 will be held on Tuesday January 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.”

CD.

g) Adopt 2025 Emergency Response Plan

#25-299

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that Council approve and adopt the *2025 Emergency Response Plan* for the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional, as presented and amended by the Municipal Emergency Control Group and the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC).”

CD.

h) 2026 FONOM Conference – May 11-13, 2026 in Timmins, ON.

i) Algoma Public Health – 2026 Levy – Received as information.

- j) MTO – Response regarding Echo Lake Bridge – We are still waiting to hear if we were successful in securing a ROMA delegation with the Minister of Transportation. We have also reached out to the Echo Lake Road Committee to try to set up a meeting to let them know about this replacement, and we also be reaching out to Garden River First Nation.
- k) Request for Complimentary Use of Sylvan Valley Hall for Dog Training – This request does not meet the criteria for a community-benefit exemption and would therefore require payment for use. Council also noted that, as the facility is used as a kitchen for meal preparation, only service animals are permitted inside.

l) Building Permits  
#25-300

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we acknowledge the Chief Building Official approved building permits to Theo Huffels to replace existing deck, Bradley Huitema to build decks, Algoma District Services Administration Board to demolish a dwelling, and Alok Sood to update apartment.”

CD.

## 10. Presenting, Referring or Passing of Account

## 11. Closed Session-Permissive

#25-302

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that this Council proceed into Closed Session at 8:30p.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;
- d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;

CD.

### To discuss:

- 1) Litigation Matter – Statement of Claim
- 2) Human Resources and Personnel Update
- 3) 2026 Wage Negotiations

#25-303

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED that we come out of Closed session at 9:00p.m. and continue our Regular Council Meeting.”

CD.

#25-304

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we authorize a Full-Time Staff wage increase of 2.5% effective January 1, 2026.”

CD.

#25-305

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that we authorize a Part-Time Staff wage increase of 2.5% effective January 1, 2026.”

CD.

#25-306

Moved by: Derek Hansen

Seconded by: Parker Brockelbank

“RESOLVED that we authorize a Council Remuneration increase of 0% (zero) effective January 1, 2026.”

CD.

## 12. Correspondence

- a) MMAH – 2025 Northern Municipal Council Workshop Save the Date – January 29, 2026 (Virtual)
- b) MMAH – RE: Bill 17 Updates
- c) Ministry of Emergency Preparedness & Response – RE: Passage of Bill 25 Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025
- d) ROMA Update – RE: Ontario Drainage Act applies to All – Including National Railways
- e) FONOM – RE: Northern Ontario Hill Days Update

f) Tarbutt Township – RE: 2026 Provincial Emergency Exercise conflict with 2026 Municipal Election #25-301

Moved by: Adam Chevis

Seconded by: Shelly Bailey

“RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Macdonald, Meredith & Aberdeen Additional supports the resolution passed by the Township of Tarbutt requesting that Emergency Management Ontario and the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response reschedule the 2026 Provincial Exercise to a date that does not fall within 90 days on either side of the 2026 Municipal Election; and

THAT Council concurs that holding a province-wide emergency exercise only days before the municipal election presents significant challenges for both elected officials and municipal staff, particularly in small municipalities where key personnel also serve on Emergency Control Groups; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to AMO, FONOM, AMCTO, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister and Deputy Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Ontario Fire Marshal, and the Township of Tarbutt.”

CD.

- Items A through E received as information.

**13. Mayor & Councillors Comments**

- Mayor Watson advised Council that commemorative mugs were purchased for the Health & Safety Committee to acknowledge their continued commitment to workplace safety over the past year.

**14. Passing of Confirmatory By-law**

#25-307

Moved by: Parker Brockelbank

Seconded by: Derek Hansen

“RESOLVED that we pass By-law #25-2260 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on December 16, 2025.”

CD.

**15. Adjournment**

#25-308

Moved by: Shelly Bailey

Seconded by: Adam Chevis

“RESOLVED that this Council shall now adjourn to January 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. or until the call of the chair.”

CD.

THAT we accept the minutes this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CAO/CLERK