

THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

TRI COUNCIL MINUTES

October 5, 2026

The combined in-person/virtual TRI Council meeting of the Councils of the Township of Armour, the Township of Ryerson and the Village of Burk's Falls was held on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Young at Heart Community Centre and hosted by the Village of Burk's Falls.

Those in attendance were:

Township of Armour Council present included Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Wendy Whitwell, Rod Blakelock and Dorothy Haggart-Davis; Staff: Dave Gray, CAO; Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk; Alison McGregor, Treasurer and Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator.

Village of Burk's Falls Council present included Mayor Chris Hope; Councillors Nancy Kyte, Ryan Baptiste and Sean Cotton; Staff: Denis Duguay, CAO/Clerk; Camille Barr, Deputy Clerk; Graham Smith, Arena Manager and Christina Merrick, Assistant Arena Manager.

Township of Ryerson Council present included Deputy Mayor Glenn Miller; Councillors Beverly Abbott, Dan Robertson and Delynn Patterson; Staff: Brayden Robinson, Treasurer; Nancy Field, CAO/Clerk and Joe Readman, Fire Chief.

In-Person Guests: Nieves Guijarro, Diane Brandt, Ruth Fenwick, Barry Burton, Melissa Marshall, Cheri Roser, Jon Hind, Marie Stitt and Doreen Monk.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chris Hope for the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Chris Hope welcomed all of the participants.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Mayor Chris Hope provided the land acknowledgement.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The notes of the regular meeting held on June 22, 2026 were approved as circulated.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Budgets and Reports

Arena

The Arena Manager and Assistant Arena Manager presented the ARBF Memorial Arena 2027 Draft Operating and Capital Budget, along with a 2026 summary report. The budget package included the incorrect final budget numbers for 2026 as the tent rentals for the fall fair were removed for the final approved budget.

The 2026 budget continues to be monitored against actual expenditures, with increased operating costs attributed to facility usage, utilities, maintenance, insurance, and several significant refrigeration equipment repairs, including compressor, glycol pump, and dehumidifier motor failures. Increased ice and facility rental activity has also contributed to higher utility and maintenance demands.

The 2027 budget proposes total net expenditures of \$516,137, compared with \$550,141 in 2026, a decrease of \$34,004 (6.18%). Net operating expenditures are projected at \$396,037, compared with \$381,818 in 2026, an increase of \$14,219 (3.72%), while net capital expenditures are \$120,100, compared with \$168,323, a decrease of \$48,223 (28.6%). Operating revenues are projected at \$231,950, an increase of \$6,900 (3.1%) from \$225,050 in 2026. The 2027 capital request primarily addresses deferred refrigeration equipment, health and safety, facility maintenance, and equipment replacement.

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The Township of Armour's 2027 contribution is projected at \$172,046, a decrease of \$11,334 (6.18%) from its 2026 contribution of \$183,380. Staff noted that capital priorities have been established based on health and safety, mandated work, facility equipment, and building maintenance requirements, and that reductions to operating requests could affect existing service levels.

TRI Council discussed the budget. Questions were asked and answered. The Arena Manager will provide a report on recommended functional improvements and modernization of the kitchen.

Burk's Falls and District Fire Department

TRI Council reviewed the Burk's Falls and District Fire Department's draft 2027 budget. The proposed budget provides for \$576,450 in operating expenditures, offset by \$9,300 in operating revenue, resulting in net operating expenditures of \$567,150. The draft budget reflects continued investment in firefighter wages, training, equipment, vehicle operations, building maintenance, insurance, and emergency response services.

Notable changes include increased building maintenance costs associated with the new fire hall, budgeted at \$25,550, as well as increased wages and employment-related costs of \$239,200 and volunteer fire response wages of \$93,500. The equipment and gear budget is proposed at \$59,400, including bunker gear, hoses and nozzles, SCBA cylinders, radios, hand tools, and other required firefighting equipment. Training is maintained at \$18,300, supporting training props, burn building maintenance, professional memberships and conferences, and specialized water rescue/first aid training.

The draft also includes \$164,820 in capital expenditures, primarily related to debt repayment, including the tanker loan and fire hall financing. No new capital purchases are proposed for 2027. The overall net 2027 expenditures are projected at \$731,870, with municipal contributions allocated as follows: Armour Township – \$350,127 (47.84%), Village of Burk's Falls – \$209,315 (28.60%), and Township of Ryerson – \$172,429 (23.56%). The total budget increase is 12.62%

TRI Council noted that the 2027 draft budget represents an increase in operating and overall expenditures compared with the 2026 budget, with the changes primarily reflecting ongoing operating requirements, the new fire hall, staffing-related costs, equipment needs, and fire hall debt obligations.

Questions were asked and answered.

Waste Management

The Waste Management Administrator presented the 2027 final draft waste management budget and the 2026 landfill operational review report. The 2027 draft TRI-R Waste Management budget totals \$268,260 in net expenditures, a decrease from the 2026 draft budget of \$285,320. The reduction in operating costs is offset by a significant \$450,000 capital allocation for the new landfill building, with other capital expenditures reduced to \$0. While the budget includes a \$450,000 capital expenditure to rebuild the landfill building destroyed by the fire, this cost is fully offset by \$450,000 in capital reserves from insurance proceeds. Other capital expenditures have been reduced to \$0.

