

Corporation of the Township of Chisholm

Municipal Office/Council Chambers: 2847 Chiswick Line, Powassan, Ont. P0H 1Z0

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MINUTES

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 2025 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER & ACKNOWLEDGE FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES AND LAND

"We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe Peoples, in the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties areas. We wish to acknowledge the long history of First Nations and Metis Peoples in Ontario and show respect to the neighbouring Indigenous communities. We offer our gratitude for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we continue to honor these teachings."

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Gail Degagne, in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m., with Councillors, Bernadette Kerr, Claire Riley, Nunzio Scarfone, and Paul Sharp. Staff member present was CAO Lesley Marshall and OS Shawn Hughes.

2. NOTIFICATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Councillor Sharp declared Pecuniary Interest for Agenda item 11a)

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Resolution 2025-172 Claire Riley and Nunzio Scarfone: Be it resolved that the Agenda for this meeting be adopted as amended with addition of agenda item 11 i) Resolution regarding Castle Arms. **'Carried'**

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

(a) Minutes, Public Meeting, August 12, 2025 (Encl.)

Resolution 2025-173 Bernadette Kerr and Paul Sharp: Be it resolved that the Minutes of the August 12, 2025, Public Meeting be adopted as printed and circulated. **'Carried'**

(b) Minutes, Regular Council Meeting, August 12, 2025 (Encl.)

Resolution 2025-174 Paul Sharp and Bernadette Kerr: Be it resolved that the Minutes of the August 12, 2025, Regular Council Meeting, be adopted as printed and circulated. **'Carried'**

5. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS – August 2025

Resolution 2025-175 Nunzio Scarfone and Claire Riley: Be it resolved that the Administration, Fire Department, Council, By-Law Enforcement Officer and Public Works payroll accounts in the amount of \$34,612.09 and general accounts totaling \$143,722.10 for the month of August 2025 be accepted as presented. **'Carried'**

6. PRESENTATION AND DELEGATIONS -None

7. OPEN FORUM

8. MAYOR STAFF COMMITTEE AND GOVERNMENT REPORTS

(a) Mayor, and Council, Reports

- Mayor. The mayor spoke about the following topics: AMO delegations, Glyphosate herbicides, Asset Management, and J.L Richards,
- Delegation Summaries, AMO Conference (Encl.)
- (b) Staff Reports
 - Taxes Owing Report (Encl.)
- (c) Committee Reports
 - Draft Minutes, Committee of Adjustment, September 2, 2025 (Encl.)
 - Minutes, Golden Sunshine, July 17, 2025 (Encl.)
- (d) Correspondence
 - Resolution, City of North Bay, September 3, 2025, Re: Castle Arms (Encl.)
 - Letter, Ministry of the Environment (MECP), Re: Compliance Policy (Encl.)
 - Ministry of Natural Resources, operational policies, Aggregates Resources Act (Encl)

Resolution 2025-176 Claire Riley and Paul Sharp: Be it resolved that the Mayor, Staff, Committee and Correspondence reports be accepted as presented. **‘Carried’**

9. REVIEW BUDGET REPORT -Printed September 9, 2025

Resolution 2025-177 Paul Sharp and Nunzio Scarfone: Be it resolved that the Budget Report printed September 9, 2025, be accepted as presented. **‘Carried’**

10. PUBLIC WORKS REPORTS

(a) Public Works Activity Report August 9, 2025 – September 5, 2025, Operations Superintendent (Encl.)

Resolution 2025-178 Bernadette Kerr and Claire Riley: Be it resolved that Council accept the August 9, 2025, to September 5, 2025, Activity Report from Operations Superintendent Shawn Hughes. **‘Carried’**

11. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) By-law 2025-28, Being a by-law to stop up and close said lakeshore road allowance (Encl.)
Resolution 2025-179 Claire Riley and Bernadette Kerr: Be it resolved that by-law 2025-28, being a by-law to Close, Stop Up and Declare the lands to be surplus and to sell part of the original road allowance in front of Lot 16 Concession 13, Township of Chisholm, be read a first, second and third time, and passed this September 9, 2025. **‘Carried’**
- (b) Integrity Commissioner Resignation/Council Code of Conduct Review (Encl)
Resolution 2025-180 Nunzio Scarfone and Paul Sharp: Be it resolved that Council accepts the resignation from the Integrity Commissioner, David King, and further authorizes the CAO to post an RFQ for Integrity Commissioner Services. **‘Carried’**
- (c) North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority re: Climate Station Network (Encl.)
Resolution 2025-181 Bernadette Kerr and Paul Sharp: Be it resolved that Council agrees to have the NBMCA install a personal weather station at the Township Office/Firehall. **‘Carried’**
- (d) Discussion, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, 2025 Glyphosate Spraying

Resolution 2025-182 Claire Riley and Bernadette Kerr:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, is planning to begin aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides in late August 2025 in the Nipissing Forest; and ecosystems may be impacted by this activity; and

WHEREAS new scientific evidence published since Health Canada's last assessment of glyphosate in 2017 has linked glyphosate-based end-use products to cancer, metabolic and neurological diseases, reproductive toxicity, and ecosystem harm; and

WHEREAS the Province of Quebec banned the use of glyphosate for forestry purposes in 2001 and replaced aerial herbicide spraying with manual forest thinning as a safer alternative forest management method; and

WHEREAS many residents have expressed concern regarding the potential environmental and public health risks associated with aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Chisholm formally request that the Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, reconsider the planned use of glyphosate-based herbicides in the Nipissing Forest and suspend the aerial spraying initiative until further independent research and updated risk assessments are completed and reviewed; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be forwarded to:

The Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

MPP John Vanthof, Timiskaming–Cochrane

AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)

FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities)

'Carried'

- (e) Dist. Of Parry Sound Municipal Association Fall meeting (Encl.)

