

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

January 27, 2026

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Jerry Brandt, Wendy Whitwell and Dorothy Haggart-Davis; Delegations: Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator and Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator; Guests: Nieves Guijarro, Grace McCoy, Alice Hewitt, Ted Williams and Barry Burton; 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 MEETING

The minutes of the regular Council meeting held on January 13, 2026 were 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 January 2026 Report. The report included the final bag tally for 2025, an updated draft 2026 Waste Management Budget and an update on the landfill utilization for 2025. There was 1,858.6 cubic metres of waste received, leaving 11,204.3 cubic metres of airspace. The annual rate of disposal is 1,500 cubic metres, resulting in a life expectancy of 7.5 years. Council discussed the report, including the impact demolition material has on the landfill's capacity, updating employee job descriptions and the blue box transition. Questions were asked and answered. Council passed a resolution approving the draft budget. The draft budget and the monthly report will be included in the February 23, 2026 TRI Council agenda for discussion.

Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator presented her January 2026 Report. Council received updates on Winter Carnival planning adjustments and sponsorship outreach, and the soft launch of the Amilia SmartRec system with Day Camp registration opening on January 20, 2026. Updates were also provided regarding strong anticipated demand for the Summer Day Camp program, incident reports at the Katrine Community Centre, and the continued success of recent and upcoming recreation programs. A verbal update was provided on the January 26, 2026 monthly meeting with a written report to follow in February.

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL: None

APPLICATIONS:

Council received a letter from EJ Williams Surveying Limited requesting approval to transfer a portion of Pickerel & Jack Lake Road and an adjacent parcel of land to the Township of Armour. Edith Strutt will transfer to the Township the lands hatched in red and blue on the sketch revision dated November 7, 2025. These lands will be formally brought into the Township's roads system by by-law. The lands hatched in yellow, being part of the original road allowance between Concessions 10 and 11 in front of Lot 7, contains an old road bed, and these lands will also be brought into the roads system. This will result in the Andrews property having frontage on an open municipal

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APPLICATIONS: cont'd.

road and give them access in perpetuity to their lands. Council passed a resolution approving the request as recommended by the Ontario Land Surveyor, including authorizing the land transfer, confirmation of the unopened road allowance remaining in Township ownership, and directing staff to complete the necessary legal, survey, and by-law processes.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #8-2026 being a by-law to enter into an agreement for the provision of Regional Economic Development Services and to repeal By-law #36-2019 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

REPORTS:

Council reviewed materials from ACED, including the January 22, 2026 meeting agenda, the 2025 Annual Report, the 2026 Work Plan, a staff report regarding non-member packages, and the November 27, 2025 meeting minutes. It was noted that the Village of Burk's Falls will not be a member of ACED for 2026.

Council reviewed the draft 2026 ACED budget and passed a resolution approving Armour's portion being \$26,783.

Council reviewed the draft minutes of the Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board meeting held on January 14, 2026, as well as the approved minutes from the November 12, 2025 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2026.

Council reviewed the DSSAB 2026 Levy Schedule. Armour's portion will be \$203,942.82 which reflects a 6.87% increase. Council also reviewed the Area 4 honorarium and expense report for 2025.

A verbal report was given on the last Agricultural Society meeting. It was the annual AGM as well.

A verbal report was given advising that the January 19, 2026 Historical Society meeting was cancelled due to the snowstorm. The agenda included a discussion for a change of venue. Council discussed the topic and passed a resolution approving the use of the Council Chambers for the monthly meetings.

A verbal report was given on the January 21, 2026 Library Board meeting. The library celebrated its 130th birthday on January 20, 2026. The federal government is planning to end the Library Book Rate - which is the special postage rate libraries pay to ship books between libraries. If the rate is lost libraries will lose the ability to offer interlibrary loan. Council passed a resolution requesting that the government withdraw the amendment in Bill C-15 that repeals reduced postage rates for library materials, in order to protect interlibrary loan services and ensure continued access to library resources across Canada.

Council received a thank you letter and photograph from the Almaguin Ice Devils U13 local legal team extending appreciation for financial support for the Silver Stick International competition in Pelham.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed a support letter request from the Village of Sundridge regarding the proposed changes to the Canada Post Corporation Act in Bill C-15. Council passed a resolution of support.

Council reviewed a request from the grade 8 class at Land of Lakes Public School for a donation to help cover their year-end class trip costs. Council passed a resolution approving a donation.

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CORRESPONDENCE: cont'd.

Council reviewed a request from the Municipality of North Grenville and Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board and resolved that the Council of the Township of Armour supported the Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board in advocating for enhanced school bus safety across Ontario.

Council reviewed the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit's direct contact information for the Office of the Medical Officer of Health, Community Emergency Management Liaison, Environmental Health and Communicable Disease Control.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province continues to support and protect the healthcare workforce in Northern Ontario. Graduates of medical laboratory technology programs at Canadore College and Confederation College will have their tuition, books, and educational expenses fully covered if they commit to working in Northern Ontario following graduation.

Council reviewed an Ontario News Release advising that the province is fast-tracking access to six breakthrough cancer drugs which will connect patients to life-extending treatments up to a year sooner.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council reviewed a letter from The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing confirming that they have received the Township of Armour's request, supported by the July 22, 2025 Council resolution, to administer and enforce Part 8 of the Building Code for on-site sewage systems, and acknowledged concerns about delays, costs, and complications arising from the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority's distant office and dual approval process. The Ministry noted that an amendment to the Building Code would be required to transfer this authority, and invited the Township to provide feedback through the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Council reviewed a resolution from the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) in response to Environmental Registry Notice No. 025-1387 regarding proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code that would have transferred enforcement of Part 8 sewage systems from the NBMCA to several townships, including Armour. The NBMCA Board opposed the proposed revisions, citing the Authority's efficient, consistent, and customer-focused delivery of services, and noted that significant time, resources, and effort would have been required to implement the changes, potentially impacting front-line service. The Board urged the Province to reconsider the proposal, ensure meaningful consultation, and provide sufficient funding and staffing to affected municipalities before any transfer occurred.

Council reviewed the Notice of Refusal regarding applications submitted by PowerBank Corporation and David Creasor to amend the Official Plan (OPA-2025-01) and Zoning By-law (ZBA-2025-01) for 219 Peggs Mountain Road to permit a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed the 2025 Council Statement of Remuneration and Expenses and passed a resolution approving it. It will be posted on the Township's website.

Council reviewed information on key dates for the 2026 Municipal Election.

CLOSED SESSION:

The purpose of the closed meeting under Section 239(b) of the Municipal Act was to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. A resolution was passed to move into closed session at 8:47 p.m.

A resolution was passed to move out of the closed session at 9:57 p.m. and reconvened in open session. The Mayor reported on the items that were discussed in the closed session.

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RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #2026-18 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on January 13, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #2026-19 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approves the 2026 Waste Management draft budget and directs staff to include the budget in the TRI Council meeting agenda of February 23, 2026. Carried

Resolution #2026-20 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; WHEREAS pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001, the Township of Armour has authority to acquire land for highway purposes and to open and assume highways by by-law;

AND WHEREAS a portion of Pickerel & Jack Lake Road deviates from the original surveyed road allowance and currently crosses private lands owned by Edith Anne Strutt, being Part of Lot 7, Concession 11, Township of Armour, PIN 52138-0251;

AND WHEREAS the travelled portion of Pickerel & Jack Lake Road (identified as the red hatched area) and an adjacent small parcel of land (identified as the blue hatched area) are proposed to be transferred by Edith Anne Strutt to the Township of Armour, subject to a Reference Plan deposited in the Land Registry Office, for inclusion in the Township's road system through the appropriate by-law;

AND WHEREAS the original surveyed road allowance (identified as the yellow hatched area) is currently unopened and will be retained by the Township for future municipal purposes;

AND WHEREAS the Trustees/Executors of the Estate of Ethel Andrews has agreed to pay all surveying costs associated with the proposed land transfer, and each party shall be responsible for its own legal costs;

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

1. Supports the transfer of the travelled portion of Pickerel & Jack Lake Road (red hatched area) and the adjacent small parcel (blue hatched area) from Edith Anne Strutt to the Township of Armour, subject to legal and survey confirmation and the registration of a Reference Plan in the Land Registry Office;
2. Authorizes the preparation and passage of an appropriate opening by-law to include the transferred lands into the Township's road system in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001;
3. Confirms that the unopened original surveyed road allowance (yellow hatched area) between Concessions 10 and 11 in Lot 7 shall remain in Township ownership and may be brought into the Township road system by future by-law if required, in order to provide frontage on an open public road, with access arising by virtue of such frontage and not by way of any private right or easement, to abutting lands including those of the Trustees/Executors of the Estate of Ethel Andrews;
4. Acknowledges that all surveying costs related to this matter shall be paid by the Trustees/Executors of the Estate of Ethel Andrews and that each party shall be responsible for their own legal expenses; and
5. Directs Township staff to take all necessary steps to complete the land transfer and road opening process in accordance with this resolution. Carried

Resolution #2026-21 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #8-2026 being a by-law to enter into an agreement for the provision of Regional Economic Development

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Services and to repeal By-law #36-2019 and that we authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #2026-22 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the draft 2026 ACED budget, in the amount of \$241,300, with the Township of Armour's contribution being \$26,783. Carried

Resolution #2026-23 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; WHEREAS the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society has expressed interest to change the location of its monthly meetings from Fell Homes to the Township of Armour's Council Chambers;

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

1. Approves the use of the Council Chambers to host the monthly meetings of the Burk's Falls and District Historical Society at no cost.
2. Confirms that meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month.
3. Directs that any changes to the meeting date must be approved by Township staff.
4. Acknowledges that the use of the Council Chambers is subject to availability and any applicable Township policies regarding the use of municipal facilities. Carried

Resolution #2026-24 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; THAT the Council of the Township of Armour expresses its concerns with the amendment to the Canada Post Corporation Act within Bill C-15 that could result in the disappearance of a reduced rate of postage for library materials lent by a library to a borrower, including by means of an interlibrary loan;

AND THAT Interlibrary loans are an essential part of how libraries operate and they provide access to material for the millions of library users in Canada;

AND THAT as a small rural library, the Burk's Falls Armour and Ryerson Union Public Library depends on loans from other libraries to supplement its collection and relies on Canada Post to deliver those materials at a reduced rate;

AND FURTHER THAT if Canada Post is allowed to increase the postal rate that supports this service without oversight from Parliament or the Government of Canada, there could be a devastating effect, putting a strain on already tight library budgets and threatening the ability of libraries to offer this essential service that ensures access, equity and literacy for all;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Council of the Township of Armour encourages the Federal Government to ensure that Canada Post continues to provide a library postal rate so that library services remain accessible for all of Canada through interlibrary loans. Carried

Resolution #2026-25 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Village of Sundridge and calls upon the Federal Government to ensure that Canada Post continues to provide a library postal rate, in order to maintain equitable access to library services across Canada, including through interlibrary loan programs. Carried

Resolution #2026-26 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve a donation in the amount of \$200 to the Land of Lakes Public School to support the Grade 8 end-of-the-year trip to Toronto. Carried

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RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #2026-27 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby supports the Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board in advocating for enhanced school bus safety across Ontario, including provincial funding, legislative support, and the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and complementary child-safety technologies; and further authorizes the Mayor to sign the form letter petitioning the Province of Ontario, noting that this letter was endorsed by the Grenville O.P.P. Detachment Board at its meeting held January 8, 2026, and is co-signed by representatives of the Municipality of North Grenville and the Village of Merrickville-Wolford. Carried

Resolution #2026-28 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the 2025 Council Statement of Remuneration and Expenses as presented by the Treasurer. Furthermore, that the statement be posted on the Township of Armour's website. Carried

Resolution #2026-29 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby move into closed session at 8:47 p.m. under Section 239(2) (b) of the Municipal Act to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. Carried

Resolution #2026-31 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby adjourn and move out of closed session at 9:57 p.m. and report. Carried

Resolution #2026-32 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourn this regular council meeting at 9:58 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for February 10, 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