



Minutes of a Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday November 12<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Councillor Annie Keft      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Councillor Francine Plante | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Also Present**

Clerk-Treasurer Karine Pelletier  
Superintendent: Mark Brown  
Clerk-Typist Receptionist – Melanie Jensen  
Members of the audience present: 1

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

**317/2024**  
**Absence**

THAT Council agrees to grant a leave of absence to Councillor Keft for the Regular Council Meeting of November 12, 2024, due to appropriate advance notice submitted to the Clerk.

Carried

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

Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

**318/2024**  
**Adoption of Agenda**

THAT the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on November 12, 2024 be adopted with addition to #10 (q) Health Unit – Municipal Appointees for New Board of Health, #10 (r) McGarry Christmas Food Baskets and #10 (s) Christmas Dinner and use of the Community Centre free of charge, #10 (t) Mike Guimond – Ontario Federation of Snowmobiles Clubs.

Carried

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

**5. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

- a) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **319/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Regular Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on October 8, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **320/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **Special Emergency Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Special Emergency Meeting of Council held April 13, 2024, be adopted.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **321/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Closed Session Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Meeting of Council held October 8, 2024 be adopted.

Carried

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

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

**8. Correspondence, Information:**

- a) The McGarry & District XYZ Seniors Club – Thank you note.
- b) Ministry of Finance – Update on Property Assessment and Taxation of Aggregate extraction sites.
- c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – 2023 Annual Report.
- d) Municipal Employer Pension Centre Ontario – 2023 Annual Report.
- e) District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board – 2024 Refund.
- f) Ministry of Finance – Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).
- g) Ministry of Energy and Electrification – Ontario’s Affordable Energy Future : The Pressing Case for More.
- h) Govstack / i create – End of life for Website.

**9. Members Update Report:**

- Mayor and Council gave a verbal report.

**10. New Business:**

- a) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **322/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Clerk Report**

**THAT** Council have read and are in agreement with the report from the Clerk-Treasurer in respect to Christmas hours of operations for the Office Staff, Public Works Department and Landfill Site hours.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **323/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza **OPP Annual Billing**

**THAT** Council have read the correspondence received from the OPP on the 2025 Annual Billing Statement for our municipality.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **324/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **McGarry Public Library**

**THAT** Council have read the correspondence received from the McGarry Public Library on Revenue vs Expenses.

Carried

- d) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **325/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Policing Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes of the Community Policing Committee held on August 15, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- e) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **326/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Landmark Elevating**

**THAT** Council have received and read the report from Landmark Elevating Expectation on the Virginiatown Composite Elevated Tank Clean, Inspection and Report from July 31, 2024.

Carried

- f) Report from the Clerk-Treasurer- Vested properties – The Clerk was advised to call some appraiser’s and get a price and come back to Council.

- g) Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza **327/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Recreation Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes from the Recreation Committee held on September 3, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- h) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Louanne Caza

**328/2024**  
**Tourist Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes from the Tourist Committee held on September 4, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- i) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**329/2024**  
**Rural Road Safety**

**WHEREAS**, official statistics from the Government of Ontario confirm that rural roads are inherently more dangerous than other roads;

**AND WHEREAS**, despite only having 17% of the population, 55% of the road fatalities occur on rural roads;

**AND WHEREAS**, rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintenance extensive road network on a smaller tax base;

**AND WHEREAS**, preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural strained health care system;

**AND WHEREAS**, roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums. Preventing crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVES THAT** the Township of McGarry request that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead. It will allow Ontario's rural municipalities to make the critical investments needed to reduce the high number of people being killed and seriously injured on Ontario's rural roads; and

**FURTHER THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hon. King Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of rural Affairs, Hon. Trevor Jones, Associate Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, and Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, and Good Roads; and

**FURTHER THAT** this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support.

Carried

- j) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**330/2024**  
**Ombudsman Report**

**THAT** Council have received and read the Ombudsman Report from Mr. Paul Dube (Ombudsman of Ontario) on the Investigation into a complaint about a meeting of Council for the Township of McGarry on September 1, 2023 dated October 2024.

Carried

- k) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**331/2024**  
**Strategic Minutes**

**THAT** the minutes from the Strategic Planning Committee held on September 24, 2024 be approved.

Carried

l) ROMA Conference and Delegation request, January 19-January 21, 2025. – This item was deferred by the Mayor but no date was given.

m) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante  
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic

**332/2024**  
**UCFO Community Centre**

**THAT** Council have received the letter from Paulette Paquet to request the use of the canteen at the Community Centre free of charge to store the donations from the residents for the Christmas Food Hampers.

Carried

n) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**333/2024**  
**Goods and Services Tax**

**Whereas** municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and

**Whereas** the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and

**Whereas** the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and;

**Whereas** the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

**Whereas** redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

**Whereas** a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That** The Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That** The Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and
- 3. Be It Further Resolved That** this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and

4. **Be It Further Resolved That** copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and
5. **Be It Further Resolved That** copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Carried

- o) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **334/2024**  
 Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Solar McGarry Financials**

**THAT** Council have received and read the Financial Statement from Solar McGarry Solar Inc.

Carried

- p) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **335/2024**  
 Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Library Board Meeting**

**THAT** the minutes of the Library Board meeting held on September 30, 2024 be approved.

Carried

- q) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **336/2024**  
 Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Health Unit Municipal Appointees**

**THAT** Council have received and read the correspondence from the Timiskaming Health Unit regarding the Municipal Appointees for the new Board of Health and that no members of the Township of McGarry wish to sit on the Board at this time and that the current Board Members be given the change if they wish to remain on the Board to represent the Rural Centre – South which includes (Larder Lake, McGarry, Gauthier, Matachewan, Charlton & Dack, Englehart, Chamberlain, Evanturel and James)

Carried

- r) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **337/2024**  
 Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Donation Food Baskets**

**THAT** Council agree to a monetary donation in the amount of \$500.00 for the McGarry Christmas Food Baskets.

Carried

- s) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **338/2024**  
 Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Christmas Dinner Arena**

**THAT** Council agree to grant Theresa and Jeanne from Tree's Lakeside, Larder Lake Coop and the Larder Lake Legion Branch 293 the use of the Community Centre free of charge to provide a warm Christmas dinner for people in McGarry Township and surrounding area on December 24<sup>th</sup> and December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Carried

- t) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **339/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **Snowmobile trail**

**THAT** Council agree to sign the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club train land use permission for the two Mining Claim owned by the Township of McGarry (MCL 44542 and MCL 24181.)

Carried

**11. Passing of Accounts:**

- Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **340/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **Accounts**

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

**OCTOBER 2024:**

Payroll: \$ 27,909.72  
General: \$ 212,918.08

Carried

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

- a) Moved by Councillor Francine Plante **341/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Elaine Fic **By-Law 2024-56**

**THAT** a By-Law to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to execute an agreement between the Corporation of the Township of McGarry and the Solicitor General on behalf of the Provincial Police (OPP) for the provision of a Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAB) Services be read three times and passed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-56.

Carried

- b) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **342/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **By-Law 2024-57**

**THAT** a By-Law to enter into an agreement with His Majesty King in Right of Ontario as Represented by the Ministry of Transportation to carry out winter maintenance be read three times and passed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-57.

Carried

- c) Moved by Councillor Elaine Fic **343/2024**  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante **By-Law 2024-58**

**THAT** a By-Law to appoint Committee Members and Representatives for the Township of McGarry for the year 2025 be read three times and passed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-58.

Carried

13. a) **Submitted questions:** None  
b) **Audience Question:** A question period was held.

14. **Closed Meeting:** None

15. **Confirmation By-Law:**

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**344/2024**  
**By-Law 2024-59**

**THAT** a By-Law to confirm the proceedings of Council be read three times and passed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024 and numbered By-Law 2024-59.

Carried

16. **Adjournment:**

Moved by Councillor Louanne Caza  
Seconded by Councillor Francine Plante

**345/2024**  
**Adjournment**

**THAT** this meeting be adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Carried

  
MAYOR

  
CLERK-TREASURER