

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council #24
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
December 17, 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 Daniel Sutton, Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Shannon Jeffries, Deputy Clerk Shawna Weston and 1 member of the public.

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.)

Council requested clarification on Item No. 7.2, 7.4, 7.5, 7.11, 7.12

RESOLUTION NO. 246

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 December 3, 2025 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 247

Moved by Dan Sutton. 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 December 17th, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

- 5.2 Minutes of Committees.

None.

- 5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

A01-HO

- 5.3.1 September 25, 2025, District of Kenora Home for the Aged
Regular Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 248

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 from other Agencies / Organizations numbered 5.3.1 at the December 17th, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

- 7.1. Correspondence.

M06-ON

- 7.1.1 Ontario Newsroom, dated December 3, 2025, re: Ontario
Launches Advanced Wood Construction Working Group

A01-ON

- 7.1.2 Letter from Solicitor General, received December 5, 2025, re:
OPP Policing Costs

M06-ON

- 7.1.3 Email from Ontario Newsroom, dated December 9, 2025, re:
Ontario Building New Emergency Preparedness and Response
Headquarters, Future Home of Ontario Corps

M06-ON

7.1.4 Email from Ontario Newsroom, dated December 10, 2025, re:
Ontario Expanding Access to Culturally Appropriate Long-Term
Care

L11-EM

7.1.5 Letter from Matthew Pegg, Minister of Commissioner of
Emergency Management, dated December 9, 2025, re: Passage of
Bill 25, Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025
amending the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act

M06-ON

7.1.6 Email from Ontario Newsroom, dated December 12, 2025, re:
Ontario Launches \$500 Million Critical Minerals Processing Fund

RESOLUTION NO. 249

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
December 17th, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures – year to date (December 12,
2025)

Council reviewed the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures - year to
date (dated December 12, 2025) in accordance with By-Law 2283-20
and sought clarification on specific figures listed in the report.
Administration will provide Council with an updated printed report.

F11-CO

7.3 Amendment to Community Emergency Preparedness Grant

RESOLUTION NO. 250

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Dan Sutton.

WHEREAS an extension to the completion date for the Community
Emergency Preparedness Grant was requested by the Township of Ear
Falls, and approved by the President of the Treasury Board, for the
Community Emergency Preparedness Grant;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes and
directs the Mayor and Acting Treasurer/Deput Clerk to execute an
amendment to the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.

Carried.

F00-TR

7.4 Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) Convention 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 251

Moved by Dan Sutton. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the following be authorized travel and attendance to the Ontario Forest Industries Association Convention being held in Toronto April 28 – 29, 2026:

- Mayor Kevin Kahoot

Carried.

Councillor Thain requested clarification on what OFIA is. Mayor Kahoot advised it is a non-governmental conference that acts as a forum for its members to discuss issues of common interest and concerns, such as tariffs amongst communities.

R06-UL/F00-SC

7.5 Ultimate Pass Program – Schedule of Fees Changes

RESOLUTION NO. 252

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Council approves the amendment to:

- Schedule “R-01” Recreation Page 9 - Ultimate Pass Fee Schedule

of the 2026 Schedule of Fees in accordance with the attached, effective January 1st, 2026, as amended.

Carried.

Council requested clarification on the wording in the changes to the Ultimate Pass program and directed Administration of a final change to implement.

7.6 Establishing 2025 Reserves

RESOLUTION NO. 253

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Dan Sutton.

WHEREAS Revenues for 2025 were greater than anticipated and expenses in some areas were less than anticipated;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Reserves be established for 2025 in accordance with the attached listing.

Carried.

7.7 Expenditures in Excess of the 2025 Budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 254

Moved by Dan Sutton. Seconded by Kim Thain.

WHEREAS expenditures for purchases in 2025 may have exceeded the 2025 approved Budget; and

WHEREAS the excess of expenditure must be authorized by Council as to where the source of revenue is to be recorded;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Reserve / Reserve Funds be the source of revenue for the remainder of the excess expenditure.

Carried.

