

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 26-02 (regular)

February 9th, 2026

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on February 9th, 2026, at 7:00 pm, in the Municipal Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 500 Highway 11, Mattice, Ontario.

Present:

Councilor – Steve Brousseau
Councilor – Sophie Gagnon
Councilor – Joyce Malenfant
Councilor & Acting Mayor – Réginald Manning

Absent:

Mayor – Marc Dupuis

Staff

CAO/Clerk – Guylaine Coulombe
Treasurer – Annie Plamondon

1. Opening of meeting

The Acting Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

2. Approval of the Order of Business

The following items were added:

7.4 d) Arena generator and curling rocks

12.4 Passenger train

- Resolution 26-21

3. Pecuniary interest

Nil

4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council

Nil

5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meeting

- Resolution 26-22

6. Treasurer's report

Nil

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support:

d) MPP Guy Bourguin – *Making Northern Ontario Highways Safer Act, 2026*

- Resolution 26-23

- e) FONOM – closure of LifeLabs Laboratory in Greater Sudbury
 - Resolution 26-24

The following requests were received and filed:

- a) Town of Fort Frances – Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program
- b) FONOM – prescription diversion partnership
- c) OPP Detachment Board for the Municipality of North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village – enhanced school bus safety
- f) Municipality of North Perth – OPP funding

7.2 Pothole Prevention and Repair Program

- Resolution 26-25

7.3 Sale of property located at 230, King Street

- Resolution 26-26

7.4 Report on various items

- a) Training/meetings attended
- b) Complaints
- c) Information provided to Council
 - Filed

- d) For Council's consideration
 - i) TFO Capital Grant – resubmit an application for the gym equipment and access
 - Agreed
 - ii) Future of the ice rink - nothing to report
 - iii) Arena generator – CAO explained the current setup – Council prefers to sell the tractor and generator and to lease a fuel generator to feed the community hall if and when the need arises. CAO to look into the costs of installing a “plug & play” for that purpose.
 - Agreed
 - iv) Curling rocks (children size) - could be used to play outside during the winter Carnival. Could be given to the school thereafter.
 - Agreed

8. Mayor's report

N/A

9. Councillors' reports

A. Steve Brousseau

- Nil

B. Sophie Gagnon

- Verbal report of the Hearst Forest Management Board meeting held in Hearst on February 3rd, last

C. Joyce Malenfant

- Nil

D. Councilor Manning

- Verbal report of the Hearst LCC meeting held in Hearst on January 28th, 2026

10. By-laws

10.1 By-law no. 1040 – Public Library Board

- Resolution 26-27

11. Caucus

a) Caucus – Resolution 26-28

b) Regular meeting – Resolution 26-29

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

12.1 Hours of work – January 2026

12.2 FONOM – modernization of Highways 11 & 17

12.3 Wabun Tribal Council – claims by the Métis Nation of Ontario

12.4 M. D'Amours – Northlander passenger train

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 26-21: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau
THAT the agenda, as amended, be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 26-22: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's regular meeting 26-01, held on January 20th, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

*Making Northern Ontario
Highways Safer Act, 2026*

Resolution 26-23: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
WHEREAS Northern Ontario highways have become extremely dangerous, and;
WHEREAS Northern Ontario residents need to travel on these highways on a daily basis for work, medical appointments and leisure and should be able to do so without constantly fearing for their lives, and;

WHEREAS MPP Guy Bourgouin has, over the last few years, proposed a number of solutions to the Province to address this urgent matter;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the Private Member's Bill presented by MPP Bourgouin, known as *Making Northern Ontario Highways Safer Act, 2026*, which would classify Highways 11 and 17 as Class 1 highways, ensuring they receive the road maintenance attention they need and deserve.

Carried

Closure of LifeLabs

Resolution 26-24: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant

WHEREAS LifeLabs has announced its intention to close its Greater Sudbury Laboratory and the transfer of specimen processing from Northern Ontario to laboratories in southern Ontario, and;

WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury Laboratory provides essential diagnostic services to communities across Northern Ontario, including urban, rural and remote municipalities, and plays a critical role in ensuring timely and reliable medical testing for Northern residents, and;

WHEREAS patients with chronic illness, newborns, long-term care residents and individuals on time-sensitive medications depend on predictable laboratory turnaround times to support clinical decision-making, and;

WHEREAS transporting medical specimens long distances to southern Ontario increases the risk of delays, specimen degradation and retesting, particularly during frequent winter highway closures, potentially jeopardizing patient outcomes, and;

WHEREAS Northern Ontario is already experiencing shortages of health-care professionals and the closure of this laboratory further undermines regional workforce stability, training capacity and recruitment and retention efforts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté calls on the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to take immediate action to ensure that essential medical laboratory services remain accessible within Northern Ontario, including maintaining local laboratory processing capacity in Greater Sudbury, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be urged to ensure reliable, timely and medically appropriate laboratory turnaround times for Northern Ontario patients, recognizing the unique geographic and climatic challenges of the region, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be requested to protect and support the Northern Ontario health-care workforce, including medical laboratory technologists, by preventing further service centralization that disproportionately impacts Northern communities, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, to FONOM and to MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Pothole Prevention

Resolution 26-25: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council granted authorization to the CAO/Clerk to sign the Transfer Payment Agreement, effective January 30th, 2026, with respect to the Pothole Prevention and Repair Program.

Carried

Sale of property

Resolution 26-26: Sophie Gagnon - Steve Brousseau
WHEREAS the property located at 230, King Street, in Mattice, being Roll no. 5677 007 00413700 0000, was recently transferred to the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté after unsuccessful tax sale proceedings, and;
WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté thereafter put the vested property up for sale for the asking price of EIGHT THOUSAND (\$8,000.00) DOLLARS, with the condition that the house located on the lot be demolished by the new owners;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT said property be sold for the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND (\$8,000.00) DOLLARS, with a signed undertaking by the purchasers to demolish the building thereon by July 31st, 2026.

Carried

By-law no. 1040

Resolution 26-27: Sophie Gagnon – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1040, being a By-law to appoint members of the Mattice – Val Côté Public Library Board, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 26-28: Steve Brousseau - Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 7:45 pm to adopt the minutes of a closed meeting and to discuss labour relations.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 26-29: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 8:00 pm.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 26-30: Réginald Manning - Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's closed meeting 26-01, held on January 20th, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Labour relations

Resolution 26-31: Joyce Malenfant – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the base hourly rate payable for the position of Public Works Foreman be paid to part-time employee Claude Plamondon when the latter is providing mechanical services to the Municipality.

Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, at 7:00 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 26-32: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1041, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Monday, February 9th, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 8:04 pm

Resolution 26-33: Sophie Gagnon - Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held on February 9th, 2026, be adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on March 3rd, 2026

Acting Mayor

CAO/Clerk