



*Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
December 19, 2025  
1 Johnson Drive, Desbarats*

The following minutes are comprised of resolutions and the Clerk's interpretation of the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: R. McKinnon, J. Kern, K. Stobie, G. Grant, E. McKinnon

Staff: J. Maguire, J. Boucher, R. Smith, D. Methot, P. Trotter, F. Labelle

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest was filed at this time by Keith Stobie regarding item 8.2.

Members from the public: Ted Hicks

Res. 2025-167 J. Kern, K. Stobie

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL called the regular meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Res: 2025-168 G. Grant, E. McKinnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUCIL adopts the addendum for the December 17, 2025 meeting, as presented. (cd)

Further to the Agenda, a public meeting under Section 34 of the Planning Act was held and the following zoning application was considered:

**Application No: ZBA-25-4-166**

**Roll Number: 5716 000 004 16602 0000**

**Applicant(s): Johnson Township**

**Subject Property: 5 Margaret Street, Part 1 on Plan 1R 13926**

**Purpose:**

The purpose of the application is to better utilize the subject lands and facilitate the sale of the property for future development in accordance with Council direction and Resolution 2025-107. The effect of this Zoning Amendment application is to rezone the subject land from the Multi

Residential (MR) to a General Commercial Exception (GC-2) / Holding (H) Zone to permit the subject lands greater opportunity to be developed for residential, commercial uses or a mix of residential and commercial uses.

In accordance with provisions of the Planning Act, Notice of the proposed amendment was sent to property owners within 400 feet (120 m) of the subject property, as well as being placed in a newspaper having circulation within the municipality, and sent to various public bodies and agencies. There were no letters of objection received regarding the application.

One member of the public was in attendance to observe the proceedings of the meeting.

Hearing no objections, Council returned to the regular meeting and adopted the by-law to rezone the subject property.

Res: 2025-169 G. Grant, Jason Kern

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL ADOPT By-law No. 2025-1157, being a by-law to amend No. 91-219, as amended, the Zoning By-law for the Township off Johnson with respect to lands described legally as Part 1, Plan 1R13926, located in Part of the Desbarats Race Course in Registered Plan 1106 in the Township of Johnson, as presented. (cd)

Res. 2025-170 E. McKinnon, G. Grant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL ADOPTS the report from Municipal Planning Services Regarding 5 Margaret Street, as presented. (cd)

Res: 2025-171 G. Grant, E. McKinnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL adopts the Minutes of the November 2025 meeting as presented. (cd)

Councillor Stobie left the room at 6:09 P. M.

Res: 2025-172 E, McKinnon, G. Grant

Be IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL accepts the statements for the December 2025 regular meeting as presented. (cd)

Councillor Stobie returned to the Council chamber at 6:13 P. M.

Res: 2025-173 K. Stobie, E. McKinnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL accepts the staff and Committee reports for December 2025 as presented. (cd)

Res: 2025-174 G. Grant, E. McKinnon  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL adopts the staffing report for the Johnson Township Community Center effective January 1 2026, as presented. (cd)

Res: 2025-175 K. Stobie, E. McKinnon  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL accepts the CEDIS (Community Economic Development Information Session) minutes as presented. (cd)

The following was resolution was adopted to authorize staff to make application for an upgrade of the Rink Enclosure system (glass and rink boards).

Res: 2025-176 G. Grant, J. Kern  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL authorize staff to make an application to the NOHFC Rural Enhancement Fund to cover the replacement of and repair the Rink Enclosure System, as presented. (cd)

The 2026 Annual Insurance Renewal was presented for Council consideration.

Res. 2025-177 G. Grant, K. Stobie  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL does accept the 2026 renewal Proposal from Northern Insurance in the amount of \$133,597.68, as presented. (cd)

Correspondence was received from AMO regarding the OMERS pension plan, advising that the Province passed legislation through Bill 68 that would allow the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to dissolve the OMERS Sponsors Corporation and replace it with a Sponsors Council that lacks corporate status, independent resources and fiduciary protections. The following resolution was passed, supporting AMO in their efforts to have the current OMERS structure remain intact.

Res: 2025-178 G. Grant, K. Stobie

**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 Corporation of the Township of Johnson 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 Corporation of the Township of Johnson Council 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;
  - [Local MPPs Names]; and
  - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- (cd).

Correspondence was received from FONOM , seeking Council support calling for a coordinated, nation-building approach to modernizing Highway 11 and 17 through a phased 2 +1 highway program. The following resolution was passed.

Res: 2025-179 G. Grant, K. Stobie

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL endorses the request for phased in implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation building project;

And That the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division, as presented. (cd)

Correspondence was received from the Township of Tarbutt regarding conflicts between upcoming training through EMO –2026 Provincial Exercise the 2026 Municipal Election. The following resolution was passed, supporting the Township of Tarbutt's efforts to consider rescheduling the 2026 Provincial exercise to avoid this conflict.

Res: 2025-180 G. Grant, J. Kern

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL supports the Township of Tarbutt resolution, regarding the timing of the Emergency Management of Ontario 2026 Provincial Exercise, as it relates to the 2026 Municipal Election and request EMO and the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness

Response to reschedule the 2026 Provincial exercise to not conflict with the municipal election.  
(cd)

Correspondence was received from Jared Brice, Planning Board Secretary providing an update on the draft Official Plan. The draft has been submitted to the Province for review. Ninety (90) days thereafter, the Planning Board intends to host two Open Houses at Echo Bay and Desbarats – these will be scheduled for early March. In addition, the Planning Board received 12 consent applications in 2025, resulting in 15 new lots being created and 6 lot additions being provisionally approved.

An operational change that was introduced in 2025 included Planning Board hours. Planning Board staff are available Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons to discuss consent applications with the public. The dedicated open hours for the Planning Board provide time to address planning matters in a way that does not retract from the staff's other municipal duties.

Res. 2025-181 J. Kern, G. Grant

BBE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL accepts the report submitted by Jared Brice, Desbarats to Echo Bay Planning Board Secretary-Treasurer, as presented. (cd)

Res: 2025-182 K. Stobie, E. McKinnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL adopts By-law Number 2025-1158, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of meeting of Council on 2025 12 17, as presented. (cd)

Res. 2025-183 K. Stobie, E. McKinnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL agrees to adjourn and meet again January 21, 2026 or at the call of the Mayor, as presented. (cd)

  
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Mayor: Reg McKinnon

  
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Deputy Clerk Janet Boucher