

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 25-11 (regular)

September 30th, 2025

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on September 30th, 2025, at 7:00 pm, in the Municipal Council Chambers at the Town Hall, 500 Highway 11, Mattice, Ontario.

Present:

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

Absent:

Councilor – Steve Brousseau

Staff

CAO/Clerk – Guylaine Coulombe
Treasurer – Annie Plamondon

Others

MPP Guy Bourgouin, left at 7:20 pm
Lynn Malenfant & Claudine Brunelle, left prior to caucus

1. Opening of meeting

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

2. Approval of the Order of Business

The following items were added:

6.1 Verbal report

7.10 d) iv) Unopened road allowance

7.11 CDSB – invitation to participate

11.2 Personal matters about identifiable individuals

- Resolution 25-143

3. Pecuniary interest

Councilor Manning declared a conflict at item no. 7.4

4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council

MPP Bourgouin thanked Council for its support on Bill 49 and presented the Mayor with a certificate in recognition of the Municipality's 50th anniversary.

5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meetings

- Resolution 25-144

6. Treasurer's report

6.1 Verbal report – old Val Côté fire truck to be sold

- Agreed

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support:

- a) Municipality of Tweed – sustainable waste management
 - Resolution 25-145
- c) Township of Armour – Blue Box transition challenges
 - Resolution 25-146
- d) Municipality of St. Charles – natural gas expansion in northern Ontario
 - Resolution 25-147
- e) CUPW – Canada Post Corporation Review
 - Resolution 25-148
- f) Township of Woolwich – clean water for First Nations
 - Resolution 25-149

The following requests were received and filed:

- b) Municipality of Bluewater – closure of before and after school programs
- g) City of Kitchener – paper billing

7.2 Donation and sponsorship requests

- a) Hearst – Moosonee Diocese
 - Resolution 25-150
- b) Foyer des Pionniers Nursing Home
 - Resolution 25-151
- c) Université de Hearst Foundation – unable to provide financial assistance at this time
 - Agreed

Council would like to set aside more funding for these types of requests (health, education, religion, recreation) in 2026.

- Agreed

7.3 Request pertaining to a damaged sidewalk

- Resolution 25-152

7.4 Gagnon Road project – additional costs

- Resolution 25-153

7.5 Financial incentives – physicians

- Resolution 25-154

7.6 Rental fees at the Sports Complex

- Resolution 25-155

7.7 Payment of rental fees – Council confirmed that all rental fees must be paid beforehand

- Filed

7.8 Circular Materials – change notice to current agreement – CAO to evaluate, make inquiries and report back to Council on this matter

- Deferred

7.9 Mattice Sno Devils Snowmobile Club – Memorandum of Understanding

- Resolution 25-156

7.10 Report on various items

a) Training/meetings attended

b) Complaints

c) Information provided to Council

- Filed

d) For Council's consideration

i) Allowing transport trailers parking on municipal roads – CAO/Clerk to verify practice/policy in neighbouring municipalities

- Deferred

ii) CDSB request for snow removal assistance (Villa Missinaibi parking lot) – Council not prepared to entertain the same

- Agreed

iii) Future of the ice rink

- Deferred

iv) Unopened road allowance deviating unto private property – Mayor indicated he will talk to the owner

- Deferred

7.11 CDSB – community consultation – Mayor Dupuis and Councillor Gagnon will participate

- Agreed

8. Mayor's report

8.1 Verbal report of the James Bay OPP Detachment Board held in Hearst on September 11th, 2025

8.2 Verbal report of the Northeast Public Health Board held on September 25th, 2025

8.3 Idling of Kap Paper mill

- Resolution 25-157

9. Councillors' reports

A. Councillor Gagnon

- Verbal report of the Notre-Dame Hospital's second "Planning Together" meeting held in Hearst on September 17th, 2025

B. Councilor Malenfant
- Nil

C. Councilor Manning
- Nil

10. By-laws
Nil

11. Caucus
a) Caucus – Resolution 25-158
b) Regular meeting – Resolution 25-159

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

- 12.1 Hours of work – August 2025
- 12.2 MNR – prescribed burn plan on the Gordon Cosens Forest
- 12.3 Thank you note from bursary recipient
- 12.4 MNR – community based land use plan for CLFN
- 12.5 Ombudsman Ontario – 2024-2025 annual report

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 25-143: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant
THAT the agenda, as amended, be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 25-144: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's regular meeting 25-10, held on September 3rd, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Sustainable waste
Management

Resolution 25-145 : Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon
WHEREAS continuing to bury garbage in the ground jeopardizes potable groundwater for future generations and leads to the production of methane, a greenhouse gas which contributes to climate change and causes more environmental harm, and;
WHEREAS technology exists worldwide for clean incineration producing much needed electrical energy, and;

WHEREAS, by learning from and emulating Germany, which has a strong focus on community involvement, innovative infrastructure and sustainable practices, we can set the bar higher for municipal recycling programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution 355 made by Council for the Municipality of Tweed and is prepared to work together with Ontario municipalities, the provincial and federal governments and our manufacturing partners to form a working group to ensure that waste disposal issues can be resolved quickly, efficiently and effectively with the use of incineration, more robust recycling programs and sustainable practices so that future generations will not suffer from our environmental mismanagement, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Municipality of Tweed and to our local parliament representatives MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Blue Box transition challenges

Resolution 25-146: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), transitioned the cost of the Blue Box Programs to a full producer responsibility model, under Ontario Regulation 391/21, and;

WHEREAS the successful transition to the producer responsibility model requires clarity on asset management, fair compensation for stranded assets and ongoing communication between municipalities, producers and the Province to ensure a seamless transition for residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Motion no. 266 made by Council for the Township of Armour requesting that the MECP and Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) work collaboratively with municipalities to address the financial and operational risks of stranded assets and advocating for transparent processes, fair compensation and timely communication to protect municipal investments and ensure continuity for residents, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Armour, to MECP and to our local parliament representatives MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Natural gas expansion

Resolution 25-147: Marc Dupuis – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS natural gas is recognized as a clean, economical and domestically sourced energy option that will lower energy costs for residents, farms and businesses, while also enhancing opportunities for northern communities to grow, by attracting new housing developments and commercial investments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 2025-214 made by Council for the Municipality of St. Charles, requesting that the Government of Ontario support and approve the expansion of natural gas infrastructure to rural municipalities such as St. Charles and Mattice – Val Côté, by undertaking a review of the Ontario Energy Board's profitability index model to incorporate a northern cost adjustment that fairly accounts for the higher costs of construction in northern Ontario caused by terrain challenges such as bedrock and wetlands, as well as the realities of distance, climate and lower population density, to ensure that rural and northern communities are not disadvantaged in accessing natural gas infrastructure, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté requests the Province to embed northern natural gas expansion as a priority in Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan and regional economic growth strategies, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Municipality of St. Charles, to FONOM and to our local parliament representatives MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Canada Post Corporation Review

Resolution 25-148: Marc Dupuis – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS the Federal Government has announced a planned Canada Post Corporation Review from October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 as follows:

Notionally, public consultations may be undertaken to consider the Canadian Postal Service Charter (2009) and to get a pulse on Canadians' needs and use of the postal service. Should engagement be necessary, the goal would be obtain [sic] views from Canadians and stakeholders to redefine the government's service-oriented vision for Canada Post, in a context where the postal industry landscape has changed, the needs of Canadians have evolved, and the volume of mail and letters has declined significantly to the point where Canada Post's sustainability has been undermined.

WHEREAS the current plan does not ensure that there will be any public consultation or engagement with all stakeholders, and the process and terms of reference for the mandate review have yet to be announced.

WHEREAS the recent Industrial Inquiry Commission report recommended service cuts in the form of post office closures and the reintroduction of the community mailbox conversion plans of the last Federal Conservative government.

WHEREAS it will be crucial for the mandate review to hear the views from municipalities on key issues, including maintaining Canada Post as a public service, the importance of maintaining the moratorium on post office closures, improving the Canadian Postal Service Charter, home mail delivery, parcel delivery, keeping daily delivery, improving postal banking, greening Canada Post, EV charging stations, food delivery, improving delivery to rural, remote and Indigenous communities, and developing services to assist people with disabilities and help older Canadians to remain in their homes for as long as possible – and at the same time, helping to ensure that good jobs stay in their communities and that Canada Post can remain financially self-sustaining.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby request that no mandate review take place until Canada Post returns to stabilized operations, until the full impact of the stamp price increase is realized, and until parcel volumes reflect sectoral demand.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council also request that any review of Canada Post and the Canadian Postal Service Charter must be done through a full and thorough transparent public review of Canada Post, including public hearings, with all key stakeholders, in every region of Canada.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Federal Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, Joël Lightbound and to our local parliament representatives, MP Gaetan Malette and MPP Guy Bourgouin.

Carried

Clean water for First Nations

Resolution 25-149: Réginald Manning – Marc Dupuis

WHEREAS Indigenous Services Canada data shows that, as of September 2025, 37 long-term drinking water advisories have remained active since 2015 on First Nations lands, including in 27 Ontario communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the resolution made by Council for the Township of Woolwich on September 23, 2025, calling on the Government of Canada and the Minister of Indigenous Services to reintroduce, in the fall of 2025, legislation in the same form as Bill C-61 to ensure that First Nations have the right to clean and safe drinking water and calling on the Government of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to support this important federal legislation, and;

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

Carried

Sponsorship – Diocese

Resolution 25-150: Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality contribute 200 promotional items (100 notepads and 100 fridge magnets) for the participants of the upcoming Hearst – Moosonee Diocese retreat.

Carried

Donation – Foyer des Pionniers

Resolution 25-151: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning

WHEREAS the Municipality does not have the means to contribute to the Foyer's mural project at this time;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2026 municipal budget provide for a small donation to the Foyer des Pionniers.

Carried

Damaged sidewalk

Resolution 25-152: Joyce Malenfant – Marc Dupuis

WHEREAS residents have asked for the removal of a portion of the sidewalk that borders their property which is both damaged and unused;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT in the spring of 2026, the sidewalk that runs from Mgr Proulx Avenue to Melrose Street, along 2nd Street North, be removed, that the ground be leveled and that grass be seeded thereon.

Carried

Gagnon Road Project

Resolution 25-153: Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby authorizes Villeneuve Construction Ltd. to proceed with the construction of a temporary vehicle access path on Gagnon Road for the

duration of the culvert replacement project, at a cost of FORTY-NINE THOUSAND (\$49,000) DOLLARS, plus taxes.

Carried

Financial incentives – physicians

Resolution 25-154: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS the Town of Hearst asked the Municipality to contribute to the financial incentives that were recently offered to medical student Amanda Chouinard and to Doctor Opeloye; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality is unable to provide additional assistance in this regard in fiscal year 2025, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council reconsider the possibility of contributing to said incentives before adopting its 2026 budget.

Carried

Rental fees

Resolution 25-155: Sophie Gagnon – Marc Dupuis

WHEREAS Council reviews the list of rental fees for the Sports Complex on an annual basis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the current rental fees be maintained and that the following be inserted to the current list: a) define the word “club” to mean a local non-profit organization; b) shade the curling lounge for the time being since it is not currently available for rent.

Carried

Mattice Sno Devils

Resolution 25-156: Joyce Malenfant – Réginald Manning

WHEREAS the Mattice Sno Devils Snowmobile Club asked the Municipality to renew the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), giving permission to the Club to use unopened road allowances and summer roads as part of its prescribed snowmobile trail system, from December 1st, 2025 to November 30th, 2035;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby agrees to renew said Memorandum and authorizes the CAO/Clerk to sign the same on its behalf.

Carried

Idling of Kap Paper mill

Resolution 25-157: Joyce Malenfant – Réginald Manning

WHEREAS Kap Paper is the major employer in the Town of Kapuskasing, uses the wood chips produced by the Hearst, Kapuskasing and Cochrane sawmills and generates millions of dollars in the regional economy, and;

WHEREAS Kap Paper recently gained federal support for its ongoing operations but has not been able to accomplish the same at the provincial level, and;

WHEREAS Kap Paper recently announced the idling of the Kapuskasing mill;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby urges the Province to join the federal government in its willingness and efforts to save Kap Paper now, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council requests the Province's intervention to protect Northern Ontario's forest industry and its workers AND to show its commitment to the northern portion of this province, and;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Ford, to the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, George Pirie, to the Town of Kapuskasing, to all the NEOMA members and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 25-158: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 9:00 pm to adopt the minutes of a closed meeting and to discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 25-159: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 9:18 pm.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 25-160: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's closed meeting 25-10, held on September 3rd, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Financial incentive for
mandatory certification

Resolution 25-161: Réginald Manning – Marc Dupuis
BE IT RESOLVED THAT a financial incentive totalling ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000.00) DOLLARS be granted to each Mattice – Val Côté volunteer firefighter who completes the mandatory training and obtains the required certification over the course of the next nine months, said amount to be paid as follows: FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) DOLLARS upon successful completion of the online training and FIVE HUNDRED (\$500.00) DOLLARS upon certification.

Carried

Missinaibi medical clinic

Resolution 25-162: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT a letter be forwarded to the CEO of Notre-Dame Hospital to express our concerns over the services that the medical clinic may no longer be able to provide and to request a meeting to further discuss this matter.

Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, October 28th, 2025, at 7:00 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 25-163: Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1028, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Tuesday, September 30th, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 9:22 pm

Resolution 25-164: Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held on September 30th, 2025, be adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on October 28th, 2025

Mayor

CAO/Clerk