



Minutes

Regular Council Meeting
Township of the North Shore
Wednesday, January 15th, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Hybrid Meeting

ATTENDANCE

Council: Tony Moor - Mayor
Richard Welburn - Ward 1
Len Menard - Ward 2
Tracey Simon - Ward 3
Robin Green - Councillor at Large

Staff: Matt Simon, Public Works Manager/Fire Chief
Rachel Schneider, Municipal Clerk/Deputy Treasurer
Craig Davidson - Interim Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION #25-05

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approves the agenda as circulated, with the addition of item 7g

CARRIED

DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATION

Cunningham Swan - Integrity Commissioner Reports dated December 2nd, 2024.

RESOLUTION #25-06

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approves the recommendations for penalty sanctions outlined in the Integrity Commissioner report dated December 2nd, 2024, for File number 36669-10 involving the Councillor of Ward 1 Richard Welburn

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25-07

Moved by: R. Welburn

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approves the recommendations for penalty sanctions outlined in the Integrity Commissioner report dated December 2nd, 2024, for File number 36669-4 and File number 36669-16 involving the Councillor of Ward 1 Richard Welburn but not including the 12-month communication protocol suggestion, as explained by Tony Fleming at the January 15th, 2025, Council meeting.

CARRIED

RESOLUTION #25-08

Moved by: R. Welburn

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council of the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore approves to make the Integrity Commissioner reports, as presented to Council by Cunningham Swan at the January 15th, 2025, Regular Council meeting, available to the public by adding the reports to the Township's website, and by providing a copy of the report to the public upon written request.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes for the Regular meeting of November 27th, 2024

RESOLUTION #25-09

Moved by: R. Green

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council of the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore adopts the Regular meeting minutes of November 27th, 2024.

CARRIED

- a) Minutes for the Regular meeting of December 18th, 2024

RESOLUTION #25-10

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council of the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore adopts the Regular meeting minutes of December 18th, 2024.

CARRIED

- b) Minutes for the Special meeting of January 3rd, 2024

RESOLUTION #25-11

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council of the Corporation of the Township of the North Shore adopts the Special meeting minutes of January 3rd, 2025.

CARRIED

COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

REPORTS AND MOTIONS OF MUNICIPAL STAFF, COMMITTEES AND COMMUNICATION

- a) Revised 2025 OPP Municipal Policing Annual Billing Statement

RESOLUTION #25-12

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the Revised 2025 OPP Municipal Policing Annual Billing Statement for information purposes.

CARRIED

b) Letter from the Fire Chief

RESOLUTION #25-13

Moved by: R. Welburn

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the letter to the Township of The North Shore residents from the Fire Chief, for information purposes.

CARRIED

c) Recreation Committee - Council Representative Re-appointment

RESOLUTION #25-14

Moved by: L. Menard

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the report for consideration, and that Council re-appoint Councillor Simon to the Recreation Committee as the Council Representative for 2025.

CARRIED

d) Quarterly Reports - 4th Quarter 2024 - Administration, Fire Department and Public Works

RESOLUTION #25-15

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: R. Welburn

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the 4th Quarter reports for 2024 for Administration, Public Works and the Fire Department for information purposes.

CARRIED

e) Tax and Water/Wastewater Receivables - 4th Quarter 2024

RESOLUTION #25-16

Moved by: R. Green

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the Property Tax and Water/Wastewater Receivables staff report for the 4th Quarter of 2024 for information purposes.

CARRIED

f) Library Agreement

RESOLUTION #25-17

Moved by: R. Green

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore extend By-Law 2000-16 to continue the agreement between the Township of The North Shore and the Blind River Public Library.

CARRIED

- g) Notice of Integrity Commissioner Reports - February 5th, 2025, meeting

RESOLUTION #25-18

Moved by: R. Welburn

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore receive the report regarding notice of Integrity Commissioner reports being brought to the February 5th, 2025, Regular Council meeting for information purposes, and that Council direct staff to schedule with the Integrity Commissioner to attend the February 5th, 2025, Regular Council meeting to provide explanation of the Report received and answer any questions.

CARRIED

Consent Agenda

- a) Email from MECP Environmental Policy Branch regarding the Excess Soil Regulation
b) 2024 Sparkle Festival Winners

RESOLUTION #25-19

Moved by: R. Welburn

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED That Council receive item a and b of the January 15th, 2025, Consent Agenda for information purposes.

