THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS

M I N U T E S of the Regular Meeting of Ear Falls Council # 14
Ear Falls Municipal Council Chambers
August 5, 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 Dan Sutton, Councillor Kim Thain, Councillor Doug Woolsey, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Shannon Jeffries, Deputy Clerk Shawna Weston, Fire Chief Darryl Desjardins and 3 members of the public.

3 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None Declared.

4 DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Amy Wilson-Richardson – Proposal to cut the grass along the hydro line within the community

Amy attended as a delegation to present a proposal requesting Council's permission to cut the grass on the hydro right-of-way for the purpose of producing hay bales for personal use.
Amy advised that the proposed area extends from Scott Street North and Highway 657 south to Chukuni Drive. She noted that the grass between Scott Street and Highway 657 is not suitable for baling due to potential vehicle-related pollution. The work would be completed using a tractor and mower, with baling anticipated to begin in September.

Council received the information, and Administration was directed to further research the proposal and report back on the appropriate next steps.

Council thanked Amy for attending and providing additional information regarding the proposal.

4.2 MNP – Presentation of 2025 Financials

Mike Canfield and Rebecca Gustafson introduced themselves and went on to review the 2025 financials.

The auditors noted that the Township is still in a net financial asset position which demonstrates the good financial position of the municipality.
Tangible Capital Assets (TCAs) were also reviewed to identify changes that occurred in 2025.

The Consolidated Statement of Operations was reviewed including the

revenue and expense categories.

The Consolidated Statement of Gains and Losses and Cash Flows were reviewed.

The auditors advised that the municipality has great financial controls and is in a great financial position for a municipality of its size.

Council thanked the auditors for their presentation and thanked Shannon for her work on the audit and financials.

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. 6.1, 7.1.2, 7.3, 7.5 and 7.6

RESOLUTION NO. 141

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 July 15, 2026 – Regular Meeting of Council Minutes

RESOLUTION NO. 142

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 August 5th, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

5.2 Minutes of Committees

None

5.3 Minutes from other Agencies / Organizations

None.

6 TENDERS / PROPOSALS / QUOTES

*F18-RF

6.1 Request for Quotation (RFQ) – Culvert Replacement and Ditch Rehabilitation

RESOLUTION NO. 143

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls hereby accepts the Quote from TLC Construction Limited for Culvert Replacement and Ditch Rehabilitation at a cost of $63,350.00 plus applicable taxes; and,

FURTHER THAT the project will be funded by Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) funding in accordance with the 2026 Budget.

Carried.

Council inquired about the significant difference between the quotes. Administration advised that the higher quote was submitted by a company located in Southern Ontario, with the higher cost reflecting the additional mobilization expenses required to service this area.

7 MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS

7.1. Correspondence

M06-ON

7.1.1 News Release from Ontario News, dated July 21, 2026, re: Ontario Joins Landmark Canada-Wide Direct-to-Consumer Alcohol Sales Agreement

M06-ON

7.1.2 News Release from Ontario News, dated July 27, 2026, re: Ontario and Canada Invest More Than $7.2 Million to Protect Workers in the North

Council requested clarification as to whether the announcement related to local sawmill workers. It was noted that the announcement did not appear to provide support for local workers.

M06-ON

7.1.3 News Release from Ontario News, dated July 30, 2026, re: Ontario Investing $25 Million to Support Indigenous Energy Projects

RESOLUTION NO. 144

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 7.1.3 at the August 5th, 2026, Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

7.2 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures – year to date (dated July 31, 2026)

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

RESOLUTION NO. 145

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
6042-000-001-04300-0000		$ 800,900 COM CT	$781,899 COM CT
		$ 42,100 RU RT	$ 41,101 RU RT
	Total	$ 843,000	$ 823,000

Carried.

Council requested clarification regarding the significant reduction in the property's reassessment. Administration advised that the reduction was due to the demolition of an annex on the property.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 146

Moved by Kim Thain Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

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
6042-000-001-26300-0000	$45,500 RU RT	$12,700 VL RT

Carried.

C11-MU

7.5 Report to Council dated July 28, 2026, re: Earlier Ice Installation 2026/2027 Season

RESOLUTION NO. 147

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Report to Council dated July 28, 2026, from Clerk Treasurer Administrator Shannon Jeffries re: Earlier Installation of Ice for the 2026/2027 Season.

Carried.

Council requested clarification regarding the costs associated with an earlier start-up versus an earlier closure. Administration was directed to prepare a report outlining the actual costs associated with opening earlier and closing earlier.

C06-JO

7.6 Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Updated Work Plan and Annual Report

RESOLUTION NO. 148

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Joint Community Safety and Well-Being Updated Work Plan and Annual Report.

