

**MINUTES OF McMURRICH/MONTEITH TOWNSHIP
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025**

The Council of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith met Tuesday, July 15, 2025 inside the Council Chambers

Present: Mayor: Glynn Robinson; Council Members: Vicky Roeder-Martin, Daniel O'Halloran, Terry Currie, and Craig White

Staff present: John Theriault, CAO, Cheryl Marshall, Clerk/Treasurer; Allyson Pedwell, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer; Jason Newman; Bylaw Enforcement Officer, Doug Godin, CBO

Audience: Brenda Campbell, D. Donnelly, Craig Ritchie, Renee Van Vuuren, Joanne Porretta, Horst Zimmer

1. Opening of the meeting by the Mayor –

The meeting was called to order at 7:06PM

Council amended the agenda to include correspondence from Almaguin Economic & Development and to include a resolution from the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. See resolution below.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting:

2.1 Council – July 2, 2025, as amended

3. List of proposed resolutions for the meeting:

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the nature thereof:

none

5. Delegations:

5.1 Rick Hunter, Planner - Official Plan Review – final draft presented: Discussion included public meeting in September, interpretations unclear, elimination of sheds before a primary building, commercial/industrial in rural areas. Once approved, the package will be sent to Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

5.2 Craig Ritchie, Brad Hunt- request for maintenance of lane at 548 East Bear Lake Road: Discussion regarding request. Public Works Superintendent to investigate.

5.3 Admin Report: written report, beaver bylaw. A brief discussion was had with Council and Bylaw Officer, Jason Newman. Council discussed the construction waste contract at the landfill, Axe Lake Bridge, and the Liquor Sales Licence.

5.4 Building: written report- Council discussed the process of following up with building concerns and reports on open permits.

See resolutions below

Council discussed the draft Parking Bylaw with Bylaw Officer Jason Newman.

6. Business arising From a Previous Meeting;

none

7. Quotes, Tenders, RFP's;

None

8. Accounts for Approval:

None

9. Applications:

None

10. By-laws:

10.1 31-2025 Confirm Council Meeting – July 2, 2025

10.2 32-2025 Official Plan Adoption

10.3 33-2025 Regulate and Control Parking

See resolutions below.

11. Reports:

None

12. Correspondence:

12.1 ACED – Percentage of tax levy funding rate concept

12.2 Muskoka Watershed Council + Twp of Muskoka Lakes – Integrated Watershed Management

The added correspondence from FONOM relating to making the NORDS funding a permanent fixture was reviewed.

See resolutions below.

13. New Business:

None

14. Closed session, section 239 2, (c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for municipal or local board purposes (pending disposition of land)

(d) Labour relations or employee negotiations (Committee Member)

15. Council Concerns:

None

16. Adjournment: Council adjourned this meeting at 9:23pm. See resolution below.

Resolutions:

2025-154 White/O'Halloran

Be It Resolved that Council amends the agenda to include:

- correspondence from Almaguin Community Economic Development requesting support in principle for the ACED Brand Alignment & Regional Signage Project,
- resolution from Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) urging the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program a permanent fixture of its support to Northern municipalities. **Carried**

2025-155 White/O'Halloran

Be It Resolved that Council approves the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held July 2, 2025, as amended. **Carried**

2025-156 White/O'Halloran

Be It Resolved that Council thanks Brad Hunt and Craig Ritchie for their delegation presentation relating to their request to have their laneway publicly maintained by the Township. And further directs Staff to prepare a report to itemize the required repairs and costs for the Township to assume the laneway for maintenance. **Carried**

2025-157 O'Halloran/White

Be It Resolved that Council supports the recommendation to continue the rental of the disposal bin project at the Landfill Site for the diversion of construction waste until the end of October and direct Staff to prepare a report itemizing the costs and revenues collected. **Carried**

2025-158 O'Halloran/White

Be It Resolved that Council receives the written report from Doug Godin, Chief Building Official relating to existing buildings in Monteith Township. **Carried**

2025-159 Currie/Roeder-Martin

Be It Resolved that Council accepts first, second and third readings and hereby passes Bylaw 33-2025 to regulate and control parking and traffic for the Township of McMurrich/Monteith. **Carried**

2025-160 O'Halloran/White

Be It Resolved that Council accepts first, second and third readings and hereby passes Bylaw 31-2025 to confirm the council meeting held July 2, 2025. **Carried**

