

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council # 5
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
March 4, 2026 @ 2:30 p.m.

1 CALL TO ORDER

Acting Mayor Doug Woolsey called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2 ROLL CALL

Mayor Kevin Kahoot (electronically), Councillor Brad Mountain, Councillor Daniel Sutton (electronically), Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Acting Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Shannon Jeffries, Manager of Water and Wastewater Operations Brigitte Jetté, 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.)

Council requested clarification on Item No. 7.1.1, 7.6

RESOLUTION NO. 029

Moved by Brad Mountain. 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 February 18, 2026 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 030

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

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 March 4th, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

- 5.2 Minutes of Committees.

None.

- 5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

None.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

None.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

- 7.1. Correspondence.

A16-CH

7.1.1 Chukuni Communities Development Corporation (CCDC) has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) under the approved Economic Diversification Strategy Project. At their request, the Township has posted the RFP on the Township website.

D05-TI

7.1.2 Letter received from Ministry of Natural Resources, Kenora District, dated February 20, 2026, re: Kenora Whiskey Jack Work Schedule.

M06-ON

7.1.3 News Release from Ontario News, dated February 17, 2026, re: Ontario Fast-Tracks One of Canada's Premier Gold Mines Under 'One Project, One Process'.

M06-ON

7.1.4 News Release from Ontario News, dated February 23, 2026, re: Ontario Beginning Construction of Berens River Bridge.

D05-MI

7.1.5 Email from Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, dated

February 27, 2026, re: Notification of Public Comment Period on the Draft Environmental Assessment Report and Potential Conditions for the Proposed Springpole Gold Project.

RESOLUTION NO. 031

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls receives and files the documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.5 at the March 4th, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

H03-TE

7.2 Volunteer Fire Department Resignations – Macey Finan and Drayshawn Poirier

RESOLUTION NO. 032

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the resignations of Macey Finan and Drayshawn Poirier from their positions as Volunteer Firefighters for the Ear Falls Fire Department be accepted, with regrets, effective February 18, 2026.

Carried.

Council asked for clarification on the number of firefighters currently on the roster. Administration provided the updated roster and noted that Chief Desjardins has a strong understanding of his department's certification levels and member availability.

E03-WA

7.3 Draft 2025 Corrosion Control Evaluation Report for the Ear Falls Drinking Water System

RESOLUTION NO. 033

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the 2025 Corrosion Control Evaluation Report for the Ear Falls Drinking Water System.

Carried.

*E01-RE

7.4 Draft 2025 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Wastewater Collection System

RESOLUTION NO. 034

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the 2025 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Wastewater Collection System in accordance with the Environmental Compliance Approval No. 287-W601.

Carried.

E03-RE

- 7.5 Draft 2025 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant

RESOLUTION NO. 035

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the 2025 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant in accordance with Condition 10(5) of amended Environmental Compliance Approval No. 1492-A2ZHLC.

Carried.

C11-MU

- 7.6 Report to Council, from Acting Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, Shannon Jeffries, dated February 27, 2026, re: Chief Building Official (CBO) Qualification Requirements

RESOLUTION NO. 036

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT Council receives the report regarding termination provisions and qualification requirements for a Chief Building Official; and

THAT Council directs Administration to explore a transition plan that includes maintaining qualified CBO services while supporting a prospective candidate in obtaining the mandatory provincial qualifications; and

THAT Administration report back to Council with financial implications and a recommended implementation plan.

Carried.

Council discussed preferences for recruiting a candidate for the position, with several members expressing support for selecting a local individual who understands the community. Administration will prepare an updated proposal for Council's final review and approval.

F11-KE

- 7.7 Application to the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) for the Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment Funding - Ear Falls Youth Drop-In Centre project.

RESOLUTION NO. 037

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby authorizes the Acting Treasurer/Deputy Clerk to submit an application for 2026 Child Poverty Reduction Reinvestment Funding for the Ear Falls Youth Drop-In Centre.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

- 8.1 By-Law No. 2694-26, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.
- 8.2 By-Law No. 2695-26, a By-Law to Repeal By-Law No. 2457-22, being a By-Law to Appoint Paul S. Heayn as Integrity Commissioner for the Township of Ear Falls.
- 8.3 By-Law No. 2696-26, a By-Law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with Aird Berlis for the Provision of Integrity Commissioner's Services for the Township of Ear Falls.

RESOLUTION NO. 038

Moved by Brad Mountain. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby considers By-Law No. 2694-26, 2695-26 and 2696-26 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

None.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor Kevin Kahoot is currently in attendance at the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) conference and has had meetings with the following:

- Met with several neighbouring mayors and representatives from the

Ministry of Transportation to discuss twinning Highway 17 from east to west, as well as adding safety stops along the route.

- Met with Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, George Pirie, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation, Greg Rickford, Associate Minister of Forestry and Forest Products, Kevin Holland regarding the future of sawmill operations.
- Met with First Mining, Frontier Lithium and Evolution regarding ongoing work.
- Mayor Mota and Mayor Kahoot had a meeting with Kinross executives where they discussed future housing requirements. Their next permit will be to open the mine in 2027. There will be an Open House in mid to late April and Mayor Kahoot will plan do a site visit at the end of the month.
- Spoke with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding potential business incentive programs.

11 CLOSED MEETING

None.

12 CLOSED REPORT

None.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 039

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Brad Mountain.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:08 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk