Regular Meeting of the Village of Sundridge Council

Wednesday, October, 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Village of Sundridge Council Chambers

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

Staff: Robyn Ferrante, Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

COUNCIL MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Mayor Shawn Jackson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

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 #2026-250
Moved By: Sharon Smith
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT the agenda for the October 28, 2026 regular meeting be approved as amended, to include Item 11.2 Staff Memo – Reserve Transfer

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

CARRIED

DRAFT

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 – n/a
7 (E.2) Labour Market Group – September 2026 Report
7 (E.3) Labour Market Group – August Jobs Report
7 (E.4) District of Parry Sound – CAO Report October
7 (E.5) Township of South Algonquin Resolution #26-720
7 (E.6) *Moved into Committee of the Whole by Councillor Preston*
7 (E.7) *Moved into Committee of the Whole by Councillor Preston*
7 (E.8) ACED Economic Development – Financials
7 (E.9) *Moved into Committee of the Whole by Councillor Preston*

8) APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Resolution #2026-251
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT Items listed as Consent Items for October 28, 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. Provincial Support for Rideshare Services in Rural Northern Ontario

DRAFT

[motion introduced by Luke Preston October 14, 2026]

Resolution #2026-252
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

WHEREAS residents of rural Northern Ontario municipalities face transportation barriers that affect access to employment, healthcare, education and essential services;

AND WHEREAS rideshare services have the potential to improve local transportation and provide first- and last-mile connections to regional transportation services, including the Northlander;

AND WHEREAS low population density, long travel distances, and limited driver availability present challenges to delivering reliable, affordable, and accessible rideshare services in rural communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of Sundridge direct staff to prepare and send a letter to the Minister of Transportation expressing concern that a provincial rideshare framework alone may not adequately address these rural transportation challenges;

AND THAT the letter request that the Ministry work with rural Northern Ontario municipalities, transportation providers and community partners to:

a) Identify funding and implementation supports to address rural service viability, driver recruitment and retention, affordability, and accessibility, including access for residents unable to use app-based booking;

b) Encourage a coordinated regional transportation approach that connects rideshare with existing community transportation and regional bus and rail services, reduces duplication, and supports access to employment and essential services; and

c) Engage participating municipalities in evaluating the Northlander rideshare pilot and developing a clear transition plan before its conclusion, with the objective of maintaining and improving transportation access in rural communities;

AND FURTHER THAT the letter be circulated to the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Almaguin Community Transportation Committee and ACED (Almaguin Community Economic Development), neighbouring Almaguin municipalities, the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Northern Ontario Chambers of Commerce, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) for their information and consideration of support.

DRAFT

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

CARRIED

9.2. In Memoriam

Resolution #2026-253
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

On behalf of The Corporation of The Village of Sundridge, we wish to express our deepest condolences on the passing of Mac Bain. Mac will be remembered fondly, and his advocacy for Northern Ontario municipalities has left a legacy to be proud of. His absence will be profoundly felt. Our thoughts are with his family and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

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

CARRIED

9.3. The Municipality of Wawa – Resolution RC26178 – Policing Costs

Resolution #2026-254
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT The Council for the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge receive Resolution RC26178 from the Municipality of Wawa regarding Policing Costs;

AND THAT the Village of Sundridge offer their support to the Municipality of Wawa;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Solicitor General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP, AMO, ROMA, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities serviced by the Ontario Provincial Police, and the Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board.

DRAFT

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

CARRIED

9.4. ACED Economic Development – Directors Report

Resolution #2026-255
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT The Council for the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge receive the Economic Development Directors Report;

AND THAT Council would like to thank the staff at ACED for their work.

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

CARRIED

9.5. The Town of Gananoque - Declaration Against Religious Violence

Resolution #2026-256
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT The Council for the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge receive the Declaration Against Religious Violence from the Town of Gananoque;

AND THAT the Village of Sundridge release a statement of their own with wording from Councillor Preston;

AND THAT the statement be included as part of the Village Mission Statement in the future.

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

DRAFT

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

CARRIED

10) COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES

Resolution #2026-257
Moved By: Sharon Smith
Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT Items 10 (A.1) to 10 (B.1) be received and discussed.
10 (A.1) Central Almaguin Planning Board – August 5, 2026
10 (A.2) Central Almaguin Planning Board – September 2, 2026
10 (A.3) SSJ Restructuring – September 21, 2026
10 (A.4) Almaguin Community Economic Development – Sept. 24, 2026
10 (A.5) SSJ Restructuring – October 19, 2026
10 (A.6) SSJ Restructuring October 19, 2026 Committee Resolution
10 (B.1) Regular Council – October 14, 2026

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

CARRIED

11) STAFF REPORT/MEMO

(11.1) Memo: Waste Collection Diversion Costs

Resolution #2026-258
Moved By: Sharon Smith
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the Memo on Waste Collection Diversion Costs.

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

DRAFT

Jackson, Shawn	**Y**

CARRIED

(11.2) Memo: Reserve Transfer

Resolution #2026-259
Moved By: Sharon Smith
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT Council for the Village of Sundridge approve a transfer of $60,000 from Development of Public Parks reserve to Fire Equipment Reserve and $50,000 from Development of Public Parks reserve to Roads Equipment Reserve;

AND THAT Council is aware that the final transfer amounts may vary pending final confirmation from the Ministry on the total funding amount received.

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

CARRIED

12) BY-LAWS

12.1. NORDS AGREEMENT

Resolution #2026-260
Moved By: Sharon Smith
Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT By-Law No. 2026-042, being a by-law to enter into an agreement between His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario, as presented by the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth and the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge, be approved.

Recorded Vote	**For**	**Against**	**Abstain**
Preston, Luke	**Y**		
Smith, Sharon	**Y**		
Whitmell, Vicki	**Y**		

DRAFT

Williamson, Fraser	**Y**		
Jackson, Shawn	**Y**		

CARRIED

12.2. PROCUREMENT POLICY BYLAW

Resolution #2026-261
Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT By-Law No. 2026-043, being a by-law to adopt an updated Procurement Policy, be approved.

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

CARRIED

13) ANNOUCEMENTS

- Council and staff offered their congratulations to those who have been elected to office for the 2026-2030 term and thanked those who have served for their time and dedication to the community

14) INTRODUCTION OF FUTURE MOTIONS - None

15) CONFIRMING BY-LAW

Resolution #2026-262
Moved By: Sharon Smith
Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT By-Law No. 2026-044, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge at its regular meeting of **October, 28, 2026**, be adopted.

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

DRAFT

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

CARRIED

16) CONSIDERATION OF A CLOSED SESSION - None

17) ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #2026-263
Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT we do now adjourn at 7:00p.m. until the Regular Council Meeting on November, 10, 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

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Shawn Jackson, Mayor

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Robyn Ferrante, Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

DRAFT