

## **Regular Meeting of the Village of Sundridge Council**

**Wednesday, January, 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Village of Sundridge Council Chambers**

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

**STAFF:** Clerk Administrator, Nancy Millar

### **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 #2026-001**

**Moved By: Fraser Williamson**

**Seconded By: Sharon Smith**

**THAT** the agenda for the January 14, 2026 regular meeting be approved as circulated.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

**3) DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Councillor Fraser Williamson

I, Fraser Williamson, declare a pecuniary interest in Item (9.2) on the January 14, 2026 Council agenda. I am making this declaration because my wife Reverend Sandra Jenkinson is employed by Zion United Church.

Councillor Fraser Williamson

I, Fraser Williamson, declare a pecuniary interest in Item (9.3) on the January 14, 2026 Council agenda. I am making this declaration because I am the membership Chair of the Happy Gang.

Deputy Mayor Sharon Smith

I, Sharon Smith, declare a pecuniary interest in Item (9.2) on the January 14, 2026 Council agenda. I am making this declaration because I am a member of the Happy Gang.

**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 – January 14, 2026

7 (E.2) Township of Joly Resolution #2025-00367 – Holiday Bonuses

7 (E.3) Township of Joly Resolution #2025-00368 – SDMC Resolutions

7 (E.4) District Social Services Administration Board – December CAO Report

7 (E.5) OPP 2026 Annual Billing Statement - January 1 to December 31, 2026

7 (E.6) Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response – Bill 25

7 (E.7) Joint Building Committee Permit Summary – December 2025

7 (E.8) Joint Building Committee Sundridge Permit Summary – December 2025

7 (E.9) Sundridge By-Law Enforcement Officers – 2025 Year End Report

7 (E.10) OPP Detachment Q4 Report (Statistical Data)

7 (E.11) SSJ Recreation Committee Resolution #R2026-006 – 2026 Budget

**8) APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**Resolution #2026-002**

**Moved By: Luke Preston**

**Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell**

**THAT** Items listed as Consent Items for January 14, 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.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

**9) NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

9.1. Canada Post's free and reduced distribution of library books

**Resolution #2026-003**

**Moved By: Vicki Whitmell**

**Seconded By: Fraser Williamson**

**THAT** The Village of Sundridge Council expresses its concerns with the amendment to the Canada Post Corporations Act within Bill C-15 that could result in the disappearance of a reduced rate of postage for library materials lent by a library to a borrower, including by means of an interlibrary loan,

**AND THAT** Interlibrary loans are an essential part of how libraries operate and they provide access to material for the millions of library users in Canada.

**AND THAT** as a small rural library, the Sundridge Strong Union Public Library depends on loans from other libraries to supplement its collection and relies on Canada Post to deliver those materials at a reduced rate.

**AND FURTHER THAT** if Canada Post is allowed to increase the postal rate that supports this service without oversight from Parliament or the Government of Canada, there could be a devastating effect, putting a strain on already tight library budgets and threatening the ability of libraries to offer this essential service that ensures access, equity and literacy for all.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT,** The Village of Sundridge Council encourages other municipal councils to contact their local MP and the Honourable Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation,

Public Works and Procurement to strongly urge the government to ensure that Canada Post continues to provide a library postal rate so that library services remain accessible for all of Canada through interlibrary loans.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

9.2. Letter of Request – Zion Church

**Resolution #2026-004**

**Moved By: Luke Preston**

**Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell**

**THAT** the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the correspondence from the Zion Church.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Pecuniary Interest</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

9.3. Sundridge Happy Gang Lease

**Resolution #2026-005**

**Moved By: Luke Preston**

**Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell**

**THAT** the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives a copy of the lease For the Happy Gang's use of the room in the lower portion of the municipal building,

**AND THAT** as the terms of the lease expired on of December 31, 2025,

**AND FURTHER THAT** Council will consider entering a new lease for a period of 3 years (2026, 2027, 2028 plus CPI/cola rent increase to the third year),

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council directs Staff to draft a new lease and bring it back to a future meeting of Council for further discussion.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Pecuniary Interest</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Pecuniary Interest</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

9.4. January 29, 2026 Tri Council Agenda Items

**Resolution #2026-006**

**Moved By: Sharon Smith**

**Seconded By: Fraser Williamson**

**THAT** the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge will be taking part in the upcoming Tri Council Meeting, being held on January 29, 2026, with the Township of Joly as host municipality,

**AND THAT** Council would like to have the following item(s) added to the agenda:

- Volunteer Recruitment
- Update on the SSJ Restructuring Committee

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

9.5. SSJ Recreation Committee 2026 Budget

**Resolution #2026-007**

**Moved By: Fraser Williamson**

**Seconded By: Sharon Smith**

**THAT** the Council for the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge receive the recommendation resolution from the SSJ Recreation Committee,

