

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MATTAWA

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday February 23, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dr. S.F. Monestime Council Chambers.

Council Present: Mayor Raymond A. Bélanger
Councillor Mathew Gardiner
Councillor Fern Levesque
Councillor Laura Ross
Councillor Garry Thibert

Staff Present: Amy Leclerc, Municipal Clerk/Revenue Services Clerk
Sabrina Poullas, Deputy Clerk
Paul Laperriere, CAO/Treasurer
Dexture Sarrazin, Director of Community Services

*When a recorded vote is requested and the minutes indicate the recorded vote was "Unanimous" it means all Councillors present and noted above voted in favour unless otherwise indicated.

1. Meeting Called to Order

2. Announce Electronic Participants

3. Adoption of Agenda

3.1 To Adopt the agenda as presented or amended

Resolution Number 26-36

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert
Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting agenda dated Monday February 23, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED – unanimous

4. Disclosures of a Conflict of Interest

- Councillor Levesque on item # 7.3

5. Presentations and Delegations

6. Adoption of Minutes

6.1 Regular Meeting of February 9, 2026

6.2 Committee of the Whole of February 17, 2026

6.3 To adopt the minutes as presented or amended

Resolution Number 26-37

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Mathew Gardiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 9, 2026 and the Committee of the Whole meeting of February 17, 2026 as circulated.

CARRIED – unanimous

7. Notice of Motions

7.1 Closure of Life Labs

Resolution Number 26-38

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

WHEREAS LifeLabs has announced its intention to close its Greater Sudbury laboratory, and the transfer of medical specimen processing from Northern Ontario to laboratories in southern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury laboratory provides essential diagnostic services to communities across Northern Ontario, including urban, rural, and remote municipalities, and plays a critical role in ensuring timely and reliable medical testing for Northern residents; and

AND WHEREAS patients with chronic illness, newborns, long-term care residents, and individuals on time-sensitive medications depend on predictable laboratory turnaround times to support clinical decision-making; and

AND WHEREAS transporting medical specimens long distances to southern Ontario increases the risk of delays, specimen degradation, and retesting, particularly during frequent winter highway closures—potentially jeopardizing patient outcomes; and

AND WHEREAS Northern Ontario is already experiencing shortages of health-care professionals, and the closure of this laboratory further undermines regional workforce stability, training capacity, and recruitment and retention efforts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Mattawa call on the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to take immediate action to ensure that essential medical laboratory services remain accessible within Northern Ontario, including maintaining local laboratory processing capacity in Greater Sudbury; and

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be urged to ensure reliable, timely, and medically appropriate laboratory turnaround times for Northern Ontario patients, recognizing the unique geographic and climatic challenges of the region; and

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be requested to protect and support the Northern Ontario health-care workforce, including medical laboratory technologists, by preventing further service centralization that disproportionately impacts Northern communities; and

AND FURTHER THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, local Members of Provincial Parliament, FONOM, AMO, and ROMA.

CARRIED – unanimous

7.2 Rural Ontario Development Program Funding Application

Resolution Number 26-39

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

WHEREAS the Town of Mattawa is working on an economic development strategy;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has established a program up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$50,000 to support such initiatives for various groups including municipalities.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Mattawa supports the submission of a funding application to the Province of Ontario under the Rural Ontario Development Program.

CARRIED – unanimous

7.3 Support for Garnet Mining Operation

Councillor Levesque declared a conflict and left Council Chambers.

Resolution Number 26-39

Moved by Mayor Raymond A. Bélanger

Seconded by Councillor Mathew Gardiner

WHEREAS Mr. Rodney Cross is in the process of developing a garnet operation in the Municipality of Mattawan and his development plan will include many benefits to the Mattawa area;

AND WHEREAS mining is a key contributor to the Northern Ontario economy, as well as an engine for regional development and value-add generation. The impact of mining goes beyond mineral extraction and processing. Mining is linked to many other industries and sectors in the economy, including transportation, construction, equipment manufacturing, environmental management, geological services, education, and research;

AND WHEREAS mining has been part of Northern Ontario's fabric for centuries and is a multi-billion-dollar industry known around the world for its safety and environmental leadership, efficiency, productivity, and innovation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this industrial grade garnet operation is in demand for the main use of abrasives, and the proposed open pit would be an environmentally friendly aggregate mining operation which will complement the global demand for garnet. The development of Mr. Cross's Mattawan Garnet Mining project will help increase the much-needed employment and fostering the growth and economic sustainability throughout the Mattawa area.

AND FURTHER THAT Council for the Town of Mattawa supports this endeavor.

CARRIED – unanimous

Councillor Levesque returned to Council Chambers

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing – New & Amending Regulations Under the Planning Act
- 8.2 OSUM – Annual Conference & Trade Show April 29 – May 1, 2026 in Town of Parry Sound
- 8.3 Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety
- 8.4 North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit – Food & Housing Affordability Request for Support & Board Minutes
- 8.5 DNSSAB – January 2026 Highlights

- 8.6 Mattawa Regional OPP Detachment Board – Overview of Activities & Priorities
8.7 Ontario Clean Water Agency – Quarterly Operations Report

9. Staff Reports – Motions

- 9.1 Engineers & Planners of Record Agreement – Report # 26-08R
Report from Paul Laperriere, CAO/Treasurer

Resolution Number 26-41

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Mattawa receives report # 26-08R titled Engineers and Planners of Record Agreement.

CARRIED – unanimous

Resolution Number 26-42

Moved by Councillor Mathew Gardiner
Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the standing offer agreement with Jp2g Consultants Inc.

AND FURTHER THAT Council directs the Clerk to bring forward a by-law for formal adoption at the next regular meeting.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

10. By-Laws

- 10.1 By-Law 26-04 – Sale of Part of James Street

BEING a by-law of the corporation of the Town of Mattawa to close, stop up and declare the lands to be surplus and to sell part of James Street more particularly described below.

Resolution Number 26-43

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa adopt By-Law 26-04 being a by-law of the corporation of the Town of Mattawa to close, stop up and declare the lands to be surplus and to sell part of James Street more particularly described below.

CARRIED – unanimous

- 10.2 By-Law 26-05 – Sale of Part of Rankin Street

BEING a by-law of the corporation of the Town of Mattawa to close, stop up and declare the lands to be surplus and to sell part of Rankin Street more particularly described below.

Resolution Number 26-44

Moved by Councillor Laura Ross
Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa adopt By-Law 26-05 being a by-law of the corporation of the Town of Mattawa to close, stop up and

declare the lands to be surplus and to sell part of Rankin Street more particularly described below.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

- 10.3 By-Law 26-06 – Establish Water Rates for 2026
BEING a By-law to establish water rates for 2026.

Resolution Number 26-45

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa adopt By-Law 26-06 being a By-law to establish water rates for 2026.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

11. Old Business

- 11.1 Library Proposal from Report #26-01R

12. New Business

13. Questions from Public Pertaining to Agenda

14. In Camera (Closed) Session

15. Return to Regular Session

16. Motions Resulting from Closed Session

17. Adjournment

- 17.1 Adjournment of the meeting

Resolution Number 26-46

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert
Seconded by Councillor Mathew Gardiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting adjourn at 6:32 p.m.

CARRIED – unanimous

Electronically signed by
Mathew Gardiner

Deputy Mayor

Electronically signed by
Amy Leclerc

Clerk