

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council # 9
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
May 7, 2026 @ 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 (electronically), Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Acting Treasurer/Deputy Clerk Shannon Jeffries, Deputy Clerk Shawna Weston and 2 members of the public

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Councillor Thain declared an interest in Item 4.1 and 7.5 as her daughter is the owner of Resilient Roots Homestead.

4 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Councillor Thain left the meeting at this point.

4.1 Shauna Thain – Resilient Roots Homestead Proposal

Council took at recess at 2:40pm

Council reconvened at 2:43pm

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 and 7.8

M03-DO

7.5 Letter received from Northstead Resource Development Corporation, dated April 1, 2026, re: Request for Municipal Support-Pilot Community Farmers' Market.

RESOLUTION NO. 073

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Dan Sutton.

WHEREAS the rental rate for Waterfront Park is \$350.00 per day; and

WHEREAS Northstead Resource Development Corporation has requested that Council waive the fees associated with renting Waterfront Park one (1) day a week during their pilot year;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls supports the proposed Pilot Community Farmers' Market initiative and approves waiving the fees associated with renting Waterfront Park, subject to there being no paid event scheduled.

Carried.

Councillor Thain returned to the meeting at this point.

RESOLUTION NO. 074

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby adopts the Items in Sections 5 – 7.4 and 7.6 – 7.10 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 April 15, 2026 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 075

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

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 May 7th, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees.

None.

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations.

A01-ON

5.3.1 January 29, 2026 – OPP Detachment Board Meeting Minutes

A01-ON

5.3.2 February 12, 2026 – OPP Detachment Board Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 076

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 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations numbered 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 at the May 7th, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

None.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1. Correspondence.

M06-ON

7.1.1 News Release from Ontario News, dated April 15, 2026, re:
Ontario Relaxing Alcohol Restrictions in Provincial Parks

M06-ON

7.1.2 News Release from Ontario News, dated April 20, 2026, re:
Province Welcomes Ontario Chamber of Commerce to Ontario
Corps.

M06-ON

7.1.3 News Release from Ontario News, dated April 22, 2026, re:
Ontario Expands Ironworker Training Centre in Thunder Bay.

7.1.4 Letter from Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks,
dated April 22, 2026, re: Streamlining Requirements-Waste
Disposal Site

M06-ON

7.1.5 News Release from Ontario News, dated April 23, 2026, re:
Ontario Fast-Tracks Red Lake Transmission Line and Launches
New Hydroelectricity Program.

7.1.6 Letter from Ministry of Municipal Housing and Affairs, dated
April 22, 2026, re: Streamlining the information and material
that planning authorities can require as part of a complete
application.

M06-ON

7.1.7 News Release from Ontario News, dated April 24, 2026, re:
Ontario Investing \$15 Million to Protect and Support Northern
Communities.

D05-FO

7.1.8 News Release from Ontario News, dated April 28, 2026, re:
Ontario Launches Roadmap to Protect Forest Sector Workers
and Businesses.

RESOLUTION NO. 077

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 documents numbered 7.1.1 to 7.1.7 at the May 7th, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Resignation of Kimberly Ballance from her position of Clerk
Treasurer Administrator for the Township of Ear Falls.

RESOLUTION NO. 078

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the resignation of Kimberly Ballance from her
position as Clerk Treasurer Administrator for the Township of Ear
Falls be accepted with regrets effective July 2, 2026.

Carried.

Council expressed its appreciation to Kimberly for her extensive
dedication and support throughout the many projects undertaken
within the community, noting that she was a highly respected and
foundational presence within the municipality.

D00-FO

7.3 Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's Response to the
Application made under Section 357 for the 2026 Tax Year.

RESOLUTION NO. 079

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls has no objection to the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation's Response to the Application made under Section 357 of the Municipal Act, 2001 for the 2026 Tax Year regarding the property identified as:

ROLL NUMBER	CURRENT PHASED-IN ASSESSMENT	REVISED PHASED-IN ASSESSMENT
6042-000-001-24700-0000	\$44,500 RT	\$44,500 E

Carried.

D02-NW

7.4 Community Well-Being Reserve Fund – Project Approval Listing.

RESOLUTION NO. 080

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

a) Ear Falls Public School-Swimming Lessons

WHEREAS Council deems that the project identified on the Community Well-Being Reserve Fund – Project Approval Listing, dated April 15, 2026, complies with the Reserve Fund Criteria;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the project, in accordance with the Community Well-Being Reserve Fund – Project Approval Listing, dated May 7, 2026, as attached.

Carried.

M03-DO

7.5 Letter received from Northstead Resource Development Corporation, dated April 1, 2026, re: Request for Municipal Support-Pilot Community Farmers' Market.

Otherwise dealt with.

