

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

September 9, 2025

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, September 9, 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, Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor and Judy Kleinhuis, CPA, Doane Grant Thornton LLP; Guests: Ginette McCoy, Don Murphy and Darcy Prentice; Staff: Dave Gray, CAO, Alison McGregor, Treasurer 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 TRI Council meeting held on August 25, 2025 was approved as circulated.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting held on August 26, 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 September 2025 report and the monthly bag counts for 2025 with comparisons to previous years. An update was provided on the investigation of offering a liquor bottle return service. Council was asked to provide recommendations for the 2026 TRI R budget. Questions were asked and answered. A staff report was reviewed by Council regarding the post-transition negotiations with Circular Materials. Council had formally declined the extension to the contract made by Circular Materials through the Change Notice dated June 27, 2025. The Waste Management Administrator will be meeting with the Manager of Waste Diversion from the Ministry this week. Council passed a resolution to outline concerns regarding stranded municipal assets and requested collaborative engagement from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and Producer Responsibility Organizations. The resolution will be circulated to the appropriate ministries, Circular Materials and Ontario municipalities for support. A copy of the resolution will also be presented at the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association's fall meeting as well. Emerald Energy Waste has been in contact with the Waste Management Administrator and would like a delegation to Council or TRI Council to discuss incineration.

Dave Creasor, Roads Supervisor, presented his September 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, Cogeco fiber project update and equipment status. The 2004 excavator is scheduled for replacement as part of the asset management plan. Currently, it is out of service due to persistent transmission issues and a rental excavator is being utilized to maintain operations. A proposal for its replacement will be presented to the Council for consideration in the coming months. The prefab bridge has been installed in eight sections for the North Pickerel Lake Road Bridge replacement and the pouring of wing walls is scheduled this week. Public notice for October 24, 2025 for the NPLR Bridge completion has been communicated by Township staff as the contractor has had interruptions with rains and the pedestrian

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DELEGATIONS: cont'd.

railing is delayed. The expansion joint on the west side of the Pickerel and Jack Lake Road bridge at Richard Thomas Park is an emergency repair and must be completed before winter. A road closure will be required to facilitate the removal of the existing expansion joint and installation of a new one. Tulloch Engineering has collaborated with Watson Bowman to design and replace the expansion joint. This work is in the quoting phase. Watson Bowman is our sole supplier for this type of work due to the specialized nature of the product. Daily road closures are scheduled this week from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. along Ferguson Road. The public has been advised. School buses will not be impacted. The closures will progress from culvert to culvert each day. Questions were asked and answered.

Judy Kleinhuis, CPA, representing Doane Grant Thornton presented the 2024 consolidated financial statements, the 2024 Trust Funds financial statements, the 2024 TRI R Waste Management financial statements and the 2024 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 September 2025 was approved by resolution.

APPLICATIONS:

Council reviewed a zoning by-law amendment application from Don Murphy and the Municipal Planner's report supporting the recommendation to revise the definitions of "Development" and "Lot Area" and modifications to the "Wetlands Protection Zone."

Council passed a resolution deeming the zoning by-law amendment application submitted by Don Murphy to be incomplete based on legal advice, as it did not include the prescribed information and material required under subsection 34(10.1) of the Planning Act and Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 545/06 and refused to accept or further consider the application, pursuant to subsection 34(10.3)(a) of the Planning Act and directed staff to notify the applicant in writing of Council's decision, and to advise the applicant of their right to challenge this decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal under the Planning Act.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #54-2025 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its August meetings was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed the September 2025 Planning Report.

Council reviewed the written data from NBMCA on septic statistics within the Township for 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. It was requested that statistics be provided that include annual complaints, inspection requests, site visits and consent applications.

Council reviewed the draft minutes from the August 18, 2025 Historical Society's meeting.

A verbal report was given on the August 27, 2025 Planning Board meeting.

Council reviewed the Director's August Report, Almaguin Summer Star Party summary report, the transitioning to a two-staff department recommendation report, budget impacts and the ACED information package 2025. Support resolutions from partnering municipalities have been requested. The DoED will include the information at a future council meeting.

Council reviewed the draft TRI Council notes from the August 25, 2025 meeting.

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REPORTS: cont'd.

A verbal report was given on the September 4, 2025 AHHC meeting. Council reviewed the Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team's Health Human Resources Recruiter funding renewal request presentation and passed a resolution committing to three more years of funding. A verbal update was also given on the status of the AHHC survey that is currently circulating. There has been a lot of worthy data and information collected to date.

A verbal report was given on the September 8, 2025 KCC meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed a letter from the Municipality of Tweed petitioning all levels of government to take collaborative action in sustainable waste management in Ontario. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed public notice from the Township of McMurrich/Monteith advising of a public meeting to amend their zoning by-law for building requirements within the municipality.

Council reviewed an email from the TD Summer Reading Club to the Armour, Ryerson, Burk's Falls Union Library congratulating the staff and facility on being awarded the 2024 Accessibly Award winner. Council commended the facility on the award.

Council reviewed a letter from the Burk's Falls and District Food Bank expressing appreciation for the Township's continual support and for allowing their participation at Heritage Festival. The Food Bank received over \$450 in donations at the event.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is expanding RSV immunizations to protect more seniors this fall.

Council reviewed an email from the City of Kingston advising Council that the City is circulating a survey seeking public input in response to Armour Council's resolution regarding governance of family health teams in Ontario.

Council reviewed the July 2025 monthly jobs report and the August 2025 Labour Focus report from the Labour Market Group.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is investing \$9.6 million in wetlands conservation.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is bringing innovative new technologies to the healthcare system faster. *Health Innovation Pathway* will improve outcomes for patients while supporting made-in-Ontario healthcare solutions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council reviewed resolution #2025-284 from the Township of Perry recommending the appointment of Sean Cotton as an Area 4 representative to the Parry Sound District Social Services Administration Board.

Council reviewed resolution #2025-199 from the Township of McMurrich/Monteith recommending the appointment of Sean Cotton as an Area 4 representative to the Parry Sound District Social Services Administration Board.

Council reviewed resolution #2025-236 from the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston supporting the Village of Burk's Falls' request to the Province to suspend BESS installations until a comprehensive, science-based study is completed.

Council reviewed resolution #2025-249 from the Township of Champlain supporting the Township of Armour's resolution #248 regarding the governance of family health teams in Ontario.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: cont'd.

Council reviewed resolution #2025-221 from the Township of Strong supporting the Township of Armour's resolution #248 regarding the governance of family health teams in Ontario.

Council reviewed resolution #2025-196 from the Township of McMurrich/Monteith supporting the Township of Armour's resolution #248 regarding the governance of family health teams in Ontario.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed the agenda for the September 26, 2025 District of Parry Sound Municipal Association meeting. Mayor Rod Ward and Councillors Jerry Brandt, Wendy Whitwell and Rod Blakelock requested that they be registered for the meeting. The CAO and Treasurer will also be attending.

Council reviewed a report from AMO providing a policy update submission regarding the Build Canada Homes market sounding and the new process for inter-provincial labour mobility. AMO supports BCH's goals and emphasizes collaboration, the prioritization of affordable housing, calls for funding, the innovation of building technologies and cautions the federal government on cutting municipal development charges.

Council reviewed a staff report from the Clerk regarding the cleaning contract for the Doe Lake Municipal Park washrooms. Council discussed the operating season, costs and whether to open and maintain the current facility or to close the facility and provide portable washrooms instead. Council requested that Staff obtain additional information on the current contract, investigate the creation of a dog park and potential splash pad on the property and report back before a decision is made.

Council reviewed the possibility of developing a pedestrian walkway along Highway 520/Ontario Street in Burk's Falls. As a reference, images were shared of a sidewalk along Highway 60 in Huntsville, where the speed limit is 70 km/h. Council requested that Staff reach out to the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to explore the necessary steps for initiating the development of a multi-use trail.

Council addressed a scheduling conflict between the Red Gala and the final regular Council meeting of the year. Staff were directed to issue a public notice advising that the December 9, 2025 meeting has been rescheduled to December 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

The purpose of the closed meeting under Section 239(2) (b) and (c) of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

A resolution was passed to move into closed session at 9:24 p.m.

A resolution was passed to move out of the closed session at 10:04 p.m. The Mayor reported on the items that were discussed in the closed session. A resolution was passed approving the vesting of the municipal tax sale property.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #264 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the minutes of the TRI council meeting held on August 25, 2025 as circulated. Carried

Resolution #265 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the minutes of the regular council meeting held on August 26, 2025 as circulated. Carried

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #266 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), transitioned the cost of the Blue Box Programs to a full producer responsibility (100% cost recovery) model, under Ontario Regulation 391/21 (Blue Box Regulation), made pursuant to the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016;

AND WHEREAS under the new framework, producers are individually and collectively responsible for operating and fully funding Blue Box collection systems, effective July 1, 2023, with municipal transition dates phased in through to 2026;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are no longer required to operate Blue Box collection systems after their designated transition date, resulting in the potential for stranded municipal assets, such as materials recovery facilities, vehicles, bins, depots, and other capital investments, which may not be compensated under the new regulatory framework;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Armour has historically, on behalf of the shared service partners, invested in waste diversion programs and infrastructure to meet provincial mandates and local service expectations;

