



## **Council Minutes December 3, 2025 – 9:30 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 9:44 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 Cunningham**

That Council approve the agenda.

**Carried.**

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

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Hawkins**

That the minutes of November 5, 2025 are approved.

**Carried.**

### **5.0 Discussion Arising Out of the Minutes**

Councillor Clark provided an update on the expansion of Mulmur's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Councillor Clark noted that discussion with residents was undertaken, and that a budget has been drafted for consideration at the next Economic Development Committee meeting.

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

## **7.0 Public Question Period**

Cheryl Russel inquired on a by-law to regulate fly rock setbacks for the Strada Aggregates Application, suggesting a setback of 800-1,000 meters. Staff confirmed they will examine setbacks within the Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

Cheryl Russel inquired what measures are in place to protect Natural Heritage Sites, how these protections will be impacted if the Conservation Areas amalgamate. CAO Tracey Atkinson confirmed the Township has retained an environmental consultant to review individual applications under the Planning Act.

Martin Warmelink expressed concern with the expansion of the Boyne Valley Provincial Park and hunting permissions, noting concerns with safety and seeking Council support for his application to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Mayor Horner confirmed the Township has submitted comments and suggested meeting with Sylvia Jones, MPP. Tracey Atkinson confirmed the Township's comments did not specifically note hunting, but addressed conflicting land uses.

*Direction was given to staff to send a strong letter to Sylvia Jones, MPP, congratulating the Ministry on the expansion of the Boyne Valley Provincial Park, and expressing concern with the protection of users of the Park and Bruce Trail, the Primrose Elementary School and neighbouring residential lands, noting opposition to expanding the hunting areas.*

## **8.0 Deputations**

### **8.1 Robert Gerl: Fire Call Charges**

Fire Chief David Pratt, spoke to the fire call received for 716538 1<sup>st</sup> Line EHS and noted that the Fire Department did not enter the property but provided education to the owners. Pratt confirmed a fire ban was in place from August 6 – August 21, 2025.

Treasurer Heather Boston confirmed charges are applied for the time and equipment on properties burning outside the by-law.

Council sought clarification on how fire bans are communicated to residents. Chief Pratt confirmed information is shared through Dufferin County Emergency Management and social media.

Resident Robert Gerl confirmed the invoice amount and stated that he checked the weather before burning weeds from his garden, and that it rained later that night. Gerl noted the Fire Department advised he did not have a permit; however, fire permits are not required in Mulmur. Gerl expressed concern about misinformation, and explained that his horses were loose, so he met firefighters at the road. Gerl said he was unaware of the fire ban and extinguished the fire immediately.

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Clark**

That Council uphold the fire charges issued in response to illegal burning that occurred on Saturday August 16, 2025 at 716538 1<sup>st</sup> Line East.

**Carried.**

**9. Public Meetings**

**9.1 2026 Budget Public Meeting**

Treasurer Heather Boston presented Draft #2 of the Township's 2026 Budget. Boston highlighted the changes between the first and second draft, community investments and capital projects. The budget proposes an increase of 4.91% to the tax levy, or a 3.35% increase to the tax rate. This would equate to an increase of \$19.51 per \$100,000 of assessment.

The following public comments were received:

Where were savings found in the Shelburne Library budget? Councillor Clark noted the Library will no longer be responsible for exterior / structural maintenance and that Mulmur's user numbers are down.

Will traffic count studies be conducted in-house? Director of Infrastructure Chris Wolnik confirmed these services will be contracted.

How much money will be left in tax rate stabilization account? Heather Boston confirmed the tax rate stabilization account will remain around \$600,000.

What is the Township of Melancthon's contribution to NDCC? Heather Boston confirmed the amount should be similar as it is based on user numbers.

**Moved by Hawkins and Seconded by Clark**

That Council approve the 2026 operating and capital budgets as presented.

**Carried.**

Council recessed at 10:44 a.m. and returned at 10:51 a.m.

**10.0 Reports for Decision**

**10.1 Rosemont District Fire Board Budget**

**Moved by Hawkins and Seconded by Lyon**

That Council approve the Rosemont District Fire Board 2026 Operating Budget in the amount of \$395,787.27 and Capital Budget of \$191,300 as presented.

**Carried.**

## **10.2 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Cunningham**

That Council approve the Township of Mulmur's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan 2026–2030.

**Carried.**

## **10.3 Proposed Boundary Changes for Conservation Authorities**

Council directed staff to submit the following comments in addition to those outlined in the staff report:

- Express support for consistency in mapping and databases and creating efficiencies;
- Conservation areas should be watershed-based; and
- Does not support the loss of employment, loss of local voice, or large scale amalgamation.

Other comments for consideration include:

- Potential impacts on local municipal funding;
- The size of the newly proposed Conservation Authority;
- Comparison to the amalgamation of the LHINs;
- Consideration for smaller scale consolidations; and
- Utilization of best practices in existing Conservation Authorities.

**Moved by Clark and Seconded by Cunningham**

That Council direct staff to submit comments to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks before the December 22, 2025, deadline for ERO 025-1257, with copies to the Minister and MPP.

**Carried.**

## **11.0 Committee Minutes and Reports**

**11.1 Mansfield Parks Committee Minutes: August 28, 2025**

**11.2 Rosemont District Fire Board Minutes: October 31, 2025**

**11.3 Rosemont District Fire Department Newsletter**

**11.4 NVCA Minutes and Highlights October 24, 2025**

- 11.5 NVCA Media Release**
- 11.6 Ontario Climate Caucus Meeting Notes: October 2025**
- 11.7 Economic Development Committee Minutes: October 30, 2025**
- 11.8 Economic Development Committee Minutes: November 21, 2025**
- 11.9 Dufferin County Minutes October 23, 2025**
- 11.10 Dufferin County Minutes October 30, 2025**
- 11.11 Dufferin County Minutes November 13, 2025**
- 11.12 Campaign Cabinet November Meeting Notes**
- 11.13 Shelburne & District Fire Board Minutes: September 2, 2025**

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Lyon**

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

**Carried.**

**12.0 Information Items**

- 12.1 Draft #2 Council Remuneration Policy**
- 12.2 Draft #2 Housekeeping Zoning By-law**
- 12.3 Procurement Policy Updates**
- 12.4 Bill 17 Implementation Report**
- 12.5 Township of Mulmur Strada Aggregates Comments**
- 12.6 Town of Shelburne Strada Aggregates Comments**
- 12.7 Expanding Protected Areas in Ontario: ERO 019-9306 Comments**
- 12.8 Niagara Region: State of Emergency on Mental Health, Homelessness and Addictions**
- 12.9 Town of Ajax: Solve the Crisis / Winter Homelessness**
- 12.10 Town of Kingsville: Opposition to Consolidation of Conservation Authorities**
- 12.11 Township of McGarry: GST/HST on New Homes**
- 12.12 Town of Bradford: Removing HST/GST on New Homes**
- 12.13 Township of Assigninack: Extension to Mandatory Fire Fighter Training**
- 12.14 Peterborough County: Recycling for Food Banks**
- 12.15 Town of Orangeville: Recycling Cart Options**
- 12.16 Dufferin County: Recycling Cart Options**

Mayor Horner advised that the implementation of blue carts has been delayed to Spring 2026. Circular Materials is currently investigating multi-residential units, small businesses, and cart sizes.

- 12.17 Halton Region: Public Safety Requirements**
- 12.18 Town of Wasaga Beach: Public Safety Requirements**

**Moved by Hawkins and Seconded by Cunningham**

That Council receives the information items as copied;

And that the following items be endorsed: 12.11, 12.14, 12.15, 12.16.

**Carried.**

Council recessed at 12:16 p.m. and returned at 12:19 p.m.

**13.0 Closed Session**

**13.1 Organizational Structure**

**13.2 Fire Service Negotiations**

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Clark**

That Council adjourn to closed session at 12:20 p.m. pursuant to Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended for:

- one (1) 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 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 12:42 p.m. with the following motion:

That the Organizational Structure be approved;  
And that staff proceed as directed in Closed Session.

**Carried.**

**14.0 Items for Future Meetings**

**14.1 New Official Plan**

**14.2 Strategic Plan Update and 2025 Q4 Summary**

**14.3 OPP Detachment Board Update (Councillor Cunningham)**

**14.4 Circular Materials Blue Cart Recycling (Councillor Clark)**

**14.5 Mulmur 175 Update**

**15.0 Passing of By-laws**

- 15.1 Interim Tax Rate By-law**
- 15.2 Council Remuneration By-law**
- 15.3 Procurement of Goods and Services By-law**
- 15.4 Zoning By-law Amendment**
- 15.5 Confirmatory By-Law**

**Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Hawkins**

That by-laws 15.1 to 15.5 be approved.

**Carried.**

**16.0 Adjournment**

**Moved by Lyon and Seconded by Clark**

That Council adjourns the meeting at 12:46 p.m. to meet again on January 14, 2026 or at the call of the Chair.

**Carried.**

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**Mayor**

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**Clerk**