



## **Council Minutes January 8, 2025 – 9:00 AM**

Council Present: Mayor Horner, Deputy Mayor Hawkins, Councillors Clark, Cunningham, and Lyon

Staff Present: Tracey Atkinson, Heather Boston, Roseann Knechtel, Chris Wolnik

### **1.0 Call to Order**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

### **2.0 Land Acknowledgement**

We begin this meeting by acknowledging that we are meeting upon the traditional Indigenous lands of the Tionontati (Petun) and Treaty 18 territory of the Anishinaabe peoples. We recognize and deeply appreciate their historic connection to this place and we also recognize the contributions Indigenous peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening our community, province and country as a whole.

### **3.0 Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Clark**

That Council approve the agenda.

**Carried.**

### **4.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Hawkins**

That the minutes of December 4, 2024 are approved.

**Carried.**

### **5.0 Discussion Arising out of the Minutes - None**

### **6.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests - None**

### **7.0 Public Question Period**

Cheryl Russel noted the upcoming MC2 meeting and their interest in hosting a Mulmur Town Hall meeting in the fall. Russel applauded staff's job on winter road maintenance and inquired what impacts the *More Homes Built Faster Act* legislation will have on Mulmur.

Lou Acri expressed concerns with the current road conditions, noting the intersection at County Road 19 and County Road 17. Director of Infrastructure, Chris Wolnik, spoke to municipal and County jurisdictions and minimum maintenance standards.

## **8.0 Presentation**

### **8.1 Shelburne & District Fire Department**

Council welcomed Chief Dave Pratt of the Shelburne & District Fire Department who presented on levels of service and statutory obligations. Pratt highlighted 2026 and 2028 legislation requirements, varying service levels and speciality training options, mutual and automatic aid, and the options to create speciality teams and departments.

Council discussion ensued on standard response times, medical calls and directives, recruitment, retention and costs associated with training. Council thanked Chief Pratt for his presentation.

Council recessed at 10:07 a.m. and returned at 10:22 a.m.

## **9.0 Reports for Decision**

### **9.1 2025 Town Hall Meetings**

Council discussion ensued on Town Hall options.

#### **Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Cunningham**

That Council defer hosting a Town Hall meeting until it is warranted, or an early election is called, and commit to revisiting the topic again in Fall 2025.

**Carried.**

### **9.2 Cash to Accrual Budget Report**

#### **Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Hawkins**

That Council approve the restatement of the Township's 2025 Budget per O.Reg. 284/09.

**Carried.**

## **10.0 Committee Minutes and Reports**

- 10.1 Ontario Climate Caucus: November Meeting Notes**
- 10.2 NVCA December Board Minutes and Highlights**
- 10.3 Dufferin County Election of Warden: December 12, 2024**

Council congratulated Mayor Horner on her election as Warden.

**Moved by Clark and Seconded by Hawkins**

That Council receives the Committee minutes and reports.

**Carried.**

**11.0 Information Items**

- 11.1 Development Charges 2025 Indexing**
- 11.2 Parkland Dedication 2025 Indexing**
- 11.3 Mansfield Water 2025 Indexing**
- 11.4 Traffic Options Information Report**

Council expressed their desire to implement traffic options in Spring 2025 and to have concerns with the County Road 19 and County Road 17 intersection addressed in 2025.

- 11.5 Strategic Plan Implementation Update**
- 11.6 Armstrong Subdivision – Draft Conditions**

Tracey Atkinson, CAO/Planner provided an update on the Armstrong Subdivision with draft conditions anticipated to be presented to Council for consideration in March 2025. Atkinson spoke to timelines, statutory requirements and parkland.

- 11.7 2024 Landfill Monitoring Report**
- 11.8 Honeywood Kraft Hockeyville**
- 11.9 Town of Orangeville Fire Services Resolution**
- 11.10 Township of Melancthon: Fire Services Resolution**
- 11.11 Township of East Garafraxa: Fire Services Resolutions**
- 11.12 NVCA Media Release: CAO Retirement**
- 11.13 OPP Cost Reduction Letter**
- 11.14 MMAH – Municipal Accountability Act, 2024**
- 11.15 MMAH – Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024**
- 11.16 Township of East Garafraxa: Regulating Exotic Animals and Zoos**
- 11.17 Township of Puslinch: TAMPO**

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Lyon**

Whereas the Township of Mulmur supports the motion received from the Township of Puslinch and the information provided by TAPMO; and

Whereas the Ministry of Finance has introduced a one-time \$7 million reduction in education taxes in 2024, a subsidy that will be absorbed by the province through a 95% reduction in education taxes—marking the first such subsidy provided by the province to any industry; and

Whereas the Ministry of Finance's plans to introduce a new aggregate property sub-class in 2025, which is set to provide a \$6 million subsidy to the aggregate industry, with \$3 million of that subsidy being transferred back to the municipal (primarily residential) tax base, raises serious concerns about the fairness and equity of the system; and

Whereas the claims that the new sub-class will provide tax stability and predictability seem hollow and do not address the systemic inequities in the taxation framework, which continues to shift an undue burden onto municipal taxpayers, particularly those in rural areas who host these aggregate operations; and

Whereas there is significant concern that the government's actions prioritize the interests of the aggregate industry over the financial realities faced by municipalities and their residents, and that this shift in burden undermines public trust in the fairness and integrity of Ontario's legal and tax frameworks; and

Whereas TAPMO has presented evidence demonstrating that the aggregate industry is financially capable of meeting its tax obligations, including substantial profits and royalty payments made by industry leaders, further undermining the need for these subsidies; and

Whereas the municipal taxpayer should not bear the cost of correcting a past error in assessment methodology that unfairly benefited the aggregate industry, and the new property tax class ratio risks further undermining the principle of revenue neutrality and eroding confidence in Ontario's legal and tax systems;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Mulmur strongly objects to the undue burden being placed on municipal taxpayers to subsidize the aggregate industry, and calls on the provincial government to:

1. Reevaluate and correct the misguided subsidies being provided to the aggregate sector, and ensure that future tax policies are fair, equitable, and consistent for all taxpayers.
2. Uphold the principles of revenue neutrality in the aggregate tax framework and ensure that any new tax classifications or methodologies do not result in a net loss of revenue for municipalities, especially those that are already facing significant financial challenges.
3. Commit to meaningful reform that ensures fairness and consistency across all sectors of the economy, and actively engages municipalities and

taxpayers in a transparent and inclusive process, rather than catering to the demands of the aggregate industry.

4. Take immediate action to correct the existing inequities in the tax framework, ensuring that the burden of this correction is not unjustly shifted to municipal taxpayers, particularly those in rural communities who host these operations.
5. Respect and uphold the integrity of the legal process by honouring the decisions of the Divisional Court and ensuring that all assessment methodologies are transparent, accountable, and based on a fair and balanced approach.

Further be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Mulmur supports TAPMO's call for the provincial government to adopt reforms that prioritize the needs and fairness of municipal taxpayers and to ensure that the aggregate sector contributes its fair share to the province's tax base; and

Further be it resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local school board trustees, AMO, AMCTO, MPP Sylvia Jones, all Ontario Municipalities and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation.

**Carried.**

**11.18 Dufferin OPP Detachment Board: Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur – Collection of Unpaid POA Fines**

**11.19 City of Toronto: Paid Plasma Free Zone**

**11.20 Municipality of Kincardine: Property Tax for Electricity Industry Properties**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Cunningham**

That Council receives the information items;

And that the following items be endorsed: 11.17, 11.19

**Carried.**

**12.0 Items for Future Meetings**

**12.1 Honeywood Traffic Report (February)**

**12.2 Armstrong Draft Conditions**

**12.3 Environmental School Programming**

**12.4 Fire Service Delivery Review**

**12.5 County Road 19 / County Road 17 Intersection**

**12.6 Street Art Impacts / Results (Q3 2025)**

**13.0 Passing of By-laws**

**13.1 Borrowing By-law**

**13.2 Confirmatory By-law**

**Moved by Clark and Seconded by Hawkins**

That By-Laws 13.1 and 13.2 be approved.

**Carried.**

**14.0 Adjournment**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Hawkins**

That Council adjourn the meeting at 11:46 a.m. to meet again on February 5, 2025 or at the call of the Chair.

**Carried.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk**