

Regular Meeting of the Village of Sundridge Council

Wednesday, September, 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Village of Sundridge Council Chambers

Present: Mayor Shawn Jackson (Electronic Participation), Deputy Mayor Sharon Smith, Councillor Luke Preston, Councillor Vicki Whitmell, Councillor Fraser Williamson

Staff: Nancy Millar, Clerk Administrator

COUNCIL MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Mayor Shawn Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Village of Sundridge would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Williams Treaty Lands and they are the traditional home of the Anishinabek First Nations. We wish to honour the original inhabitants, thanking them for their land stewardship and recognizing our responsibilities to promote the healing of our communities through earnest and sincere application of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations. Miigwech."

2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution #2026-204

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT the agenda for the September 9, 2026 regular meeting be approved as circulated.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		

CARRIED.

3) DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - None

4) **PLANNING MATTERS** - None

5) **DELEGATIONS** - None

6) **PRESENTATIONS** - None

7) **CONSENT ITEMS**

[Items from the Consent List may be moved by members to be discussed under Section 9 – New Business/Action Items]

7 (E.1) Follow Up List – September 4, 2026

7 (E.2) Moved into Committee of the Whole by Luke Preston

7 (E.3) Moved into Committee of the Whole by Luke Preston

7 (E.4) JBC – July Summary

7 (E.5) JBC – Annual Summary as of July 2026

7 (E.6) SSJ Arena & Hall 2025 Audit Findings Report 2025

7 (E.6.1) SSJ Arena & Hall Audited Financial Statements 2025

7 (E.7) Labour Market Group June 2026 Report

7 (E.8) Township of Strong R2026-243 re 2025 Audit Review

7 (E.9) Township of Strong R2026-250 Joint Emergency Information Plan

7 (E.10) Association of Municipalities of Ontario – Policy Update August 2026

7 (E.11) Joint Building Committee Audit Findings Report 2025

7 (E.12) Joint Building Committee Audited Financial Statements 2025

7 (E.13) Joint Building Committee July Permit Summary

7 (E.14) Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities – Statement on U.S. Tariffs

7 (E.15) Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks – Municipal
Environmental Assessment Requirements – January 1, 2027

7 (E.16) SSJ Arena & Hall Committee Resolution #26-88 – CBRE Agreement

8) **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Resolution #2026-205

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT Items listed as Consent Items for September 9, 2026 and the recommendations contained therein be received;

AND THAT any Items for which pecuniary interest has been declared are deemed not to have been voted on or discussed by the individual making the declaration.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

9) NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

9.1. Reliability of Cellular Service in Sundridge and Rural Northern Ontario

Resolution #2026-206

Moved By: Luke Preston

Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

WHEREAS reliable cellular and telecommunications service has become essential infrastructure for residents, businesses, visitors and emergency communications throughout rural and Northern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS residents of the Village of Sundridge and surrounding communities have reported ongoing concerns regarding unreliable cellular service, including dropped calls, interrupted calls, inconsistent connectivity and instances where cellular service may appear available despite voice communications being unreliable;

AND WHEREAS unreliable cellular service affects residents' daily lives, the ability of businesses and individuals to conduct business, and the overall economic and social connectivity of rural communities;

AND WHEREAS the reliability of cellular networks is particularly important in rural and Northern Ontario, where distances are greater, alternative communications infrastructure may be limited, and cellular phones may be relied upon to contact 9-1-1 and other emergency services;

AND WHEREAS telecommunications providers have encouraged and facilitated a broader transition away from traditional landline telephone services toward cellular and internet-based communications, increasing the importance of ensuring that cellular networks provide reliable and resilient service;

AND WHEREAS ongoing telecommunications infrastructure upgrades, network changes and other technical or capacity-related issues should not result in prolonged or recurring degradation of service for rural and Northern Ontario residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of Sundridge formally express its concern regarding the reliability and disruption of cellular service experienced within Sundridge and rural Northern Ontario and request that cellular telecommunications providers investigate reported service issues and identify measures necessary to improve network reliability, capacity and resiliency;

AND FURTHER THAT residents experiencing dropped calls, service disruptions or other cellular reliability issues be encouraged to report these occurrences directly to their telecommunications service provider so that providers receive documented evidence regarding the frequency, location and nature of service concerns;

AND FURTHER THAT Council encourage residents, where appropriate, to also share documented service concerns with the Village so that recurring or widespread issues can help inform municipal advocacy efforts;

AND FURTHER THAT the Village of Sundridge advocate with telecommunications providers and the appropriate provincial and federal authorities for reliable cellular infrastructure and service standards that recognize the unique needs and public-safety considerations of rural and Northern Ontario communities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Village request the support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) in advocating for improved cellular reliability, network resiliency and telecommunications infrastructure throughout rural and Northern Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to neighbouring municipalities and other municipalities experiencing similar cellular service concerns, with a request for their support and endorsement;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate cellular telecommunications providers, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, the local Member of Parliament, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, AMO, ROMA and FONOM.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

- 9.2. Housing-Enabling Infrastructure and Federal Funding Opportunity
Resolution #2026-207
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced a new \$1 billion funding stream intended to support municipalities that do not levy development charges, recognizing the infrastructure costs municipalities face in enabling new housing development;

AND WHEREAS the Village of Sundridge does not currently levy development charges and, as a small rural municipality, has limited financial capacity to undertake significant infrastructure investments required to support future residential growth;

AND WHEREAS the Village has undertaken work to review and modernize its municipal planning and regulatory framework, including proceeding with the development of a new Comprehensive Zoning By-law, with the objective of ensuring that municipal policies and regulations appropriately support responsible community growth and development;

AND WHEREAS identifying infrastructure constraints and opportunities in advance of future residential development would further support the Village's efforts to become housing-ready and better position the municipality to respond to future development and funding opportunities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of Sundridge direct staff to review the recently announced federal funding opportunity for municipalities that do not levy development charges, including its eligibility requirements and application timelines;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to identify and report back to Council on potential housing-enabling infrastructure needs, constraints or opportunities within the Village that could support or unlock future residential development, including any projects that may be eligible for funding through this program;

AND FURTHER THAT this work be considered alongside the Village's ongoing planning and regulatory modernization efforts and provide information that may assist future Council in considering housing, infrastructure and community development priorities;

AND FURTHER THAT Council encourage the Government of Canada to ensure that the program recognizes the unique infrastructure needs, financial capacity and circumstances of small, rural and Northern Ontario municipalities.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		

Whitmell, Vicki	Y
Williamson, Fraser	Y
Jackson, Shawn	Y

CARRIED.

9.3. District of Parry Sound Municipal Association Fall 2026 Meeting

Resolution #2026-208

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge receives the agenda and registration for the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association's Fall Meeting, to take place September 25, 2026 at the Township of Carling Community Centre;

AND THAT the following members of Council and staff will attend:

- Fraser Williamson
- Vicki Whitmell
- Sharon Smith
- Nancy Millar
- Robyn Ferrante

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		

CARRIED.

9.4. Donation Request Application from Phragmites Working Group

Resolution #2026-209

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the donation request from the Phragmites Working Group,

AND THAT the donation request is being sought to cover a shortfall in operating funds for the 2026 season,

AND THAT Council approves of the donation request in the amount of \$2,727.50,

AND FURTHER THAT Council recognizes this amount as an unbudgeted 2026 expense.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

ITEMS MOVED FROM CONSENT LIST INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

7 (E.2) Letter from Solicitor General re 2027 OPP Billing

Resolution #2026-210

Moved By: Luke Preston

Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the information from the Solicitor General regarding the 2027 O.P.P. Billing.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

7 (E.3) DSSAB August 2026 CAO Report

Resolution #2026-211

Moved By: Luke Preston

Seconded By: Sharon Smith

THAT the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the August CAO Report from the District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

10) COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES

Resolution #2026-212

Moved By: Luke Preston

Seconded By: Sharon Smith

THAT Items 10 (A.1) to 10 (B.2) be received and discussed.

10 (A.1) Almaguin Highlands Health Committee – June 4, 2026

10 (A.2) Sundridge & District Medical Centre Aug.13/26 Special Meeting

10 (A.3) SSJ Arena & Hall – September 2, 2026

10 (B.1) Regular Council Meeting – August 19, 2026

10 (B.2) Closed Session Meeting – August 19, 2026

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

11) STAFF REPORTS - None

12) BY-LAWS

(12.1) By-Law No. 2026-037 POA Court Rental Agreement

Resolution #2026-213

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT By-Law No. 2026-037, being a by-law to authorize the execution of an Agreement with The Town of Parry Sound as Administrators of the Provincial Court – Sundridge, Strong, Joly Arena, 14 Albert Street, be approved,

AND THAT the Mayor or designate and the Clerk Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

13) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Shawn Jackson:** Nothing at this time.
- **Sharon Smith:** Nothing at this time.
- **Luke Preston**
 - AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) Conference was great and very informative. There will be a report coming to Council as a summary of what was learned at the event.
- **Fraser Williamson**
 - There will be a Truth and Reconciliation Flag Raising Ceremony on September 21, 2026 at 11:45am, at the village municipal office.
- **Vicki Whitmell**
 - There is great value in attending the AMO Conference.
- **Nancy Millar, Clerk Administrator**
 - The repair work on Main Street is slated to begin next week. Notices will be posted accordingly.

14) **INTRODUCTION OF FUTURE MOTIONS**

Fraser Williamson will introduce a motion to have a heritage/ historical section added to the village website.

Luke Preston will introduce a motion regarding the preparation of a Housing Transition report for the next term of Council.

15) **CONFIRMING BY-LAW** **Resolution #2026-214** **Moved By: Sharon Smith** **Seconded By: Luke Preston**

THAT By-Law No. 2026-038, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge at its regular meeting of **September, 9, 2026**, be adopted.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

16) CONSIDERATION OF A CLOSED SESSION

Resolution #2026-215

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT Council hold a Closed Session meeting as provided for by Section 239 (2)(a) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, and the Village of Sundridge Procedural By-law No. 2021-051, immediately following this council meeting to deal with:

1. personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

17) ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #2026-216

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT we do now adjourn at 7:00 p.m. until the Regular Council Meeting on September, 23, 2026, or at the call of the Mayor.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	Y		
Smith, Sharon	Y		
Whitmell, Vicki	Y		
Williamson, Fraser	Y		
Jackson, Shawn	Y		
CARRIED.			

Shawn Jackson, Mayor

Nancy Millar, Clerk Administrator