Carried.

C11-MU

7.7 Report to Council dated July 31, 2026, from Fire Chief Darryl Desjardins, re: Update on Fire Department Operations

RESOLUTION NO. 149

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Township of Ear Falls accepts the Report to Council from Fire Chief Darryl Desjardins, dated, July 31, 2026, re: Update on Fire Department Operations.

Carried.

Mayor Kahoot thanked the Chief for the detailed and informative report. Chief Desjardins noted that the Ear Falls Fire Department is currently experiencing challenges associated with operating as a volunteer department. The time commitment required for training is a significant deterrent, as volunteers typically already have full-time employment commitments. The Department will continue to face recruitment and training challenges, including a substantial increase in training costs.

Council acknowledged that there needs to be a discussion regarding reducing levels of service for the department. It was left to Chief Desjardins to make a recommendation to Council.

Mayor Kahoot thanked the Chief for his time and continued efforts.

F10-FI
7.8 2025 Draft Financial Statements

RESOLUTION NO. 150

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council accepts the draft 2025 Financial Statements of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls; and,

FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Clerk Treasurer Administrator are authorized and directed to execute the letter regarding Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting with respect to the Audit ended December 31st, 2025.

Carried.

8 BY-LAWS

8.1 By-Law No. 2722-26, a By-Law to Affirm Minor Decisions by Council.

8.2 By-Law No. 2720-26, a By-Law to Repeal By-Law No. 2638-25 being a By-Law to Appoint Building Officials from RSM Building Consultants Inc., as Building Officials under the Building Code Act for the Township of Ear Falls.

8.3 By-Law No. 2721-26, a By-Law to Appoint Building Officials from RSM Building Consultants Inc. as Building Officials under the Building Code Act for the Township of Ear Falls.

RESOLUTION NO. 151

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. 2720-26, 2721-26 and 2722-26 as passed.

Carried.

PART II – OTHER ITEMS

9 ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

C11-MU

9.1 Report to Council dated July 22, 2026, from Public Service and Operations Manager, Glenna Wigle, re: Cost Comparison for Genie Lift

For Discussion.

Council noted that a report on the Genie lift had been presented by the former Administration approximately five years earlier and observed that its findings differed significantly from those outlined in the current report.

Administration clarified that arranging repairs to the Genie lift has been challenging and noted that, on one occasion, the unit remained on the ice surface for approximately one month while awaiting a technician. Administration further advised that the inspector who assessed the unit recommended that it be disposed of.

Administration was directed to obtain a second opinion on the required repairs and confirm the annual inspection costs.

C11-MU

9.2 Report to Council dated July 27, 2026, from Public Service and Operations Manager, Glenna Wigle, re: Replacement of Medical Centre Sidewalk

For Discussion.

Administration advised that the proposed work was not included in the current year's budget; however, a contractor has confirmed that the work can be completed in 2026, as they are in the area and available. Council expressed support for proceeding with the work, given the importance of ensuring the area remains accessible and free of hazards. Administration advised that, subject to Council's direction, the contractor could be authorized to proceed, with the cost funded through reserves.

C11-MU

9.3 Report to Council dated July 31, 2026, from Clerk Treasurer Administrator Shannon Jeffries, re: Installation of Emergency Generator

RESOLUTION NO. 152

Moved by Kim Thain. Seconded by Doug Woolsey.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ear Falls accepts the Report to Council dated July 31, 2026, from Clerk Treasurer Administrator Shannon Jeffries re: Installation of Emergency Generator; and

FURTHER THAT the Municipal Office be closed to the public on August 11, 2026, to facilitate the installation of the emergency generator.

Carried.

10 REPORTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Mayor Kahoot

Sawmill update

- The Clerk-TreasurerAdministrator and Mayor Kahoot attempted to conduct a site tour of the sawmill yard; however, access to the site was denied. Subsequent attempts to contact Interfor upper management by telephone were unsuccessful, as calls were not returned.

Councillor Thain
Community Health Centre (CHC)

- A date for the fall bbq will be determined at the next meeting

11 CLOSED MEETING

11.1 RESOLUTION NO. 153

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 3:43 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to:

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

- A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
    - CL 20263 Part 1 on Plan 23R-15257

Carried.

11.2 RESOLUTION NO. 154

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ear Falls convened from a Closed Session at 3:56 p.m. to the Regular Meeting of Council.

Carried.

12 CLOSED REPORT

Council reviewed information about a proposed disposition of land.

13 ADJOURNMENT

13.1 RESOLUTION NO. 155

Moved by Doug Woolsey. Seconded by Kim Thain.

RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of Council adjourn at the hour of 3:57 p.m.

Carried.

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Mayor

_____
Clerk