

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 25-01 (regular)

January 15th, 2025

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on January 15th, 2025, at 7:00 pm, in the Municipal Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 500 Highway 11, Mattice, Ontario.

Present:

Mayor – Marc Dupuis
Councilor – Steve Brousseau
Councilor – Sophie Gagnon
Councilor – Joyce Malenfant
Councilor – Réginald Manning

Staff

CAO/Clerk – Guylaine Coulombe
Treasurer – Annie Plamondon

Others

Lyne Lodin (left prior to caucus)
Renée-Pier Fontaine - Hearst Medias

1. Opening of meeting
The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

2. Approval of the Order of Business
The following items were added:
7.8 d) iii) wind turbine project
e) iv) TFO – capital project
7.9 Pre-budget consultations by the province
- Resolution 25-01

3. Pecuniary interest
Nil

4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council
Nil

5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meeting
- Resolution 25-02

6. Treasurer's report

6.1 Membership fees in 2025

- Resolution 25-03

6.2 Verbal report – purchase of new vehicle for the PW department – Treasurer to obtain estimated cost of repairs to the P&R van before Council considers the same

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support:

- b) City of Stratford/City of Guelph – fees charged to gas utilities
 - Resolution 25-04
- e) FONOM/City of Woodstock – funding for Children's Aid Societies
 - Resolution 25-05
- f) Northumberland County (Township of Puslinch) – management of excess soil
 - Resolution 25-06
- g) Town of Kearney – housing needs in rural areas
 - Resolution 25-07

The following requests were received and filed:

- a) Township of Puslinch – aggregate industry subsidies
- c) Municipality of Kincardine – taxation of nuclear generation facilities
- d) City of Toronto – voluntary blood and plasma donation
- h) Town of Aylmer – provincial legislation on cycling lanes

7.2 Requests for support policy

- Resolution 25-08

7.3 OPP billing – explanations pertaining to costs, discounts and statistics

- Filed

7.4 Lakeshore Capacity Assessment – correspondence received from NEPU explaining their role in the permit issuing process. Planning consultants confirmed that a second cottage cannot be built on the same lot around the lake. We are waiting for a cost estimate from WSP for a zoning by-law amendment to adequately address further concerns raised in the report.

- Deferred

7.5 NEOMA virtual meeting on February 7th – Mayor Dupuis, Councilor Malenfant, CAO/Clerk and possibly the Treasurer plan on attending the same

- Agreed

7.6 ONR - signage requirements for the 2nd Street railroad crossing – CAO to obtain additional information in this regard

- Deferred

7.7 Council remuneration and reimbursement of expenses – no increases, a few wording changes to be made

- Agreed

7.8 Report – various items

c) Information provided

- Filed

d) For Council's consideration

i) Improvements to the community hall – signage costs

- Resolution 25-09

ii) Future of the ice rink

- Deferred

iii) Wind turbine project – Council looking for more information

- Deferred

iv) TFO – capital project – submit funding request for gym equipment & security cameras

- Agreed

7.9 Pre-budget consultations by the province – Council reviewed and approved the draft letter prepared in this regard. Mayor will sign the letter that will then be submitted to the province.

- Agreed

8. Mayor's report

8.1 Verbal report of the very first meeting of the Northeastern Public Health Board held virtually on January 1st, 2025.

9. Councilors' reports

A. Councilor Brousseau

- Nil

B. Councilor Gagnon

- Nil

C. Councilor Malenfant

- Nil

D. Councilor Manning

- Verbal report of the Kapuskasing LCC meeting held on January 8th, 2025.

10. By-laws

10.1 By-law no. 1007 – 2025 Interim Tax Billing

- Resolution 25-10

10.2 By-law no. 1008 – Agreement for funding under the Fire Protection Grant

- Resolution 25-11

- 11. Caucus
 - a) Caucus – Resolution 25-12
 - b) Regular meeting – Resolution 25-13

- 12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

- 12.1 Hours of work – December 2024
- 12.2 NEPH – merger and official launch
- 12.3 MECP – excess soil regulation
- 12.4 DCSSAB – funding for shelter expansion/encampment response initiative
- 12.5 MSG – amendment to the composition of the James Bay O.P.P. Detachment Board 1

13. Resolutions

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| Agenda | <u>Resolution 25-01</u> : Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon THAT the agenda, as amended, be hereby accepted. | Carried |
| Minutes | <u>Resolution 25-02</u> : Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council’s regular meeting 24-17, held on December 18 th , 2024 be hereby adopted. | Carried |
| 2025 Membership fees | <u>Resolution 25-03</u> : Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning BE IT RESOLVED THAT the membership fees paid last year to the following associations once again be paid in 2025: AMO, FCM, FONOM, MEPCO, MFOA, NEOMA, NEOnet and NeCN. | Carried |
| Fees charged to gas utilities | <u>Resolution 25-04</u> : Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby supports the Resolution made by the City of Guelph on November 26 th , 2024 and endorsed by the City of Stratford on December 16 th , 2024, requesting that the Province of Ontario amend section 9 of Regulation 584/06 under the <i>Municipal Act, 2001</i> , to permit municipalities to charge fair fees to for-profit gas utilities for their use of public property, as municipalities do in most other provinces, and; | |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the City of Guelph, to the City of Stratford and to our local parliament representatives, MP Carol Hughes and MPP Guy Bourgouin.

