

Regular Meeting of the Village of Sundridge Council

Wednesday, February, 25, 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, and Councillor Fraser Williamson

STAFF: Nancy Millar; Clerk Administrator
Christine Hickey; Treasurer & SDMCC Recording Secretary

GUESTS: Chris Jones, Municipal Planning Services
Bill Lang
John & Albine

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 #2026-053
Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Sharon Smith**

THAT the agenda for the February 25, 2026 regular meeting be approved as circulated.

**Recorded Vote
Preston, Luke**

**For
Y**

Against

Abstain

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

CARRIED.

3) DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST - none

4) PLANNING MATTERS

4 (A.1) PUBLIC MEETING – Official Plan
Start: 6:06pm

Chair: Good evening, I am Shawn Jackson, Mayor for the Village of Sundridge. This is a Public Meeting under Section 17 of the Planning Act to allow the public to learn more about the Village's Official Plan. The Official Plan is applicable to all land within the corporate boundaries of the Village of Sundridge. The draft Official Plan and its related mapping can be found on the Village's website at www.sundridge.ca.

The following is a brief summary of the proposed Official Plan:

- To establish a community vision and goals that form the basis for land use policy;
- To create land use designations that reflect the existing pattern of land use in the Village;
- To create a housing policy that encourages a broad range of housing types to address need and affordability;
- To establish development policy that reflects servicing capacities and capabilities in the Village; and.
- To identify the importance of Lake Bernard as an environmental, cultural and economic resource.

Please note that Council will not be making a decision on the draft Official Plan today. The purpose of this meeting is to hear from citizens who have questions regarding the proposed Official Plan for the Village of Sundridge.

Comments provided at this meeting will be considered by Council before the document is finalized for adoption

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the plan was adopted, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Ontario Land Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

Chair: I will ask the Clerk if any written comments have been received.

Clerk Administrator: The village has received one written comment from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation.

Chair: I will now ask the Villages Planning Consultant to provide an overview of the plan and the process.

Chris Jones, Municipal Planning Services Consultant delivered an overview on the draft official plan, including the next steps in the process regarding the adoption of the policy.

Chair: I will now open the floor to persons who wish to provide comments/questions with respect to the proposed Official plan. Once each comment/question is complete, I will direct the question to the Village Planner for a response.

Chair: Is there anyone from the public who wishes to speak on the proposed Official Plan? Before providing comment, please state your name and civic address to be entered into the record for this meeting.

Bill Lang – 47 Glenwood Drive, Huntsville

(the following is a point form summation of the conversation and is not intended to represent the entire discussion)

- Does Sundridge have interest in having municipal water?
- Sundridge would then be a full-service municipality, and this would enable further senior's complex housing and other development that aligns with the new housing legislation.
- Cost? Taxation? Availability of Funding?
- Municipal water should be considered in conjunction with the Official Plan
- Consider: economic benefits, retain population, attract new people to the area

- Single Family Dwellings and/or Duplex's are represented on the vacant lands map shown tonight. Refer back to multi-residential lots and senior housing needs; full services.

Chris Jones; Municipal Planning Services

(the following is a point form summation of the conversation and is not intended to represent the entire discussion)

- Partial services are a constraint
- Capacity
- Development of apartments and other housing is challenging with partial services

Chair: Before this meeting comes to a close, I will ask if any member of Council has questions regarding the proposed Official Plan or with respect to anything they have heard during this meeting?

Councillor Luke Preston

(the following is a point form summation of the conversation and is not intended to represent the entire discussion)

- Identified landfill site areas; please provide further explanation.

Chris Jones; Municipal Planning Services

(the following is a point form summation of the conversation and is not intended to represent the entire discussion)

- The ministry has a database that contains information on past and present landfill sites
- The landfill sites identified in the land use schedule do not have a lot of impact on development in the village. The policies regarding the landfills comes to light in more complex planning applications.

Councillor Fraser Williamson

(the following is a point form summation of the conversation and is not intended to represent the entire discussion)

- Senior's Housing is needed
- To build this type of housing, water and sewer services are needed

Chris Jones; Municipal Planning Services

(the following is a point form summation of the conversation and is not intended to represent the entire discussion)

- Councillor Preston at a previous meeting inquired about the number of vacant parcels in the municipality. There are approximately 111 vacant parcels in the village at present.

Chair: I will now bring this meeting to a close. I would like to thank everyone for their participation and cooperation this evening.

This Public Meeting is now over. Thank-you for your attendance. The time is now: 6:54 p.m.

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 – February 25, 2026

7 (E.2) District Social Services Administration Board February CAO Report

7 (E.3) Municipality of Magnetawan Support Resolution No. 2026-27; Bill C-15
Canada Post Act Amendment, and Road Salt Use and Reduction

7 (E.4) North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit Highlights from January
2026 Ministry of Health Report

7 (E.5) The Village of South River Resolution 65-2026, Bill C-15
Canada Post Act Amendment

7 (E.6) Almaguin Community Economic Development DoED Report Feb. 2026

8) APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

Resolution #2026-054

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT Items listed as Consent Items for February 25, 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. ROMA Conference Notes – Key Takeaways and Local Implications
(Rural Ontario Municipalities Association)

Resolution #2026-055

Moved By: Luke Preston

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the key takeaways and Local implications notes shared with Council by the delegates that attended the ROMA 2026 Conference.

