

MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday January 27th, 2026 – 6:00 pm

PRESENT Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor David Maxwell
Councillor Grant Arnold

PRESENT VIRTUALLY Councillor Chris Kresack
Councillor David Halvorsen

ALSO PRESENT Karen Paisley, Clerk
Leanne Maxwell, Treasurer
Leonard Arps, Public Works Manager

PRESENT VIRTUALLY Olabisi Akinsanya-Hutka, HR Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
Mayor Maxwell provided a statement of land acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council corrected a typographical error changing “renumeration” to “remuneration.”

RESOLUTION 2026–009

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of January 27th, 2026, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations were made.

4. TOWN HALL SEGMENT

No members of the public had registered to speak.

5. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations were scheduled for this meeting.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

6.1 Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – January 13th, 2026

Council present reviewed the minutes of the January 13th, 2026 Regular Council Meeting. No amendments were requested.

RESOLUTION 2026 - 010

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes for the open session of the regular council meeting of January 13th, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

SM
HP

6.2 Housekeeping Resolution – Receipt of Reports (Section 8), January 13, 2026

Council was advised that the resolution to receive the Section 8 reports from the January 13, 2026 meeting had not been passed at that time, and the omission was corrected at this meeting.

RESOLUTION 2026 - 011

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council formally receive the reports listed under Section 8 of the January 13, 2026 Regular Council Meeting agenda.

CARRIED

7. DISBURSEMENT LIST

7.1. Payroll Report

No report for this meeting.

7.2. Payment Register

Council reviewed the payment register, including electronic bank payments and cheque disbursements. The Treasurer responded to questions from Council.

RESOLUTION 2026-012

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approved the disbursements represented by electronic bank payments and cheque numbers 7721 to 7747 totalling \$76,550.51.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

8.1. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that Spectrum Radio is installing a base radio at the Fire Hall to address ongoing outages at the Loch Lomond tower. Spectrum is not billing the Township for January and February. She attended ROMA 2026 with the Mayor and Councillor Kresack, participating in five delegations. MTO committed to a follow-up meeting regarding Highway 11/17 safety concerns, truck route impacts, and intersection lighting. The Clerk also attended the Rural Road Safety Workshop and noted considerations for future signage placement. She also confirmed registration for upcoming training sessions, including a lottery licensing workshop and an incivility workshop, and that the HR Assistant also registered for the incivility workshop.

8.2. Treasurer's Report

Tax bills are being prepared. Updated OPG haul figures were received. One of three invoices has been paid, and Public Works continues to keep the pit accessible. Council supported switching to Starlink's \$70/month 100 Mbps tier or standby mode as appropriate. Auditors were onsite starting the 2025 audit. Council requested arrears be reported by occupied dwellings versus vacant lands going forward.

SM
HP

8.3. Public Works Report

The Public Works Manager reported winter operations including drift removal and bank cutting. Both sanding trucks experienced mechanical failures. The 9000 returned to service and the International requires a turbo replacement. A used turbo will be sourced to expedite repairs. Staff expect full sanding capacity restored by Friday. The Holland/Maxwell stop sign will be raised in spring after the thaw. Radio channel compatibility between Fire and Public Works will be reviewed.

The Public Works Manager left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

8.4. Fire Chief's Report

There was no report for this meeting.

8.5. Council Member Reports

Mayor Maxwell attended all five ROMA delegations and emphasized the need for improved safety measures along Highway 11/17 given the permanent nature of the Designated Truck Route. She raised concerns regarding lighting, feeder lanes, and high-risk intersections and noted positive engagement from the Ministry of Transportation representative at ROMA. She also highlighted upcoming LRMC and DTR meetings and confirmed attendance at upcoming Indigenous cultural training and budget preparation meetings.

Councillor Arnold reported on recent and upcoming training opportunities, noting that several sessions are available at no cost and encouraging Councillors to participate as schedules permit. He also reported on attending the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Board of Directors meeting and advised that the standard mileage rate had increased to \$0.73/km. He informed Council that he may be unable to attend the February 24 meeting.

Councillor Maxwell attended the January 13 Council meeting and the Thunder Bay District Municipal League meeting on January 21. He advised that the League has appointed a new Executive Director and that a new representative has been selected to serve on behalf of the Northern Ontario Municipal Association. He confirmed his upcoming attendance at MMAH training and advised that he would not be attending the TBDML annual conference in Nipigon this year due to travel considerations.

Councillor Kresack reported that the Food Bank meeting was cancelled due to illness and that he attended ROMA 2026 Conference in Toronto, where he found the delegations and networking opportunities valuable and well organized.

Councillor Halvorsen reported that he had forwarded updated OPP statistical information to the Clerk. He advised that he was unable to attend the previous meeting and offered apologies. He also noted that the next Lakehead Rural Planning Board meeting is scheduled for February 5.



8.6. Other Agencies' Reports

Council reviewed the other agency materials provided for information under this section.

RESOLUTION 2026-013

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council send Councillor Arnold and an Administrative Staff Member to NOMA 2026 on April 22 - 24, 2026.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION 2026-014

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the reports presented as listed in Section 8 of this evening's agenda and that Administration be authorized to proceed as directed.

CARRIED

HR Assistant joined the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Hymers Fall Fair Prize Book Advertisement Report

Council approved continuing annual advertising and on consensus supported the updated advertisement prepared by the Clerk.

9.2 Recommended Voting Method for the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Council discussed survey results and expressed interest in further information regarding voter turnout in municipalities using electronic voting. Clerk to obtain additional data and return the item to a future agenda.

9.3 Council Remuneration Report

Council received the annual remuneration report. A correction to Councillor Halvorsen's name spelling will be made.

RESOLUTION 2026-015

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

THAT the 2025 Council Remuneration Report be received.

CARRIED

9.4 LRPB Adopted Official Plan Gorham, Ware & Dawson Lots – Follow-Up

Council reviewed the agency materials from the Lakehead Rural Planning Board, and confirmed that the Gorham, Ware and Dawson application required no further comment.

9.5 Draft Winter Sand Supply and Storage Agreement with the Township of O'Connor Report

Council supported formalizing the longstanding arrangement and directed the Clerk to obtain insurer review and await O'Connor's Council decision before returning with a by-law.

AM
JP

9.6 Lakehead Rural Planning Board – Notice of Application for Council Review and Input
Council reviewed the LRPB Notice of Application and agreed that the Clerk would forward questions to the Board prior to the February 5 hearing. Councillors were requested to email the Clerk with any additional questions for inclusion.

Councillor Arnold left the meeting at 7:40 pm
Councillor Arnold returned to the meeting at 7:43 pm

9.7 Winter Road Maintenance Standards
Council reviewed the Township's Winter Road Maintenance policy and by-law, which reference the provincial Minimum Maintenance Standards under O. Reg. 239/02, and discussed patrol frequency, recent sanding equipment outages, and the importance of timely communication when service levels may be temporarily reduced. Council confirmed satisfaction with the current policy and by-law and directed no changes to either document.

10. BY-LAWS

There were no by-laws scheduled for consideration at this meeting.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1-1 City of Peterborough - Sustainable Funding for Police Services Request
Council reviewed the City of Peterborough's resolution and supported issuing a letter of support.

11.1-2 Township of Hornepayne - Small Northern New Residential Property Tax Class
Council received the resolution from the Township of Hornepayne for information.

11.1-3 Municipality of North Grenville and Village of Merrickville-Wolford - Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems
Council reviewed this resolution. Council supported issuing a letter of support and directed the Clerk to forward it to the Premier and the Minister of Transportation. Council also discussed local student transportation concerns and will raise the matter at the next LRMC meeting.

11.1-4 Township of Southgate – OMERS - Bill 68
Council received the resolution from the Township of Southgate for information.

RESOLUTION 2026-016

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council received the correspondence listed in Section 11 of this evening's agenda.

CARRIED

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The list of upcoming regular Council meeting dates was available for review. No changes were proposed.



13. CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2026-017

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Kresack

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, at 8:24 p.m., Council move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended, to consider Item 13.1, being the Closed Session minutes of the Council meeting held January 13th, 2026, under the same authority as the original meeting; Item 13.2, 13.3, and 13.4 involving personal matters about identifiable individuals and labour relations or employee negotiations under paragraphs 239(2)(b) and 239(2)(d); Item 13.5, which is advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, under paragraph 239(2)(f); and Item 13.6, being the Closed Session minutes of the TBDSSAB meeting held December 11, 2025, under the same authority as the original meeting.

CARRIED

During closed session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION 2026-018

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 9:19 pm, Council rise from closed session and report in open session.

CARRIED

Open session resumed.

14. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2026-019

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Closed Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 13th, 2026, be approved; AND FURTHER, THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed in closed session.

CARRIED

15. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

By-law 2026-002

RESOLUTION 2026-020

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell


BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2026-002 be passed;
AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2026-002, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.

CARRIED

SM
KP

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.



Mayor Sheila Maxwell



Clerk Karen Paisley