

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 26-05 (regular)

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:00 pm, in the Municipal Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 500 Highway 11, Mattice, Ontario.

Present:

Mayor – Marc Dupuis  
Councilor – Steve Brousseau  
Councilor – Sophie Gagnon  
Councilor – Joyce Malenfant  
Councilor – Réginald Manning

Staff

CAO/Clerk – Guylaine Coulombe  
Treasurer – Annie Plamondon

Others

Justin Stewart, Naomie Bernier, Barry Stewart, Pierre Payeur, Chantal Groleau Payeur, Fernando Thibodeau, Gilles Lamontagne, Cynthia Bouchard & children, Martin Harvey, Derek Crowther, Sherry LeDrew – all left following the delegation  
Claudine Brunelle, Lyne Malenfant & Amélie Lacombe, left prior to caucus  
Richard Tanguay – came in following the delegation, left prior to caucus

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1. Opening of meeting  
The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 pm
2. Approval of the Order of Business  
- Resolution 26-62
3. Pecuniary interest  
Nil
4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council  
Justin Stewart spoke to Council about the basis for Complaint no. 26-16
5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meeting  
- Resolution 26-63
6. Treasurer's report  
2026 Budget: shared notes taken following the April 7<sup>th</sup> Working group session. Reported working on a second draft, with the recommended increases. Next Working group session on April 20<sup>th</sup>, to review and finalize.

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support:

- a) Municipality of Chatham-Kent – emergency declaration - food insecurity
  - Resolution 26-64
- b) Municipality of South Huron – enrollment capacity at the Ontario Veterinary College
  - Resolution 26-65
- d) City of Sarnia – flaw to be addressed in Bill 9
  - Resolution 26-66
- e) Ryan ULC – property assessment to promptly resume
  - Resolution 26-67
- i) FONOM – equitable access to funding for housing and infrastructure in Northern Ontario
  - Resolution 26-68
- j) OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East – Victim Crisis Assistance
  - Resolution 26-69

The following requests were received and filed:

- c) Municipality of South Huron – Heritage Organization Development Grant
- f) Town of Saugeen Shores – Heritage Helping Housing
- g) Town of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands – oil used in surface treatment
- h) Region of Durham – authority to adjust police service budget proposals

7.2 Annual Operating reports – Sewage Collection System and Sewage Treatment Lagoon

- Resolutions 26-70 and 26-71

7.3 Asset Management Plan – 2026 progress report

- Resolution 26-72

7.4 NeCN – status update provided by the outgoing Treasurer

- Filed

7.5 Report on various items

- a) Training/meetings attended
- b) Complaints
- c) Information provided to Council
  - Filed
- d) For Council's consideration
  - i) Plug & play generator for the community hall – if the emergency management funding is still available next year, submit this project proposal
    - Agreed
  - ii) Damages to the FRT sleigh – request a donation from Agnico Eagle to purchase a new unit
    - Agreed
  - iii) MNEDG tourism campaign – we will be providing pictures of Thunder House, Glassy Falls and the Old Native Burial Ground
    - Agreed
  - iv) Future of the ice rink – nothing to report.

8. Mayor's report

8.1 Verbal report of the NEOMA AGM held in Kapuskasing on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

9. Councilors' reports

A. Steve Brousseau

- Nil

B. Sophie Gagnon

- Invited everyone to participate in the activities that will take place in Val Côté on June 27th

C. Joyce Malenfant

- Verbal report of the NEOMA AGM held in Kapuskasing on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

D. Councilor Manning

- Due to bad weather, did not stay at the April 8<sup>th</sup> Kap LCC meeting. Report to follow.

10. By-laws

10.1 By-law no. 1046 – Recount of ballots

- Resolution 26-73

11. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

11.1 Hours of work – March 2026

11.2 FONOM – press release - funding to support housing development and infrastructure

11.3 MNR – new regulations under the *Wildland Fire Management Act*

11.4 FONOM – press release – key northern investments in the Ontario budget

11.5 FONOM – press release – compassionate intervention legislation to address addiction and public safety

11.6 MECP – response to our letter re: proposed expansion of the Missinaibi Provincial Park

11.7 MEA – harmonization of the Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications (OPSS)

12. Caucus

a) Caucus – Resolution 26-74

b) Regular meeting – Resolution 26-75

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 26-62: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning  
THAT the agenda be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 26-63: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's regular meeting 26-04, held on March 26th, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Food insecurity

Resolution 26-64: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning  
WHEREAS Ontario Works rates have been frozen since 2018: the maximum single person monthly benefit for basic needs is \$343 and \$390 for shelter, totalling \$733 per month, and;  
WHEREAS poverty costs Ontario around \$27.1 - 33 billion dollars per year; justice system \$1.1 billion; health care \$3.9 billion; lost income \$19.4 – 25 billion; lost tax revenue \$2.7 – 3 billion, and;  
WHEREAS the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy's primary measure of success is that more social assistance recipients move into employment, despite people with employment income being one of the fastest growing groups at food banks.  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the resolution made by Council for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent as outlined in a letter dated March 20<sup>th</sup> 2026 addressed to the Prime Minister of Canada, to the Premier of Ontario and to the federal and provincial Ministers of Health, and;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council hereby request the Provincial Government focus its upcoming 2026-2030 Poverty Reduction Strategy around reducing measures of material deprivation, such as food insecurity and immediately raise social assistance rates to meet life's basic needs, and;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council hereby request the Provincial and Federal Governments: i) to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income for those living in poverty; ii) to increase the rates of income support programs to ensure they are adequate to address the basic needs of individuals and families; iii) include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies, and;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Ontario Veterinary College

