

Regular Meeting of the Village of Sundridge Council

Wednesday, April, 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Village of Sundridge Council Chambers

PRESENT: Mayor Justine Leveque (electronic participation), Deputy Mayor Shawn Jackson (electronic participation), Councillor Luke Preston, Councillor Sharon Smith, and Councillor Fraser Williamson

STAFF: Christine Hickey; Treasurer
Robyn Ferrante; Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer

COUNCIL MINUTES

1) CALL TO ORDER

The Chair, Mayor Justine Leveque called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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# 2025-102

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Shawn Jackson

THAT the agenda for the April 23, 2025 regular meeting be approved as circulated.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		

CARRIED

3) DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - None

4) PLANNING MATTERS – None

5) DELEGATIONS – None

6) **PRESENTATIONS** - None

7) **CONSENT ITEMS**

- 7 (E.1) Follow Up List – April 22, 2025
- 7 (E.2) Township of Joly Resolution – CEMC Budget
- 7 (E.3) District Social Services Administration Board – CAO March Report
- 7 (E.4) FONOM Letter – Premier Ford – Ministry of Transportation
- 7 (E.5) *Moved into Committee of the Whole by Mayor Leveque*
- 7 (E.6) Township of Joly – Resolution – SDMC 2025 Budget

8) **APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS**

Resolution# 2025-103

Moved By: Luke Preston

Seconded By: Sharon Smith

THAT Items listed as Consent Items for April 23, 2025 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
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

9) **NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS**

9.1. Summer Student Employee: Hudson Hall-Beavis

Resolution# 2025-104

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Shawn Jackson

THAT the Council of the Village of Sundridge authorize the hiring of Hudson Hall-Beavis in the 2025 Summer Student position with the following terms:

- Rate of Pay \$17.00 per hour
- Vacation Pay of 4%, paid as earned
- 40 hours per week
- Effective date of employment: June 23, 2025
- Last Day of employment: August 29, 2025 (or at the direction of the Village Superintendent but no later than September 5, 2025).

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

9.2. Crossing Guard [new hire to fill pending vacancy due to a retirement]

Resolution# 2025-105
Moved By: Sharon Smith
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT the Council of the Village of Sundridge authorize the hiring of Rolando Jacinto, as a Crossing Guard, effective for the commencement of the 2025/2026 school year, with a starting wage of Step 3 Pay Grade 1 and with pension and entitlements as provided for in the Employee Wage By-Law No. 2024-049.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

9.3. High Rock Lookout Park 2025 Budget

Resolution# 2025-106
Moved By: Shawn Jackson
Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT The Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the High Rock Lookout Park 2025 Budget in the amount of \$8,180.80,

AND THAT Council approves of the budget with the Village of Sundridge share being \$3,072.32.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

9.4. District of Parry Sound Municipal Association – Spring Meeting

Resolution# 2025-107

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT The Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the information regarding the upcoming DPSMA Spring Meeting being held in Callander on May 23, 2025,

AND THAT the following members of Council and/or Staff would like to attend the meeting:

- Fraser Williamson
- Luke Preston
- Sharon Smith
- Nancy Millar
- Robyn Ferrante

AND FURTHER THAT the cost of the event registration will be covered by the municipality along with any other eligible expenses.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

9.5. Ontario Regulation 284/09 Report 2025 Budget as prepared by Marjorie Robinson, Consultant

Resolution# 2025-108

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT the Council for The Village of Sundridge receives Marjorie Robinson, Consultant's Report regarding the reporting requirements for Ontario Regulation 284/09;

AND THAT Council is aware that the analysis shows that in 2025 the Village should anticipate an overall change in its surplus of approximately \$97,000.00;

AND THAT Council acknowledges that the level of investment in the proposed 2025 budget is approximately 30% of the noted sustainable amount as indicated in the current Asset Management Plan.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

- 9.6. Sunflower Festival Booth for 'Bear Wise' Information
[motion introduced by Fraser Williamson April 9, 2025]

Resolution# 2025-109
Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Shawn Jackson

THAT the council for the Village of Sundridge discuss Inviting the MNRF Bear Wise, or 'Bear With Us', to set up a booth at the Sundridge Sunflower Festival to be held on Saturday August 10, 2025

AND THAT the Village of Sundridge ask that the Sunflower Festival Committee cover the sixty-dollar cost of the booth;

AND THAT alternatively, the Village cover the cost of the booth.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

- 9.7. Pride Proclamation
[motion introduced by Fraser Williamson April 9, 2025]

Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Sharon Smith

WHEREAS, June is recognized as Pride Month in Canada and around the world as a time to celebrate the diversity and contributions of LGBTQ2S+ communities;

AND WHEREAS, Pride Month is an opportunity to reflect on the history of the LGBTQ2S+ rights movement and the ongoing struggle for equality, justice, and inclusion;

AND WHEREAS, the Village of Sundridge is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for all residents, including LGBTQ2S+ individuals and families;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of Sundridge does hereby proclaim June 2025 as Pride Month in the Village of Sundridge.

FURTHER, we encourage all residents and organizations to participate in Pride celebrations, show their support for LGBTQ2S+ communities, and work towards creating a more equitable and inclusive society.

AND THAT the Village of Sundridge Raise the Pride flag on the specialty flag pole at the Village office for the month of June with a ceremony taking place on Monday June 1 2025

AND THAT the Flag be removed during regular business hours on Monday June 30 2025.

AND THAT the ceremony be advertised on the Village social media.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn			
Preston, Luke			
Smith, Sharon			
Williamson, Fraser			
Leveque, Justine			

MOTION TO TABLE

Resolution# 2025-110

MOVED BY: Luke Preston

SECONDED BY: Sharon Smith

THAT the above motion be tabled and brought forward to the May 14th meeting of Council.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		

CARRIED

Council felt that as per the Flag Protocol Policy, a member of the public should approach Council to bring the Motion forward.

- 9.8. The Almaguin Community Trails (Discovery Routes) Request for Support

Resolution# 2025-111

Moved By: Shawn Jackson

Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT The Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives a request for support from the Almaguin Community Trails;

AND THAT Council approves of the promotion of the trails and events through the village's social media account;

AND THAT the Village Donation Policy be provided by staff.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

- 9.9. Employee Recognition Policy
[motion introduced by Luke Preston]

Resolution# 2025-112
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Sharon Smith

WHEREAS the Village of Sundridge values the dedication and long-term commitment of its staff;

AND WHEREAS it is important to formally recognize years of service and show appreciation through milestone awards and annual staff events;

AND WHEREAS the proposed Employee Recognition Policy outlines recognition at 5, 10, 15, and 20-year milestones, with formal in-person presentations and gifts at key intervals, and includes an annual Christmas luncheon to be organized at the Clerk's discretion and paid for by the Village as part of the staff recognition program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs staff to develop an Employee Recognition Policy for review and consideration by council at a future regular meeting.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

- 9.10. Advocacy for Increased Seniors and Aged Care Housing

Resolution# 2025-113
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is experiencing a growing senior population, placing increasing pressure on existing aged care and supportive housing options;

AND WHEREAS the Village of Sundridge and surrounding municipalities are facing a critical shortage of seniors and long-term care housing, with extensive waitlists and a lack of available options to meet current and future needs;

AND WHEREAS aging in place and access to appropriate care are vital to the well-being and dignity of older adults, especially in rural and northern communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Village of Sundridge formally urges the Province of Ontario to recognize the current crisis in seniors housing and aged care;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be called upon to:

- Increase investments in the development of new seniors and aged care housing;
- Support the expansion of existing facilities and programs;
- Provide targeted funding and planning support for rural and small municipalities to meet local demand;
- Work collaboratively with municipalities, service providers, and stakeholders to develop long-term, sustainable solutions.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Premier of Ontario
- The Minister of Long-Term Care
- The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Local MPP(s)
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- All municipalities in Ontario for their support.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

Deputy Mayor Shawn Jackson assumed the Chair at 7:14 p.m.

7 (E.5) Township of Joly – Enhancing Public Awareness – Bear Mgt

Resolution# 2025-114

Moved By: Justine Leveque

Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT Council receive Township of Joly Resolution 2025-00118 regarding Enhancing Public Awareness on Bear Management;

AND THAT Council discuss the financial equity of the situation.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
Jackson, Shawn	x		
CARRIED			

Mayor Leveque resumed the Chair at 7:22 p.m.

10) COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES

Resolution# 2025-115

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Sharon Smith

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

10 (A.1) SSJ Recreation Committee – April 3, 2025

10 (A.2) SSJ Arena & Hall – April 2025

10 (A.3) Sundridge Sunflower Festival – April 1, 2025

10 (A.4) Almaguin Highlands Health Council – April 2025

10 (A.5) Sundridge Strong Union Public Library – Feb. 20, 2025

10 (A.6) SSUPLB Librarians Report – March 13, 2025

10 (A.7) High Rock Lookout Park – April 10, 2025

10 (B.1) Council Regular Meeting – April 9, 2025

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

11) STAFF REPORTS

11.1. Staff Report S2025-008 – Lion's Park Playground Equipment RFP

Resolution# 2025-116

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT Council receive Staff Report S2025-008 – Lion’s Park Playground Equipment RFP;

AND THAT Council authorize staff to release an RFP for Lion’s Park Playground site preparation, equipment, installation, and delivery.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

11.2. Staff Memo 2025.04.23 Vertical Platform Lift Policy

Resolution# 2025-117
Moved By: Shawn Jackson
Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT Staff Memo 2025.04.23 regarding a Vertical Platform Lift Policy be received;

AND THAT a sign be posted at the lift.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

12) BY-LAWS

12.1 By-Law No. 2025-015 Procedural By-Law

Resolution# 2025-118
Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Shawn Jackson

THAT By-Law No. 2025-015 being a by-Law to govern the calling, place and proceedings of meeting of Council, Committees and Boards of the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge, be approved.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

12.2 By-Law No. 2025-016 Lift Policy Adoption

Resolution# 2025-119
Moved By: Shawn Jackson
Seconded By: Sharon Smith

THAT By-Law No. 2025-016 being a by-law to adopt a Lift Policy, be approved.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

12.3 By-Law No. 2025-017 Council Remuneration

Resolution# 2025-120
Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT By-Law No. 2025-017 being a By-Law to provide for the remuneration and the payment of expenses for Members of Council, be approved.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

12.4 By-Law No. 2025-018 Tax Ratios

Resolution# 2025-121
Moved By: Luke Preston
Seconded By: Shawn Jackson

THAT By-Law No. 2025-018 being a By-Law for establishing tax ratios for 2025, be approved.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
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Jackson, Shawn	x
Preston, Luke	x
Smith, Sharon	x
Williamson, Fraser	x
Leveque, Justine	x
CARRIED	

12.5 By-Law No. 2025-019 Tax Rates (Adoption of 2025 Budget)

Resolution# 2025-122
Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Sharon Smith

THAT By-Law No. 2025-019 being a by-law to provide for the adoption of tax rates and to further provide for penalty and interest in default of payment thereof for 2025.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

13) ANNOUCEMENTS

- **Justine Leveque - none**
- **Shawn Jackson - none**
- **Sharon Smith - none**
- **Luke Preston - none**
- **Fraser Williamson – Community Awards nominations are open, HAZMAT Day is May 24th, South River has given notice that they will be withdrawing from ARI**
- **Robyn Ferrante, Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer – Special Pickup starts on Monday May 5th**

14) INTRODUCTION OF FUTURE MOTIONS

Luke Preston – regarding Council member to attend Almaguin Community Partners meetings

15) **CONFIRMING BY-LAW**

Resolution# 2025-123

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Shawn Jackson

THAT By-Law No. 2025-020, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge at its regular meeting of **April, 23, 2025**, be adopted.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

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

17) **ADJOURNMENT**

Resolution# 2025-124

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT we do now adjourn at 7:47 p.m. until the Regular Council Meeting on May, 14, 2025, or at the call of the Mayor.

Recorded Vote	For	Against	Abstain
Jackson, Shawn	x		
Preston, Luke	x		
Smith, Sharon	x		
Williamson, Fraser	x		
Leveque, Justine	x		
CARRIED			

Justine Leveque,
Mayor

Robyn Ferrante,
Deputy Clerk/Deputy Treasurer