**AND THAT** Council approves of the 2026 Budget in the amount of \$34,200, with the Villages' share being \$12,688.00.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

## **10) COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES**

**Resolution #2026-008**

**Moved By: Vicki Whitmell**

**Seconded By: Luke Preston**

**THAT** Items 10 (A.1) to 10 (B.4) be received and discussed.

10 (A.1) Almaguin Highlands Heath Council – November 6, 2025

10 (A.2) SSJ Recreation Committee – December 4, 2025

10 (A.3) Sundridge Strong Fire Committee – December 11, 2025

10 (A.4) Sundridge & District Medical Centre – December 17, 2025

10 (A.5) Sunflower Festival Committee – December 1, 2025

10 (A.6) SSJ Restructuring Committee – December 15, 2025

10 (A.7) SSJ Recreation Committee – January 8, 2026

10 (B.1) Regular Council Closed Session #1 – November 26, 2025

10 (B.2) Regular Council Closed Session #2 – November 26, 2025

10 (B.3) Regular Council Meeting - December 10, 2025

10 (B.4) Regular Council Closed Session – December 10, 2025

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

## **11) STAFF REPORTS**

### **11.1. Staff Memo – Zion United Church Letter of Request**

**Resolution #2026-009**

**Moved By: Luke Preston**

**Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell**

**THAT** the Council for Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the Staff Memo dated January 14, 2026 regarding the correspondence from the Zion Church dated January 4, 2026,

**AND THAT** staff be directed to have an agreement (for the 2026 winter season) prepared to formalize the snow removal operations being coordinated by the church,

**AND THAT** the Church is to have insurance coverage naming the village as an additional insured if advised by the village solicitor and attainable by the church,

**AND FURTHER THAT** the Village Superintendent attend a future meeting of Council to further discuss this matter with regards to future use.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

**12) BY-LAWS**

**12.1 By-Law No. 2026-001 Temporary Borrowing**

**Resolution #2026-010**

**Moved By: Sharon Smith**

**Seconded By: Fraser Williamson**

**THAT** By-Law No. 2026-001, being a by-law to authorize temporary borrowing from time to time to meet current expenditures during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, be approved.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

## 12.2 By-Law No. 2026-002 Interim Tax Levy

### **Resolution #2026-011**

**Moved By: Luke Preston**

**Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell**

**THAT** By-Law No. 2026-002, being a by-law to provide for an Interim Tax Levy and the Payment of Interim Taxes for the Year 2026, be approved.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

### **13) ANNOUCEMENTS**

#### **➤ Shawn Jackson**

- Dr. Kistemaker has given notice to the Sundridge & District Medical Centre that she will be leaving in March 2026. Recruitment activities are in motion. The Healthcare Practitioners at the medical centre will continue to provide care to those that were rostered with Dr. Kistemkaer.

#### **➤ Sharon Smith – Nothing at this time.**

#### **➤ Luke Preston**

- Councillor Preston will be attending the ROMA Conference this coming weekend (January 18 to January 20, 2026 in Toronto)

#### **➤ Vicki Whitmell**

- Councillor Whitmell will be attending the ROMA Conference this coming weekend (January 18 to January 20, 2026 in Toronto)

#### **➤ Fraser Williamson – Nothing at this time.**

#### **➤ Nancy Millar, Clerk Administrator**

- Phoenix Building Components is hosting their Grand Opening Friday January 16, 2026 from 9:30am to 3pm
- With the upcoming 2026 municipal election Residents can ensure that their name is on the voters list by visiting the



website electionsontario.ca. If anyone in the village requires assistance to confirm their name on the voters list, they can call or come into the municipal office and staff would be please to assist.

**14) INTRODUCTION OF FUTURE MOTIONS**

Councillor Luke Preston will introduce a motion regarding housing and a review of the applicable by-laws and regulations.

Councillor Luke Preston will introduce a motion regarding road salt use and reduction as requested by the Lake Bernard Property Owners Association.

Deputy Mayor Sharon Smith will introduce a motion regarding Administration for Shared Services.

**15) CONFIRMING BY-LAW**

**Resolution #2026-012**

**Moved By: Sharon Smith**

**Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell**

**THAT** By-Law No. 2026-003, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge at its regular meeting of **January, 14, 2026**, be adopted.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

**16) CONSIDERATION OF A CLOSED SESSION - None**

**17) ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution #2026-013**

**Moved By: Fraser Williamson**

**Seconded By: Luke Preston**

**THAT** we do now adjourn at 7:23p.m. until the Regular Council Meeting on January, 28, 2026, or at the call of the Mayor.

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
<b>Preston, Luke</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Smith, Sharon</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Whitmell, Vicki</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Williamson, Fraser</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Jackson, Shawn</b>	<b>Y</b>		
<b>Carried.</b>			

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Shawn Jackson, Mayor

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Nancy Millar, Clerk Administrator