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

- 9.2. Almaguin Highlands Health Centre – Deficits for 2024 & 2025

Resolution #2026-056

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT the Council for the Corporation of The Village of Sundridge receives the invoices from the Village of Burk's Falls regarding the deficits for the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre for the years of 2024 and 2025,

AND WHEREAS Council acknowledges that residents of the village are patrons of the services offered at the AHHC such as the x-ray and laboratory departments; Council does not recognize the deficits of the AHHC as being an obligation of the Village of Sundridge.

WHEREAS Council does believe it is very important to support the almaguin area to keep health services in the north, and that Council has obligations and a fiscal responsibility to the Sundridge & District Medical Centre,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council will not be making a further contribution towards the deficits of the AHHC for the years 2024, and 2025 as Council has already made significant contributions for those years, but will consider a contribution for 2026 provided supporting data including civic addresses for Sundridge residents be provided with the request.

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

9.3. Community Yard Sale
[motion introduced by Councillor Fraser Williamson February 11, 2026]

Resolution #2026-057
Moved By: Fraser Williamson
Seconded By: Luke Preston

WHEREAS The Village of Sundridge since May 2021 has promoted a village wide yard sale day(s) every year since May 2021,

AND THAT these days have been an attraction to the village because of the large amount of yard/garage sales that take place on that day.

AND THAT some of those sales raise money for charities and community groups.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village of Sundridge declare Saturday May 23, 2026 as a Village Wide Yard/Garage Sale.

AND THAT staff promote this Village Wide Garage/Yard Sale on social media and flyers.

AND FURTHER THAT on the flyers/social media advertising residents and community groups have the option of registering their yard sale by stating the address it will take place. These registrations will be open until Monday May 18, 2026. Staff will then post a list of participants street addresses of the sale on social media ahead of the Yard/Garage sale day. Registration is not required to participate.

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

9.4. The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities 2026 Conference

Resolution #2026-058

Moved By: Luke Preston

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge receives the information regarding the FONOM Conference being held in Timmins on May 11th to 13th, 2026,

AND THAT the following members of Council would like to attend:

- Luke Preston
- Fraser Williamson (to be confirmed)

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

CARRIED.

9.5. Sundridge Strong Joly Restructuring Committee 2026 Budget

Resolution #2026-059

Moved By: Vicki Whitmell

Seconded By: Fraser Williamson

THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge receives the SSJ Restructuring Committee Resolution # R2026-005,

AND THAT Council agrees to carry forward the previously budgeted for 2025 commitments as per the restructuring budget to date worksheet, with the village's amount being \$16,897.45.

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 #2026-060

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Sharon Smith

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

10 (A.1) Central Almaguin Planning Board – November 5, 2025

10 (A.2) Central Almaguin Planning Board – December 3, 2025

10 (A.3) Central Almaguin Planning Board – January 7, 2026

10 (A.4) SSJ Arena & Hall – February 4, 2026

10 (A.5) SSJ Recreation Committee – February 5, 2026

10 (A.6) SSJ Restructuring Committee – February 9, 2026

10 (A.7) Almaguin Community Economic Development – January 22, 2026

10 (A.8) Almaguin Highlands OPP Detachment Board – February 11, 2026

10 (B.1) Regular Council Meeting – February 11, 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

11.1 Staff Report S2026-002 Waste Service Fees and Options

Resolution #2026-061

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Luke Preston

THAT Council receives Staff Report S2026-002, Waste Service Fees and Options,

AND THAT this item is to be brought back to Council when further information is available for discussion, including different options.

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. Garage Sale By-Law No. 2026-014

Resolution #2026-062

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Sharon Smith

THAT By-Law No. 2026-014, being a By-Law to regulate Garage Sales in the Village of Sundridge, be adopted.

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

13) ANNOUCEMENTS

- **Shawn Jackson**
 - Nothing at this time.
- **Sharon Smith**
 - Nothing at this time.
- **Luke Preston**
 - Nothing at this time.
- **Fraser Williamson**
 - Nothing at this time.
- **Vicki Whitmell**
 - The resolutions of support from various municipalities and other sources regarding the distribution of library books at a reduced rate has been heard, and the Government will be making an amendment to the legislation so that Canada Post continues to delivery library books at a reduced rate.
- **Nancy Millar, Clerk Administrator**
 - Nothing at this time.

14) **INTRODUCTION OF FUTURE MOTIONS - None**

15) **CONFIRMING BY-LAW**

Resolution #2026-063

Moved By: Luke Preston

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT By-Law No. 2026-015, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council of the Corporation of the Village of Sundridge at its regular meeting of **February, 25, 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 #2026-064

Moved By: Sharon Smith

Seconded By: Vicki Whitmell

THAT Council hold a Closed Session meeting as provided for by Section 239 (2)(b) 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: Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations; Administration Department.

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

CARRIED.

17) **ADJOURNMENT**

Resolution #2026-065

Moved By: Fraser Williamson

Seconded By: Sharon Smith

THAT we do now adjourn at 8:11p.m. until the Regular Council Meeting on March, 11, 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