Resolution 26-65: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS large animal livestock owners in Northern Ontario have extremely limited access to large animal veterinary services;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 126-2026 made by Council for the Municipality of South Huron, supporting Resolution no. 2026-50 made by Council for the Township of Papineau-Cameron, requesting that the appropriate decisions-makers consider expanding enrollment capacity at the Ontario Veterinary College to allow more qualified applicants to pursue certification as large animal veterinarians, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Municipality of South Huron, to the Township of Papineau-Cameron and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Bill 9

Resolution 26-66: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning

WHEREAS the Mayor of the City of Sarnia wrote to Premier Ford on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026, requesting changes to the *Strengthening Municipal Accountability and Public Trust Act* (Bill 9), and;

WHEREAS, in serious cases of misconduct, Bill 9 provides a mechanism for removing councilors through unanimous agreement of the rest of Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the argument that decisions of this magnitude should not rest with a council and should instead be heard and ruled upon by an independent, non-partisan authority, removed from local political dynamics and capable of making impartial determinations in the public's interest, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, should the Province maintain council's adjudication responsibility, the threshold for action be revised to a two-thirds majority or to a simple majority of council, excluding the subject member, to provide a more reasonable, fair and workable standard, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, to the City of Sarnia and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Property assessment

Resolution 26-67: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS a well-functioning and up-to-date assessment system supports strong communities and makes the province an attractive place to invest, and;

WHEREAS property assessments in Ontario have not been updated in over a decade, making them the most outdated in Canada, while provinces such as Alberta and British Columbia update assessments annually to reflect current market conditions, and;

WHEREAS the prolonged pause in the reassessment cycle has created significant distortions in assessed values, resulting in inequities among property classes, and;

WHEREAS outdated assessments negatively impact investment decisions, economic competitiveness, municipal planning and disproportionately affect independent small businesses, and;

WHEREAS reassessments are designed to be revenue neutral for the municipality, ensure fairness in taxation, maintain public confidence in the property tax system and support long-term municipal financial planning, and;

WHEREAS a coalition of municipalities, chambers of commerce, tourism organizations, small businesses and major property owners have called upon the Government of Ontario to update property assessments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby calls upon the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Finance to direct the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to promptly resume the regular property assessment cycle, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to Ryan ULC and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Equitable access to funding

Resolution 26-68: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS the Governments of Canada and Ontario have announced a joint partnership to invest in housing-enabling infrastructure and reduce municipal development charges to support housing affordability and supply, and;

WHEREAS this program provides funding primarily to municipalities that reduce and maintain low development charges and;

WHEREAS many municipalities in Northern Ontario do not levy development charges and therefore may not be positioned to benefit from this program in the same manner, and;

WHEREAS Northern municipalities face disproportionately higher costs to build and maintain infrastructure, including increased per-kilometer costs for water, wastewater and transportation systems, combined with smaller tax bases and vast geographic areas, and;

WHEREAS infrastructure investment is required to support housing development regardless of whether development charges are in place, and;

WHEREAS, without access to comparable funding mechanisms, Northern municipalities risk being placed at a structural disadvantage in their ability to support housing growth, attract investment and contribute to provincial and national housing objectives, and;

WHEREAS Northern Ontario communities are essential contributors to Ontario's and Canada's economy and must be supported to grow and thrive.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby call upon the Governments of Canada and Ontario to ensure that housing-enabling infrastructure programs are applied equitably across all regions, including municipalities that do not levy development charges, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT both levels of government establish complementary funding mechanisms or program streams to provide comparable support to Northern municipalities that are not eligible under development charge reduction frameworks, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the federal Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Victim Crisis Assistance

Resolution 26-69: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant

WHEREAS Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) organizations are essential partners in community safety and well-being, and;

WHEREAS timely and reliable bail notification is a vital component of victim safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the correspondence from the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay

East, dated February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, requesting: i) the Ministry of the Solicitor General strengthen investment in VCAO agencies, recognizing them as critical frontline partners in community safety and in supporting victims of crime; ii) a standardized, province-wide bail notification system, designed in partnership with police services, VCAOs and justice partners be put in place to promote timely communication, reduce risk and improve outcomes for victims; iii) ongoing collaboration between police and VCAO, including shared training, coordinated response models and information pathways that improve both public safety and victim care, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Solicitor General, to the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Annual Reports

Resolution 26-70: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby accept the Annual Operating Report prepared by OCWA for the Mattice Sewage treatment system and lagoon.

Carried

Resolution 26-71: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby accept the Annual Operating Report prepared by OCWA for the Val Côté Sewage treatment system and lagoon.

Carried

AMP 2026 update

Resolution 26-72: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby adopts the 2026 Asset Management Progress Report prepared by Watson & Associates.

Carried

By-law no. 1046

Resolution 26-73: Joyce Malenfant – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1046, being a By-law to determine circumstances under which the Clerk shall hold a recount, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 26-74: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 8:31 pm to adopt the minutes of a closed meeting and to discuss labour relations.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 26-75: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume  
at 9:09 pm. Carried

Minutes

Resolution 26-76: Réginald Manning – Steve Brousseau  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's closed  
meeting 26-04, held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be hereby  
adopted. Carried

Legal opinion

Resolution 26-77: Réginald Manning – Steve Brousseau  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT a legal opinion be sought and  
provided to Council to further address the issues raised under  
Complaint 26-16. Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:00 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 26-78: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1047, being a By-law to  
confirm the proceedings of Council on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>,  
2026, be hereby adopted. Carried

16. Adjournment: 9:12 pm

Resolution 26-79: Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held  
on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be adjourned at 9:12 pm. Carried

Read and confirmed on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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Mayor

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CAO/Clerk