Resolution 2025-183 Paul Sharp and Claire Riley: Be it resolved that Council authorizes the attendance of Gail Degagne and Bernadette Kerr to the Fall District of Parry Sound Municipal Association meeting on September 26, 2025.

'Carried'

- (f) MSO-North (Sudbury) Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Encl.)

Resolution 2025-184 Nunzio Scarfone and Claire Riley: Be it resolved that Council authorizes the attendance of Gail Degagne, Bernadette Kerr, and Paul Sharp, to the 2025 Northeast Municipal Council Workshop.

'Carried'

- (g) Resolution support from North Glengarry Re: amend O Reg 391/21: Blue Box (Encl.)

Resolution 2025-185 Nunzio Scarfone and Paul Sharp: Be it resolved that the Corporation of the Township of Chisholm supports a resolution from North Glengarry, urging the province of Ontario to amend Ontario regulation 391/21: blue box, to ensure producers are responsible for the end of life management of recyclable materials from all sources.

'Carried'

- (h) Resolution support from Township of Terrance Bay, Re: Firefighter Certification Requirements (Encl.)

Resolution 2025-186 Paul Sharp and Nunzio Scarfone: Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Chisholm supports a resolution from the Township of Terrace Bay, opposing the mandatory firefighter certification requirements as outlines in O. Reg 343/22. And further that this resolution be sent to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, MPP Lise Vaugeois, the Ontario Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, NOMA, and all Ontario municipalities. **'Carried'**

(i) Resolution regarding Castle Arms

Resolution 2025-187 Nunzio Scarfone and Bernadette Kerr:

Whereas on March 7, 1986, the Board of Management for Cassellholme – East Nipissing Home for the Aged (Cassellholme), a District Home, gave direction to create a separate legal entity in the form of a new public non-profit housing corporation. This new entity (Castle Arms) would be operated and governed by the same appointees as Cassellholme Board.

Whereas the assets of Castle Arms have been built through contributions from taxpayers at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels.

Whereas at a Castle Arms meeting held on October 28, 2021, the Chief Executive Officer advised the Castle Arms Board that, due to upcoming changes to the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (ONCA), the Cassellholme and Castle Arms Boards could no longer have identical membership.

Whereas although the Castle Arms Board was advised that it had until October 2024 to implement the upcoming changes to the ONCA, at the subsequent meeting on November 25, 2021 - when 8 of the 9 municipalities had no representation due to a wave of resignations and a lack of public consultation - the Castle Arms Board directed the CEO to alter the composition of the Castle Arms Board.

Whereas in January 2025, Cassellholme obtained a solicitor-client privileged legal opinion stating in part that “neither ONCA nor the Fixing Long-Term Care Act contain any provisions that would require Boards of Management to have a different composition than Boards of Non-Profit Housing Corporations.”

Whereas the November 25, 2021 change to the composition of the Castle Arms Board was made in reliance on advice regarding the requirements of the ONCA;

Whereas the advice the former Castle Arms Board received appears to have been incorrect.

Whereas no changes to the former composition of the Castle Arms Board would have been made if not for the Boards’s reliance on the incorrect advice;

Whereas the current Castle Arms Board has an obligation to the taxpayers of the nine (9) member Municipalities to restore governance of the Castle Arms Board to representatives from its member Municipalities.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Township of Chisholm calls upon the other member Municipalities to join in investigate available legal and administrative remedies to restore democratic and public oversight of the Castle Arms Non-Profit Housing Corporation. This includes returning Castle Arms governance to its member Municipalities.

Further Be It Resolved that a committee, composed of the Mayors of the member Municipalities or their designates, along with Cassellholme Board representatives, be established to examine these options.

And Further Be It Resolved that a copy of this motion be shared with the eight (8) other member Municipalities, the Cassellholme Board of Directors, the Castle Arms Board of Directors and Nipissing MPP Vic Fedeli.

‘Carried’

12. IN CAMERA

13. ADJOURNMENT

(a) By-law 2025-29 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting.

Resolution 2025-188 Claire Riley and Bernadette Kerr: Be it resolved that By-law 2025-29 being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at their regular Council meeting on September 9, 2025, be read a first, second and third time and passed this September 9, 2025.

‘Carried’

(b) Resolution re: Adjournment

Resolution 2025-189 Nunzio Scarfone and Paul Sharp: Be it resolved that this meeting now adjourn. Time: 8:17 PM

‘Carried’



Mayor, Gail Degagne



CAO Clerk Treasurer, Lesley Marshall