AND WHEREAS the successful transition to the producer responsibility model requires clarity on asset management, fair compensation for stranded assets, and ongoing communication between municipalities, producers, and the Province to ensure a seamless transition for residents;

AND WHEREAS municipalities continue to have an interest in ensuring that Blue Box programs remain accessible, efficient, and effective for residents throughout and after the transition period;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Armour and its shared service partners have formally declined the extension to contract made by Circular Materials through the Change Notice dated June 27, 2025;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour hereby:

1. Requests that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs), work collaboratively with municipalities to address the financial and operational risks of stranded assets;
2. Advocates for transparent processes, fair compensation, and timely communication to protect municipal investments and ensure service continuity for residents; and
3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Chief Executive Officer of Circular Materials, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities for their information and support. Carried

Resolution #267 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the 2024 consolidated financial statements, the 2024 Trust Funds financial statements, the 2024 TRI R Waste Management financial statements and the 2024 Almaguin Community Economic Development financial statements for the Township of Armour as presented by our auditors, Doane Grant Thornton. Furthermore, the Council authorize the Treasurer to sign the representation letters as presented by our Auditors. Carried

Resolution #268 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the September 2025 accounts, in the amount of \$746,113.45 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 #269 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; WHEREAS the Township of Armour has received a zoning by-law amendment application submitted by Mr. Don Murphy, among other things proposing changes to the permitted uses within the Wetland Protection Zone;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to subsection 34(10.1) of the Planning Act, an applicant must provide the prescribed information and material as set out in Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 545/06;

AND WHEREAS the Township has determined that the application submitted by Mr. Murphy does not include all of the required information under Schedule 1, including but not limited to:

- A complete list and identification of all properties to which the Wetland Protection Zone applies including “a description of the subject land including such information as the municipality, concession and lot numbers, registered plan and lot numbers, reference plan and part numbers and street names and numbers” (Schedule 1, paragraph 9);
- The current use of land for each parcel (Schedule 1, paragraph 16);
- The identification and location of all existing buildings and structures (Schedule 1, paragraph 17);
- The frontage, depth, and area of each affected parcel (Schedule 1, paragraph 10);
- The current designation of the subject land in the applicable official plans, and an explanation of how the application conforms with the official plans (Schedule 1, paragraph 4);
- A proposed strategy for consulting with the public, including affected landowners (Schedule 1, paragraph 31.1);

AND WHEREAS, until such time as the required information and material have been submitted, subsection 34(10.3) of the Planning Act permits Council to refuse to accept or further consider the application, and confirms that the statutory time periods under subsections 34(11) and 34(11.0.0.0.1) do not begin;

AND WHEREAS the proposed zoning by-law amendment appears to have been drafted solely in the context of a specific subdivision proposal, without broader planning justification or consideration of township-wide implications, including how the proposed changes may affect other lands designated within the Wetland Protection Zone;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour:

Deems the zoning by-law amendment application submitted by Don Murphy to be incomplete, as it does not include the prescribed information and material required under subsection 34(10.1) of the Planning Act and Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 545/06;

Refuses to accept or further consider the application, pursuant to subsection 34(10.3)(a) of the Planning Act;

Directs staff to notify the applicant in writing of Council's decision, and to advise the applicant of their right to challenge this decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal under the Planning Act. Carried

RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #270 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approved By-law #54-2025 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its August 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 #271 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the extension of Health Human Resources Recruiter funding to the Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team in the amount of \$1,000 per year for a further three-year term, covering the years 2026, 2027, and 2028. Carried

Resolution #272 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Municipality of Tweed's resolution #355 and requests that all levels of government as well as our manufacturing partners form a working group to ensure that our waste disposal issues can be resolved quickly, efficient and effectively with the use of incineration, more robust recycling programs and sustainable practices. Carried

Resolution #273 – not used

Resolution #274 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby move into closed session at 9:24 p.m. as per Section 239(2) (b) and (c) of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board. Carried

Resolution #276 - 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 10:04 p.m. and report. Carried

Resolution #277 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Staff Report from the Treasurer dated September 9, 2025 be received and Council authorizes the vesting of the property described as Concession 11, Part Lot 6, RP 42R-3257, Part 1 and municipal roll 4919 000 003 02420 0000, into the name of the Township of Armour as per the provisions of the Municipal Act, 2001, following an unsuccessful tax sale on August 18, 2025, where no bids were received.

Furthermore, that the cost of vesting this property be financed through the existing operating budget and all outstanding tax arrears associated with the property shall be written off upon completion of the vesting process, in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001. Carried

Resolution #278 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourns this regular council meeting at 10:06 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for September 23, 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