Carried

Funding for Children's
Aid Societies

Resolution 25-05: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS Children's Aid Societies across Ontario are experiencing significant financial pressures, with the majority of agencies running deficits in the millions, and;

WHEREAS the Financial Accountability Office has indicated that funding for child protection has fallen behind inflation, with the sector missing \$70 million compared to previous funding levels, and;

WHEREAS the current funding model implemented in 2013 has limitations that affect the safety and well-being of children, particularly in northern and remote communities, and;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services' spending on Child Protection Services is projected to grow at only 0.7% annually from 2023-24 to 2028-29, well below inflation, and;

WHEREAS the child welfare redesign strategy requires enhanced community-based prevention services and improved quality of care, which cannot be achieved without adequate funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the recent resolution made by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), calling on the Government of Ontario to immediately address the funding shortfall in child welfare by providing emergency stabilization funding to Children's Aid Societies and requesting that the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services undertake a province wide review, including the funding model, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following be included in the review: adequately addressing the unique challenges of northern and remote communities; accounting for higher operation costs in geographically dispersed regions; providing sustainable funding for prevention services; implementing multi-year funding commitments that allow for proper planning and service delivery and advocating for the development of a specific Northern Strategy for child welfare that recognizes the unique needs and challenges of northern communities, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, to FONOM and to our local parliament representatives, MP Carol Hughes and MPP Guy Bourgouin.

Carried

Management of excess soil

Resolution 25-06: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant

WHEREAS Ontario is not alone in navigating the challenges of sustainable development and the United Nations provides guidance, through its Sustainable Development Report, which includes goals focused on economic growth, infrastructure, sustainable communities, hunger, clean water and sanitation, climate action and life on land, and;

WHEREAS it is critical that governments consider the comprehensive impacts on all of these areas when conducting feasibility studies and implementing projects which generate excess soil.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby supports Resolution no. 2024-378 made by the Township of Puslinch and endorsed by Northumberland County via resolution no. 2024-12-18-909, calling on the provincial government to: 1) prioritize the protection of agricultural lands in the management of excess soil from roads and underground projects and in the planning and feasibility studies related to such projects; 2) ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to support effective enforcement and oversight of excess soil regulations; 3) collaborate with municipalities to provide necessary support and funding for enforcement activities related to excess soil management, minimizing financial burdens on local taxpayers; 4) conduct a comprehensive impact assessment that considers all aspects of sustainable development, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Report, before proceeding with the traffic tunnel project and any further amendments to excess soil legislation, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, to the Township of Puslinch, to Northumberland County and to our local parliament representatives, MP Carol Hughes and MPP Guy Bourgouin.

Carried

Housing needs in rural areas

Resolution 25-07: Marc Dupuis – Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS by Resolution no. 2024 – 398 the Town of Kearney sent a letter expressing its concerns over the applicability of changes made to the *Planning Act*, through the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* and the *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024*, to rural municipalities, and;

WHEREAS in said letter the Town of Kearney mentions that rural municipalities often struggle with infrastructure limitations, specifically with water supply, sewage systems and transportation networks and that, while the changes made by the Province does cut red tape for urban areas in Ontario, they do not address constraints rural municipalities deal with when trying to increase density without municipal servicing. Additionally, the increased residential density permitted by the amendments may not be compatible with the rural character and lifestyle that residents value.

WHEREAS the Town of Kearney believes that a one-size-fits-all approach to additional residential units (ARUs) development may inadvertently overlook the distinct needs of rural communities. As municipalities in rural Northern Ontario have before, the Town urges the government to consider creating tailored policies that recognize the specific conditions and requirements of rural areas, ensuring that any regulatory changes support sustainable and contextually appropriate growth.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté fully agrees with and supports the letter dated December 19th 2024 sent by the Town of Kearney to the Honorable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to the Premier and to various municipal associations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Town of Kearney, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and to our local parliament representatives, MP Carol Hughes and MPP Guy Bourgouin.

Carried

Requests for support policy

Resolution 25-08: Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT municipal policy no. 9, being a policy that outlines how requests for support are to be handled, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Signage costs

Resolution 25-09: Réginald Manning - Joyce Malenfant
WHEREAS the expenses incurred for the community hall renovations currently total a little over ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THREE THOUSAND (\$143,000.00) DOLLARS, and;
WHEREAS the remaining available funding amounts to a little less than SEVEN THOUSAND (\$7,000.00) DOLLARS, and;
WHEREAS many renovations were made to the community hall over and above what had originally been planned, and;
WHEREAS in order to complete the project, all previous signage must be replaced;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby agrees that the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND (\$8,000.00) DOLLARS, before taxes, be allocated to community hall signage requirements.

Carried

By-law no. 1007

Resolution 25-10: Steve Brousseau - Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1007, being a by-law authorizing a tax levy before the adoption of the estimates for the year 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

By-law no. 1008

Resolution 25-11: Réginald Manning - Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1008, being a by-law to authorize the execution of an agreement with His Majesty the King In Right of Ontario, as represented by the Office of the Fire Marshal, for funding under the Fire Protection Grant, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 25-12: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 8:21 pm to adopt the minutes of a closed meeting and to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 25-13: Réginald Manning - Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 8:24 pm.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 25-14: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's closed meeting 24-17, held on December 18th, 2024 be hereby adopted.

Carried

MVC Fire Department

Resolution 25-15: Réginald Manning – Marc Dupuis
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the application submitted by Ryan Côté to become a member of the Mattice – Val Côté Fire Department be hereby accepted.

Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, February 4th, at 7:00 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 25-16: Réginald Manning – Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1009, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Wednesday, January 15th, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 8:30 pm

Resolution 25-17: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held on January 15th, 2025, be adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on February 4th, 2025

Mayor

CAO/Clerk