



## **MINUTES**

### **Committee of the Whole**

**March 12, 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  
Erin Robinson, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer  
Alana Torresan, Deputy Clerk

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#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

On behalf of Council, Councillor Sheard presented Reeve Liverance with a gift in honour of his late mother.

**1.1 MEETING DECORUM**

**1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**1.3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

**2. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

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

Councillor Sheard provided an update on the February 19, 2026 community meeting hosting by the Minister of Education regarding the JK-Grade 12 school.

Councillor Sheard recommended that Council consider supporting the Town of Parry Sound and Township of McKellar's resolutions requesting the Minister of Education to extricate the West Parry Sound municipalities from the Near North District School Board and to reinstate the West Parry Sound District School Board.

No issues with the recommendation were raised.

Staff were directed to bring forward a motion for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

**2.2 Restricted Acts of Council (Lame Duck Periods)**

Maryann Martin, Clerk, summarized her report regarding the restricted acts of Council process and the requirement to pass a by-law outlining delegation authorities should Council enter a "lame duck" period in August 2026.

No issues with the recommendation were raised.

Staff were directed to bring forward a By-law for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

**2.3 2025 Council Achievements**

John MacKinnon, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the draft 2025 Council Achievements and delivered a slideshow presentation outlining key accomplishments completed in 2025.

**2.4 Parry Sound Founders Circle - Attendees**

John MacKinnon reported that as part of the Township's recent sponsorship of the Parry Sound Founders Circle Gala event, the municipality received two tickets to the event. He inquired which members of Council would be interested in attending.

Reeve Liverance and Councillor Emery expressed interest in attending.

Staff were directed to bring forward a motion for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

## **2.5 Council Remuneration and Expenses 2025**

Erin Robinson, Chief Financial Officer, summarized her report on 2025 Council remuneration and expenses.

The Committee discussed the breakdown of the report.

Staff were directed to bring forward a motion for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

## **2.6 Pointe Au Baril Lands Working Group**

John MacKinnon summarized his report and recommendation to establish a working group, led by the CAO, to advance the Pointe au Baril Lands project. Mr. MacKinnon advised that, if approved, two members of Council would need to be appointed to the working group.

Councillor Sheard and Councillor Emery indicated their interest in participating.

Staff were directed to bring forward a motion for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

The Committee recessed for a break from 10:12 a.m. and resumed regular business at 10:24 a.m.

## **3. TECHNOLOGY**

### **3.1 West Parry Sound SMART Community Network Inc. - Consent for Dissolution**

Joe Villeneuve, Manager of Technology and Innovation, informed the Committee that the Township received notice from the Chair of the West Parry Sound SMART Community Network Inc. regarding the organization's intent to begin the process of dissolution. It was noted that all voting members must provide written consent to complete the dissolution.

Mr. Villeneuve expressed his gratitude to the organization for its advocacy in improving connectivity in the region over the years.

No concerns were raised regarding the proposed dissolution of the organization.

Staff were directed to bring forward a motion for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

### **3.2 Meeting with Ministry Energy and Mines - Broadband Connectivity Update**

Joe Villeneuve provided an update on a recent meeting he, the CAO, and Councillor Sheard attended with the Ministry of Energy and Mines regarding a request for additional funding to expand connectivity efforts in the Pointe au Baril region. The meeting was a follow-up to the Township's request made during a ROMA delegation earlier this year.

Councillor Sheard reported that the meeting was positive, with the Ministry indicating that the project would be a strong candidate for future funding.

## **4. PLANNING AND BUILDING**

### **4.1 Building Permit Summary**

No issues were raised.

### **4.2 Building Permit Fees**

Mark Macfie, Chief Building Official, summarized his report and sought direction on whether there is interest in reviewing the Township's building permit fee schedule.

The Committee discussed the matter and reached a consensus to proceed with a review, with fees to be aligned at a minimum with neighbouring municipalities, while recognizing the additional costs associated with the Township's water-based geography. The Committee also expressed interest in having staff investigate the implementation of administrative fees for construction initiated prior to obtaining a building permit.

Staff were directed to bring forward a motion for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

## **5. ENVIRONMENT**

**5.1 Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative AGM Resolution - March 13th Deadline**

Reeve Liverance inquired whether the Committee wished to put forward a motion for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) Annual General Meeting in May. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that additional time was required to develop a motion. Reeve Liverance noted that he would contact GLSLCI to confirm whether the submission deadline would allow for consideration following the April Council Meeting.

Reeve Liverance reported that additional members of Council have expressed interest in attending the GLSLCI Annual General Meeting. Councillor Cade Fraser and Councillor MacLeod indicated their interest.

Staff were directed to bring forward a motion for consideration at the March Council Meeting.

**5.2 Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project - Public Comment Period**

Councillor Manners advised the Committee that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada has initiated a public comment period relating to the Pumped Storage Hydropower Project in Meaford. The comment period is open from March 6 to April 6, 2026.

Staff were directed to work with the Environment Committee to prepare comments, highlighting the municipality's concern that an environmental assessment is not required for the project.

Reeve Liverance noted that Georgian Bay Forever's (GBF) request for \$20,000 to support water testing related to the Pumped Storage Hydropower Project is currently not included in the draft 2026 budget. John MacKinnon advised that no other municipalities have indicated an interest in contributing funding to share costs.

The Committee discussed the matter and emphasized the importance of this research in protecting Great Lakes water quality.

Staff were directed to invite GBF to a future meeting to present on the research project and outline their funding request. Should Council wish to proceed, a motion approving the funding would be brought forward, and GBF could invoice the Township for the work.

The Committee recessed for a break at 11:46 a.m. and resumed regular business at 11:51 a.m.

### **5.3 Ontario's next steps to modernize conservation authorities**

Reeve Liverance reported that, based on feedback regarding the proposed changes to conservation authority structures, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has revised the boundaries from the initially proposed seven regions to nine.

## **6. PUBLIC WORKS**

### **6.1 Local Improvement Request – LIC-001 – Haarmeyer N Kapikog Roads**

John MacKinnon summarized a local improvement request submitted by Gerry Haarmeyer to upgrade Kapikog North Road, Munro Drive, Kapikog Dam Road (up to Joyce Lane), and Joyce Lane from summer-only to year-round maintenance. He provided an overview of the estimated capital cost of \$855,000, to be shared among the 37 affected properties, as well as the annual operating costs resulting in an estimated 0.5% to 1% tax increase for the South Archipelago. Mr. MacKinnon advised that, should Council pass a motion to proceed to the next step within the local improvement request framework, a formal petition would be circulated to all benefiting property owners.

The Committee discussed the request, with several members raising concerns regarding the ongoing operating costs being borne by unaffected South Archipelago residents.

Staff were directed to obtain legal advice on whether the Township could allocate the annual operating costs to the 37 affected properties and report back at the April Committee meeting prior to considering advancement to the petition stage.

### **6.2 Council Recommendation Report - Shared Waste Services District of Muskoka- MATTER DEFERRED TO APRIL MEETING**

This item was deferred to the April Committee of the Whole Meeting due to the absence of the Director Operations and Facilities.

### **6.3 Operations and Facilities Update**

John MacKinnon summarized the March operations and facilities update report, highlighting the release of the 2025 landfill annual report.

No issues were raised with the report.

**7. CLOSED MEETING**

**Moved by:** Councillor MacLeod

**Seconded by:** Councillor Cade Fraser

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Committee of the Whole move into a CLOSED MEETING at 1:32 p.m., pursuant to Section 239(3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, to deal with educating or training the members.

**Carried**

**7.1 Dr. Elizabeth Carlson-Manathara. Indigenous-Settler Relationships, Decolonization, and Treaty Training**

**8. OPEN MEETING**

**Moved by:** Councillor Frost

**Seconded by:** Councillor Cade Fraser

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Committee of the Whole move out of a CLOSED MEETING at 3:51 p.m.

**Carried**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

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Bert Liverance, Reeve

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Maryann Martin, Clerk