

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #22
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
November 19, 2025 @ 2:30 p.m.

1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kevin Kahoot called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2 ROLL CALL

Mayor Kevin Kahoot, Councillor Brad Mountain (electronically), Councillor Daniel Sutton (electronically), Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Shannon Jeffries, Deputy Clerk Shawna Weston.

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None.

PART I – CONSENT AGENDA

(For the purpose of convenience and for expediting Meetings, matters of business of repetitive or routine nature are included in the Consent Agenda, and all such matters of business contained in the Consent Agenda are voted on collectively.

A particular matter of business may be singled out from the Consent Agenda for debate or for a separate vote upon the request of any Member of Council. In the case of a separate vote, the excluded matter of business is severed from the Consent Agenda, and only the remaining matters of business contained in the Consent Agenda are voted on collectively.

Each and every matter of business contained in the Consent Agenda is recorded separately in the Minutes of the Meeting.)

RESOLUTION NO. 227

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby adopts the Items in Sections 5 – 7 of Part 1 – Consent Agenda.

Carried.

5 MINUTES

C04-MI

5.1 The review and passing of the Minutes of the previous Meetings.

5.1.1 November 5, 2025 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 228

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Minutes of the previous Meetings of Council numbered 5.1.1 at the November 19th, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

C12-HE

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

5.2.1 July 30, 2025 – Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

5.2.2 August 27, 2025 – Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 229

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the Minutes of Committees numbered 5.2.1 to 5.2.2 at the November 19th, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

None.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1. Correspondence.

A01-NA

7.1.1 Email from Calle Robinson, Ministry of Energy and Mines, received October 29, 2025, re: Enhancing Transmission Capacity North of Dryden – The Red Lake Transmission Lines

C10-SU

7.1.2 Letter from Kimberly Baigrie, Mayor of Township of Ignace, received November 3, 2025, re: Letter of Support for Township of Ear Falls in the wake of the Sawmill Closure.

M06-ON

7.1.3 Email from Ontario Newsroom, dated November 6, 2025, re: A Plan to Protect Ontario

M06-ON

7.1.4 Email from Ontario Newsroom, received November 10, 2025, re: Ontario Launches Pothole Prevention and Repair Program

M06-ON

7.1.5 Email from Ontario Newsroom, dated November 10, 2025, re: Ontario Completes Widening of Highway 11-17 Near Thunder Bay

C10-SU

7.1.6 Letter from Carolyn Spicer, Kiiwetinoong Green Party, received November 10, 2025, re: Letter of Support for the Township of Ear Falls in the wake of the Sawmill Closure.

RESOLUTION NO. 230

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.6 at the November 19th, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures – year to date (November 14, 2025)

Council reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - year to date (dated November 14, 2025) in accordance with By-Law 2283-20.

C09-GE

7.3 Motion of Support for Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) re: Highway Program for Highways 11 and 17

RESOLUTION NO. 231

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

WHEREAS Northern Ontario's economic and social well-being depends on safe, reliable east-west and north-south transportation corridors, particularly Highways 11 and 17, which form the Trans-Canada Highway system across the region; and

WHEREAS these highways carry significant volumes of commercial and passenger traffic, yet remain largely two-lane corridors that face frequent closures and safety risks due to weather, congestion, and collision exposure; and

WHEREAS the four-laning of Highway 17 and modernization of Highway 11 remain long-standing goals of Northern communities; and

WHEREAS the proven “2+1” highway design—alternating passing lanes separated by a continuous median barrier—has demonstrated safety outcomes comparable to full twinning, at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes as traffic volumes increase; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced initial 2+1 pilot projects in Northern Ontario, providing an important opportunity to test and expand this model across other sections of the Trans-Canada network; and

WHEREAS modernizing Highways 11 and 17 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, energy, and tourism, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

WHEREAS a coordinated, phased 2+1 build program—prioritizing key Northern sections with high freight volumes and safety concerns—would deliver measurable benefits for communities, Indigenous partners, and the broader Canadian economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls formally supports the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 11 and 17 as a nation-building initiative; and

THAT the Government of Canada be urged to recognize this initiative as a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act* and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, and construction; and

THAT the Government of Ontario be encouraged to expand the current pilot to a full corridor-wide program, sequencing projects according to readiness, safety benefit, and economic importance; and

THAT both levels of government ensure early, meaningful, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, including opportunities for training, contracting, and equity participation; and

THAT the program incorporate consistent corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife mitigation), resilience measures (closure reduction, climate adaptation), and clean-growth practices (EV-charging readiness, recycled aggregates, and low-carbon materials); and

THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, Northern MPs and MPPs, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

(AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and neighboring municipalities for endorsement.

Carried.

C12-BO

7.4 Boards and Committees

RESOLUTION NO. 232

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Boards and Committees Appointments for the Township of Ear Falls be approved as per the attached; and

FURTHER THAT the Appointments be for the term of this present Council; and

FURTHER THAT travel and attendance to the Board / Committee Meetings be hereby authorized for the appointed representatives; and

FURTHER THAT Resolution No. 145-25, dated June 18, 2025, is hereby repealed.

Carried.

H03-TE

7.5 Volunteer Fire Department Resignation – Gord Grasley

RESOLUTION NO. 233

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the resignation of Gord Grasley from his position as Volunteer Firefighter for the Ear Falls Fire Department be accepted, with regrets, effective December 31st, 2025.

Carried.

M03-DO

7.6 Waive Rental Fees for Canteen Useage for 2025-2026 Season

RESOLUTION NO. 234

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

WHEREAS the Ear Falls and District Minor Hockey Association, Ear Falls Girls Hockey Association and Red Lake Rams Girls Hockey Program have requested to provide limited canteen services during the 2025-2026 season;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the request to waive the Rental Fees for Ear Falls and District Minor Hockey Association, Ear Falls Girls Hockey Association and Red Lake Rams Girls Hockey Program to provide limited canteen services at the Recreation Centre during the 2025-2026 season; and

FURTHER THAT the Treasurer / Deputy Clerk is authorized to work with the Ear Falls and District Minor Hockey Association, Ear Falls Girls Hockey Association and Red Lake Rams Girls Hockey Program during the 2025-2026 season to plan for use of the canteen for other special events as they arise, and the fees for these events shall also be waived.

This resolution will cease to be effective upon execution of a lease or rental agreement for the canteen.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

8.1 By-Law No. 2680-25, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

C01-SC

8.2 By-Law No. 2681-25, a By-Law to Adopt the 2026 Schedule of Fees.

RESOLUTION NO. 235

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law Nos. 2680-25 and 2681-25 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Thain

On November 11, Senator Bernadette Clement visited Ear Falls. Councillor Thain accompanied her on a tour of the museum, where they engaged in extensive discussions about the community's history. Their conversation also covered the closure of the sawmill and the challenges surrounding the Seniors Housing Complex, particularly the difficulties in advancing the project. Both the Senator and Councillor attend the Remembrance Day Service at the

Legion, where the Senator spoke with locals in attendance.

Community Health Centre (CHC)

- There will be an Annual General Meeting on December 3.

Mayor Kahoot

Wabauskang

- Met with Chief Petiquan where they discussed possible partnership opportunities.

Interfor

- Discussions with management at Interfor indicate they are not interested in selling the mill, they plan to wait out the tariffs and will keep in touch on a monthly basis.

Kinross

- There will be an Open House in Ear Falls tonight – November 19 from 6-8pm. Kinross management has inquired about snow plowing services for the upcoming winter, as they are preparing to issue an RFP.

Springpole Mine

- Management inquired about securing snowplowing services for the winter and Mayor Kahoot made some suggestions.

11 CLOSED MEETING

11.1 Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended.

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local Board employees;
 - Volunteer Appreciation Nominations

RESOLUTION NO. 236

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby convenes into a Closed Session at 2:50 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to:

- Section 239 (2) (b) of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended.
 - Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local Board employees;
 - Volunteer Appreciation Nominations

11.2 RESOLUTION NO. 237

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls convened from a Closed Session at 2:53 p.m. to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

12 CLOSED REPORT

Council provided direction to Administration on a Volunteer Appreciation Nomination.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 238

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 2:55 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk