

TRI COUNCIL INFORMAL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 – 1:00PM

Location: Armour Township Office, 56 Ontario Street, Burk's Falls

Chair: Wendy Whitwell, Armour Township

The meeting was called to order at 1:00PM.

Discussion Items

Fall Fair Rental Expenses

The Committee discussed having all expenses in one place, whether it is one municipality or the Agricultural Society. There is consensus amongst the group that this would alleviate confusion and ensure that all expenses are fairly resourced. A member inquired regarding whether a strategic plan or direction is modern and available for the Agricultural Society as to determine the needs of the organization with the fair.

There was discussion regarding the municipalities' position as either a sponsor, or a partner in hosting the annual fall fair. This could lead to the consideration of purchasing and storing event assets (tents, tables, etc.). Municipalities are contributing in various means – direct donations and arranging and paying for the rides and the tables. The committee agreed to invite a member of the Agricultural Society to a Tri Council Sub Committee Meeting. The Committee discussed using a Tri Council event application to streamline the collection of information and resourcing considerations for all shared events and functions.

Owner of Real Property of Existing Fire Hall

Burk's Falls provided updated correspondence from Russell Christie regarding Section 4 of the Interim Fire Hall Agreement. The opinion clarifies that when the Interim Fire Services Agreement is completed, the ownership of the real property and building remains with the Village of Burk's Falls with no compensation owing to the other municipalities. The term 'unregistered equitable ownership' is perceived to carry very little weight – which was of concern to the committee as it is reflected in various agreements.

There was discussion regarding the value of partnership – if the building retains significant value, that value is realised disproportionately by one municipality. Conversely, if there are asset retirement expenses for the building or land, then those costs may fall disproportionately on one municipality.

It was agreed by the committee that the new correspondence clarifies the ownership concerns as they are stated in the Interim Fire Services Agreement and that ownership of the building remains with the Village of Burk's Falls.

Historical Society Facilities and Resources

The Township of Armour initiated a discussion regarding Watt Farm Heritage Centre. The Township is currently accepting quotes for the installation of a heating system in the new red storage building that was completed in 2024. It was presented that the new heating system is expected to increase operating costs, which have historically been covered by Armour Township. Committee members discussed various points related to current and future operating costs, including Armour's decision to build the new facility without direct consultation with municipal partners (outside of Historical Society meetings). Armour further reported that they have engaged in discussions with the Historical Society with regard to strategic planning, fundraising, and developing an agreement that speaks to the use/stewardship of the facilities.

Armour requested that municipal partners participate in future discussions regarding costs associated with operating both Historical Society facilities to assess whether a revised resourcing plan was feasible.

Next Meetings

- To be determined – January, 2027.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55PM

Resolutions

Moved By: Sean Cotton

Seconded By: Delynn Patterson

Be it resolved that the Tri Council Sub Committee approve the minutes of the April 21, 2026 meeting as circulated.

Carried.