

# THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

## MINUTES

April 28, 2026

The regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Armour was held on Tuesday, April 28, 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: Danika McCann, Recreation Co-ordinator and Andrew McGee, Chief Building Official; Guests: Sarah Cooke, Carl Martin, Grace McCoy and Jenna Vermeulen; Staff: Charlene Watt, Municipal Clerk, Alison McGregor, Treasurer and Dave Gray, Chief Administrative Officer.

### 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.

### AMENDED AGENDA:

Council passed a resolution accepting and approving the amended agenda for the April 28, 2026 Council meeting.

### CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the regular Council meeting held on April 14, 2026 were approved as amended.

The minutes of the special Council meeting held on April 22, 2026 were approved as circulated.

### DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

No pecuniary interest and general nature thereof were declared.

### DELEGATIONS:

The Recreation Co-ordinator presented her April, 2026 report. The Easter event was well received for its relaxed atmosphere and organization, with suggestions for added activities in future. The Burk's Falls & District Historical Society advised it is too late to plan a 2026 Heritage Day event and supports Option 3 from the April 6, 2026 Staff Report to Council, while staff recommended coordinating with Fire Chief Joe Readman on timelines and budgeting for the new fire hall opening. Preparations for the Katrine Family Baseball Tournament are progressing with strong interest and new fundraising initiatives planned, and the Township has again secured support from the Jays Care Foundation. Spring programs saw strong participation, with Ball Hockey reaching capacity and Soccer enrolling 64 participants, supported by local sponsorships. Planning is also underway for the Fall Fashion Frenzy, and the next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2026. Council passed a resolution directing staff to defer Heritage Day programming for 2026.

The Chief Building Official presented a staff report regarding the transition of sewage system authority by the Province from North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority to the Township of Armour and the Township of McMurrich/Monteith, effective May 1, 2026. Although the CBO holds the required qualifications in on-site sewage systems, this represents a new enforcement area, with transitional support offered by Perry Township staff. A detailed review indicates the change will significantly increase workload—potentially nearly doubling current demands—adding multiple new

**THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR**

**MINUTES**

April 28, 2026

**DELEGATIONS: cont'd.**

responsibilities per project, including additional plan reviews, inspections, consultations, and maintenance program oversight, while the department continues managing high workloads, onboarding staff, and addressing legacy enforcement issues. Despite external support, the added scope is expected to strain resources. Council passed a resolution supporting the recommendations of the Chief Building Official.

**ACCOUNTS FOR APPROVAL:** None

**APPLICATIONS:** None

**BY-LAWS:**

By-law #24-2026 being a by-law to enact load restrictions on municipal bridges and to repeal By-law #38-2024 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #25-2026 being a by-law to establish fees or charges for services by the Township of Armour and to repeal By-law #57-2025 was read a first and second time and passed by resolution.

By-law #26-2026 being a by-law to amend Zoning By-law #27-95 to restrict and control the use of shipping containers was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #27-2026 being a by-law to establish the position of Screening Officer and Hearings Officer and to appoint persons as Screening Officers and Hearings Officers in the Township of Armour and repeal By-law #25-2025 was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

By-law #28-2026 being a by-law to approve a long-term loan application to OILC to finance the replacement of the wheeled excavator was read in its entirety and passed by resolution.

**REPORTS:**

Council reviewed the Quarterly Planning Status Report from Planscape Inc.

Council reviewed the meeting minutes from the April 20, 2026 Historical Society meeting.

Council reviewed the March 5, 2026 AHHC meeting minutes. There have been a few responses to the Pegg's Mountain Road Medical Wellness Facility's expression of interest. The process will be extended for six more weeks due to the amount of recent interest in the development opportunity.

The Library Board meeting for April 15, 2026 was cancelled.

A verbal report was given on the April 16, 2026 Agricultural Society meeting.

A verbal report was given on the April 22, 2026 Planning Board meeting. Council reviewed the 2025 financial statements of the Board.

Council reviewed the South Almaguin Highlands Regional Fire Services Committee's April 23, 2026 agenda and minutes from the November 6, 2025 meeting.

Council reviewed the April 23, 2026 ACED Board's agenda, minutes from the March 26, 2026 meeting and Director of Economic Development's April Report. Council discussed the ACED resolution awarding the contract for the Almaguin Highlands Regional Economic Development (RED) Strategic Plan Review and Update. Council passed a resolution supporting the RFP award.

**THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR**

**MINUTES**

April 28, 2026

**REPORTS: cont'd.**

A verbal report was given on the Informal TRI-Committee meeting of April 21, 2026. Council reviewed a resolution from the Village of Burk's Falls supporting the change of date of the May 25, 2026 TRI Council meeting to June 22, 2026. Council passed a resolution supporting the change of the May 25, 2026 TRI Council meeting as well.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Council reviewed a resolution from the Municipality of Magnetawan opposing the relocation of the Huntsville Cancer Clinic to Bracebridge and urged the Province, the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health to retain the local cancer care services. Council passed a resolution of support.

Council reviewed a public service announcement from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit reminding residents to test private drinking water after flood events.

Council reviewed a letter the MMAH providing an update on the amendments to the Ontario Regulation 584/06 under the Municipal Act, 2001. The change will remove the authority for municipalities to impose stormwater fees and charges on portions of properties that are classified in the farm or managed forests property class, if they are not connected to a municipal storm sewer.

Council reviewed an email from Ryan Baptiste, Head Coach of the Muskoka Hornets 13U, thanking Council for their donation to the baseball team.

Council reviewed a MNRF Flood Warning Bulletin that is in effect until April 29, 2026.

Council reviewed a notice from MOECP proposing amendments to the Environmental Assessment Act to allow more flexibility in landfill service areas and fill rates, improving use of existing capacity while maintaining environmental protections, without permitting site expansions or changes to approved waste types.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Council reviewed a resolution from the Township of Ryerson approving the 2026 library budget.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Council reviewed a Staff Report from the Municipal Clerk detailing all of the municipal records that were lost due to the basement flooding on April 12-13, 2026. A verbal report was given on the basement restoration project.

Council reviewed the Spring Agenda for the DPSMA meeting that will be held on May 29, 2026. Council members that are interested in attending include Mayor Rod Ward and Councillors Jerry Brandt and Dorothy Haggart-Davis. Councillor Rod Blakelock will confirm by the end of the week.

Council reviewed the Flood Information Package that is being provided to residents in response to municipal flooding. The document is also available on the Township's website.

Council reviewed the draft TRI Council Landfill and Arena agreements, and a summary of revisions was reviewed and included confirmation that most previously requested wording changes have been incorporated. It was clarified that ownership of the Arena remains with Burk's Falls upon termination of the agreement, and Schedule A (Section 1.1) was revised to reflect that if one or more municipalities continue operating arena services after another withdraws, they retain an unregistered interest while Burk's Falls remains the sole legal owner; additional clarifying language was also added to Schedule A for the Arena, which could be replicated for the Landfill agreement if agreeable. Key revisions from the original Shared Services and Fire Services

**THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR**

**MINUTES**

April 28, 2026

**NEW BUSINESS: cont'd.**

agreements include the addition of definitions for “Remaining Municipality” and “Withdrawing Municipality,” updates to the term of the agreement, revisions to ministry names in Section 10(d), establishment of a set date and time for TRI-Council meetings and a rotating host schedule in Section 12, and the introduction of provisions for a Shared Services Subcommittee (Sections 13–17). Cost-sharing language for the Arena was adjusted and later reversed, while Landfill wording was clarified, and Section 27 was added to the Landfill agreement regarding discretionary bag allocations. Formal dispute resolution procedures were added under Part 9, Schedule A language was expanded (primarily for the Arena), and a requirement was included that municipalities remain responsible for their share of landfill remediation costs regardless of participation status. Appendix B was fully rewritten to align with the Fire Services Agreement with additional Arena-specific language, and section references and provisions such as definitions and insurance were updated and reorganized to align with each specific service agreement. Questions were asked and answered. The finalized draft will be presented to TRI Council at the June 2026 meeting and Council comments are requested before May 19, 2026.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution #2026-122a - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour accepts and approves the amended agenda for the April 28, 2026 Council meeting. Carried