7.8 Unexpended Funding to be transferred to a Reserve / Reserve Fund

RESOLUTION NO. 255

Moved by Dan Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

WHEREAS funding agencies may advance funds for future expenditures to the Township of Ear Falls; and

WHEREAS the Township of Ear Falls is unable to expend these funds by year end of the current year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls approve the transferring of the unexpended funding into a Reserve / Reserve Fund for the current year.

Carried.

7.9 2025 Uncollectibles and Write-Offs

RESOLUTION NO. 256

Moved by Dan Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Council approves setting up Allowances for Uncollectible accounts and Write-offs in accordance with Schedule "A", as attached.

Carried.

F11-FI

7.10 Ontario FireSmart Community Implementation Grant Program 2025-2026

RESOLUTION NO. 257

Moved by Dan Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Acting Treasurer / Deputy Clerk Shannon Jeffries is hereby authorized and directed to submit an amended application for funding to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for the 2025-2026 FireSmart Community Implementation Grant Program for implementation of the Community Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

Carried.

7.11 Report to Council dated December 9, 2025, from Water and Wastewater Manager, re: Costs Associated with Installation of Active Harmonics Filter

RESOLUTION NO. 258

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Dan Sutton.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Report to Council, dated December 9, 2025, from Manager of Water and Wastewater Operations re: costs associated with installation of active harmonics filter; and

WHEREAS Kresin Engineering was retained by the Township of Ear Falls to install an active harmonics filter and to construct a new MCC room; and

WHEREAS the cost to have Schneider Electric complete the onsite monitoring was not contemplated by Kresin Engineering when preparing their proposal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Ear Falls approves the extra costs of \$26,455.56 to have the Active Harmonic Filter installed.

Carried.

Council requested clarification regarding the source of funding for the additional costs. Administration advised that the overall project remains within budget, though this line item was inadvertently omitted from the original proposal submission.

A16-CH

- 7.12 Chukuni Communities Development Corporation (CCDC) request for support, dated December 10, 2025: re: Economic Diversification Strategy for Ear Falls Project

RESOLUTION NO. 259

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT Council approves a contribution of \$25,000 for the Chukuni Communities Development Corporation's Economic Diversification Strategy for Ear Falls Project.

Carried.

Council requested clarification on who would be responsible for completing the work. Administration advised that the CCDC office will complete the majority of the work internally. Funding will be provided ninety percent by FedNOR and ten percent by the Township.

*F11-MI

- 7.13 Submission of an Application to Pothole Prevention and Repair Program

RESOLUTION NO. 260

Moved by Dan Sutton. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Acting Treasurer/Deputy Clerk be authorized and directed to submit an application to the Pothole Prevention and Repair Program.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

- 8.1 By-Law No. 2684-25, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

L04-LA

- 8.2 By-Law No. 2685-25, A By-Law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with Larocque Enterprises for Use of the Sludge Bed Located on the North Side of Waste Disposal Road.

RESOLUTION NO. 261

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law Nos. 2684-25 and 2685-25 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

- 9.1 Letter received from Matt Beaudry, dated December 5, 2025, re:
Building Inspector Services

For Discussion.

Mayor Kahoot thanked Matt for the submission and advised that the Township has received a few offers for this service. There has been no discussion at the council level for these services.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor Kahoot

- Handi-Transit has scheduled a Zoom meeting to review approaches taken in other communities. The discussion will cover options such as purchasing versus leasing a bus, with recommendations on the best fit for our community. There are many factors to consider, including the possibility of the bus serving the broader community rather than being limited to seniors. A follow-up report with details will be provided after the meeting.
- Participated in a follow-up interview with CBC on Tuesday regarding the sawmill closure. The discussion focused on how residents are adapting to the situation. Advised that the community has come together to support employees affected by the job losses. Kinross has purchased Christmas hampers for the mill workers, which will be distributed this week.
- Had a discussion with OPP Inspector Adam Illman, where he expressed how fascinated he was with the Ear Falls Stuff a Cruiser event.

11 CLOSED MEETING

None.

12 CLOSED REPORT

None.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 262

Moved by Dan Sutton. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:12 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk