

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

August 11, 2026

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Wendy Whitwell, Dorothy Haggart-Davis and Jerry Brandt; Absent: Councillor Rod Blakelock; Delegations: Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor; Linda Newnham, Past President of Three Mile Lake Association, Daniel Rozanski, Current President of Three Mile Lake Association, Judy Kleinhuis, CPA, Doane Grant Thornton LLP; Guests: Cheri Roser, Ted Williams, Nieves Guijarro and Jim Price; Staff: Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk; Alison McGregor, Treasurer; Charlotte Wagar, Office Administrator and Dave Gray, CAO.

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.

ACCEPTANCE OF AMENDED AGENDA:

Council passed a resolution to approve the amended agenda, as requested by Councillor Blakelock, to include Item #35 regarding a resolution in support of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries and increased, sustainable provincial funding for public libraries.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the regular Council meeting held on July 28, 2026 were approved, as circulated.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

DELEGATION:

Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor, presented the August 2026 Roads Department Report. The Roads Department is transitioning to summer operations, with staggered vacation and banked-time schedules in place to maintain essential service coverage. Staff continue to undertake drainage improvements, including ditching and critical culvert replacements. Approximately 800 hydro poles are also being replaced in Armour Township to accommodate the installation of Cogeco fibre. Due to ongoing dry conditions, routine grading of gravel roads is being limited to prevent damage to the calcium chloride surface, aggregate loss, and increased dust. Township representatives met with Hydro One regarding exposed hydro lines at the boat launch on Pickerel Lake. Three cables are present, one belonging to Hydro One and two to Bell. Hydro One advised that the damaged neutral cable, which has exposed wires, is considered a low risk. The Roads Supervisor will consult with the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) regarding the matter and will follow up with Hydro One to confirm the source of the unbalanced load on the neutral cable and whether it is a ground. A mitigation risk is currently being reviewed.

Linda Newnham, Past President, and Dan Rozanski, Current President, of the Three Mile Lake Association, presented to Council on behalf of the Association to express their support for implementing a septic system reinspection program within the municipality. Ms. Newnham highlighted the importance of regular septic system inspections in protecting water quality, maintaining the health of local lakes and waterways, and reducing the risk of environmental contamination resulting from failing

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DELEGATION: cont'd.

or improperly maintained systems. She noted that a proactive reinspection program would help identify potential issues before they become significant environmental concerns, encourage responsible property stewardship, and support the long-term sustainability of the municipality's natural resources. The Association offered to assist the Township with implementing the program as a pilot initiative. Mr. Rozanski provided additional information regarding septic reinspection programs and their potential impacts, noting data from the Ontario Rural Wastewater Council indicating that fewer than 10% of inspected systems require replacement. Council members asked questions, which were addressed by the presenters. Council advised that, once a Chief Building Official (CBO) is hired, Staff will investigate the feasibility of implementing a septic reinspection program and report back to Council. The Lake Association representatives were encouraged to return as a delegation following the municipal election.

Judy Kleinhuis, CPA, representing Doane Grant Thornton, presented the 2025 consolidated financial statements, the 2025 Trust Funds financial statements, the 2025 TRI R Waste Management financial statements and the 2025 Almaguin Community Economic Development financial statements for the Township of Armour. Questions were asked and answered. Council passed a resolution to approve the draft financial statements.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL:

The list of accounts for August 2026 was approved by resolution.

APPLICATIONS:

Council reviewed a site plan application from Andrea Patterson for 13 Garage Road/358 Chetwynd Road as a condition of consent application B-015/25. Council passed a resolution authorizing the municipal planner to proceed with drafting the site plan agreement.

Council reviewed a zoning by-law amendment application from October 14th Holdings Inc. for 195 Madill Road as a condition of consent application B-005/26. Council passed a resolution authorizing the municipal planner to proceed with drafting the zoning by-law amendment.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #47-2026 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its July 2026 meetings was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed the August 2026 Planning Report. Quarterly reporting by the municipal planner will be implemented in the near future.

Council reviewed the August 2026 Building Permit Report, along with a CloudPermit report. Council was advised by the CAO that to eliminate duplication, CloudPermit reports will be used going forward and will be submitted to Council on a quarterly basis.

A verbal report was given on the August 6, 2026 AHHC meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed a letter from the Township of Tudor and Cashel petitioning the province to review extended producer responsibility for one-pound single-use propane cylinders. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand requesting that the provincial government support initiatives that educate and preserve history and that the federal government issue a formal apology to the British Home Children and Child

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CORRESPONDENCE: cont'd.

Migrants and their families for Canada's role in the British Child Migration Scheme. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a request from the Burk's Falls and District Food Bank requesting a donation to supplement the rising costs due to an increased need in our area. The Food Bank's expenses have increased and there has been a reduction in donations received. Council approved a donation.

Council reviewed correspondence from FONOM advising of an initiative being hosted by the University of Guelph. The HEAR (Health, Economy, and Adaptation in Rural Communities) Initiative is conducting a survey of residents across rural, small-town, and Northern Ontario to gather information that will support future policy development, funding opportunities, community planning, and advocacy. FONOM encouraged municipalities to promote the survey locally to help ensure Northern Ontario is well represented in the research and resulting data. Staff are promoting the material.

Council reviewed a public meeting notice from the Village of Burk's Falls advising of a zoning by-law amendment for Part Lot 7, Concession 8.

Council reviewed an Advocacy Briefing Note from AMCTO with recommendations to the province to extend the compliance/enforcement timeline to July 1, 2028 for the MFIPPA requirements and to redesign the Municipal Elections Act.

Council received a letter from Ombudsman Ontario presenting the 2025-2026 Annual Report. A copy of the report was made available to review.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release announcing the province's review of key agencies to support long-term sustainability, protect taxpayers, and ensure provincial agencies continue to deliver high-quality frontline services.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province is investing \$7 million to support residential school survivors.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release announcing that the province is investing \$3 billion to reopen the Brantford Jail.

Council reviewed a letter from the Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism confirming that the January 1, 2027, deadline for municipalities to designate or remove listed heritage properties under the Ontario Heritage Act will not be extended and encouraging municipalities to continue advancing heritage designation decisions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council reviewed a letter from the Village of Burk's Falls regarding ownership of the former fire hall located at 168 Ontario Street. Their legal opinion indicated that the Village of Burk's Falls is the registered owner of both the land and building at 168 Ontario Street. Following a review of the title records and the 2018 Joint Services Agreement, legal counsel determined that the agreement does not reference 168 Ontario Street and, on its face, did not create any equitable ownership interest for the Townships of Armour or Ryerson. Their counsel noted that the intention was for any equitable ownership interest to revert to the Village upon termination of the agreement. However, ambiguous wording in Schedule C should be addressed through the new fire services agreement or related termination documentation. Provided that no additional information comes to light that would alter this opinion, the Village would have the authority to repurpose or sell the property once the new fire hall is operational and the building is no longer required for fire service purposes. The CAO consulted with the Township of Armour's municipal lawyer and was advised by him that he disagreed with the legal opinion provided to the Village of Burk's Falls. Council tabled a resolution accepting the legal interpretation and directed Staff to forward the Township's lawyer's email to the Village of Burk's Falls and the Township of Armour, discuss the matter with the TRI Sub-Committee, and report back to Council.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: cont'd.

Council reviewed an announcement from the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency announcing the transitional committee members that will support the implementation of regional conservation authority consolidation.

Council reviewed a letter from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing advising that the Minister has issued an Order redefining the Southeast Parry Sound District Planning Board to remove the Town of Kearney from the Board, effective August 1, 2026.

Council reviewed a reminder of the August 22, 2026 HazMat Day.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed an investigation report from the Ontario Ombudsman advising that the Special Council meeting of April 22, 2026, did not contravene the open meeting rules under the Municipal Act. Council passed a resolution accepting the report and directed staff to post the report on the municipal website.

Council reviewed a staff report from the Municipal Clerk requesting approval to cancel the regular council meeting for September 8, 2026. Council passed a resolution confirming that the only regular Council meeting for the month of September shall be on September 22, 2026.

Council reviewed a Notice of Complete Application and Public Meeting regarding a proposed zoning by-law amendment to rezone lands described as Part of Lot 11, Concession 8, as a condition of Consent Application #B-015/25. The public meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2026, at 6:45 p.m.

Council reviewed the Clerk's Municipal Election Notice advising the preliminary list of electors will be publicly posted in the municipal office on September 1, 2026.

Council reviewed a re-submission from the July 14, 2026 Council meeting at the request of Councillor Blakelock, together with a supporting resolution petitioning the province to provide sustainable funding for public libraries. Council passed a resolution requesting that the province increase and provide sustainable, predictable operating funding for Ontario's public libraries.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2026-223A – Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept and approve the amended agenda for the August 11, 2026 Council meeting. Carried

Resolution #2026-224 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on July 28, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #2026-225 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the 2025 consolidated financial statements, the 2025 Trust Funds financial statements, the 2025 TRI R Waste Management financial statements and the 2025 Almaguin Community Economic Development financial statements for the Township of Armour as presented by our auditors, Doane Grant Thornton. Furthermore, that Council authorizes the Treasurer to sign the representation letters as presented by our auditors. Carried

Resolution #2026-226 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the August 2026 accounts, in the amount of \$726,645.96 for payment, and the Mayor and the Treasurer are hereby authorized to sign cheques for same. Carried

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #2026-227 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the application for site plan approval, submitted by Andrea Patterson, Part Lot 11, Concession 8, described as 13 Garage Road / 358 Chetwynd Road and request the municipal planner proceed with drafting the site plan agreement. Carried

Resolution #2026-228 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the application for a zoning by-law amendment, submitted by October 14th Holdings Inc., Part Lot 3, Concession 4, described as 195 Madill Road and request the municipal planner proceed with drafting the zoning by-law amendment to remove the zoning Exception Ru-106. Carried

Resolution #2026-229 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #47-2026 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its July 2026 meetings and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #2026-230 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Township of Tudor and Cashel in its request that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority (RPRA) review the regulatory framework for one-pound single-use propane cylinders and strengthen producer responsibility requirements to reduce the burden on municipalities. Carried

Resolution #2026-231 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Township of Armour supports the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand in the "Beacons of Light for British Home Children and Child Migrants Tribute"; and

That Council request that the Province of Ontario continue to support initiatives that recognize, educate and preserve the history; and

That the Council of the Township of Armour respectfully urge the Government of Canada to issue a formal public apology to the British Home Children and Child Migrants and their families for Canada's role in the British Child Migration Scheme. Carried

Resolution #2026-232 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve a donation in the amount of \$5,000 to the Burk's Falls and District Food Bank to support the work they do in our community. Carried

Resolution #2026-233 – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour accepts, for information, the legal opinion respecting the ownership of the property municipally known as 168 Ontario Street, Burk's Falls; and

That the Township of Armour has no objection to the conclusions of the legal opinion that the Village of Burk's Falls is the registered and equitable owner of 168 Ontario Street and, upon relocation of the Burk's Falls and District Fire Department to the new fire hall, may re-purpose or dispose of the property in accordance with applicable legislation; and

That the Township of Armour confirms that it makes no claim to any legal or equitable ownership interest in 168 Ontario Street, Burk's Falls, and has no objection to the Village of Burk's Falls exercising its rights as owner of the property. **Tabled**

Resolution #2026-234 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour receive and accept the Ombudsman of Ontario's report dated July 28, 2026, regarding the closed meeting complaint respecting the April 22, 2026 Special Council meeting, acknowledge the Ombudsman's

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

finding that Council did not contravene the open meeting requirements of the Municipal Act, 2001, and direct staff to post the report on the Township's municipal website for public information. Carried

Resolution #2026-235 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour accept the Clerk's Staff Report dated August 11, 2026 and approves an exemption to the Council Procedures By-law to cancel the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026; and

That Council confirm that the only Regular Council Meeting for the month of September 2026 shall be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026; and

That this exemption applies solely to the September 2026 meeting schedule and shall not constitute an amendment to the Council Procedures By-law. Carried

Resolution #2026-236 – Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt, WHEREAS public libraries provide essential services including literacy, education, technology access, employment resources, and community programming;

AND WHEREAS the Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library serves the residents of the Township of Armour and surrounding communities;

AND WHEREAS the provincial funding received by the Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library has remained at \$13,914 annually since 1990, despite significant increases in the cost of providing library services;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Armour's contribution to library services has increased from \$14,097.99 in 2001 to \$98,722 in 2026, placing an increasing financial burden on municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Library Association and Federation of Ontario Public Libraries have called for increased and sustainable provincial funding for public libraries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour petitions the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, to substantially increase and provide sustainable, predictable operating funding for Ontario's public libraries;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Library Association (OLA), and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) for their support and advocacy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to municipalities across Ontario for their consideration and support. Carried

Resolution #2026-237 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourns this regular council meeting at 9:20 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for August 25, 2026 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, Municipal Clerk