

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, September 11, 2023**

**Call to Order, Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; nil.**

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Neil Scarlett, Pearl Ivens, and Blair Flowers. Staff present: Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney, and Administrative Assistant Planning Teresa Coombs.

Guest observing: Mark Savill and Kathy Schoenberger.

**BUSINESS**

**1. Adoption of Aug 14, 2023 minutes, Resolution**

**175-23 Flowers, Scarlett**

THAT we adopt Aug 14, 2023 minutes. CARRIED

**2. Pay List by Fund for Aug, Resolution**

**176-23 Scarlett, McLaren**

THAT we authorize Pay List by Fund as of 31 Aug 2023: \$257,137.73 Grand Total. CARRIED

**3. MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) Property Assessment Update**

On Aug 16<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario Government filed Regulation 261/23 under the Assessment Act to extend the current assessment cycle, and the valuation date of January 2016 through to the end of the 2024 taxation year. This means that property taxes for the 2024 taxation year will continue to be based on the Jan 1 2016 valuation date. Property Assessments will remain the same as they were for the 2023 tax year, unless there have been changes to the property. In addition to the recent Regulation, the government will conduct a review of Ontario's property assessment and taxation system.

**4. AMCTO (Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario) Advocacy Update**

AMCTO is disappointed that the reinstatement (of the assessment cycle) has been delayed, they welcome a review of the system which has been in place since the mid 1990s. Last week at the 2023 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference, when asked about the delay in reassessment, Finance Minister Bethlenfalvy said that the Government wants to take the time to get the next assessment cycle right and ensure that there are modernized transparency tools to support ratepayers.

**5. MPAC's 2022 Post-Enumeration Report**

Key highlights include: VoterLookup.ca usage, Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) growth and accuracy results, details regarding the transfer of responsibility for the PLE to Elections Ontario, MPACs role in the future of enumeration.

**6. Multiple concerns 4-442**

TDC confirmed the presence of the OPP is requested periodically to monitor topics of concern in the area eg speeding. Council reviewed key points/concerns and approved the draft response.

**7. South River Machar Ag Society Fall Fair**

The success of this year's Fall Fair was discussed. The marketing this year was very well done. Council was proud to have donated for the bouncy structures.

**8. OPP Agreement for the Provision of 9-1-1 Primary Services between the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Township of Machar**

The Next Generation (NG) 9-1-1 is a new communications system that will improve public safety by enabling voice, text messages and data to flow seamlessly from the public 9-1-1 communication centers when emergency assistance is required. The official rollout is planned for later this year.

**COMMITTEES**

**9. Shared Services; Chief Arena Operator update**

Chief Arena Operator has tendered his resignation affective Sep 22, 2023. Council recognizes his long-time employment, and sees the opportunity for South River to reduce the heavy wage burden the facility carries. Council looks forward to working with someone with fresh perspective and a commitment to shared recreation.

**10. Machar Public Works minutes of Aug 17, 2023, Resolution**

**177-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we accept Public Works minutes of Aug 17, 2023. CARRIED

**11. Machar Recreation; Haunted Halloween Walk Oct 28, 2023, Resolution**

Councillor Scarlett intends to organize a launch meeting shortly to gather this year's volunteers for the Oct 28 event. Kidd's Home Hardware is on board as a donor. Councillor Scarlett is looking for donations of old camping gear for setting up campsite scenes and donated firewood for social areas. Budget to be same as last year: \$300

**178-23 Scarlett, Ivens**

THAT we approve application to Ontario Parks; Mikisew Provincial Park for the Haunted Halloween Walk. CARRIED

**12. JBC (Joint Building Committee) new DCBO appointment, Resolution**

The new Deputy Chief Building Official will require training.

**179-23 Ivens, Flowers**

THAT we read a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> time and finally pass By-Laws No. 14-23; to appoint a Deputy Chief Building Official: Yves Savage. CARRIED

**13. Central Almaguin Planning minutes of Jun 7, 2023, Resolution**

The Board is still waiting to hear back from the District of Municipal Affairs and Housing about the Township of Magnetawan leaving and what happens if all member municipalities were to leave?

**180-23 Scarlett, Flowers**

THAT we acknowledge Planning minutes of Jun 7, 2023. CARRIED

**14. N Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit; Board of minutes of Jun 28 have been posted**

Board of Health meeting can be viewed live at [www.myhealthunit.ca](http://www.myhealthunit.ca).

**15. Almaguin Gazelles request for promotion assistance**

Council offered to post the information on the Township Events page.

**16. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce Explorers' Edge (RT012) Tourism Summit and 2nd Annual Big Applause Awards Wed Sep 20<sup>th</sup>**

Reviewed.

**17. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce August/September Newsletter**

Reviewed.

**18. ACED (Almaguin Community Economic Development) Almaguin Housing Task Force Kick Off Meeting Planning**

Reviewed.

**19. Armour Mayor Rod Ward update on MAHC Hospital Local Share**

Reviewed. Council hopes to donate to the new Huntsville Hospital once North Bay Regional Health Unit contribution commitments have been met.

**INFORMATION**

**20. City of Hamilton Resolution,** The Planning and Economic Development Department staff be directed to schedule a public meeting of the Planning Committee for the purpose of obtaining public input as to the City's priorities and expectations with respect to any private development proposals within the lands removed by the Province from the Greenbelt Plan Area, Staff consult with City of Hamilton Public Engagement staff to ensure the statutory meeting be held in the evening, be live streamed, and be held at a publicly accessible facility that is in close proximity to the Book Road lands

**21. Township of Matachewan Resolution,** Supports the call of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them in consultation with municipal governments

**22. Township of Severn Resolution,** Formally endorses the call for a new Just Transition Transfer and urges the federal government to establish a new Just Transition Transfer, starting with a major financial commitment in the next federal budget, and will write to the federal ministers concerned expressing this support

**23. Township of Emo Resolution,** Urges the Provincial Government to rescind the Ontario Black Ash Recovery Strategy at least as it concerns the Rainy River District and Northwestern Ontario, Seek further understanding of the health of the Black Ash in the Rainy River District and Northwestern Ontario, Complete a provincial study regarding socio-economic impact on this part of Northwestern Ontario in consultation with stakeholders before any policies are passed and enacted upon

**24. Explorers Edge,** Regional Tourism Summit/AGM Registration, RTO12 Aug 2023 Update

**25. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH),** Local Government Week Oct 15-21, 2023

**26. MMAH,** A message from Minister Steve Clark – Building Faster Fund

**27. AMO Communications, Policy Update,** Cabinet Shuffle, Municipal Risk, and Gender-Based Violence

**28. AMO Communications, Policy Update,** Busy AMO 2023 Conference Achieves Momentum Across Priorities

**29. AMO Watchfile, Aug 10, In This Issue**

- 2022 AMO Annual Report now available
- Join ROMA meeting on Rural Drainage Act dispute with national railways
- ROMA needs your input on access to services in rural Ontario
- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS) now upgraded
- Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant
- Release of public information service
- Housing Accelerator Portal now open
- Count down to AMO 2023 - Register today!
- LAS & IPE 2023 Risk Symposium - Are you safe?
- Registration for the one of a kind AMO-LAS Energy Symposium is open!
- Stop by at AMO 2023 and say Hi to LAS!
- Future Proofing Municipal Workplaces - OMHRA Conference

**30. AMO Watchfile, Aug 17, In This Issue**

- ROMA needs your input on access to services in rural Ontario
- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS) now updated.

- Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant
- Release of public information service
- Housing Accelerator Fund - Applications due August 18
- Registration for AMO 2023 available onsite beginning August 20
- Municipal Cybersecurity 101 forum
- LAS & IPE 2023 Risk Symposium - Are you safe?
- Registration for the one of a kind AMO-LAS Energy Symposium is open!
- LAS Blog: Partners Have Been Improving CSAT with SLWC since 2014
- Play a game with LAS at the AMO Conference
- Future Proofing Municipal Workplaces - OMHRA Conference
- Careers: Simcoe County, Toronto, Ministry of Long-Term Care and Minden Hills

**31. AMO Watchfile, Aug 24, In This Issue**

- AMO 2023 a resounding success!
- 2023 PJ Marshall Municipal Innovation Awards
- Municipal Cybersecurity 101 forum
- LAS & IPE 2023 Risk Symposium - Are you safe?
- Registration for the one of a kind AMO-LAS Energy Symposium is open!
- Blog: The London Look
- Register for OMSSA's 2023 Forum
- Careers: Simcoe County and Ministry of Health

**32. AMO Watchfile, Aug 31, In This Issue**

- Municipal Information & Data Analysis System (MIDAS)
- Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant
- Release of public information service
- Municipal Cybersecurity 101 forum
- FOI program automation: Save time and money with AMO's new partner
- Cyber incident management in partnership with ISA Cybersecurity
- Use Canoe pricing in your 2024 budget
- Identify energy savings with energy treasure hunt
- Training for elected officials on Boards of Health
- Careers: Elgin County, Kitchener and Oakville

**33. AMCTO The Municipal Experts Advocacy Update, Renewed Call for Return to Assessment Cycle and Update on Municipal Reporting Burden**

**34. AMCTO The Municipal Experts Advocacy Update, AMCTO at the 2023 AMO Conference**

**35. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Aug 9, Northern Ontario community considers allowing cannabis stores to open, Peterborough County supports Georgian Bay's push for floating homes reform, Federal agency points to Windsor as SW Ontario's poverty capital, Deal reached: CUPE Local 2577 members to return to work following strike action, City, outside workers in Sudbury meet ahead of strike deadline, What happens when homeowners disconnect their houses from systems designed to stop flooding? 'Long overdue' building permit fee hikes planned for West Perth, Kingston council looks to add youth to committees, St. Lawrence Parks looking into municipal services at Riverside Cedar Campground, The clock is ticking for some Windsor heritage building set to fall off protection registry, Timmins to consider moving homeless shelter after complaints from residents**

**36. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Aug 16, In this Ontario municipality, AI is coming for the garbage, Municipal strike averted in Sudbury as marathon talks produce tentative agreement, 'It's indefensible': Calls for Ontario housing minister's resignation follow Greenbelt report bombshell, Citing spike in hate, Pride groups call for safety plan from Ontario, Canada government, Canadian military to remain key in natural disaster response, Blair says, As Region of Waterloo waits for provincial facilitator to be named, minister asks for patience, Hundreds of homeless people sent to London from other Ontario cities this year: Deputy Mayor Lewis, Peterborough homeowners can soon add up to 2 additional residential units on lot, Adverse possession and public parks: Ontario's top court splits on the 'public benefit' test**

**37. AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Aug 23, Toronto is exploring new taxes and a parking levy to tackle budget deficit, Magic mushroom dispensaries multiplying in southwestern Ontario, with no cap in sight, As city ponders the possibility, a brief history of urban beaches, Aesthetic, operational improvements coming to Dryden airport, \$790,000 to enhance community infrastructure and recreation in Nipissing, Colleges, universities have role to play in solving Ontario's housing crisis: report, MZO proposal seeks development on Caledon Greenbelt lands, Shooting outside Toronto safe consumption site sparks review of all Ontario sites, including Windsor, Nearly 100 cars seized,**

dozens of penalties issued to London tow truck companies, Muskoka residents take on giant of Ontario's 'grey gold' gravel industry

38. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Aug 30**, Extreme weather costs are pushing rural Ontario towns to the financial brink, Ontario cities watching as London rolls out first-of-its-kind homeless response, Ontario pledges \$1.2 billion for housing enabling infrastructure, Ontario's finance minister cool to idea of municipal sales taxes, Municipal leaders talk future 'billion-dollar' lithium industry in Thunder Bay, Facilitator to review Niagara's governance coming Sep, says Ontario's municipal affairs minister, Ontario housing minister's chief of staff resigns days after auditor general report on Greenbelt, London Council called on to tidy up bylaw that governs messy lawns, Renfrew adopts a new tree canopy policy, Legal settlement restricting spaces used by Guesthouse Shelter, Leadfoot? New cameras could help lower speeds on Barrie streets
39. **AMCTO The Municipal Minute, Sep 6**, Ontario Mayor calls for coordinated action on coastal resilience from province, feds, Cobden residents in over their head as fight grows against rising water rates, Ontario housing minister resigns amid Greenbelt land swap scandal, Delayed property assessments leave municipalities 'stuck' with outdated validation system, Chamber urges Ontario to re-evaluate property tax system, Stephanson officially named new City manager, Toronto hires forensic accountant to probe 'improperly altered' chargers from contractor, Municipalities urge province for healthcare help, Peabody says he's not giving up on proposal for two police boards, Eight cities in Ontario among Canada's safest, Affordable housing program helps Sault Ste. Marie family achieve homeownership dream,
40. **Ius Laboris, Canada Global HR Lawyers Mathews Dinsdale**, Recognized Employer Pilot to Offer Eligible Employers Streamlined LMIA Application Process
41. **Municipal Property Assessment Update (MPAC)**, Property Assessment Update, Property taxes for the 2024 taxation year will continue to be based on the Jan 1, 2016 valuation date
42. **MPAC, Aug 2023 In Touch**, Province-wide assessment update postponed, Supporting municipalities with the delivery of Q2 New Assessment Forecast, New Building Permit Dashboard launches in Municipal Connect,, MPAC's 2022 Post-Enumeration Report is now available, Connecting at this year's AMO Conference, MPAC's role in the property tax and assessment system – a municipal update
43. **The Labour Market Group**, Labour Focus publication for the month of Jul
44. **Technical Assistance Team (TAT)**, Use of Temporary In-Span Poles
45. **Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA)**, Make the most of the long weekend, the latest news from FOCA
46. **Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO)**, Lifeline: BAO AGM; Financial Compliance FAQ
47. **BAO**, Lifeline: Buying/Selling, Coroners Message, Are they licensed?
48. **Almaguin Adult Learning Centre (AALC)**, 'Clear a Path' to high school completion program will help those with fewer than 16 high school credits
49. **AALC**, Sep Calendar 2023
50. **Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Strategy (MOI)**, Red Tape Reduction for Designated Broadband Projects
51. **Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada**, Celebrate Together, Welcoming Week 2023 is approaching fast!
52. **Muskoka Algonquin Health Care (MAHC), MyChart Empowers Patients with Easy Access to Medical Records**, Furthering our commitment to patient-centered care, MAHC is excited to empower patients and families with convenient access to their medical records through the MyChart online patient portal
53. **Blue Sky Net, Aug Tech-Talk**, We need your help in making sure decision makers have the right information when it comes to Northern Ontario broadband, Ways to follow Blue Sky Net online for news and updates
54. **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)**, Wants to recognize achievements impacting Ontario's agri-food sector success, The program is open for applications until Sep 14, 2023
55. **OMFRA**, Letter from the Honourable Lisa Thompson announcing that the governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$1.5 million over two years to help improve the removal, handling, and disposal of deadstock across the province, the Increasing Deadstock Capacity Initiative application intake will be open from Sep 21, 2023 – Feb 1, 2024

#### INFORMATION – COVID-19

#### ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

**Explore Almaguin, Save the Date – RED Gala Oct 27<sup>th</sup>** at the brand new Emsdale Community Centre. Registration for the event will open 2-3 weeks prior and will include 2 seats per municipality.

**FONOM – Go North campaign video.** Mayor Carleton congratulates Kevin McLaughlin on Hockey Opportunity Camp’s feature in the series, watch it here: [fonom.org/go-north](https://fonom.org/go-north)

**CLOSED SESSION**

**181-23 McLaren, Ivens**

THAT we proceed into Closed Session in order to address a matter pertaining to; personal matters about identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees. Time 7:15 pm. CARRIED

**182-23 Flowers, McLaren**

THAT we come out of Closed Session. Time 7:55 pm. CARRIED

**ADJOURN**

**183-23 Ivens, Scarlett**

THAT we give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Regular meeting scheduled for Mon, Sep 25, 2023. CARRIED

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Mayor Lynda Carleton

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Treasurer Deputy Clerk Angela Loney

**AL/BP/tb**