*F00-TA

7.6 Frise Policy and Finance Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 081

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

WHEREAS the Township of Ear Falls requires ongoing professional advisory and analytical support related to municipal property taxation, assessment and tax policy matters;

AND WHEREAS the Township has previously received such services through Municipal Tax Equity Consultants (MTE);

AND WHEREAS the Township of Ear Falls wishes to transition these services to ensure continuity, responsiveness, and alignment with the Township's needs;

AND WHEREAS the Township has received a Client Engagement Agreement from Frise Policy & Finance Inc., led by Peter Frise, to provide municipal finance, taxation, and assessment advisory services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby approves entering into a Client Engagement Agreement with Frise Policy & Finance Inc. for the provision of property tax analysis and administrative support services, in accordance with the terms outlined in the agreement;

AND FURTHER that the Acting Treasurer/Deputy Clerk be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

Carried.

*E02-RE

7.7 Draft 2025 Annual Report for the Storm Water Collection System

RESOLUTION NO. 082

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the 2025 Annual Report for the Ear Falls Storm Water Collection System in accordance with the Environmental Compliance Approval No. 287-S701.

Carried.

7.8 Letter received from Charlene Henrie, dated April 17, 2026, re: Goose Deterrent at Waterfront Park.

RESOLUTION NO. 083

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

WHEREAS, the presence of Canada geese at Waterfront Park has resulted in ongoing concerns related to public health, park cleanliness, and the overall enjoyment of the space by residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of goose droppings has created maintenance challenges and increased costs for park upkeep; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls has reviewed potential solutions and determined that the installation of a humane, effective goose deterrent system is in the best interest of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls finds that the purchase of a goose deterrent units from Away

With Geese will support the ongoing maintenance and usability of Waterfront Park and Golf Course;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby authorizes the purchase of a goose deterrent system for Waterfront Park and Ear Falls Golf Course from Away With Geese; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate staff are authorized and directed to complete the procurement, installation, and any necessary coordination to implement the deterrent system in a timely manner.

Carried.

Council would like to see deterrents also used at the Golf Course.

A01-KE

7.9 Letter of Support – Kenora District Services Board

RESOLUTION NO. 084

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT Mayor Kevin Kahoot is hereby authorized and directed to submit a letter of support to Kenora District Services Board for the Build Canada Homes-Rural Resilience Proposal.

Carried.

D05-MI

7.10 Letter of Support – Impact Assessment Agency of Canada regarding Kinross Great Bear Project

RESOLUTION NO. 085

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT Mayor Kevin Kahoot is hereby authorized and directed to submit a letter of support to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada regarding Kinross – Great Bear Project.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

8.1 By-Law No. 2703-26, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

L07-LE

8.2 By-Law No. 2704-26, a By-Law to Authorize the Execution of a Lease Agreement with Jaeden Cabral for the provision of Golf Course

Clubhouse Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 086

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. 2703-26 and 2704-26 as passed.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

9.1 Request for Delegations for Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2026

Council discussed the submission of delegations with the following ministries:

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss the Waterfront Project, and Seniors Housing Project in conjunction with Kenora District Services Board (KDSB)

Ministry of Forestry and Forest Products – to discuss Interfor compliance with hog pile regulations, wood rights in our area, possibly discuss some funding opportunities for surrounding forestry roads maintenance

Ministry of Infrastructure – funding for new subdivision

Ministry of Energy and Mines - Minister Lecce –Red Lake transmission line

Councillor Sutton went off line 3:02

Councillor Sutton rejoined meeting at 3:04

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Councillor Thain

Community Health Centre (CHC)

- Dr. Khan is taking holidays for the month of August and the clinic is looking into securing a locum for this time
- Requesting the same funding amount from the Township for their 2026-2027 budget
- The new RN - Catherine has been accepted into her Lakehead University program

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)

- Found the conference to be interesting and the theme was Resilience

and Prosperity.

Councillor Woolsey

- Attended NOMA and had some good conversations with various ministers and vendors
- Ear Falls Fire Chief has concerns with the current lack of crew members and would like to meet with Council to discuss potentially reducing levels of service

Mayor Kahoot

Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)

- Had dinner with Westland Insurance, the Township has built a good relationship with Westland representatives over the years.

Kinross

- Thanked the Township for advocating on their behalf.
- Need to form a subcommittee with a member from the Community Health Centre and possibly a youth member to form a plan on how to utilize the donation received from Kinross

Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)

- Thanked the Township for the advocating on their behalf.

11 CLOSED MEETING

Councillor Sutton left the meeting at this point.

11.1 RESOLUTION NO. 087

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby convenes into a Closed Session at 3:20 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;
 - Harassment in the Workplace

Carried.

11.2 RESOLUTION NO. 088

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls convened from a Closed Session at 3:42 p.m. to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

12 CLOSED REPORT

Council reviewed information and provided direction to Administration regarding Harassment in the Workplace matters.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 089

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:43 p.m.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk