



MINUTES

Meeting of Council

March 13, 2026, 9:15 a.m.

Council Chambers

9 James Street, Parry Sound, Ontario

Members Present:

Bert Liverance, Reeve
Laurie Emery, Councillor Ward 1
Peter Frost, Councillor Ward 2
Earl Manners, Councillor Ward 3
Scott Sheard, Councillor Ward 3
David Ashley, Councillor Ward 4
Rick Zanussi, Councillor Ward 4
Darlene Cade Fraser, Councillor Ward 5
Dan MacLeod, Councillor Ward 6

Members Absent:

Tom Lundy, Councillor Ward 1
Alice Barton, Councillor Ward 4

Staff Present:

John MacKinnon, Chief Administrative Officer
Maryann Martin, Clerk
Cale Henderson, Manager of Development & Environmental Services
Erin Robinson, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Alana Torresan, Deputy Clerk

1. NATIONAL ANTHEM
2. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

- 2.1 Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement
- 2.2 Meeting Decorum
- 2.3 Announcement of Public Meetings

- 2.3.1 Committee of Adjustment

The Committee of Adjustment met at 11:00 a.m. to consider one application.

- 2.4 Approval of Agenda

26-036

Moved by: Councillor MacLeod

Seconded by: Councillor Ashley

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the March 13, 2026 Revised Council Agenda, be approved.

Carried

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS
5. DEPUTATIONS

- 5.1 Dave Garagan, Donald Sanderson, and Jim Hanna. West Parry Sound Health Centre.

Reeve Liverance welcomed West Parry Sound Health Centre (WPSHC) Board Chair, Dave Garagan, and Chief Executive Officer, Donald Sanderson, to the meeting.

Mr. Garagan and Mr. Sanderson provided an update on new WPSHC programs and initiatives. Mr. Sanderson advised Council of the Health Centre's efforts to secure provincial funding for the purchase of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine for Parry Sound.

The Committee inquired whether a motion of support would assist the Health Centre in securing funding. Mr. Sanderson indicated that municipal support would be valuable..

Staff were directed to prepare a motion for consideration later in the meeting.

Mr. Garagan and Mr. Sanderson thanked The Archipelago for its generous and ongoing support over the years.

5.2 Margaret Hastings. Opposition to GeoPark

Reeve Liverance welcomed Margaret Hastings to the meeting.

Ms. Hastings provided an update on recent developments related to the Georgian Bay Geopark and responded to questions from Members. Council reiterated its concerns that the project is focused on economic development opportunities within the region rather than environmental stewardship.

Staff were directed to prepare a motion for the April Council Meeting outlining the Township's continued objection to the Geopark.

Council recessed for a break at 10:32 a.m. and reconvened at 10:45 a.m. The Committee of Adjustment met from 11:00 a.m. to 11:22 a.m., after which regular Council business resumed.

6. CLOSED MEETING

7. OPEN MEETING

8. UNFINISHED PLANNING BUSINESS

9. OFFICIAL PLAN/ZONING AMENDMENTS

10. CONSENT APPLICATIONS

11. SITE PLAN CONTROL

12. SHORE/CONCESSION ROAD ALLOWANCES

13. REPORT OF TASK FORCES/COMMITTEES

13.1 Great Lakes Day, Washington, D.C., Update

Councillor Frost provided an update on his recent trip to Washington, D.C. for Great Lakes Day on Capital Hill.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Council Correspondence

26-037

Moved by: Councillor Emery

Seconded by: Councillor Ashley

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council receives the March 2026 Revised Council Correspondence listing.

Carried

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Canada Community Building Fund transfer to the Township of The Archipelago

26-038

Moved by: Councillor Ashley

Seconded by: Councillor Frost

WHEREAS in 2025 the Town of Parry Sound and the Township of The Archipelago were successful in their joint application to the Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) Intake 2 program to upgrade Pump Station No. 2 in the Town of Parry Sound; and

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago entered into a funding agreement under the Canada Community-Building Fund Municipal Funding Agreement (MFA) administered by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Township committed to a financial contribution of \$360,000 toward the project as part of this funding arrangement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of The Archipelago hereby confirms and ratifies the allocation and transfer of \$360,000 under the Municipal Funding Agreement on the Canada Community-Building Fund to the Town of Parry Sound for the Pump Station No. 2 upgrade project.

Carried

15.2 Request that the Minister of Education extricate the West Parry Sound municipalities from the Near North District School Board

26-039

Moved by: Councillor Sheard

Seconded by: Councillor MacLeod

WHEREAS the Town of Parry Sound, at its Regular Meeting held on November 18, 2025, requesting that the Minister of Education extricate the West Parry Sound Municipalities from the Near North District School Board, with a first preference to reinstate the former West Parry Sound District School Board, and a second preference to join the Simcoe Muskoka District School Board; and

WHEREAS the West Parry Sound Municipalities collectively support this initiative and wish to present a united position to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education; and

WHEREAS concerns have been raised regarding the underrepresentation of West Parry Sound trustees on the Near North District School Board despite the region contributing education levy revenues at a significantly higher proportion; ongoing governance issues within the Board; and the handling of the JK–12 school construction project affecting the West Parry Sound area; and

WHEREAS students residing in the Township of The Archipelago attend schools within the West Parry Sound family of schools for their elementary and secondary education; and

WHEREAS the residents of The Township of The Archipelago contribute more per household in education levies than any other municipality in the Districts of Parry District and North Bay, and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago wishes to support its students and families and calls upon the Minister of Education to address these long-standing concerns to ensure that students in West Parry Sound are not further disadvantaged;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago hereby supports the Town of Parry Sound's request to the Minister of Education to extricate the West Parry Sound municipalities from the Near North District School Board, with the sole preference to reinstate the former West Parry Sound District School Board; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Education Paul Calandra, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack, the Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Parry Sound Muskoka Graydon Smith, Chief Adam Pawis of Shawanaga First Nation, Chief Warren Tabobondung of Wasauksing First Nation, Mayors and Reeve of Parry Sound District, FONOM, AMO, OSUM and the Community Schools Alliance.

Carried

15.3 Parry Sound Founders Circle - Attendees

26-040

Moved by: Councillor Cade Fraser

Seconded by: Councillor Zanussi

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following Members of Council are hereby authorized to attend the Parry Sound Area Founders Circle Awards Dinner: Councillor Laurie Emery & Reeve Bert Liverance.

Carried

15.4 Council Remuneration and Expenses 2025

26-041

Moved by: Councillor Ashley

Seconded by: Councillor MacLeod

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council hereby receive the Council Remuneration & Expense Report for 2025, as presented.

Carried

15.5 Pointe Au Baril Lands Working Group

26-042

Moved by: Councillor Frost

Seconded by: Councillor Zanussi

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council establish the Pointe au Baril Working Group, to be led by the CAO, and appoint Councillor Emery and Councillor Sheard as members of the group.

Carried

15.6 West Parry Sound SMART Community Network Inc. - Consent for Dissolution

26-043

Moved by: Councillor Emery

Seconded by: Councillor Cade Fraser

WHEREAS the West Parry Sound (WPS) Smart Community was formed in December 2015 as an incorporated not-for-profit corporation under the Ontario Corporations Act, with their operating name being WPS SMART; and

WHEREAS WPS SMART's formation was supported by the Township of The Archipelago through Resolution #15-097 and the other six municipalities that comprise West Parry Sound (WPS) through similar resolutions; and

WHEREAS WPS SMART's vision was "to bring future proof high-speed, reliable, and affordable internet to WPS with the goal of achieving sustainable economic growth, job creation, social cohesion and a culture of innovation"; and

WHEREAS WPS SMART, through significant efforts spanning a decade, advanced its vision through efforts by its Board Members towards infrastructure building, advocacy, funding, partnerships and governance; and

WHEREAS WPS SMART's decade-long efforts have resulted in broadband internet reaching new areas in all WPS municipalities; and

WHEREAS on the 24th day of January 2025 the Board of West Parry Sound SMART Community Network Inc. passed a resolution to propose the dissolution of the West Parry Sound SMART Community Network Inc.; and

WHEREAS Member consent is required for dissolution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago as a body having appointed a Member to the West Parry Sound SMART Community Network Inc., does hereby authorize and direct the Manager of Technology and Innovation and the Clerk to sign the CONSENT FORM for the dissolution of West Parry Sound SMART Community Network Inc. attached hereto as Schedule "A"; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago formally acknowledges and extends sincere thanks to WPS SMART's Chair Lis McWalter and all serving Board Members for their commitment, leadership, and significant contributions to the advancement of broadband expansion in the Township of The Archipelago and West Parry Sound region.

Carried

15.7 2025 Council Achievements

26-044

Moved by: Councillor MacLeod

Seconded by: Councillor Zanussi

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council be hereby receive the 2025 Council Achievements, as presented.

