

The minutes of the regular meeting of Lake of the Woods Twp Council, which was held on Tuesday November 4th 2025 at 7pm in the Bergland Council Chambers.

PRESENT Mayor C Fadden, Councillors: K Cottam, N Gate & W Lundgren. Clerk-Treasurer: P W Giles, Rd Supt E Pearson.

MINUTES #25-59 GATE & COTTAM & CARRIED that the minutes of the regular meeting of Council, held on October 7th 2025, be approved as printed.

ACCOUNTS #25-60 LUNDGREN & GATE & CARRIED that the accounts in the amount of \$176,419.69 and representing disbursements for the month of October be approved for payment.

VACANCY #25-61 GATE & COTTAM & CARRIED that Council accepts the resignation of Councillor April Chojko-Bolec effective October 23rd 2025 and declares her set vacant. And further that Council authorizes a notice on our website and face book page and Fort Frances Times seeking the name(s) of those interested in filling the council position until the next municipal election.

1TON #25-62 LUNDGREN & COTTAM & CARRIED that Council accepts the offer from Jeff Patterson for the purchase of our used F-350 truck and plow. This being the highest of 3 offers received. The truck is sold on an “As is where is” basis.

CULVETS #25-63 COTTAM & GATE & CARRIED that Council receives the bi-annual culvert inspection report from Structura Engineering.

WATERWAY #25-64 GATE & LUNDGREN & CARRIED that Council authorizes a letter of support to be sent to the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks to have the Lake Superior to Lake of the Woods Waterway designated as an additional component of the Boundary Waters-Voyageur Waterway Canadian Heritage Rivers Systems.

HWY 2+1 #25-65 COTTAM & LUNDGREN & CARRIED **WHEREAS** Northern Ontario’s economic and social well-being depends on safe, reliable east–west and north–south transportation corridors, particularly Highways 11 and 17, which form the Trans-Canada Highway system across the region; and **WHEREAS** these highways carry significant volumes of commercial and passenger traffic, yet remain largely two-lane corridors that face frequent closures and safety risks due to weather, congestion, and collision exposure; and **WHEREAS** the four-laning of Highway 17 and modernization of Highway 11 remain long-standing goals of Northern communities; and **WHEREAS** the proven “2+1” highway design—alternating passing lanes separated by a continuous median barrier—has demonstrated safety outcomes comparable to full twinning, at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes as traffic volumes increase; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced initial 2+1 pilot projects in Northern Ontario, providing an important opportunity to test and expand this model across other sections of the Trans-Canada network; and

WHEREAS modernizing Highways 11 and 17 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, energy, and tourism, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

WHEREAS a coordinated, phased 2+1 build program—prioritizing key Northern sections with high freight volumes and safety concerns—would deliver measurable benefits for communities, Indigenous partners, and the broader Canadian economy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council formally supports the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 11 and 17 as a nation-building initiative; and

THAT the Government of Canada be urged to recognize this initiative as a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act* and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, and construction; and

THAT the Government of Ontario be encouraged to expand the current pilot to a full corridor-wide program, sequencing projects according to readiness, safety benefit, and economic importance; and

THAT both levels of government ensure early, meaningful, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, including opportunities for training, contracting, and equity participation; and

THAT the program incorporates consistent corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife mitigation), resilience measures (closure reduction, climate adaptation), and clean-growth practices (EV-charging readiness, recycled aggregates, and low-carbon materials); and

THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, Northern MPs and MPPs, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and neighboring municipalities for endorsement.

OTHER

The Rd Supt reported on road work including safety on the plow truck, equipment installed for winter plowing, beaver problem on Lange Rd and he is awaiting the barriers for the Gov't Dock parking lot. Bergland Hall lights sensors need repairs to ensure proper operation of the outside lights. The Clerk-Treasurer reported on the next fire board meeting, property taxes outstanding balances, the council remuneration report was circulated, emergency training which was held in Rainy River, 2026 OMPF funding to increase to \$785,400, and our final 2025 payment of \$177,400 was received. Our consultant for the update to the OP & ZBL requested that we send letters to area First Nations to advise them of the updates underway and seek any input they may have on the documents. Council reviewed estimates for a roof over the skating rink and for a backup generator for Bergland Hall and will not be proceeding with either project at this time due to the estimated costs. Insurance renewal papers have been submitted. The Clerk-Treasurer discussed the One Fund

“Prudent Investor” option for investments. The cemetery fees were reviewed for updating at the next meeting. The annual Christmas bonuses will be paid for each employee on the November payroll. A letter of resignation was received from Councillor A Chojko-Bolec. The monthly CBO report was received. 2 Minor variance applications are to be considered at the December meeting.

ADJOURN **#25-66** GATE & COTTAM & CARRIED that the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

_____ Mayor _____ Clerk