



COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 11, 2026

1:00 pm

The meeting of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Magnetawan was held at the Magnetawan Community Centre on Wednesday February 11, 2026 with the following present:

Mayor Sam Dunnett
Deputy Mayor John Hetherington
Councillor Bill Bishop
Councillor Brad Kneller
Councillor Jon Hind

Staff: CAO/Clerk Kerstin Vroom, Deputy Clerk Planning and Development Erica Kellogg and Deputy Clerk Recreation Communications Laura Brandt, were present for the entire meeting.

OPENING BUSINESS

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

RESOLUTION 2026-17 Hetherington-Kneller

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan receives the agenda as presented.

Carried.

1.3 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

RESOLUTION 2026-18 Bishop-Hetherington

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan adopts the minutes of the Council meeting on January 21, 2026, as copied and circulated.

Carried.

1.3 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Mayor Sam Dunnett stated that should anyone have a disclosure of pecuniary interest that they could declare the nature thereof now or at any time during the meeting.

STAFF REPORTS, MOTIONS AND DISCUSSION

2.1 Ransome Well Drilling - Donation of Well for New Fire Hall

RESOLUTION 2026-19 Bishop-Kneller

WHEREAS Terri and Roger Baker of Ransome Well Drilling generously offered to provide a well for the new Fire Hall at no cost to the Municipality;

AND WHEREAS this kind contribution reflects the Baker's strong commitment to giving back to our community while supporting current and future fire service needs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Terri and Roger Baker of Ransome Well Drilling for their thoughtful donation;

AND FURTHER Council acknowledges that this donation for the well at the new Fire Hall will have a significant and positive impact on the community.

Carried.

2.2 DRAFT Motion Regulatory Zone Bell Fibre Digital Infrastructure - access to affordable high-speed internet

RESOLUTION 2026-20 Hind-Kneller

WHEREAS reliable, high-speed internet access is essential infrastructure that supports economic development, housing construction, healthcare, education, municipal operations, and overall community well-being;

*AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has recognized the importance of digital infrastructure through the *Accelerating Access to Broadband for Ontario Act, 2021*, which seeks to expand broadband access to all Ontarians, particularly in underserved and rural communities;*

AND WHEREAS access to affordable high-speed internet is a necessary precondition to achieving provincial and federal housing, economic development, and population growth targets;

AND WHEREAS Bell Canada currently offers dedicated fibre internet services at the following indicative rates under a five (5) year term within a regulated area: 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps \$1,010 per month, 500 Mbps / 500 Mbps \$3,090 per month and 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps \$3,250 per month.

AND WHEREAS such pricing structures place dedicated fibre services beyond the financial reach of many municipalities, small businesses, housing developments, non-profit organizations, and community facilities;

AND WHEREAS unaffordable broadband infrastructure costs undermine the intent of provincial and federal legislation aimed at universal access to high-speed internet, including federal programs administered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and regulatory oversight by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC);

AND WHEREAS affordable, high-speed internet access is essential infrastructure and a foundational requirement for inclusive growth, housing delivery, and community

resilience and municipalities are required to plan for growth, housing, and economic competitiveness, yet have no say in telecommunications pricing and market structures; AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the CRTC to examine the affordability of dedicated fibre pricing and its impact on municipal infrastructure, housing development, and equitable internet access;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the Government of Ontario to work with telecommunications providers to ensure that broadband infrastructure costs do not impede the objectives of the *Accelerating Access to Broadband for Ontario Act, 2021* and the *Building Faster Homes and More Choice Act, 2022*;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon Bell Canada to review and revise its dedicated fibre pricing models to ensure they are affordable, transparent, and scaled appropriately for municipalities, community institutions, and local development projects; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the Government of Canada, including ISED, to strengthen affordability requirements tied to federal broadband funding and universal access programs;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney, the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka, the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound–Muskoka, Bell Canada, the CRTC, FONOM, AMO, NOMA, and all Ontario municipalities through AMCTO.

Carried.

2.3 Reconsideration of Support: Town of Moosonee Strengthening Self-Defence Protections & Addressing Rising Home Invasions in Ontario

RESOLUTION 2026-21 Hetherington-Bishop

WHEREAS the Council for the Municipality of Magnetawan passed Resolution 2026-13 supporting Town of Moosonee – Strengthening Self-Defence Protections & Addressing Rising Home Invasions Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor requested a reconsideration of Resolution 2026-13 under Section 13.5 of the Procedure By-law 2023-17;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of Magnetawan amends Resolution 2026-13 by removing support for Castle Law.

Carried.

2.4 Discussion Land Acknowledgement

RESOLUTION 2026-22 Hind-Kneller

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan is in favor of a Land Acknowledgement as written in the Draft Official Plan and directs Staff to include an Acknowledgement on the Municipal website and agenda.

Recorded Vote Called by Deputy Mayor John Hetherington

Bill Bishop	Yea	
Deputy Mayor John Hetherington		Nay
Jon Hind	Yea	
Brad Kneller	Yea	
Mayor Sam Dunnett	Yea	
<i>Carried.</i>		

2.5 FONOM, Prescription Diversion Project

RESOLUTION 2026-23 Kneller- Bishop

WHEREAS prescription drug diversion, particularly involving regulated opioids and other controlled medications, presents a serious and growing risk to public health, community safety, and vulnerable populations across Ontario, including Northern and rural communities;

AND WHEREAS evidence from law enforcement, health professionals, and community drug strategy partners demonstrates that diverted prescription medications are contributing to substance misuse, criminal activity, and increased strain on health, social, and enforcement systems throughout Northern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Partnership and Collaboration Project, *“The Birth of Change”* (written by the North Bay Police Services and Community Drug Strategy of North Bay & Area), brings together law enforcement, addiction medicine specialists, pharmacists, public health partners, and community organizations to address prescription diversion through a collaborative, evidence-based, and multi-sector approach;

AND WHEREAS the project identifies practical regulatory, prescribing, dispensing, and prevention measures intended to reduce diversion while maintaining appropriate access to medically necessary pain management and addiction treatment services;

AND WHEREAS municipalities across Northern Ontario are experiencing the downstream impacts of prescription diversion, including pressures on emergency services, policing, housing stability, and community well-being;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan formally supports the Partnership and Collaboration Project, *“The Birth of Change”* and its objectives to reduce prescription drug diversion through coordinated, evidence-based action;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls on the Province of Ontario, including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, to review and give serious consideration to the project’s recommendations, including regulatory, prescribing, dispensing, and prevention strategies aimed at mitigating prescription diversion while protecting patient care;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan encourage continued provincial engagement with municipalities, law enforcement,

health professionals, pharmacists, and community partners to ensure that solutions are practical, regionally appropriate, and responsive to the realities faced by Northern Ontario communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, the Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Honorable MPP Graydon Smith, Sgt. Brad Reaume, Almaguin Highlands O.P.P Detachment Board, FOMON, NOMA, AMO, ROMA and AMCTO.

Carried.

2.6 FONOM, Planned Closure Greater Sudbury - Life Labs

RESOLUTION 2026-24 Hetherington-Hind

WHEREAS LifeLabs has announced its intention to close its Greater Sudbury laboratory, and the transfer of medical specimen processing from Northern Ontario to laboratories in southern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury laboratory provides essential diagnostic services to communities across Northern Ontario, including urban, rural, and remote municipalities, and plays a critical role in ensuring timely and reliable medical testing for Northern residents;

AND WHEREAS patients with chronic illness, newborns, long-term care residents, and individuals on time-sensitive medications depend on predictable laboratory turnaround times to support clinical decision-making;

AND WHEREAS transporting medical specimens long distances to southern Ontario increases the risk of delays, specimen degradation, and retesting, particularly during frequent winter highway closures—potentially jeopardizing patient outcomes;

AND WHEREAS Northern Ontario is already experiencing shortages of health-care professionals, and the closure of this laboratory further undermines regional workforce stability, training capacity, and recruitment and retention efforts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Municipality of Magnetawan call on the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to take immediate action to ensure that essential medical laboratory services remain accessible within Northern Ontario, including maintaining local laboratory processing capacity in Greater Sudbury;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be urged to ensure reliable, timely, and medically appropriate laboratory turnaround times for Northern Ontario patients, recognizing the unique geographic and climatic challenges of the region;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be requested to protect and support the Northern Ontario health-care workforce, including medical laboratory technologists, by preventing further service centralization that disproportionately impacts Northern communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, local Members of Provincial Parliament, FONOM, AMO, and ROMA.

Carried.

2.7 Draft Letter - Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm-Camera Systems

RESOLUTION 2026-25 Hetherington-Bishop

WHEREAS the Council for Municipality of Magnetawan receives correspondence from the Municipality of North Grenville seeking support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Cameras;

NOW THEREFORE the Council for the Municipality of Magnetawan support North Grenville's efforts and a letter on behalf of Council signed by the Mayor will be forwarded as requested.

