



**THE VILLAGE OF BURK'S FALLS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2025**

The regular meeting of Burk's Falls Council was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Present: Mayor Chris Hope, Deputy Mayor Sean Cotton, Councillors Ashley Brandt, Ryan Baptiste, Nancy Kyte
Staff: CAO - Clerk Denis Duguay, Arena Manager Graham Smith, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Dave Turkington
Regrets: None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2025-234 Moved by A. Brandt - Seconded by N. Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the following items be added to the Council agenda:

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

k. Burk's Falls and District Food Bank- Hunger Walk

RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED

b) Rescind Resolution 2022-310 Adopting Official Plan

Carried.

2025-235 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by S. Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby approves the amended agenda for the regular meeting of July 15, 2025.

Carried.

MINUTES

2025-236 Moved by N. Kyte - Seconded by S. Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the previous meeting minutes of June 18, 2025, as circulated. Carried.

DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL

None

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

- A. Council received the Public Works Foreman update Report for the month of July; council had no concerns or comments.
- B. Council received and reviewed the Annual Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Report.
- C. Council received and reviewed the Arena Manager's Report for the month of July. The Manager presented a detailed summary of activities and events that took place during the month, confirming that the ice installation was completed on schedule for the official opening on June 30. It was noted that staff encountered challenges related to the timing and cost of the condenser. The Manager further reported an increase in ice rental bookings over the summer period compared to previous years. An update was also provided regarding the previously reported odor within the facility, which has since been resolved.
- D. Council received the General Government Highway Sign Report and engaged in discussion regarding the visual branding in relation to the newly installed street banners within the Village. Council expressed a desire for a cohesive and unified aesthetic between the highway signage and the street banners. Accordingly, staff were directed to coordinate the development of a revised design that reflects this alignment and to report back to Council with the new design.
- E. Council received the Waste Management Administrator's Report for the month of July. The report was reviewed with no comments or concerns raised by Council.



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- F. Council received the Rural Youth Group Chair's Report and took the opportunity to formally acknowledge and commend Margaret French for her dedication and the positive momentum she has brought to the committee. Council further engaged in discussion regarding potential strategies to sustain and build upon this progress.
- G. Council received the Rural Youth Group Committee draft Minutes of July 3 and discussed the recommendation from the committee to host an event at the Towne Theatre.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- A. Council discussed the request from EMS to increase the MOU amount for the EMS base project from \$500,000 to \$700,000. Staff explained the cost would be recovered through the rent agreement.
- B. Council discussed the vacancy on the Community Recycling Project Ad hoc Committee and appointed councillor Kyte
- C. Council discussed the request from the Library board chair to appoint the same Councillor to serve on both the Library Board and the New Build Committee, the request was denied.
- D. Council discussed the funding announcements as issued by Graydon Smith
- E. Council discussed the upcoming Fallen Rider Bike event, including potential locations for hosting the event. Further discussion included the possible use of the municipal parking lot and/or the medical centre parking lot for the placement of the beer tent and live music. Council was in support of having the event on Ontario street with the aim of promoting the downtown. Councillor Brandt provided additional information about the possibility of a car show at the event.
- F. Council reviewed the draft minutes of the Tri-Subcommittee and acknowledged the ongoing momentum and engagement of its members
- G. Council discussed the Royal Canadian Legion banners, and Councillor Brandt will follow up with the Legion to obtain further information.
- H. Council reviewed the subdivision request from S. Witty Construction to renew both the subdivision agreement and the Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA), which have been in effect since 2019. Council expressed concerns regarding the lack of progress on the project.
- I. Council discussed the request from the Village of Sundridge to use the Village diamonds for their season end game and approved the request.
- J. Council reviewed the BESS resolution presented by Mayor Hope, involving a detailed discussion regarding the supporting information and the intent behind the resolution. Further deliberation included reference to the prior meeting during which Solar bank provided a delegation; however, several questions from that presentation remain unresolved. Mayor Hope raised concerns regarding the proposed project location and the feasibility of provincial involvement.
- K. Council discussed the request received from the Burk's Falls and District Food Bank to use Stand Darling Park for their Annual Hunger Walk and approved the request.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

2025-237 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by N. Kyte
Be it resolved;
That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the Public Work's Manager's Report for the month of July.
Carried.

2025-238 Moved by N. Kyte - Seconded by R. Baptiste
Be it resolved;
That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the annual Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Report.



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Carried.

2025-239 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by N. Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the Arena Manager report and Further that Council accepts the recommendation to increase the user fees.

Carried.

2025-240 Moved by N. Kyte - Seconded by S. Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the highway sign replacement quote report:

Bidder	Amount
Peacock Signs	\$2,5474.50
6S Graphics	\$4,657.00
Graphics and Wraps	\$1,500.00

Further that Council accepts the quote submission from Graphics and Wraps

And Further directs staff to create new design.

Carried.

2025-241 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by N. Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the Waste Management Administrator report for the month of July;

And Further Council supports the resolution from Armour Township to Circular Materials.

Carried.

2025-242 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by N. Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the Rural Youth Committee Chair report.

Carried.

2025-243 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by N. Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the Burk's Falls Rural Youth Advisory Committee minutes of July 3, 2025 and

Further that Council accepts the recommendation to plan a theatre event to engage youth and introduce the Rural Youth Group.

Carried.

2025-244 Moved by A. Baptiste - Seconded by R. Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby

WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Burk's Falls, together with residents from surrounding municipalities, has expressed strong and united opposition to the proposed installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility, citing significant concerns regarding public safety, environmental risk, land use compatibility, and insufficient local economic benefit; and

WHEREAS the perceived risk associated with BESS installations significantly outweighs any demonstrated local advantage, and further, the lack of established, province-wide planning policies has led to avoidable conflict and uncertainty for municipalities and residents alike;

Now therefore be it resolved that:

1. The Council of the Village of Burk's Falls respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario immediately suspend the approval and development of all new BESS installations until a comprehensive, science-based study is completed. Such a study should result in the



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development of robust, province-wide policies and regulations governing the operation, and risk mitigation of BESS facilities.

2. The Province of Ontario be urged to provide clear policy guidance to municipalities and industry stakeholders recommending that BESS installations be permitted only on lands currently zoned for industrial use, recognizing that:
 - a) such lands have been previously evaluated and approved for industrial development; and
 - b) the limited economic return provided by BESS projects does not justify rezoning lands designated for other uses.
3. The Province of Ontario be further requested to disseminate the results of this study and any associated policy or regulatory recommendations to all Ontario municipalities, thereby preventing unnecessary and costly legal challenges, public opposition, and community division related to the siting of future BESS projects.
4. The Council of the Village of Burk's Falls calls upon Solar Bank Corporation to immediately withdraw its application for the proposed BESS facility at Pegg's Mountain, in the interest of fostering constructive community relations and acknowledging that this situation closely parallels the circumstances in Gravenhurst, where similar concerns led to widespread opposition and rejection of a comparable project.
5. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to members of parliament (MPP's) and all municipalities in the province of Ontario.

Carried.

2025-245 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by A. Brandt

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby approves the request from the EMS Director of Development and Protective Services to increase the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) funding cap from \$500,000 to \$700,000 between the Village of Burk's Falls and the District of Parry Sound for the purpose of renovating and expanding the EMS Base located at 105 Main Street, Burk's Falls.

Carried.

2025-246 Moved by A. Brandt - Seconded by R. Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby appoints Councillor Kyte to sit on the Recycling Sub-Committee.

Carried.

2025-247 Moved by A. Brandt - Seconded by S. Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby approves the request from the Fallen Riders to host the Bikefest (location) downtown Ontario Street;

And furthermore directs staff to engage the services of Russel Christie solicitor to prepare an agreement between the Fallen Riders and the Village of Burk's Falls for the bike event scheduled on August 30, 2025.

Carried.

2025-248 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by N. Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the TRI-SUB Committee draft minutes of July 2, 2025.

Carried.

2025-249 Moved by N. Kyte - Seconded by A. Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby approves the request from Pinestone Engineering on behalf of Mr. Witty to enter into a new development agreement and renew the lapsed ECA's.

Carried.



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2025-250 Moved by N. Kyte - Seconded by A. Brandt

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby approves the request from the Village of Sundridge for use of the Ball Park at no cost for the season end game.

Carried.

2025-251 Moved by A. Brandt - Seconded by N. Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby approve the request from the Burk's Falls and District Food Bank to use Stan Darling Park for the Hunger Walk event.

Carried.

2025-252 Moved by A. Brandt - Seconded by R. Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Accounts Payable listing as presented in the amount of \$312,093.03 for up to and including this date is hereby approved for payment.

Carried.

2025-253 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by S. Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby authorizes the rescinding of Resolution 2022-310 adopting the Official Plan.

Carried.

CONFERENCES AND INVITATIONS

None

COUNCILLORS REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE DISCUSSION

CLOSED SESSION

2025-254 Moved by A. Brandt - Seconded by R. Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls now enters into a closed meeting at 8:17pm, pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c. 25,

Items 13 a)

Pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c.25:

Section 239 (2) (b) regarding an identifiable individual, or municipal employee and;

Item 13 b)

Pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c.25:

Section 239 (2) (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Carried.

2025-255 Moved by N. Kyte - Seconded by R. Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls now reconvenes to regular open session at 9:16 pm.

Carried.

2025-256 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by S. Cotton

Be it resolved

That Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby supports the Township of Ryerson's acceptance of the request for proposal 2025-007 for the design and build for the new firehall from DOMM Construction in the amount of \$3,634,900.50 plus HST.

Carried



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2025-257 Moved by N. Kyte - Seconded by A. Brandt
Be it resolved

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby supports the application under the NOHFC's Community Enhancement Program for the Burk's Falls and District Fire Hall project;

And Further that the minimum bid came in at \$3,698,874.75 and if the Township of Ryerson is successful in obtaining a grant in the amount of \$1,849,437.38, the Village of Burk's Falls is committed to providing its share of the funding for the project, estimated at \$528,939.09 along with any cost overruns should they be incurred.

Carried.

2025-258 Moved by S. Cotton - Seconded by N. Kyte
Be it resolved


That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts Bylaw 32-2025 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its regular meeting July 15, 2025 as presented and considered read three times and passed this 15th day of July 2025.


Carried.

2025-259 Moved by R. Baptiste - Seconded by N. Kyte
Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adjourns at 9:00 pm.

Carried.


Chris Hope, Mayor


Denis Duguay, CAO - Clerk