

MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 22nd, 2025 – 6:00 pm

PRESENT Mayor Sheila Maxwell
Councillor Grant Arnold
Councillor David Maxwell

REGRETS Councillor Chris Kresack
Councillor David Halvorsen

ALSO PRESENT Karen Paisley, Clerk
Leanne Maxwell, Treasurer
Leonard Arps, Public Works Manager

VIRTUAL Olabisi Akinsanya-Hutka, HR Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
Mayor Maxwell provided a statement of land acknowledgement.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Public Works Manager requested that he provide his report to council early as he had a personal event to attend. Council agreed to have his report delivered after the scheduled deputation.

RESOLUTION 2025 – 151

Moved by: Councillor Kresack

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the regular council meeting of July 22nd, 2025, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations were made.

4. TOWN HALL SEGMENT

No members of the public had registered to speak at the Town Hall Segment.

5. DEPUTATIONS

Gary Christian from North Superior Workforce Planning Board provided a deputation to Council with regard to regional market conditions. Mr. Christian presented a detailed overview of regional labour market trends, highlighting workforce shortages, aging demographics, and the need for skilled trades. He emphasized the importance of immigration, youth retention, and training access, highlighting the challenges in sectors such as trucking, healthcare, and forestry. Council discussed local impacts, including unsafe highways and insurance barriers for young drivers. Mr. Christian offered free access to regional labour data and planning tools to support municipal decision-making.

8. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

8.4 Public Works Report

Mr. Arps provided an update on departmental activities. He reported that road maintenance efforts included the delivery and application of 74 loads of gravel in May and 114 loads in June. Calcium chloride was applied to Ilkka Drive to assist with dust control and road stabilization.

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At the landfill, Bay City's backhoe remains in use while the Township's backhoe is undergoing repairs, with its return expected by the end of the following week. Due to the volume of material, the burn pile was relocated to a more open area to accommodate safe burning once weather conditions permit. At the Conmee Cemetery, the water tank valve was replaced. There is existing signage on the water tank advising residents to shut off the valve. A timed shut off valve was discussed.

Mr. Arps also proposed the purchase of a brush implement with multiple attachments, including a sweeper and weed trimmer, at an estimated cost of \$1,500. The equipment would assist with maintaining visibility around signage and clearing debris in areas inaccessible to larger machinery.

Mr. Arps noted ongoing issues with improper garbage disposal at the landfill, particularly in the furniture drop-off area. Council discussed the need for improved signage and enforcement to ensure materials are deposited in the correct locations.

7:04 pm – Public Works Manager left the meeting.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

6.1 Minutes – Regular Council Meeting – July 8th, 2025

Council present reviewed the minutes of the July 8th, 2025, Regular Council Meeting. Council requested an amendment be made to Councillor Kresack's report for clarity.

RESOLUTION 2025 - 152

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes for the open session portion of the regular council meeting of July 8th, 2025, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

7. DISBURSEMENT LIST

7.1. Payroll Report

There was no payroll report scheduled for this evening's meeting.

7.2. Payment Register

Council reviewed the payment register, including electronic bank payments and cheque disbursements. No concerns were raised.

RESOLUTION 2025-153

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approved the disbursements represented by electronic bank payments, check numbers 7497 to 7515 totalling \$78,526.48.

8. REPORTS FROM MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

8.1. Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided an update on several administrative initiatives. She reported that the new Administrative Assistant had been successfully onboarded and was completing her CPR certification in August. The machine operator was registered for the Northern Road School Maintenance course, which supports future road supervisor certification. The Clerk secured the Rosslyn Recreation Centre as the venue for upcoming union negotiations and has requested the necessary insurance certificate from Conmee's insurance carrier. Microphone system upgrades were underway by Steve Lazar, with a Zoom test scheduled to ensure functionality. The Clerk also coordinated the kickoff meeting for asset management planning with PSD Citywide, inviting the mayor and other municipal departments. Waste bin management at the community hall was discussed, including a proposal from the food bank to reorganize bins and improve signage. They would also like a fastening system on the bin lids to deter bears. Council determined the first two bins should be garbage, and the third bin to be recycling. Finally, the Clerk and

RP SM

Treasurer requested and received Council approval to attend the MFOA workshop in November, which will support their roles in upcoming budget planning.

8.2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer provided an update on the Township's Infrastructure Ontario loan application, noting that the application is currently facing challenges due to deficits recorded in 2020, 2022, and 2023. Auditors are scheduled to begin their 2024 review in September, and the 2020 fiscal year will drop off the five-year review window, which may improve the Township's eligibility. She also reported that tax arrears collection efforts are showing improvement, with the use of coloured notices. She's made referrals to RealTax for properties in arrears. Upcoming tax notices will include inserts outlining landfill and recycling procedures. The Treasurer also noted that she had taken two vacation days. Council approved the Clerk and Treasurer's request to attend the MFOA workshop scheduled for November.

8.3. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer's Report

No Deputy Clerk-Treasurer's Report was presented at this evening's meeting.

8.4. Public Works Report

Public Works Report was provided to Council after the deputation and is noted chronologically in these minutes.

8.5. Fire Chief's Report

The Fire Chief submitted a written report to Council. Although he was unable to attend the meeting due to work conflicts, Council reviewed the report and discussed several key items. The department is currently operating with limited personnel, as several members are on leave or unavailable due to work and personal commitments. Council noted that mutual aid support has been essential during recent calls, and that the department is under increased scrutiny from regulatory bodies regarding response times and equipment readiness. A recruitment open house is scheduled for August to encourage new volunteer participation. Council also discussed the importance of delegating operational responsibilities within the department and reviewed budget provisions for honorariums and incentives to support firefighter engagement and retention.

8.6. Council Member Reports

Mayor Maxwell noted that the Lakehead Rural Municipal Coalition (LRMC) will not reconvene until September, as the July meeting was cancelled due to a lack of correspondence and agenda items. She advised that she had been in and out of the municipal office over the past week, overseeing several facility-related tasks. These included coordinating the relocation of the office freezer due to excessive heat buildup in the utility room and purchasing bulletin boards for the back of the utility room door to organize facilities paperwork. The mayor also assisted facilities with extensive cleaning of the community rink in preparation for a weekend event, which involved pressure washing, sweeping, and water removal using a shop vacuum. She noted that the rink's lack of drainage remains a concern and recommended that future upgrades include a drainage solution. Additionally, she reported that a new large metal garbage can is needed at the Conmee Cemetery to collect debris such as sticks and branches. Mayor Maxwell confirmed her attendance at the upcoming asset management kickoff meeting with PSD Citywide.

Councillor Arnold expressed support for Mayor Maxwell's participation in the upcoming asset management kickoff meeting, emphasizing the value of Council involvement in infrastructure planning. He also noted that he would be part of the committee responsible for conducting employee performance reviews. Additionally, he stated that he planned to stop by the cemetery to observe the newly installed water valve.

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Councillor Maxwell reported that he attended the Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML) meeting on July 12, 2025, hosted in O'Connor. He noted that the meeting included a deputation from Thunder Bay District Social Services Board (DSSAB) and discussions on the designated truck route. He was asked whether other municipalities could join Conmee's delegation if a meeting with the Minister of Transportation is secured at the upcoming AMO conference, and he indicated he would bring the request to Council. Councillor Maxwell also reported that Rick Dumas, President of NOMA, requested a copy of Conmee's letter of opposition to the designated truck route to support regional advocacy. He further advised that he had spoken with Steve Lazar regarding the Council Chambers microphone system upgrades and confirmed that additional cabling and testing were scheduled. Councillor Maxwell also noted his upcoming participation in union negotiations and the need to complete a generator report before the end of the month.

8.7. Other Agencies' Reports

Council reviewed the other agency reports. These reports were listed in the Clerk's Report to Council. The reports were provided primarily for information purposes.

RESOLUTION 2025-154

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council received the reports presented as listed in Section 8 of this evening's agenda.

CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Tax Adjustment Application

Council considered a request for a property tax adjustment related to the demolition of a structure located on Holland Road. MPAC issued revised assessments for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 taxation years. Following discussion, Council approved a 50% tax credit for the difference of the 2023 and 2024 taxation years, to be applied as a credit to the property owner's tax account.

Resolution 2025-155

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approve a tax adjustment for the property located on Holland Road, as recommended by MPAC, and that a 50% tax credit be applied to the difference in assessment for the 2023 and 2024 taxation years resulting from the demolition of the structure, with the credit to be reflected on the property owner's tax account.

CARRIED

9.2 New Pumper Fire Truck – Cost Comparisons

Council resumed discussions regarding the replacement of the aging pumper fire truck. The Treasurer advised that the Infrastructure Ontario loan application remains uncertain due to deficits in three of the past five fiscal years. Council acknowledged that a decision on financing would be contingent on Infrastructure Ontario's response. The Fort Garry Fire Trucks quote remains valid until August 22, 2025, and Council noted the need to act promptly should financing be secured. Alternatives such as phased budgeting or exploring other lending institutions were briefly discussed. The matter was deferred to a future meeting pending further financial information.

10. BY-LAWS

There were no bylaws presented at this evening's meeting.

RP SM

11. CORRESPONDENCE

List of Resolution Support Requests from other Municipalities

Council reviewed the following resolutions for support:

11.1 Resolution Opposing Bill C-2, Section 77.5(1): Council resolution condemning proposed federal legislation that would criminalize lawful cash transactions over \$10,000, citing negative impacts on small businesses, charities, and rural communities. Calls for withdrawal of the amendment and broader consultation.

11.2 Resolution 2025-244 – Opposition to Proposed BESS Facility: Council resolution requesting a provincial moratorium on new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects pending a science-based study and policy framework. Expresses local opposition to the Pegg's Mountain proposal and calls for industrial zoning restrictions for future BESS siting.

11.3 Request for Support: Northern Highway 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025 (Bill 49):

Correspondence from MPP Lise Vaugeois requesting municipal endorsement of Bill 49, which proposes enhanced safety measures for Highways 11 and 17, including improved enforcement, certified driver testing, and Ministry-led winter maintenance.

RESOLUTION 2025-0156

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council supports the following correspondence items as presented under Item 11 of this evening's agenda:

The resolution opposing Bill C-2, Section 77.5(1), which proposes to criminalize cash transactions over \$10,000;

The resolution requesting a moratorium on new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities pending a science-based study and policy framework;

The request for support of Bill 49, the Northern Highway 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025.

CARRIED

12. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The list of upcoming regular Council meeting dates was available for review. No changes were proposed.

13. CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2025-0157

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the time being 8:24 pm, Council moved into closed session, under the authority of those paragraphs of the Municipal Act, 2001 (S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended) for which it was authorized to be closed, to review Item 13.1, being the Closed Session minutes of the Council meeting held July 8th, 2025; and under the authority of paragraph 239(2)(d) of the same legislation, to consider Item 13.2, involving labour relations.

CARRIED

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During closed session, the following procedural resolution was passed:

RESOLUTION 2025-158

Moved by: Councillor Maxwell

Seconded by: Councillor Arnold

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the time being 9:17 pm, Council rise from closed session and report in open session.

CARRIED

Open session resumed.

14. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2025-159

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Closed Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on July 8th, 2025, be approved; AND, FURTHER, THAT Administration be authorized to proceed as directed in closed session.

CARRIED

15. CONFIRMING BY-LAW

By-law 2025-025

RESOLUTION 2025-160

Moved by: Councillor Arnold

Seconded by: Councillor Maxwell

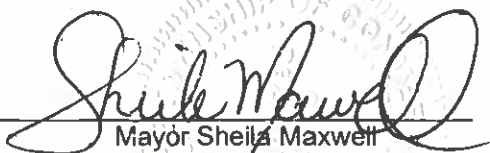
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2025-025 be passed;

AND, FURTHER, THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized on behalf of the Township of Conmee to affix their signatures to By-law No. 2025-025, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of this evening's meeting.


CARRIED

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to attend to, the mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.



Mayor Sheila Maxwell



Clerk Karen Paisley