Armour's 2027 contribution is projected at \$130,782, consisting of \$40,239 (15% of net expenditures) plus \$90,543 from the applicable share of bag revenues, representing a decrease of \$8,317 (5.98%) from the 2026 draft contribution of \$139,099. The operational review report provided details on the proposed 10' x 16' office building, quoted at \$19,901.58 plus tax, and the PolyJohn winter jacket upgrade, quoted at \$2,837.20 plus HST, with the washroom unit covered under the insurance claim. Ongoing work includes the insurance claim and site cleanup, used tire and lithium-ion battery management, with two lithium-ion extinguishers recommended at \$743 each. Diversion rebates total \$5,418 to date, with 2,941 tires and 137 mattresses processed. The 2026 bag tally is projected at 36,356 bags, with Armour accounting for 61.1%, Ryerson 33.7%, and Burk's Falls 5.2% of the total.

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Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library

Prior to the delegation, a board member expressed concern that the budget was being presented to the TRI Council prior to the Library Board's review of the draft budget. It was explained that, due to the TRI Council meeting being moved to the beginning of the month, the Library Board had not yet had an opportunity to meet and review the draft budget.

TRI Council reviewed the Burk's Falls, Armour and Ryerson Union Public Library's draft 2027 budget. The proposed budget includes \$277,039 in operating expenditures, an increase of \$34,622 over the 2026 budget. The increase is primarily attributable to salaries and benefits, which are budgeted at \$215,735, reflecting a 3.0% CPI increase and an additional 15 hours per week of staffing time. The total increase for staffing is 17.26%.

The budget maintains funding for library collections, including \$10,000 for books, \$1,700 for DVDs, and \$200 for magazines. Program and administrative expenses include funding for children's programming, general programming, staff and board training, computer support, office supplies, internet connectivity, and annual dues and licences. Audit, accounting and bookkeeping costs are budgeted at \$10,860, reflecting anticipated audit, accounting, and Armour bookkeeping expenses.

Facility-related expenses include rent of \$10,185, cleaning of \$2,910, insurance of \$3,919, and utilities based primarily on anticipated inflationary increases. The 2027 budget also provides \$6,000 for capital purchases, funded through the Future Needs Reserve, for the purchase of three computers and two monitors. A further \$1,000 is budgeted for transfer to the New Library Building Reserve, representing 100% of prior-year jar donations.

The resulting net 2027 expenditures are projected at \$248,871, to be funded through municipal contributions from the three partner municipalities. The proposed contributions are \$114,879 from Armour, \$75,333 from Burk's Falls, and \$58,659 from Ryerson, based on the municipalities' population proportions. The draft budget reflects an overall increase in municipal contributions of \$35,002 compared with the 2026 budget. The total budget increase is 16.37%.

Southeast Parry Sound Regional Fire Training

TRI Council reviewed the 2027 regional fire training draft budget, which totals \$85,408, consistent with the 2026 approved budget. The budget includes \$2,000 for administration, \$2,000 for expense allowances, and \$81,408 for the training program.

Costs are shared equally among the five participating municipalities, with each responsible for 20% or \$17,082 of the total. The Burk's Falls and District share of \$17,082 is allocated among Armour (\$8,172), Burk's Falls (\$4,885), and Ryerson (\$4,024), with each municipality's contribution remaining unchanged from 2026.

The contract for the Regional Fire Training Officer will expire at the end of 2027. The participating Fire Departments are exploring the establishment of a full-time position to assume these responsibilities, with the position shared among the municipalities. The role would also provide relief to the Fire Chiefs during periods of vacation and other absences. Additional information will be presented at a future meeting.

Update New Fire Hall

The Fire Chief provided an update on the new fire hall project. The grand opening is anticipated to take place prior to the end of the current Council's term. Further information will be shared with the TRI Councils in the near future.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE TRI COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE:

TRI Council reviewed the draft minutes of the September 15, 2026 TRI Council Sub Committee meeting. A resolution was passed to accept the minutes as presented.

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CHAIR REMARKS:

Mayor Chris Hope addressed TRI Council, recognizing the commitment and contributions of Ryerson Township's Mayor George Sterling. Mayor Hope reflected on the history and successes of the TRI Council and the TRI Council Sub-Committee, describing the collaborative approach as a wise and valuable strategy. He expressed optimism that the Sub-Committee's work could expand to address additional areas of shared interest, including environmental matters. Mayor Hope concluded by thanking all Councils for their ongoing commitment to collaboration, shared success, and mutual respect.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2027 and will be hosted by the Township of Ryerson.

ADJOURNMENT:

The TRI Council meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #TRI-2026-9 - Moved by Dan Robertson, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the TRI Council of the Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson and the Village of Burk's Falls approve the notes of the TRI Council meeting held on June 22, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #TRI-2026-10 – Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Delynne Patterson; That the TRI Council of the Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson and the Village of Burk's Falls accept the draft minutes of the TRI Council Sub-Committee meeting held on September 15, 2026 as presented. Carried

Resolution #TRI-2026-11 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Glenn Miller; That the TRI Council of the Township of Armour, Township of Ryerson and the Village of Burk's Falls adjourn this regular TRI Council meeting at 8:05 p.m. until the next regular TRI Council meeting scheduled for February 22, 2027 to be hosted by the Township of Ryerson. Carried

Original signed by Rod Ward

Rod Ward, Mayor

Original signed by Charlene Watt

Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk