

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

August 12, 2025

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Wendy Whitwell, Dorothy Haggart-Davis and Jerry Brandt; Delegations: Amy Tilley, Waste Administrator and Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor; Guests: Alice Hewitt, Don Murphy, Darcy Prentice, Barry Burton, Sarah Cooke, Owen Gray, Ana Cultraro, Dino Cultraro, Marie Odorizzi, Elizabeth Hewitt, D. Balesdent, and Nieves Guijarro; Staff: Dave Gray, CAO and Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk.

VIDEO RECORDING DISCLAIMER:

Participants were informed that the meeting will be recorded to provide a record of discussions and agreements held within the meeting. By staying in the meeting, virtually or in-person, participants consented to being recorded. Participants also agreed to recordings being posted to YouTube or other distribution services.

INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Council acknowledged the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe and recognized the historical and contemporary contributions of the local First Nations and the peoples of Turtle Island.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

The minutes of the regular Council meeting held on July 22, 2025 was approved as circulated.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

DELEGATIONS:

Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator, presented her August 2025 report and the monthly bag counts for 2025 with comparisons to previous years. Budget and financial matters were addressed, including maintenance on the compactor and skid steer. A fire extinguisher for the compactor is required and will be included in the 2026 budget. The consulting engineer for the landfill will be retiring this year. An RFP will be issued mid-September with input from the outgoing consultant. The resolution from Council dated July 22, 2025 regarding the opposition to the change notice for the Depot Operations Agreement has been forwarded to Circular Materials Ontario and the TRI partners. Due to extreme heat, the landfill has been shut down early a couple times this summer. The public was advised via social media. Bottle return depots were discussed. The Waste Management Administrator will investigate establishing the service and the impact on operating costs. Questions were asked and answered.

Amy Tilley, Health and Safety Co-ordinator advised Council that as we continue to grow, more formal training will be provided to ensure consistency in departmental inspections and safety activities. Certification and training for workers and managers will occur over the next few years.

Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor, presented his August 2025 report which detailed equipment usage and maintenance summaries. Weather events and responses, summer operations, current construction projects, including the North Pickerel Lake Road Bridge replacement and Cogeco fiber project updates were discussed. The footings for the bridge have been poured in preparation for the installation of the prefabricated bridge, which will come in six sections for assembly via crane. Dust suppression and road grading are a priority with the dry weather. Questions were asked and answered.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL:

The list of accounts for August 2025 was approved by resolution.

APPLICATIONS: NONE

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

August 12, 2025

BY-LAWS:

By-law #49-2025 being a by-law to enter into a site plan agreement with Daniel Bowering and Lesley Kataric, with respect to Part Lot 17, Concession 5, PSR 1997, Part 3 and 42R-8352 Part 2 fronting on Three Mile Lake and known as 943 Relative Road was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #50-2025 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its July meetings was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #51-2025 being a by-law to enter into a site plan agreement with Chauhan Pavitar Preet Singh with respect to Part Lot 5, Concession 6, being Lot 9 of Plan 42M-675 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council reviewed Resolution No. 2025-244 from the Village of Burk's Falls expressing opposition to the Battery Energy Storage System proposed by SolarBank Corporation in the Township of Armour. The resolution has been circulated to provincial Members of Parliament and all municipalities across Ontario. Council also reviewed a response letter from the Mayor of the Township of Armour to the Council of the Village of Burk's Falls, which addresses the concerns raised and affirms a municipal commitment to an open and transparent process aligned with applicable provincial policies. The Mayor's letter was supported by Council and it was reiterated that no payout or negotiations have been discussed with the applicant. A process is to be followed and no position on the application has been taken by Council. Council is confident that they will make the right decision at the right time.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed the August 2025 Planning Report.

Council reviewed the August 2025 Building Permit Report. Written data from NBMCA on septic statistics were requested.

Council reviewed the minutes from the July 21, 2025 Historical Society meeting. The water, heater and toilet are to be installed in the new red building this week.

A verbal report was given on the July 23, 2025 Planning Board meeting. The Prentice Subdivision application was discussed with a fair number of questions. The application was supported. Not all of all the Township's conditions were implemented as written. Council had no concerns with the conditions in the Notice of Decision and the revisions were considered minor in nature. The Town of Kearney has submitted a request to MMAH to pull out of the Planning Board. If granted, consents and subdivisions will be handled entirely by municipal staff.

Council reviewed the Director's Report, ACED Board resolution supporting funding contribution for memberships, a resolution from the Village of Sundridge opposing the funding models and minutes from the ACED June 26, 2025 meeting. The July 2025 meeting was cancelled due to storm weather but will meet in August.

Council reviewed a report from the Mayor concerning governance of family health teams and called upon support for standardization. Council passed a resolution urging the Province of Ontario to implement a standard and mandatory governance model for the boards of Family Health Teams across the province, which ensures that community members make up 50% of the overall board membership to ensure appropriate representation for the communities which use and support healthcare in their local area.

Council reviewed correspondence from the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB) noting that, as of August 13, 2025, no appointment has been received in response to their June 16, 2025 request for a new member to jointly represent Area 4. It was noted that the seat remains vacant and must be filled as soon as possible. Deputy Mayor Sean Cotton of the Village of Burk's Falls has expressed

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

August 12, 2025

REPORTS: cont'd.

interest in the appointment. A resolution supporting his nomination is expected to be considered by the relevant councils before the end of the month. Council acknowledged the importance of ensuring Area 4 is fully represented at the DSSAB and supports moving the appointment process forward.

A verbal update was provided regarding the TRI Council Sub-Committee meeting held on August 5, 2025. The meeting was noted as productive, with open and constructive communication among members. The primary focus was on matters related to the library, including a review of the draft library agreement, which is expected to be presented at the next TRI Council meeting for formal consideration. Under the proposed agreement, funding contributions would be based on population, resulting in an increase to Armour Township's share from 39% to 46.16%. Clause 1(c) from the draft agreement that limited consecutive terms was not supported by Council. The TRI partners will be made aware of the revision request.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed a letter from the Town of Aurora requesting support in expressing opposition to Bill 5 in its current form and urged the Government of Ontario to work collaboratively with municipalities. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a letter from the Town of Aurora requesting support in opposing Bill 17 in its current form and urged the Government of Ontario to restore meaningful municipal input. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of Nairn and Hyman requesting support in petitioning the Government of Ontario and opposing the transportation or placement of niobium mine tailings at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area and urging the Ministries involved to conduct a transparent, science-based, and precautionary review of all disposal options, prioritizing public health and environmental safety. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a news release from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare recognizing the new billboards at each of the new hospital sites that spotlight the Made-in-Muskoka Healthcare.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising the Province is investing \$3 million to support cleaner and healthier communities.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising the Province is protecting walleye from illegal fishing.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising Ontario is investing \$56.8 million to expand nursing enrollment. The investment will add 2,200 nurses to the province's health-care workforce by 2029.

Council reviewed a media release from Canada Post advising that the majority of CUPW represented employees have rejected Canada Post's final offers.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is investing \$28 million to boost non-profit programs.

Council reviewed a public service announcement from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit providing a community drug alert following sharp increase in overdoses rates between July 23 and August 2, 2025. Nine overdoses have been reported that involved opioids.

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

August 12, 2025

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council reviewed resolution #2025-241 from the Village of Burk's Falls endorsing the Township of Armour's Resolution No. 208, dated July 8, 2025. The resolution directs the Waste Management Administrator to convey Council's position to Circular Materials Ontario and to engage in negotiations for revised compensation terms that ensure fair and equitable remuneration for the continued provision of depot operations and promotion and education services.

Council reviewed resolution #2025-256 from the Village of Burk's Falls supporting the Township of Ryerson's acceptance of RFP 2025-007 for the design and build for the new firehall from DOMM Construction in the amount of \$3,634,900.50 + HST.

Council reviewed resolution #2025-257 from the Village of Burk's Falls supporting the application under the NOHFC's Community Enhancement Program for the new fire hall build project and the commitment to cover their share of the project, along with any project cost overruns.

A verbal report was provided regarding the development of an access road for the industrial park off Highway 520. The Municipal Engineer reviewed the original concept plans and the approved highway entrance, confirming that the access point off Highway 520 will remain unchanged. However, approximately 100 metres onto the property, a hydro pole has been installed in a location that would be costly to relocate. Additionally, the proposed route encounters a steep hill and rocky terrain, leading into unusable land. It was noted that the site plan contours would result in the loss of approximately 5 to 6 acres of potentially developable land, and winter road maintenance would present further challenges. A revised access road plan was recommended by the Engineer as a more practical solution for future development. The revised alignment would open the property to potential buyers without the need for a fully developed internal road. Council directed staff to proceed with road construction in accordance with the Municipal Engineer's recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council received a request of donation from the Almaguin Anglers Association for the annual Kids Fishing Derby. Council passed a resolution approving a donation.

Council reviewed a proposal from the Magnetawan Nature River Hub regarding a collaboration opportunity to support a floating education centre to serve the community by animating the Magnetawan River's history, ecology and culture on a vessel called "River Hub." Council discussed the project and passed a resolution supporting the proposal in principle and expressed their intention to collaborate where reasonable to support the development, promotion, and use of the "River Hub" facility. Council recognized that many aspects of this project will require significant financial support and encouraged suitable funding organizations to strongly consider supporting this project.

Council reviewed the new draft library agreement and reflected on the discussion held earlier in the meeting. It was confirmed that the existing 2022 agreement is to be formally terminated, updated, and replaced with the revised version. Council members reaffirmed their position on the removal of the clause limiting consecutive terms for board members. The draft agreement is scheduled to be presented for consideration at the upcoming TRI Council meeting on August 26, 2025, at which time a resolution is expected from each respective Council authorizing the Mayors and Clerks to execute the agreement.

CLOSED SESSION:

The purpose of the closed meeting under Section 239(2) (b) and (e) of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees and litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board.

A resolution was passed to move into closed session at 8:41 p.m.

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

August 12, 2025

CLOSED SESSION: cont'd.

A resolution was passed to move out of the closed session at 9:55 p.m. The Mayor reported on the items that were discussed in the closed session.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #243 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the minutes of the regular council meeting held on July 22, 2025 as circulated. Carried

Resolution #244 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the August 2025 accounts, in the amount of \$1,104,996.83 for payment, and the Mayor and the Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign cheques for same. Carried

Resolution #245 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approved By-law #49-2025 being a by-law to enter into a site plan agreement with Daniel Bowering and Lesley Kataric with respect to Part Lot 17, Concession 5, PSR 1997, Part 3 and 42R-8352 Part 2 fronting on Three Mile Lake and known as 943 Relative Road and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #246 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #50-2025 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its July 2025 meetings and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #247 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approved By-law #51-2025 being a by-law to enter into a site plan agreement with Chauhan Pavitar Preet Singh with respect to Part Lot 5, Concession 6, being Lot 9 of Plan 42M-675 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #248 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; WHEREAS Ontario's Family Health Teams provide team-based healthcare which is critical to our communities;

AND WHEREAS healthcare in Ontario is publicly funded;

AND WHEREAS municipalities invest significant additional public/taxpayer money in support of Family Health Teams and other healthcare-related organizations, including supports for primary care recruitment, healthcare facilities, and additional community healthcare needs;

AND WHEREAS the governance models for Family Health Teams in Ontario do not follow mandatory standards;

AND WHEREAS governance models are designed to ensure appropriate representation, transparency, and guardrails with respect to potential conflicts of interest for the organizations they represent;

AND WHEREAS many boards of Family Health Teams are not balanced in terms of representation from the communities and municipalities that they cover;

AND WHEREAS the lack of a standard and balanced governance model means that the needs of the local communities are not necessarily fully represented;

AND WHEREAS the province is directing the Primary Care Action Team (PCAT), through Dr. Jane Philpott, to ensure connected and convenient healthcare across the province;

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

August 12, 2025

RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

AND WHEREAS Family Health Teams are crucial in the delivery of the mandate of PCAT;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Council of the Township of Armour urges the Province of Ontario to implement a standard and mandatory governance model for the boards of Family Health Teams across the province, which ensures that community members make up 50% of the overall board membership to ensure appropriate representation for the communities which use and support healthcare in their local area;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Dr. Jane Philpott, Chair of the Primary Care Action Team; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO); and all municipalities in Ontario. Carried

Resolution #249 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Town of Aurora's resolution expressing opposition to Bill 5 in its current form and urges the Government of Ontario to work collaboratively with municipalities, uphold environmental and heritage protections, engage Indigenous partners, and ensure transparent public consultation in the implementation of any legislative reforms. Carried

Resolution #250 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Town of Aurora's resolution opposing Bill 17 in its current form and urges the Government of Ontario to restore meaningful municipal input, maintain strong environmental and heritage safeguards, and ensure public participation and accountability in planning processes. Carried

Resolution #251 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Township of Nairn and Hyman in opposing the transportation or placement of niobium mine tailings at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area and urges the Ministries involved to conduct a transparent, science-based, and precautionary review of all disposal options, prioritizing public health and environmental safety. Carried

Resolution #252 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves a donation in the amount of \$500 to the Almaguin Angler Association to support the 2025 Kids Annual Fishing Derby. Carried

Resolution #253 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Armour recognizes through their Official Plan (Con. 2024) that the environment, including the Magnetawan River, is the most important natural resource in the Township;

AND WHEREAS Council's understanding of the River Hub proposal issued by the Magnetawan River Nature Hub pertains to the creation of an eco-destination through the establishment of a floating education centre on the Magnetawan River that will celebrate the River's history, ecology, and history;

AND WHEREAS Armour Township has adopted the 2018 Almaguin Highlands Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan which recommends that regional partners maintain and expand recreational, sports and cultural opportunities and recognizes this project as a direct fit within this recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour hereby declare their support in principle for the proposal and express their intention to collaborate where reasonable to support the development, promotion, and use of the River Hub facility. Council recognizes that many aspects of this project will require significant financial support and encourages suitable funding organizations to strongly consider supporting this project. Carried

MINUTES

August 12, 2025

RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #254 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby move into closed session at 8:41 p.m. as per Section 239(2) (b) and (e) of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees and litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board. Carried

Resolution #256 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby adjourn and move out of closed session at 9:55 p.m. and report. Carried

Resolution #257 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourns this regular council meeting at 9:56 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for August 26, 2025 or at the call of the Mayor or the Clerk. Carried

Original signed by Rod Ward

Rod Ward, Mayor

Original signed by Charlene Watt

Charlene Watt, Clerk