

MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday February 24th, 2026 – 6:00 pm

PRESENT Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor David Maxwell

PRESENT VIRTUALLY Councillor David Halvorsen

REGRETS Councillor Chris Kresack
Councillor Grant Arnold

ALSO PRESENT Karen Paisley, Clerk
Leanne Maxwell, Treasurer
Leonard Arps, Public Works Manager
Kyle Foekens, Public Works Machine Operator

PRESENT VIRTUALLY Olabisi Akinsanya-Hutka, HR Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council added Item 13.4 – Resident Inquiry

RESOLUTION 2026-032

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of February 24th, 2026, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None declared.

4. TOWN HALL SEGMENT

No members of the public registered to speak.

5. DEPUTATIONS

Council received a deputation from representatives of OPG and Hatch regarding the Kakabeka Falls Generating Station project. The delegation provided an overview of the soil characterization work completed under O. Reg. 406/19, including sampling methodology, analytical parameters, and findings for excess soils proposed for disposal at municipal sites. Council asked questions related to exceedances, stockpiling practices, suitability of the material for landfill cover, timelines for potential movement of soil, and implications for nearby properties. The delegation responded to Council's inquiries, and no direction was requested or required at this time.

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6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

6.1 Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – February 10th, 2026

Council reviewed the minutes of the February 10th, 2026 Regular Council Meeting. No amendments were requested.

RESOLUTION 2026 - 033

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes for the open session of the regular council meeting of February 10th, 2026, be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

7. DISBURSEMENT LIST

7.1. Payroll Report

There was 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 2026-034

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve the disbursements represented by electronic bank payments and cheque numbers 7764 to 7776 totalling \$82,758.55.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

8.1. Clerk's Report

The Clerk summarized actions taken since February 10 related to the OPG/Hatch soil file, including compilation of public-facing documentation as directed by Council, release of the public package, and ongoing requests to project contractors for haul logs and supporting records. The Clerk reported that preliminary discussions with MECP District staff occurred regarding regulatory considerations applicable to the soil file, landfill cover requirements, and the need for written confirmation. The Clerk also noted updates on Highway Traffic Act guidance related to the movement of snow across roadways, confirmation of arrangements for widening the Community Centre parking area ahead of the March rental and follow-up on well-drafting training inquiries. The Clerk advised Council of scheduled attendance at AMCTO's in-person Elections Training on May 4, 2026, and noted that the AMCTO Zone 9 spring conference will be held May 5–6, 2026. Council reached consensus that the Clerk and Treasurer should attend the AMCTO Zone 9 Conference on May 5 and 6, 2026.

8.2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer advised Council that early-bird registration for the AMO 2026 Conference was closing and sought direction regarding attendee selection. Council discussed availability among members and confirmed who would attend the conference. Council agreed by consensus that Councillor David Maxwell would attend the AMO 2026 Conference along with the Treasurer and Mayor Maxwell.

8.3. Public Works Report

Public Works staff provided an expanded update on recent winter operations, reporting significant plowing, sanding, drift removal, and maintenance activities across the Township following recent heavy snowfall. Staff described ongoing equipment concerns, including issues with the snowblower belt and mechanical problems with the loader and grader, and confirmed that repair contractors had been contacted. Council asked several questions about equipment condition, operational challenges, and access issues raised by the Township's propane supplier. Public Works confirmed that key-distribution issues may be contributing to service delays, and the Clerk undertook to follow up with the supplier to verify key compatibility and replace keys if necessary. Council also discussed access to the landfill propane tank, manual snow clearing, and the need to document tank-pressure monitoring.

8.4. Fire Chief's Report

The Fire Chief had no report for this meeting.

8.5. Council Member Reports

Mayor Maxwell reported that she attended the regional meeting of Fire Chiefs and municipal representatives on February 17, 2026. She advised that the discussion focused on the requirement for all participating municipalities to adopt an enabling bylaw by the end of March in order to align local fire services with the updated regional emergency response framework. The Mayor noted that Fire Chiefs also discussed opportunities for shared services among neighbouring municipalities, including coordinated training, operational support, and volunteer capacity concerns. The distinction between mutual aid and automatic aid was reviewed, along with how each model affects service levels and cost responsibilities. The Mayor also advised Council of ongoing generator access issues at Township facilities and the need to ensure consistent snow clearing and access to the propane tank area during winter conditions.

Councillor Maxwell advised that he intended to complete the upcoming generator inspection report later in the week and noted that access to the generator area remains challenging due to accumulated snow. He indicated he would attempt to clear a route to the generator, depending on the condition of the snowblower, and would ensure the equipment is functioning properly once on site.

Councillor Halvorsen reported that he had limited updates since the last meeting. He advised Council that he had spoken with another member of Council regarding the soil file and had reviewed circulating social media posts relating to the matter in order to stay informed of public commentary.

8.6. Other Agencies' Reports

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

RESOLUTION 2026-035

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

Handwritten signature/initials in blue ink.

HR Assistant joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Flag Policy

Council reviewed the Clerk's report outlining the decision to lower the municipal flag on February 12 following the Tumbler Ridge tragedy and the proposed addition of Section 5.7 to delegate authority for half-masting in exceptional circumstances. Council discussed aligning the policy with federal practices, ensuring clarity for future administrations, and incorporating consultation with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, or a member of Council. Council directed the Clerk to revise the draft policy to include additional consultation wording and return it for approval.

10. BY-LAWS

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE

11.1-1 Prince Edward County – Support for Bill 21

Council received this resolution for information.

11.1-2 Municipality of Highland East – Resolution for affordable housing.

Council directed the Clerk to provide a letter of support to the Municipality.

11.1-3 Municipality of Magnetawan River – Resolution on dedicated fibre internet pricing.

Council received this resolution for information.

11.1-4 Town of Bracebridge – Resolution to support the Elect Respect Campaign.

This resolution was tabled to allow all Council to discuss.

RESOLUTION 2026-036

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the resolutions presented as listed in Section 11 of this evening's agenda and that Administration be authorized to proceed as directed.

CARRIED

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

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

HR Assistant

The HR Assistant advised Council of a change in her employment status and confirmed that there will be no change to her employment with the Township of Conmee. Council offered congratulations. The HR Assistant left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

13. CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2026-037

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, at 7:16 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 February 10th, 2026, under the same

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authority as the original meeting; Item 13.2 involving personal matters about identifiable individuals under paragraphs 239(2)(b); and Item 13.3, being personal matters about an identifiable individuals and involving litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality under paragraph 239(2)(b) and 239(2)(e).

CARRIED

During closed session Public Works staff left the meeting at 7:38 p.m.
During closed session Council stood down at 7:38 p.m.
During closed session Council resumed at 7:45 p.m.

During closed session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION 2026-038

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 7:58 pm, Council rise from closed session and report in open session.

CARRIED

Open session resumed.

14. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2026-039

Moved by: Councillor Halvorsen

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Closed Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on February 10th, 2026, be approved; AND FURTHER, THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed in closed session.

CARRIED

15. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

By-law 2026-004

RESOLUTION 2026-040

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Halvorsen

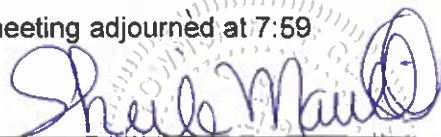
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2026-004 be passed;

AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Connee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2026-004, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.


CARRIED

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.



Mayor Sheila Maxwell



Clerk Karen Paisley