Carried.

MUNICIPAL BOARD AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

3.1 Almaguin Highlands O.P.P Detachment Board Draft Minutes and Draft Budget Discussion January 14, 2026

3.2 Magnetawan Library Board Minutes 2025

RESOLUTION 2026-26 Hetherington-Hind

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan receives the Municipal Boards and Committee Minutes as copied and circulated.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 4.1 Village of Sundridge - Bill C-15 Canada Post Act Amendment
- 4.2 Township of Southgate - OMERS Bill 68
- 4.3 Village of Sundridge - Road Salt Use and Reduction
- 4.4 FONOM, A Nation-Building Opportunity for Highways 11 & 17 and a Clear Federal Signal
- 4.5 North Bay Perry Sound District Health Unit - 2026 Municipal Levy Information Package
- 4.6 Treasurer's Statement of 2025 Council Renumeration
- 4.7 Successful Outcome Northern Ontario Heritage Fund - Dinner and a Drive-In Event
- 4.8 Successful Outcome Northern Ontario Heritage Fund - Building Official Position
- 4.9 Successful Outcome - Pothole Prevention and Repair Program
- 4.10 Unsuccessful Outcome Youth Innovation Component - Wheelchair Swing Croft Park
- 4.11 Unsuccessful Outcome Rural Ontario Development Program - Community Development Stream - Community Beautification
- 4.12 Unsuccessful Outcome Rural Ontario Development Program - Community Development Stream - Municipal Facility Repairs
- 4.13 Unsuccessful Outcome Rural Ontario Development Program - Employment Lands Readiness Project
- 4.14 Unsuccessful Outcome Rural Ontario Development Program - Community Development Stream - Repair Sparks Street Docks
- 4.15 Unsuccessful Outcome 2026 Community Draw Winners - Revitalization Croft Park
- 4.16 Unsuccessful Outcome 2026 Community Draw Winners - Community Pantry

4.17 Family Day Weekend Poster

4.18 ICYMI Council Highlights January 21, 2026

RESOLUTION 2026-27 Kneller-Bishop

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan receives the correspondence items as copied and circulated;

AND FURTHER endorses the following motions:

4.1 *Village of Sundridge Bill C-15 Canada Post Act Amendment,*

4.3 *Village of Sundridge - Road Salt Use and Reduction*

Carried.

4.2 Township of Southgate - OMERS Bill 68

RESOLUTION 2026-28 Hind-Kneller

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario passed legislative changes to the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund through Bill 68;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has not provided sufficient background analysis, evidence or justification to explain the rationale for the proposed legislative changes to the OMERS Act and the impact changes may have on Municipalities and OMERS plan members;

AND WHEREAS the Council for the Municipality of Magnetawan understands that the proposed changes, if implemented, may impose a financial and governance risk to municipalities along with OMERS plan members;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Municipality of Magnetawan respectfully requests the Government of Ontario to provide detailed information and justification outlining the rationale, and objectives, along with the anticipated impacts of the proposed governance structure;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, the Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, FONOM and all Ontario Municipalities through AMCTO.

Carried.

ACCOUNTS

5.1 Accounts in the amount of \$1,144,248.35

RESOLUTION 2026-29 Kneller-Hind

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan approves the accounts in the amount of \$1,144,248.35 as presented.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION 2026-30 Kneller-Bishop

BE IT RESOLVED the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan moves to a closed session at 1:55 pm pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, Council shall proceed into Closed Session in order to address matters pertaining to:

(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board.

Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-31 Hetherington-Kneller

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan returns to open session at 2:35 pm.

Carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-32 Hind-Bishop

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan designated lands Municipally known as 4855 Highway 520 as Employment Lands; and

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan deems lands legally described at Parts 1, 2, 6 and 7 of Plan 42R-22763 Municipally known as 4855 Highway 520 as surplus with a price of \$5,000 per acre;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan deemed lands surplus on an "as is, where is" basis, as undeveloped and unserviced with no agreement, representation or warranty of any kind.

Carried.

CONFIRMING BY-LAW AND ADJOURNMENT

6.1 Confirm the Proceedings of Council and Adjourn

RESOLUTION 2026-33 Bishop- Hind

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan that the Confirming By-law is now read a first, second and a third time, passed, signed by the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk, sealed with the seal of the Corporation and engrossed in the by-law book; AND FURTHER THAT this meeting is now adjourned at 2:40 pm to meet again on Wednesday March 4, 2026, at 1:00 pm or at the call of the Chair.

Carried.

Approved by:

Mayor

Clerk