Resolution #2026-123 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on April 14, 2026, as amended. Carried

Resolution #2026-124 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve the minutes of the special council meeting held on April 22, 2026, as circulated. Carried

Resolution #2026-125 – Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour accepts the Staff Report from the Recreation Co-ordinator, dated April 7, 2026 and directs staff to defer Heritage Day programming for 2026 in order to undertake strategic planning and develop a sustainable, well-coordinated approach to future community events, aligned with available resources and long-term objectives. Carried

Resolution #2026-125a – Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Wendy Whitwell: That the Council of the Township of Armour accepts the Staff Report from the Chief Building Official dated April 28, 2026 regarding the transfer of on-site sewage system authority from North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority to the Township of Armour, effective May 1, 2026;

And that Council directs Staff to initiate a review of the current Shared Services Agreement with the Township of McMurrich-Monteith, with a view to exploring options that better reflect the current scope and complexity of service delivery;

And that consideration be given to transitioning Chief Building Official responsibility for McMurrich-Monteith to another party such as RSM Building Consultants with the Armour Township Building Department continuing to provide inspection and plans review services to McMurrich-Monteith. Carried

Resolution #2026-126 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #24-2026 being a by-law to enact load restrictions on municipal bridges and repeal By-law #38-2024 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

**THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR**

**MINUTES**

April 28, 2026

**RESOLUTIONS: cont'd.**

Resolution #2026-127- Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read a first and second time By-law #25-2026 being a by-law to update the fees or charges for services provided by the Township of Armour and to repeal By-law #57-2025. Carried

Resolution #2026-128 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #26-2026 being a by-law to amend Zoning By-law #27-95 to restrict and control the use of shipping containers and authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the Seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #2026-129 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour have read and approve By-law #27-2026 being a by-law to establish the position of Screening Officer and Hearings Officer and to appoint persons as Screening Officers and Hearings Officers in the Township of Armour and repeal By-law #25-2025 and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #2026-130 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Jerry Brandt; That the Council of the Township of Armour approve By-law #28-2026 being a by-law to approve a long-term loan application to OILC to finance the replacement of the wheeled excavator and that we authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this by-law and affix the seal of the Corporation thereto. Carried

Resolution #2026-131 - Moved by Wendy Whitwell, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour accepts the recommendation of the Almaguin Community Economic Development (ACED) Board and approves the award of the contract for the Almaguin Highlands Regional Economic Development (RED) Strategic Plan Review and Update to Karen Jones Consulting in the amount of \$15,000 plus HST. Carried

Resolution #2026-132 - Moved by Dorothy Haggart-Davis, seconded by Wendy Whitwell; That Council for the Township of Armour adopts the recommendation of the TRI Council Sub-Committee to reschedule the TRI Council meeting originally set for May 25, 2026 to June 22, 2026, to be hosted by the Township of Armour, and further approves the cancellation of the TRI Council meeting scheduled for August 24, 2026. Carried

Resolution #2026-133 - Moved by Jerry Brandt, seconded by Rod Blakelock; That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the Municipality of Magnetawan and its opposition to the relocation of the Huntsville Cancer Clinic to Bracebridge, urging the Province to retain local oncology services in Huntsville to ensure equitable, accessible care for rural residents. Carried

Resolution #2026-134 - Moved by Rod Blakelock, seconded by Dorothy Haggart-Davis; That the Council of the Township of Armour adjourn this regular council meeting at 9:03 p.m. until the next regular council meeting scheduled for May 12, 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