2025-161 O'Halloran/White

Be It Resolved that Council accepts first, second and third readings and hereby passes Bylaw 32-2025 to adopt the Official Plan for the Township of McMurrich/Monteith. **Carried**

2025-162 Currie/Roeder-Martin

WHEREAS the Township of McMurrich/Monteith has adopted and supported the implementation of the 2018 Almaguin Highlands Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan and the 2021 Almaguin Brand Strategy which call for the establishment of a unified regional brand;

AND WHEREAS the Township of McMurrich/Monteith recognizes the importance of aligning physical and digital elements within the collective brand strategy throughout the Almaguin Highlands Region as well as the efforts of the ACED to implement the Brand Strategy;

AND WHEREAS the ACED Brand Alignment & Regional Signage Project will enhance the use of the regional brand while promoting recreational, tourism, and business activity throughout the region;

AND WHEREAS the ACED Members' contribution to the project shall be funded through the ACED reserve;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith hereby declares their support in principle for the ACED Brand Alignment & Regional Signage Project as well as associated applications for financial assistance to complete the project. **Carried**

2025-163 O'Halloran/White

Be It Resolved that Council support Scenario 1 as the ACED funding contribution for membership as shown in the staff report from Dave Gray dated June 12, 2025. **Carried**

2025-164 Currie/Roeder-Martin

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) pilot program was introduced to help Northern Ontario municipalities address infrastructure pressures resulting from natural resource sector activities;

AND WHEREAS the funding provided through the NORDS pilot was very well received by the municipal sector, as it delivered timely and much-needed financial support to many communities across the North;

AND WHEREAS the program has allowed municipalities, such as the City of North Bay, to strategically stack multi-year allocations in order to support large-scale infrastructure initiatives critical to community development and economic growth;

AND WHEREAS the NORDS pilot program has clearly demonstrated its value and effectiveness in helping Northern municipalities address the infrastructure challenges tied to resource development and extraction;

AND WHEREAS rural and northern municipalities are also facing infrastructure degradation resulting from the increasing size and frequency of agricultural machinery and activity, which is currently outside the scope of the pilot;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith strongly urges the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program a permanent fixture of its support to Northern municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province consider expanding program eligibility to recognize the significant impact that agricultural equipment and operations have on municipal infrastructure, particularly in rural communities;

AND FURTHER THAT municipalities be encouraged to continue utilizing the ability to stack NORDS allocations over multiple years to support the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Natural Resources, local MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and all Northern Ontario municipalities for their awareness and support. **Carried**

2025-165 Currie/Roeder-Martin

Whereas Integrated Watershed management (IWM) is a modern approach to environmental management which integrates information and decisions made to achieve collective, watershed-wide goals;

And Whereas management of the Muskoka River Watershed requires coordination between the provincial government, regional and local watershed municipalities, First Nations and environmental stakeholders;

And Whereas one of the next steps in bringing an IWM approach to the watershed is to form a Muskoka River Watershed IWM staff working group;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Township of McMurrich/Monteith supports, in principle, pursuing an IWM approach for the Muskoka River Watershed;

And that staff be directed to participate as a member of the Muskoka River Watershed Consortium;

And that this resolution of support be circulated to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and the Muskoka Watershed municipalities and First Nations. **Carried**

2025-166 Currie/Roeder-Martin

Be It Resolved that Council receives all correspondence listed on the agenda. **Carried**

2025-167 Currie/Roeder-Martin

Be It Resolved that Council enters into a closed session at 8:50pm in order to discuss items under Section 239 2 (c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land for municipal or local board purposes (Pending disposition of land);

(b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal employees or local board members (Committee Member application); **Carried**

2025-168 Currie/Roeder-Martin

Be It Resolved that Council comes out of a closed session at 9:21pm. **Carried**

2025-169 O'Halloran/White

Be It Resolved that Council accepts the application from Melissa Marshall to join the volunteer Recreation Committee for the remaining term of Council ending November 2026. **Carried**

2025-170 Currie/Roeder-Martin

Be It Resolved that Council accepts the directions given to Staff from the closed session held July 15, 2025. **Carried**

2025-171 Currie/Roeder-Martin

Be It Resolved that Council adjourns this meeting at 9:23pm until Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 7:00 pm. **Carried**

Original Signed by: _____
Mayor, Glynn Robinson

Original Signed by: _____
Clerk, Cheryl Marshall