

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MATTAWA

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held Monday January 12, 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 Loren Mick (Virtual)
Councillor Garry Thibert

Staff Present: Amy Leclerc, Municipal Clerk/Revenue Services Clerk
Dexture Sarrazin, Director of Community Services
Shawn Hongell, Fire Chief

*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 26-01

Moved by Councillor Mathew Gardiner
Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting agenda dated Monday January 12, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED – unanimous

4. Disclosures of a Conflict of Interest

5. Presentations and Delegations

6. Adoption of Minutes

6.1 Regular Meeting of December 8, 2025

6.2 To adopt the minutes as presented or amended

Resolution Number 26-02

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert
Seconded by Councillor Mathew Gardiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopt the minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2025 as circulated.

CARRIED – unanimous

7. Notice of Motions

7.1 Support to Remove GST-HST on New Homes Purchased

Resolution Number 26-03

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa supports the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury's call on the Government of Canada to remove the GST/HST from all new homes purchased as primary residences, and to work in partnership with the Government of Ontario to ensure full elimination of the provincial portion as well.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada; Minister of Finance; Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; Premier of Ontario; Ontario Minister of Finance; Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MP Pauline Rochefort; MPP Vic Fedeli; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED – unanimous

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 Srinivasan Manivannan, MCCCI – Partnership Inquiry for Northern Ontario FoodTech
- 8.2 Municipality of Huron Shores – Rent Protection for Tenants
- 8.3 Solicitor General – Release of 2026 Ontario Provincial Police Annual Billing Statements
- 8.4 OPP – Annual Billing Statement Package
- 8.5 FONOM – 2026 Conference Held in City of Timmins
- 8.6 AMO – Advocacy on Local Electricity Distribution
- 8.7 Jp2g Consultants Inc. – Rehabilitation of the Mauril Bélanger Bridge Public Consultation
Planned for Saturday January 17, 2026
- 8.8 MP Jenny Kwan – Bill C-233, No More Loopholes Act
- 8.9 DNSSAB – 2026 Budget Update

Resolution Number 26-04

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Loren Mick

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to request the financials and reasoning why DNSSAB gave a 4% increase to the municipality.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

For: Councillors Gardiner, Levesque, Mick

Against: Mayor Bélanger, Councillor Thibert

- 8.10 Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing – Invitation to Northern Council Workshop – Virtual Learning Series
- 8.11 Municipality of Mattawan – Shared Fire Services Response Letter

Resolution Number 26-05

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque
Seconded by Councillor Loren Mick

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs the CAO and Fire Chief to create a detailed plan including all financials to provide fire services to the Municipality of Mattawan and to bring it back to Council for their decision before any further discussions with the Municipality of Mattawan.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

For: Councillors Levesque, Mick, Thibert

Against: Mayor Bélanger, Councillor Gardiner

8.12 Ministry of Emergency Preparedness & Response – Emergency Management Modernization Act Achieves Royal Assent

9. Staff Reports – Motions

9.1 Library Proposal – Report # 26-01R
Report from Councillor Loren Mick

Resolution Number 26-06

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Mattawa receives report # 26-01R titled Library Proposal.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

Resolution Number 26-07(a)

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Garry Thibert

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the resolution for the library proposal be tabled.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was as follows:

For: Mayor Bélanger, Councillors Gardiner, Levesque, Thibert

Against: Councillor Mick

Resolution Number 26-07(b)

Moved by Councillor Loren Mick

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

WHEREAS the Town of Mattawa owns the museum building, which currently houses the Mattawa Museum and is closed for approximately half of the year, resulting in underutilization of a valuable municipal asset; and

WHEREAS the Mattawa Public Library is in need of a facility able to provide adequate space for literacy programs, technology access, study areas, and children's programming; and

WHEREAS the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Mattawa and the Mattawa Museum provides that the Town retains access to the basement of the museum building, confirming the Town's ongoing right of use and interest in the facility; and

WHEREAS co-locating the library within the museum building would ensure year-round utilization of the property, reduce costs through shared utilities and maintenance, and create a cultural and educational hub for the community; and

WHEREAS the Town is committed to ensuring that the Mattawa Museum continues to thrive, including through the establishment of a satellite museum at the Tourist Information Centre building along the highway, thereby increasing visibility, attracting visitor traffic, and providing the museum with its own dedicated space; and

WHEREAS a prior financial feasibility study recommended that the Town consider relocating the MTO services to better utilize Town assets, and this proposal aligns with those recommendations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa direct staff to:

1. Commission an updated feasibility study to assess the relocation of the Mattawa Public Library into the museum building, including space planning, accessibility requirements, and renovation costs.
2. Develop a plan, in consultation with the Mattawa Museum Board and the Mattawa Library Board, to reallocate the Tourist Information Centre building to function as a satellite museum location.
3. Explore funding opportunities and grant applications to support renovations, museum relocation costs, and cultural infrastructure development.
4. Report back to Council with findings, cost estimates, and a proposed implementation timeline for phased relocation and integration of facilities.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution and accompanying proposal be shared with the Mattawa Museum Board and the Mattawa Library Board for their consideration and input.

TABLED

10. By-Laws

10.1 By-Law 26-01 – 2026 Interim Tax Billing

BEING a by-law to provide for an interim tax levy for 2026.

Resolution Number 26-08

Moved by Councillor Mathew Gardiner

Seconded by Councillor Fern Levesque

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa adopt By-Law 26-01 being a By-law to provide for an interim tax levy for 2026.

CARRIED – unanimous

10.2 By-Law 26-02 – Borrowing By-Law

BEING a by-law to enter into an agreement with the Bank of Nova Scotia for borrowing of funds if required.

Resolution Number 26-09

Moved by Councillor Garry Thibert

Seconded by Councillor Mathew Gardiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa adopt By-Law 26-02 being a By-law to enter into an agreement with the Bank of Nova Scotia for borrowing of funds if required.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

11. Old Business

11.1 Business/Organization Signage Policy

11.2 FONOM Correspondance Consultation on Natural Gas Expansion in Ontario

11.3 Community Safety & Well- Being in Mattawa

12. New Business

12.1 Amy Leclerc, Municipal Clerk – North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority drinking water source protection municipal consultation

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 26-10

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Mathew Gardiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED – unanimous

Electronically signed by
Raymond A. Bélanger

Mayor

Electronically signed by
Amy Leclerc

Clerk