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION, READING, AND CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

- a) By-Law 25-03 being a by-law to adopt the Pregnancy and Parental Leaves - Council Policy for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore.

RESOLUTION #25-20

Moved by: R. Green

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approve By-Law 25-03 being a by-law to adopt the Pregnancy and Parental Leaves - Council Policy for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore. be read a first, second and third time enacted and passed.

CARRIED

- b) By-Law 25-04 being a by-law to adopt the WETT Inspection Policy for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore.

RESOLUTION #25-21

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approve By-Law 25-04 being a by-law to adopt the WETT Inspection Policy for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore be read a first, second and third time enacted and passed.

CARRIED

- c) By-Law 25-05 being a by-law to adopt the Training and Development Policy for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore.

RESOLUTION #25-22

Moved by: R. Green

Seconded by: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approve By-Law 25-05 being a by-law to adopt the Training and Development Policy for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore be read a first, second and third time enacted and passed.

CARRIED

d) By-Law 25-06 being a by-law to provide for interim tax levy for the year 2025

RESOLUTION #25-23

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approve By-Law 25-06 being a by-law to provide for interim tax levy for the year 2025 be read a first, second and third time enacted and passed.

CARRIED

e) By-Law 25-07 being a by-law to authorize temporary borrowing for the year 2025

RESOLUTION #25-24

Moved by: T. Simon

Seconded by: R. Green

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approve By-Law 25-07 being a by-law to authorize temporary borrowing for the year 2025 be read a first, second and third time enacted and passed.

CARRIED

f) By-Law 25-08 being a by-law approving extension of budget expenditure

RESOLUTION #25-25

Moved by: R. Green

Seconded by: L. Menard

BE IT RESOLVED: That Council for the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore approve By-Law 25-08 being a by-law approving extension of budget expenditure be read a first, second and third time enacted and passed.

CARRIED

NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

QUESTION PERIOD

Per the Township of The North Shore Procedure By-Law, (Section 6.5.2.17) "Questions and answers will be noted in the meeting's minutes in general terms"

There were 11 questions asked during the Question Period of the January 15th, 2025, meeting:

Question 1, 2:

Questions and Answers for "Questions 1,2" have been amended and content added per Resolution 25-31 that was Carried by Council at the February 5th, 2025, Regular Council meeting.

PREVIOUSLY RECORDED IN MINUTES:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Matthew Curtis

Ward of property/residence - Ward 2

Item - 4

Question asked (in general terms) x2 - What additional protections will the Township be taking in order to ensure the safety of staff, Council and the public? Is the Councillor willing to take accountability and pay for Integrity Commissioner investigations to remove burden from rate payers?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Mayor expresses that he agrees there is assistance needed to improve relationships between Council and staff, refers to new restrictions regarding communication, and speaks of the importance of professionalism, being respectful, and taking responsibility for actions. Councillor Welburn says no and cautions the resident on how they are speaking (regarding the Councillor's behaviour). Councillor Simon advises that reports from the Integrity Commissioner and videos are on Township website.

WORD FOR WORD RECORDING OF MINUTES (Mr. Matthew Curtis and Councillor Richard Welburn are word for word, Mayor Tony Moor and Councillor Tracey Simon are recorded in General Terms), PER RESOLUTION 25-31:

Matthew Curtis: Matthew Curtis, Ward 2. Thank you, Your Worship. So, my question relates to agenda item number 4. Before I want to proceed though, I would like to address item 5a on the agenda, the acceptance of the deferred minutes of November 27th. I just want to commend the Members of the Council for demonstrating a strong commitment to transparency and accountability, it does clearly reflect that this Council does value openness and integrity in its proceedings and as previously suggested, Council doesn't sweep anything under the rug, so I appreciate that. Now, we once again find our Municipality dealing with a Council violating the Code of Conduct and the Council-Staff Relations. So, my questions in Integrity Commissioner report File number 36694 and 16. Mr. Fleming advises that the pattern of behaviour will continue and may escalate. So, my question Mr. Mayor is actually a two-part question, if you will allow it. So, based on the Councillor's repeated violations, his demonstrated disregard of the safety of others and the warnings provided by the Integrity Commissioner advising us that he may escalate, what additional protections will the Township be taking to implement to ensure the safety of staff, Council and the public? So, myself as a business owner, as someone with many years in management in the mining industry, I can confidently say that such behaviour is deplorable, the direct violation of Occupation Health and Safety wouldn't be tolerated, usually leading to termination. So, the second part of my question, Your Worship, is based on the fact that this Councillor has been quoted many times saying that people must be held accountable. So, I am asking the Councillor, through you Mr. Mayor, is he willing to take accountability of his actions and pay for these investigations, where he has been found to be in violation, removing the burden of the costs of the investigations on us the rate payers? Thank you

Mayor Tony Moor: The Mayor expresses that he agrees there is assistance needed to improve relationships between Council and staff, refers to new restrictions regarding communication,

Matthew Curtis: I guess in regard to the second part?

Councillor Richard Welburn: No. That's the second time I've been accused of being violent and aggressive. I've never been found to be violent, threatening or aggressive. I would caution you on how you talk like that.

Mayor Tony Moor: The Mayor speaks of the importance of professionalism, being respectful, and taking responsibility for actions.

Councillor Tracey Simon: Councillor Simon advises that reports from the Integrity Commissioner and videos are on Township website.

Mayor Tony Moor: The Mayor speaks of the importance of professionalism, being respectful, and taking responsibility for actions.

Matthew Curtis: Thank you. I just want to correct myself to what the Member said. I didn't mean physical violence or anything safety like that, so you misinterpreted me.

Question 3:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Melody Rose
Ward of property/residence - Ward 3
Item: regarding comment Councillor Green made

Question asked (in general terms) x1- If a question is asked and we don't have an answer yet, can it go under Old Business?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Mayor agreed and thanked for the comments

Question 4,5:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Rhonda Kirby
Ward of property/residence - Ward 1
Item: Consent Agenda item regarding Excess Soils

Question asked (in general terms) x2 - How many members of Council read the report regarding Excess Soils? Will Council be willing to ask questions to ensure accountability and transparency from the Ministries?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - Councillor Green stated he intends to read the report and agrees with the importance. The Mayor states that concerns can be brought to Council to discuss that can then be forwarded to the mining company.

Question 6,7,8:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Janice Gamble
Ward of property/residence - Ward 1
Item: Integrity Commissioner report, Administration Quarterly report

Question asked (in general terms) x3 - Would Council consider having a public forum where Janice Gamble can update the public on the history of the Code of Conduct, who wrote it, and how and when it was adopted as it was in place before the current term of Council? Is there a way that the public can weigh in on policies? Do you see where red flags are being raised?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - Councillor Welburn suggests residents forwarding ideas for policies to their Council members with a deadline to add the submitted information to the first meeting in March. Councillor Simon speaks of the importance of the roles and responsibilities of Council members.

Question 9:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Jeremy Schneider
Ward of property/residence - Ward 1
Item: Budget and Sunnyside light

Question asked (in general terms) x1 - How is the light an issue for the Township if the private road owners paid to move Sunnyside Road away from the light?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Mayor thanked for the question and said it will be looked into.

Question 10:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - Nicolas Gagnon
Ward of property/residence - Algoma Mills
Item: Integrity Commissioner report

Question asked (in general terms) x1 - After statement given, the Mayor confirms the question is if Council would be willing to hold a town forum where questions are asked by taxpayers.

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Mayor thanked for the question. Councillor Simon expresses that a town hall meeting is a great idea but that relationships need to be worked on so Council can address the public as one unit.

Question 11:

Name of Resident/Member of the Public - No name stated
Ward of property/residence - No place of residence stated
Item: Not related to item on agenda

Question asked (in general terms) x1 - Do you remember the levy held January 1st after Mayor onto Council where people submitted questions in advance?

Answer given by Council (in general terms) - The Mayor thanked for the question.

CLOSED SESSION

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

RESOLUTION # 25-26

Moved By: L. Menard

Seconded By: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Council of the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore hereby approve By-Law No. 25-09, Being a By-Law to Confirm the Proceedings of Council at its Regular meeting held January 15th, 2025, be read a first, second and third time, enacted and passed.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION # 25-27

Moved By: R. Green

Seconded By: T. Simon

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Corporation of the Township of The North Shore Regular Council meeting of January 15th, 2025, do now adjourn at 7:27 PM to meet again on the 5th day of February 2025 at 6:00 p.m., or at the call of the Chair.

CARRIED


Tony Moor, Mayor


Rachel Schneider, Clerk/Deputy Treasurer