



Council Minutes

January 14, 2026 – 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 9:08 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 Cunningham and Seconded by Lyon

That Council approve the agenda.

Carried.

4.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by Hawkins and Seconded by Cunningham

That the minutes of December 3, 2025 are approved.

Carried.

5.0 Discussion Arising Out of the Minutes - None

6.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests - None

7.0 Public Question Period

Stephen Middleton questioned Mulmur's position and the use of recycled aggregates in the Township. Chris Wolnik, Director of Infrastructure, confirmed the Township is required to meet minimum quality control standards and that the use

of recycled aggregates would be considered if the request was made or as part of the procurement process.

Cheryl Russel inquired what the next steps are for the Shelburne & District Fire Board. Tracey Atkinson, CAO responded that the Township is still in discussions.

Cheryl Russel requested that the speed limits be reduced on Prince of Wales. Mayor Horner confirmed that the road will be downloaded to the Township in June 2026.

8.0 Reports for Decision

8.1 Cash to Accrual 2026 Budget

Moved by Clark and Seconded by Lyon

That Council approve the restatement of the Township's 2026 Budget per O.Reg. 284/09.

Carried.

8.2 Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board 2026 Budget

Moved by Hawkins and Seconded by Clark

That Council approve the Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board 2026 Operating Budget in the amount of \$312,498 and Capital Budget of \$292,695 as presented.

Carried.

8.3 Shelburne District Fire Board 2026 Budget

Council sought clarification on the Shelburne District Fire Department's training budget. Chief Pratt confirmed the budget includes firefighter certification and level of service training associated with specialty rescues such as Rope, Hazmat, Auto Extrication (passenger vehicle and heavy rescue) and Medical Directive. Chief Pratt confirmed an increase in wages to include COLA, two new positions and wages for training.

Council noted the increase in IT support and suggested that the Board go out to RFP to explore more cost-effective methods.

Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Clark

That Council approve the Shelburne & District Fire Board 2025 Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,266,233 and Capital Budget of \$445,000 as presented.

Carried.

8.4 Supply and Application of Liquid Calcium Dust Suppressant – Contract Extension

Moved by Hawkins and Seconded by Lyon

That Council approve the 2026 contract extension for Contract RFT#2024-02 Supply and Application of Liquid Calcium Dust Suppressant.

Carried.

8.5 Whitfield Church MOU

Council discussed the use of ground penetrating radar, possible locations for surveying and potential land uses.

Council directed staff to move item 8.5 Whitfield Church MOU, to the Closed Session agenda.

Council recessed at 10:18 a.m. and returned at 10:27 a.m.

9.0 Committee Minutes and Reports

9.1 Campaign Cabinet Update

9.2 Shelburne District Fire Board Minutes: November 4, 2025

9.3 Dufferin County Council Minutes: December 11, 2025

Direction was given to staff to request County Council Minute Highlights.

9.4 Ontario Climate Caucus Meeting Notes: November 2025

9.5 NVCA Board Minutes and Highlights: November 2025

9.6 NVCA Media Release

9.7 Economic Development Committee Minutes and 175 Update: December 17, 2025

9.8 Economic Development Committee 2025 Annual Report

Moved by Hawkins and Seconded by Cunningham

That Council receives the committee minutes and reports as copied and circulated.

Carried.

10.0 Information Items

10.1 Development Charges 2026 Index Report

10.2 Parkland Dedication 2026 Index Report

10.3 Mansfield Water 2026 Index Report

10.4 Q4 Planning Report

10.5 Q4 Grant Report

- 10.6 Strategic Plan Bi-Annual Report**
- 10.7 Township of Mulmur: ERO Letter on Conservation Authorities**
- 10.8 Thomson Rogers: Shelburne Fire Board Correspondence**
- 10.9 Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response: Bill 25**
- 10.10 Township of Mulmur: ERO Letter on Expanding Protected Areas in Ontario**

Direction was given to staff to forward ERO Letter on Conservation Authorities to the NVCA.

- 10.11 Office of the Solicitor General: OPP Annual Billing**
- 10.12 Town of Mono: Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities**
- 10.13 Township of Amaranth: Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities**
- 10.14 Dufferin County: Stockpiled American Alcohol**
- 10.15 Town of Shelburne: Shelburne and District Fire Board**
- 10.16 Township of Melancthon: Shelburne and District Fire Board**
- 10.17 AMO: OMERS Governance Changes and Bill 68**

Moved by Clark and Seconded by Cunningham

Whereas the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children's aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

Whereas the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS' governance structure through Bill 68; and

Whereas these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

Whereas the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

Whereas municipalities are already under significant fiscal strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

Therefore be it resolved that the Township of Mulmur does not support the legislative changes to the *OMERS Act* contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes;

Further be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Mulmur supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to:

1. Ensure Sponsors retain full control without restrictions over their appointments to the new Sponsors Council and Administration Corporation;
2. Guarantee the Sponsors Council's independence from the plan administrator and access to resources needed to perform its duties; and
3. Limit the Minister's regulation-making authority over plan design and the Sponsors Council's internal affairs.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be circulated to:

- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs;
- The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance;
- Sylvia Jones, MPP and
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Carried.

10.18 Municipality of Magnetawan: Site Ready Funding

10.19 Town of Grand Valley: Dufferin County Building Services

10.20 Municipality of Huron Shores: Rent Protection for Tenants

Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Clark

That Council receives the information items as copied;

And that the following items be endorsed: 10.17, 10.18

Carried.

11.0 Closed Session

- 11.1 **Shelburne Fire Board**
- 11.2 **Responsibility Agreements**
- 11.3 **Claims against the Township**
- 11.4 **By-law Enforcement**
- 11.5 **Whitfield Church MOU**

Moved by Clark and Seconded by Hawkins

That Council amend the agenda to add Whitfield Church MOU to the Closed Session agenda.

Carried.

Moved by Clark and Seconded by Hawkins

That Council adjourn to closed session at 11:03 a.m. pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended for:

- two (2) matter related to a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board under section 239(2)(k); and
- one (1) matter of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose under section 239(2)(f)
- one (1) matter related to litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board under section 239(2)(e)
- one (1) matter related to a personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees under section 239(2)(b).

Carried.

Moved by Hawkins and Seconded by Cunningham

That Council do rise out of closed session into open session at 1:00 p.m. with the following motion:

That Council direct staff to have discussions with the Town of Shelburne to resolve the provision of future fire services by the Shelburne Fire Department.

Carried.

12.0 Items for Future Meetings

- 12.1 **New Official Plan**
- 12.2 **OPP Detachment Board Update (Councillor Cunningham)**
- 12.3 **Circular Materials Blue Cart Recycling (Councillor Clark)**
- 12.4 **Fire Department By-law Consistency**
- 12.5 **Recycled Aggregates Report**

13.0 Passing of By-laws

- 13.1 **Borrowing By-law**
- 13.2 **Confirmatory By-law**

Moved by Clark and Seconded by Lyon

That By-laws 13.1 to 13.2 be approved.

Carried.

14.0 Adjournment

Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Lyon

That Council adjourns the meeting at 1:03 p.m. to meet again on February 4, 2026 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried.

Mayor

Clerk