



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber via in person or by phone.

**1. Opening of Meeting and call to order:**

Mayor Culhane called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

**2. Roll Call:** The Mayor took a roll call

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Louanne Caza	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Elaine Fic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Annie Keft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Francine Plante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Also Present**

Clerk-Treasurer Karine Pelletier

Superintendent: Mark Brown

Members of the audience present: 3

Moved by Louanne Caza

**251/2024**

Seconded by Francine Plante

**Absent**

**THAT** Council agrees to grant a leave of absence to Councillor Elaine Fic from the Regular Council Meeting of September 10, 2024 due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk.

Carried

**3. Adoption of the Agenda and Addendum.**

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza

**252/2024**

Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**Adoption of Agenda**

**THAT** the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on September 10, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

**4. Disclosure of Pecuniary of Interest: None**

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

- a) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **253/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Regular Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on June 11, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **254/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Special Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held June 6, 2024, June 25, 2024, July 10, 2024, July 22, 2024, and August 13, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **255/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Closed Session Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Meeting of Council held June 6, 2024, June 11, 2024, June 25, 2024, July 10, 2024 and August 13, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

**6. Matters Arising from the minutes: None**

**7. Deputations, Delegations, and Petitions:**

-Dakota Pierce – Text Alert Service – Mr. Pierce from UpAhead, presented to Council.

**8. Correspondence, Information:**

- a) Timiskaming Health Unit – Update to the governance model of the proposed merged local public.
- b) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Planning Act and Development Changes Act Regulations to the Cutting Red Tape to Build more homes.
- c) Treasury Board Secretariat – Engagement on Proposed Modernization of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.
- d) Ministry of Finance – Property Assessment and taxation of aggregate extraction sites.
- e) Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario – New expedited process to resolve certain access appeals and complaints.
- f) Bill 185 – Received Royal Assent.
- g) Ontario Provincial Police – New Uniform and Civilian Collective Agreement.
- h) Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – Quarterly report.
- i) Timiskaming Drug and Alcohol Strategy – Report to the Community.
- j) Ombudsman Ontario – Annual Report for 2023-2024.
- k) Raphael Goulet – Thank you note for graduation bursary.
- l) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2024).
- m) Segal Construction – Municipal Housing Initiative Resolution.

**9. Members Update Report:**

- Mayor and Council gave a verbal report.

**10. New Business:**

- a) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **256/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Recreation Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on May 7, 2024, June 4, 2024, and July 9, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **257/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **McGarry Public Library**

**THAT** the minutes of the McGarry Public Library Board Meeting held on May 27, 2024 be approved and that Council have received the Revenue vs Expenditure for the period of January to June 2024.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **258/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Tourist Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Tourist Committee Meeting held on May 1, 2024, June 5, 2024 and July 3, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- d) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **259/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **Strategic Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on April 23, 2024, May 28, 2024, June 25, 2024 and July 30, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- e) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **260/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Communication Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes from the Communication Committee Meeting held on April 16, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- f) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caaza **261/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **THU Financial**

**THAT** Council have received and read the Audited Financial Statements from the Timiskaming Health Unit.

Carried

- g) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **262/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **OCWA Report**

**THAT** Council have received and read the letter received from Timiskaming Health Unit on the Public Health Ontario Laboratory Closure in Timmins.

Carried

- h) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **263/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **AMO**

**THAT** Council have received and read the 2024 Annual Report from Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

- i) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **264/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Policing Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes from the Community Policing Meeting held on April 18, 2024 and on July 18, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- j) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **265/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **TMA Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes from Temiskaming Municipal Association held on May 30, 2024 have been received.

Carried

- k) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **266/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **AMCTO**

**THAT** Karine Pelletier attends the virtual 2024 Municipal Clerks Forum on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the cost of \$359.00 plus tax.

**AND THAT** Karine Pelletier and Melanie Jensen attend the AMCTO Zone 8 Fall Meeting in Kirkland Lake on October 9<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at a cost of \$400.00.

Carried

- l) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **267/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Tax Sale**

**THAT** Council have received and read the report from Karien Pelletier, Clerk-Treasurer on Options after a Tax Sale and direct the Clerk register notice of vesting and vest the properties to the Township and write off all amounts owing.

Carried

- m) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **268/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Policy Change**

**WHEREAS** the Federal Government has announced policy changes that will negatively impact publicly funded colleges, such as Northern College and other colleges in small, northern, and rural regions of

Ontario, by altering the framework through which international students are admitted and managed;

**AND WHEREAS**, these policy changes have been made without any consultation with post-secondary institutions; and without a clear understanding of the severe financial hardship this will cause to smaller public colleges;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry resolves to support the Corporation of the Town of Kirkland Lake in its resolution urging the Federal Government to reconsider these policy changes;

**AND FURTHER**, that this resolution be directed to the Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, and forwarded to the Honourable Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official languages, Charlie Angus – MP Timmins-James Bay; the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); the Temiskaming Municipal Association (TMA); and the municipalities in the District of Temiskaming.

**Recorded Vote Requested by Councillor Louanne Caza**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Mayor Bonita Culhane	✓	
Councillor Louanne Caza		✓
Councillor Elaine Fi		
Councillor Annie Keft	✓	
Councillor Francine Plante	✓	
	Carried	

- n) Moved By Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded By Councillor Annie Keft

**269/2024**  
**Health Care**

**WHEREAS** the state of Health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being de-rostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years;

**AND WHEREAS** Ontario municipal government play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, paramedicine, and other investments;

**AND WHEREAS** the percentage of family physician’s practitioners practicing comprehensive family medicine has declines from 77 in 2008 to 65 percent in 2022;

**AND WHEREAS** per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** a robust workforce developed through a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy would significantly improve access to health services across the province;

**NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in the District of Temiskaming and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care.

Carried

- o) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**270/2024**  
**AORS**

**WHEREAS**, municipal public works department from across the province of Ontario provide services to their residents to ensure the health and safety of their communities; and will experience skilled labour shortages, over the next few years, to meet these responsibilities;

**AND WHEREAS**, the association of Ontario Road Supervisors is working to develop a Municipal equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry supports the Corporation of the Town of Kirkland Lake in its call to the Ministry of labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024;

**AND FURTHER** . that a copy of this resolution be directed to the Honourable Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades, and forwarded to John Vantof – MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Temiskaming Municipal Association (TMA), the association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS), and the municipalities in the District of Temiskaming.

Carried

- p) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**271/2024**  
**Exotic Animals**

**WHEREAS** Ontario has more private non-native (‘exotic’) wild animal keepers, roadside zoos, mobile zoos, wildlife exhibits and other captive wildlife operations than any other province;

**AND WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario has of yet not developed regulations to prohibit or restrict animal possession, breeding, or use of exotic wild animals in captivity;

**AND WHEREAS** exotic wild animals can pose very serious human health and safety risks, and attacks causing human injury and death have occurred in the Province;

**AND WHEREAS** the keeping of exotic wild animals can cause poor animal welfare and suffering, and poses risk to local environments and wildlife;

**AND WHEREAS** owners of exotic wild animals can move from one community to another even after their operations have been shut down due to animal welfare or public health and safety concerns;

**AND WHEREAS** municipalities have struggled, often for months or years, to deal with exotic wild animal issues and have experienced substantive regulatory, administrative, enforcement and financial challenges;

**AND WHEREAS** the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), and the Municipal Law Enforcement Officers’ Association (MLEOA) have indicated their support for World Animal Protection’s campaign for provincial regulations of exotic wild animals and roadside zoos in letter to the Ontario Solicitor General and Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry;

**THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT** the Corporation of the Township of McGarry hereby petitions the provincial government to implement provincial regulations to restrict the possession, breeding, and use of exotic wild animals and license zoos in order to guarantee the fair and consistent application of policy throughout Ontario for the safety of Ontario’s citizen and the exotic wild animal population;

**AND FINALLY THAT**, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Ontario's Solicitor General, Ontario's Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane, AMO, AMCTO, MLEAO, Timiskaming Municipal Association (TMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all municipalities within the District of Timiskaming.

Carried

- q) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**272/2024**  
**PSAB**

**WHEREAS** the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) establishes accounting standards for the Public Sector which must be followed by all Ontario municipalities;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipal Act, 2001 section 294.1 states that a municipality shall, for each fiscal year, prepare annual financial statements for the municipality in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments as recommended, from time to time, by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada;

**AND WHEREAS** PS 3280 is a new accounting standard covering asset retirement obligations (ARO) that was approved by PSAB in March 2018;

**AND WHEREAS** the standard must be applied by all public sector entities who prepare their financial statements under PSAB, including all Canadian municipalities;

**AND WHEREAS** many small municipalities do not have accountants or engineers on staff to complete the ARO obligations and this major accounting change will force small municipalities to hire consultant to complete this work and cause a significant financial burden to municipalities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT** the Corporation of the Township of McGarry hereby calls upon the province of Ontario to provide financial assistance to municipalities to complete the ARO;

**AND FINALLY, THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), the Timiskaming Municipal Association (TMA), the Federation of the Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all municipalities within the District of Timiskaming.

Carried

- r) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**273/2024**  
**Water Testing**

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Auditor General's annual report on public health from December 2023 indicates that Public Health Ontario is proposing the phasing-out of free provincial water testing services for private drinking water; and

**WHEREAS** free private drinking water testing services has played a pivotal role in safeguarding public health, particularly in rural communities, that rely predominantly on private drinking water; And;

**WHEREAS** the removal of free private drinking water testing could lead to a reduction in testing, potentially increasing the risk of waterborne diseases in these vulnerable populations; And

**WHEREAS** the tragic events in Walkerton, Ontario underscored the critical importance of safe drinking water.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township of McGarry hereby request that the province

reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing-out of free private drinking water testing services.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, Minister of Health, Timiskaming Public Health Unit, and Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP.

Carried

- s) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**274/2024**  
**Ontario Immigrant**  
**Nominee Program**

**WHEREAS** employers across Northern Ontario are experiencing a critical shortage of skilled workers, contributing to a shrinking labour market with an estimated 50,000 newcomers needed by 2041 to sustain current Northern Ontario population levels; and

**WHEREAS** the labour shortage is causing significant economic hardship for Northern Ontario communities, including reduced productivity and business closures; and

**WHEREAS** population and migration trends to 2021 suggest that Northern Ontario needs 100,000 newcomers by 2041 to sustain current population; and

**WHEREAS** the success of the federal Rural and Northern Immigration Pilot (RNIP) demonstrates the effectiveness of allocating nomination spots to address regional labour shortages in attracting newcomers to Northern Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program has been expanded from 9,750 nominees in 2022 to a goal of 21,500 nominees in 2024;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE COPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY** urges the Government of Ontario to address the critical market shortage of skilled labour in Northern Ontario by allocating 3,000 Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program spots to support the region's economic growth and development.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** Copies of this resolution be forwarded to: the Ontario Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development; local Members of Provincial Parliament; the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities; and the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce

Defeated

- t) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**275/2024**  
**CSCT Exercise Program and**  
**Lunch and Learning Activity**

**THAT** Council agrees to grant the Centre de Santé Communautaire du Témiskaming the use of the kitchen and the meeting room at the Community Centre free of charge for a lunch and learning activity that aims to improve the health and well-being of the community from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the following days:

- October 8, November 12 and December 10, 2024
- January 21, February 18, March 25, April 22, May 20 and June 10, 2025



**AND THAT** Council agrees to grant the Centre de Santé Communautaire du Témiskaming the use of the Community Centre free of charge for weekly exercise for adults 55+ on Tuesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the following days:

- October 22 & 29, 2024
- November 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2024.

Carried

- u) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **276/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **THU**

**THAT** Council agrees to grant the use of the Community Centre gymnasium to the Timiskaming Health Unit free of charge for the annual Influenza/Covid clinics on October 15<sup>th</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on both days.

Carried

- v) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **277/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **OCWA Report**

**THAT** Council have read the McGarry Water & Wastewater Systems Quarterly Operations Report prepared by Ontario Clean Water Agency.

Carried

- w) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **278/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft **UCFO**

**THAT** Council have received the letter and the request from L'Union Culturelle des Franco-Ontariennes to hold a monthly bingo at the Community Centre in the Meeting Room on Sunday afternoon (September 29<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup> and on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024) from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. free of charge.

Defeated

- x) Moved by Councillor Annie Keft **279/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Fall Clean-Up**

**THAT** Council agrees to hold the fall clean-up by opening the landfill site on October 17, 2024, Thursday, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. , on October 18, 2024, Friday from 8:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on October 20, 2024, Saturday, From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Due to staff shortage and high workload in October, there won't be any door-to-door pickup or collection.

Carried

**11. Passing of Accounts:**

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**280/2024  
Accounts**

**THAT** the following accounts be approved for payment:

**JUNE 2024:**

Payroll: \$ 25,875.31  
General: \$ 152,485.76

**JULY 2024:**

Payroll: \$55,022.60  
General: \$240,209.52

**AUGUST 2024:**

Payroll: \$56,368.01  
General: \$151,166.36

Carried

**12. Passing of By-Laws:**

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**281/2024  
By-Law 2024-51**

**THAT** a By-Law to adopt an Asset Management Plan – Non-Core Assets for the Township of McGarry be read three times and passed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-51.

Carried

- 13. a) Submitted questions: None**  
**b) Audience Question:**

A question period was held.

**14. Closed Meeting:**

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**282/2024  
Closed Session**

**THAT** Council goes into closed session at 7:41 p.m. under the Municipal Act 2001. C25, s 239, (2) Section 2 (b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual including municipal or local board employees (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;

Carried

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**283/2024  
Out of Closed Session**

**THAT** Council come out of closed session at 8:05 p.m.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**284/2024**  
**Curling Club**

**THAT** Council agrees to pay all legal fees associated with the purchase and transfer of the Curling Club property for \$1.00, MCL HS 164 MCGARRY SRO PT 1 & 2, 54R2862; PIN 61224-0793, PCL 12065 SEC CST.

Carried

**15. Confirmation By-Law:**

Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Annie Keft

**285/2024**  
**By-Law 2024-52**

**THAT** a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-52.

Carried


**16. Adjournment:**

Moved by Councillor Annie Keft  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**286/2024**  
**Adjournment**

**THAT** this meeting be adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Carried

  
**MAYOR**

  
**CLERK-TREASURER**