



THE VILLAGE OF BURK'S FALLS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2025

The regular meeting of Burk's Falls Council was held on Tuesday, March 18, 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, Public Works Foreman Derek Smith
Regrets: None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2025-88 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Nancy Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the following items be added to the Council agenda:

Items for Discussion:

g) Towne Theatre Hours of Operation

Carried.

2025-89 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Ashley Brandt

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby approves the amended agenda for the meeting of March 18, 2025. Carried.

MINUTES

2025-90 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Nancy Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the minutes of the Council Meeting of March 10, 2025 and TRI-Council Notes of February 24, 2025, as circulated. Carried.

DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL

Mr. Barry Burton provided Council with a presentation regarding the proposed lithium storage facility in the Township of Armour. Mr. Burton explained residents in the area are concerned regarding the possible environmental impact, Mr Burton went on to explain the possible negative impact to home values and insurance cost impact. Council acknowledged the concerns and provided a resolution Not in support of the facility.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

- A. Council received the Arena Managers Report for March. Arena manager explained the recent power outages caused equipment failure, the generator failed to start but is now back up and operating at capacity. The arena manager advised council the summer ice rentals have been reduced.
- B. Council received the Public Works Foreman Report regarding Yonge Street rehabilitation and discussed the historical work from Yonge Street construction and the NORDS funding.
- C. Council received the February 20 Minutes and the March 6 Draft Minutes of the Rural Youth Group Committee. Council representatives discussed Social Media platforms to help publicize and assist in fund raising campaigns.
- D. Council received the Theatre Committee Draft Minutes of March 3, 2025. Council representatives discussed the special event hosted alongside the library team being held in April and the need to recruit volunteers to help operate the theatre.
- E. Council received a presentation from the Library. This presentation was shared at the last meeting of the TRI Council but due to technical challenges it was determined it would be best to be presented again.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- A. Council discussed the request for sponsorship or support for the Annual Hockey Tournament. An initial request came in at the February council meeting where staff were directed to investigate the possibility of providing the Karl Crozier room during the event. Staff advised council the Karl Crozier room would not be available for the event, Council referred to the donation policy procedure which requires the applicant to submit an application on an annual basis.



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- B. Council discussed the upcoming FONOM Conference being held in North Bay. Mayor Hope and Councillor Brandt expressed interest in attending.
- C. Council discussed the Joint Building Committee Permit Summary for the month of February.
- D. Council discussed the report as prepared but the CAO of the Township of Armour regarding the proposed Library build. Discussion extended to the bore holes and the options to proceed.
- E. Council discussed the quarter-page advertisement for the Military Recognition Book and directed staff to proceed with 1/4-page support.
- F. Council discussed the development of a subcommittee to collaborate with the Township of Armour and Township of Ryerson on a new shared services agreement and appointed councilor Baptiste as the Village representative.
- G. Council received a report regarding suggested hours for the Towne Theatre

RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

2025-91 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Sean Cotton

Be it resolved;

Whereas the review process has begun based upon the site plan proposed by Solar Bank Inc. for a BESS installation at Concession 6, Part Lot 3 on Pegg's Mountain Road, the Council of the Village of Burk's Falls seeks to communicate its position on the proposed location of the concept presented;

And whereas the proposed site is situated approximately a mile or less from the Village, and in a direction that is upwind of the Village for most of spring, summer and autumn seasons;

And whereas the proposed site is situated approximately a mile or less from the Magnetawan River, whose watershed runs from this place and through numerous municipalities and communities, down its natural course to the Georgian Bay shores;

And whereas the proposed site is uphill from the Magnetawan River watershed, and contains a watercourse running downhill directly towards the river;

And whereas battery storage facilities contain high levels of hazardous chemicals and materials, presenting a significant danger of environmental contamination from leaking, venting or fire, and posing a risk of catastrophic damage to our area;

And whereas new battery storage technology is in its infancy, and that overall safety protocols that govern such facilities is likewise in its early understanding and development;

By this resolution we indicate our firm opposition to this and any other battery storage or recycling facility situated so close to our homes and waterways, whose pristine existence, responsible maintenance and the diligent protection thereof, is of profound importance to our quality of life and livelihoods, not just in Burk's Falls but across the Almaguin Highlands.

While Council wholeheartedly supports the development of new, environmentally benign technologies and infrastructure that will benefit our communities, as stewards of our local land, air and water, the risks from situating such a potentially ruinous installation so close to the Village cannot be supported.

Furthermore, Council directs administration to communicate our position to all neighbouring municipalities in Almaguin, as well as our local MP and MPP and incoming Ontario Minister of the Environment.

Carried.

2025-92 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Sean Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the Arena Manager's Report for the month of March. Carried.



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2025-93 Moved by Nancy Kyte - Seconded by Ashley Brandt

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby receives the Public Works Foreman Yonge Street Rehabilitation Report; and

Further adopts the following recommendations:

1. Approve design work.

Carried.

2025-94 Moved by Nancy Kyte - Seconded by Ashley Brandt

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the Burk's Falls Youth Group Advisory Committee minutes of February 20, 2025 and March 6, 2025; and

Further adopts the following recommendations:

- a) approve the Clerk or Treasurer to recommend a crowd funding platform for the Rural Youth Group to use and move forward with and the method of how it will be managed.
- b) approve the Rural Youth Group to create a page on the Village website, working with the Village staff to set up.
- c) reduce frequency of meetings to one time per month.

Carried.

2025-95 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Sean Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the Theatre Advisory Committee minutes of March 3, 2025; and

Further adopts the following recommendations:

- a) Staff prepare a report further breaking down the expenses and revenues for 2024
- b) Staff draft a preshow advertising policy
- d) Approve the committee to research and facilitate in kind donations or work for minor aesthetic improvements to the lobby

Carried.

2025-96 Moved by Nancy Kyte - Seconded by Sean Cotton

Be it resolved; -

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby supports Option 2: Helical Piles, for the new library build. Carried.

2025-97 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Sean Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby accept the recommendations of staff in regard to the theatre options:

Monday and Tuesday- Theatre is closed

Wednesday- Matinee only. No evening movie

Thursday, Friday, Saturday- Evening movie only. No matinee

Sunday- Matinee only. No evening movie

Carried.

2025-98 Moved by Ashley Brandt - Seconded by Sean Cotton

Be it resolved;

WHEREAS the Village of Burk's Falls is committed to ensuring the availability of quality services to its residents;

AND WHEREAS the Village of Burk's Falls recognizes the value of partnering with neighboring municipalities to increase efficiencies and reduce costs;



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NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Village of Burk's Falls hereby appoint Ryan Baptiste to represent the Village of Burk's Falls in an informal Shared Services Committee with Tri Council partners. Furthermore, that the CAO attend these meetings and support the gathering of information related to Committee discussions.

Carried.

2025-99 Moved by Nancy Kyte - Seconded by Ryan Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Accounts Payable listing as presented in the amount of \$ 435,326.49 for up to and including this date is hereby approved for payment. Carried.

2025-100 Moved by Sean Cotton - Seconded by Ryan Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the 2025 Union Public Library Budget with the net expenditures of \$188,150.00 of which Burk's Falls share is \$75,881.00. Carried.

2025-101 Moved by Nancy Kyte - Seconded by Ryan Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the 2025 Fire Department Budget with the net expenditures of \$542,522.00 of which Burk's Falls share is \$155,161.00. Carried.

2025-102 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Sean Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the 2025 Armour, Ryerson, Burk's Falls Memorial Arena Budget in the amount of \$488,615.00 of which Burk's Falls share is \$162,872.00. Carried.

2025-103 Moved by Sean Cotton - Seconded by Ryan Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts the 2025 TRI R Landfill Budget with the net expenditures of \$317,500.00 of which Burk's Falls share is \$59,419.00. Carried.

2025-104 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Ashley Brandt

Be it resolved

WHEREAS the Parry Sound District Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee Board Member has resigned;

AND WHEREAS the Village of Burk's Falls recognizes the urgency in appointing a new representative on the advisory board;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Village of Burk's Falls hereby Nominate Dan Robertson (Ryerson). Carried.

2025-105 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Ashley Brandt

Be it resolved

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby approves the MagRiver Nature Hub to host an education program in the Heritage River Walking Trail using a section of the maple trees to teach Land of Lakes students about maple syrup. Carried.

CONFERENCES AND INVITATIONS

None

COUNCILLORS REPORT

CORRESPONDENCE DISCUSSION



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CLOSED SESSION

2025-106 Moved by Nancy Kyte - Seconded by Ryan Baptiste
Be it resolved;

Council for the Village of Burk's Falls now enters into a closed meeting at 8:31 pm, pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c. 25,

Item 13 a) Road Allowance

Pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c.25:

Section 239 (2) (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposal of land by the municipality or local board

Item 13 b) Pay Grid

Pursuant to the Municipal Act 2001, c.25:

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

Carried.

2025-107 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Nancy Kyte

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls now reconvenes to regular open session at 9:05 pm.

Carried.

2025-108 Moved by Ashley Brandt - Seconded by Ryan Baptiste

Be it resolved;

That Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby directs staff to hire a consultant and recommend direction on pay grid. Carried.

2025-109 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Sean Cotton

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adopts Bylaw 17-2025 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its regular meeting of March 18, 2025 as presented and considered read three times and passed this 18th day of March 2025. Carried.


2025-110 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Ashley Brandt

Be it resolved;

That the Council for the Village of Burk's Falls hereby adjourns at 9:07 pm.

Carried.


Chris Hope, Mayor


Denis Duguay, CAO - Clerk