Carried

15.8 Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project - Public Comment Period

26-045

Moved by: Councillor Ashley

Seconded by: Councillor Sheard

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be hereby directed, in consultation with the Environment Committee, to prepare comments on the Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project for submission during the public comment period on behalf of Council.

Carried

15.9 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual General Meeting - Attendees

26-046

Moved by: Councillor Cade Fraser

Seconded by: Councillor MacLeod

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following Members of Council are approved to attend the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Annual General Meeting on May 6-8, 2026 in Hamilton, ON: Councillor Cade Fraser and Councillor Dan MacLeod.

Carried

15.10 Building Permit Fees

26-047

Moved by: Councillor Frost

Seconded by: Councillor Emery

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago's building permit fees were last reviewed in 2017, and the last substantial modification to the fee schedule was made in 2011; and

WHEREAS Council has reviewed the Building Department's Information Report including a comparative review of building permit fees in the surrounding municipalities; and

WHEREAS Council is considering increasing building permit fees and the administrative fees applicable to construction commenced without the benefit of a permit; and

WHEREAS pursuant to 7(6) of the Building Code Act, a public meeting is required before passing or amending a by-law that imposes building permit fees.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Township of The Archipelago hereby direct staff to prepare and submit a report with recommended revisions to the building permit fee schedule, including applicable administrative fees, for Council's consideration prior to scheduling the required public meeting.

15.11 West Parry Sound Health Centre - MRI Machine

26-048

Moved by: Councillor Sheard

Seconded by: Councillor Cade Fraser

WHEREAS the Parry Sound District municipalities and institutions manage the delivery of key services with dramatic seasonal population increases from over 46,000 permanent residents to over 100,000 seasonal residents during peak months, aging population, and major northern highways through our territory; and

WHEREAS the West Parry Sound Health Centre (WPSHC) successfully underpins the municipalities of West Parry Sound and their residents with efficient and effective integrated medical services; and

WHEREAS the WPSHC is one of only five medium-sized hospitals in Ontario without a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) capability and missing a fundamental component of modern acute care; and

WHEREAS an in-hospital, fully provisioned diagnostic service provides a standard of safe, integrated, and predictable care for our rural, northern communities, and recognizes the additional pressure of major highway transportation routes throughout our district; and

WHEREAS in-hospital, fully provisioned MRI diagnostic service will attract first-rate medical resources to WPSHC; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is currently in the process of adding 50 new MRI machines to 43 hospitals across the province to address these gaps.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of The Archipelago (The Archipelago) supports the Province's consideration of funding an in-hospital MRI, fully integrated into the WPS healthcare system; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that The Archipelago asserts that the implementation of an integrated in-hospital MRI is the only financially

responsible and safe model for rural and northern residents; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health for Ontario and Deputy Premier, the Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP for Parry Sound Muskoka, Chief Adam Pawis of Shawanaga First Nation, Chief Warren Tabobondung of Wasauksing First Nation, Mayors and Reeve of Parry Sound District, FONOM, AMO, and OSUM.

Carried

16. BY-LAWS

16.1 Restricted Acts of Council (Lame Duck Periods)

2026-06

Moved by: Councillor Ashley

Seconded by: Councillor MacLeod

That By-law 2026-06, being a By-law to Authorize Delegated Authority for Certain Acts during the Restricted Authority (Lame Duck) Council Period, be read and finally passed on the 13th of March, 2026.

Carried

16.2 Designate Signing Authorities for Banking and Financial Documentation Purposes

2026-07

Moved by: Councillor Emery

Seconded by: Councillor Ashley

That By-law 2026-07, being a By-law to designate authorized signing authorities for the Township of The Archipelago for banking and financial documentation purposes, be read and finally passed on the 13th day of March, 2026.

Carried

17. QUESTION TIME

Councillor Cade Fraser provided an update on the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) Annual General Meeting held earlier this month. She noted that The Archipelago and Councillor Frost were recognized for their work on the floating accommodation initiative last year.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION

19. MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

20. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

2026-08

Moved by: Councillor Frost

Seconded by: Councillor Cade Fraser

That By-law 2026-08, being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council Held on March 13, 2026, be read and finally passed on the 13th day of March, 2026.

Carried

21. ADJOURNMENT

26-049

Moved by: Councillor Cade Fraser

Seconded by: Councillor MacLeod

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 13, 2026 be adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Carried

Bert Liverance, Reeve

Maryann Martin, Clerk