

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

MINUTES

November 25, 2025

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance were: Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Rod Blakelock, Dorothy Haggart-Davis and Jerry Brandt; Absent: Councillor Wendy Whitwell; Guests: Ginette McCoy, Carl Martin, Sarah Cooke, Marie Odorizzi, 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 November 11, 2025 was approved as circulated.

The minutes of the public meeting held on November 18, 2025 was approved as amended. The minutes were revised to reflect: "For the purposes of the public record and consistent administrative practice, petitions are counted as one written submission. A total of 82 written submissions in opposition were received prior to the public meeting by the Clerk, which included two petitions: one from No Lithium Way – Citizens United with 901 signatures, and one from Change.Org with 527 signatures. There were two submissions supporting the battery energy storage system applications."

A question was posed from a participant on the legality of the amendment. It was clarified that advice was legally and professionally obtained and the revision does not impact the number of oppositions received, it was a clerical clarification for the number of submissions. There were two opposition petitions submitted.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

DELEGATIONS: None

ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL: None

APPLICATIONS:

Council reviewed consent applications B-051/25, B-052/25 and B-053/25, Concession 10, Part Lot 11, known municipally as 348 Woods Road. Council discussed the applications and passed a resolution supporting the applications with conditions.

BY-LAWS:

By-law #69-2025 being a by-law to approve a Zoning By-law amendment for Part Lot 5, Concession 7, also known as Part 1 of Plan 42R-22866 fronting Peggs Mountain Road was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

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REPORTS:

Council reviewed the November 2025 Building Report. Clarification on the number of failed inspections was requested as the report reflects an approximate 70% fail rate. Codes to reflect the reasons were suggested.

Council reviewed the draft minutes from the Regional Fire Services Committee meeting that was held on November 6, 2025, report on the Memorandum of Understanding for the Live Fire Unit and the executed Memorandum of Understanding. Council discussed the sharing of the costs, recognizing that there are seven municipalities and with five fire departments. Armour pays 47.84% of the Burk's Falls Fire Department's budget. The next informal TRI Council meeting will discuss the shared costs between the partners. Council passed a resolution per the recommendation in the report.

Council reviewed the minutes from the October 2, 2025 AHHC meeting. A sub-committee has been created and will focus on buildings and space.

Council reviewed the draft minutes from the November 12, 2025 Almaguin Highlands O.P.P. Detachment Board meeting.

Council reviewed the draft minutes from the November 17, 2025 Historical Society's meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2026.

A verbal report was given on the November 19, 2025 Library Board meeting.

A verbal report was given on the November 20, 2025 Agricultural Society meeting.

A verbal report was given on the semi-annual POA meeting. The organization continues to run at a deficit.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Council reviewed a letter from the Township of Selwyn petitioning the Province of Ontario to re-instate the eligibility for curbside blue box collection as of January 1, 2026 for non-profit organizations, such as food banks. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a letter from the Town of Ajax requesting the Province of Ontario prepare a 2025/2026 winter homelessness response plan to help municipalities ensure unsheltered residents who are sleeping outdoors with the services they need to keep them safe in colder weather. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a letter from Edwardsburgh Cardinal urging the Ontario government to extend and enhance the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund beyond 2026—maintaining at least \$400 million annually, indexing allocations to inflation, guaranteeing multi-year funding predictability, regularly updating the allocation formula, establishing a contingency reserve, and improving public reporting—to ensure sustainable, resilient infrastructure for small and rural municipalities. Council passed a supporting resolution.

Council reviewed a donation request from the Almaguin Highlands Special Olympics to support their participation at the National Summer Games in Alberta, 2026. Council passed a resolution approving a donation.

Council reviewed a media release from FONOM welcoming northern commitments in Ontario's Fall Economic Statement.

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CORRESPONDENCE: cont'd.

Council reviewed a media release from FONOM welcoming Ontario's new Pothole Prevention and Repair Program.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that the Province is launching new student and family support offices at every school board.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that Ontario has begun construction on Canada's largest Battery Energy Storage System project, Skyview 2. The facility will power nearly 400,000 homes.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that Ontario is protecting families by holding impaired drivers accountable. The province is developing a requirement that would see impaired drivers causing death provide financial support for children of victims.

Council reviewed a news release from Ontario News advising that Ontario is proposing the Buy Ontario Act which will prioritize public procurement of Ontario goods and services.

Council reviewed a media release from Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare advising that the gastro outbreak at the Huntsville Hospital has ended.

Council reviewed a notice from the Southeast Almaguin Fire Department advising that the annual firefighters' food drive will be held on December 3, 2025.

Council reviewed a media advisory from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit advising Board meetings are conducted in a hybrid format and may be accessed via YouTube.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Council reviewed a staff report from the Clerk regarding amendments to the Groundskeeper Contract. Additional services are required at the Watt Century Farm House Heritage Centre on an annual basis for the hayfield location. Council tabled the resolution. Additional information is to be obtained and brought back to a future Council meeting for a decision.

Council reviewed an invitation from MMAH inviting Council to register for the 2025 Northern Municipal Council Workshop virtual learning series. Interested Council members will register independently to the free sessions.

Council reviewed a status update on the outdoor ice rink from the Technician. The trial use surface heater has been secured for the season which will support consistent ice quality during fluctuating weather conditions. He has also received two free hockey pucks from FlashPuck to hand out, a generous donation of three skater trainers from Winnwell and his business has partnered with Greenworks Tools to test a battery powered snowblower. Council commended the Technician for his dedication to improving the facility.

CLOSED SESSION: None

RESOLUTIONS:

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Resolution #356 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held on November 11, 2025 as circulated. Carried

RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.

Resolution #357 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the public meeting held on November 18, 2025 as amended. Carried

Resolution #358 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour hereby support the severance applications B-051/25, B-052/25 & B-053/25, Part Lot 11, Concession 10, 348 Woods Road submitted by Christine James and Clifford James subject to the following conditions:

- If the reference plan or other evidence discloses that the severed property contains a road deviation maintained by the municipality as a public road, then the applicant shall survey and transfer such road deviation to the municipality;
- That the applicant convey the required cash in lieu of parkland dedication to the Township of Armour as per the current by-law.
- That should consent approval for the retained parcel be requested by the applicant, whether upon application or by amendment to the conditions/approval, then the requirement for cash-in-lieu shall apply to the retained parcel as well.
- That the Township's Roads Supervisor confirm that a suitable location for a new entrance on the proposed severed lots can be properly constructed to municipal standards. Should signage be required, such as hidden driveway sign(s), that the Applicant cover the costs of the signs and posts. Carried

Resolution #359 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approved By-law #69-2025 being a by-law to approve a Zoning By-law amendment for Part Lot 5, Concession 7, also known as Part 1 of Plan 42R-22866 fronting Peggs Mountain Road and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #360 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the recommendation of the Regional Fire Services Committee;

And that the Township of Perry be authorized to forward the MOU and insurance comments to Russell Christie's Office for legal opinion;

And that the Township of Armour agrees to pay its one-seventh (1/7) share of the costs associated with the legal opinion;

And further be it resolved that the Final Agreement be circulated to all member municipalities for consideration and adoption by by-law. Carried

Resolution #361 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Township of Selwyn and urges the Province of Ontario to re-instate the eligibility for curbside blue box collection as of January 1, 2026 for non-profit organizations, such as food banks. Carried

Resolution #362 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Town of Ajax and asks that the Provincial Government prepares a 2025/2026 winter homelessness response plan to

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help municipalities ensure that we can keep our unsheltered residents who are sleeping outdoors with the services they need to keep them safe in colder weather. Carried

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #363 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal resolution dated September 29, 2025 to the Provincial Government regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF). Carried

Resolution #364 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve a donation in the amount of \$500 to the Almaguin Highlands Special Olympics as they represent Special Olympics Ontario at the Canada National Summer Games in Alberta from August 10 – 16, 2026. Carried

Resolution #365 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Staff Report from the Clerk dated November 25, 2025, regarding the Groundskeeper contract amendments be received and that Council approve the contract additions for the 2026 season to Hamilton & Sons Property Maintenance, for an increased tender price of \$7,341 plus HST. Furthermore, that this contract be exempt from the requirements of the Procurement By-law. Tabled

Resolution #366 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourns this regular council meeting at 7:51 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for December 16, 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