

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 25-14 (regular)

December 16th, 2025

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on December 16th, 2025, 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

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:

7.11 Financial report – November 30th

11.5 Information supplied in confidence by another level of government

- Resolution 25-194

3. Pecuniary interest

Councilor Brousseau declared an interest at item no. 7.6 and left Chambers during the discussion.

4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council

Virtual presentation by Peter Cimcisko, of Watson & Associates, on the updated municipal Asset Management Plan.

5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meeting

- Resolution 25-195

6. Treasurer's report

Nil

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support:

a) NOW – impact of Bill 5 on women, on fundamental rights and on the environment

- Resolution 25-196

- b) United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry – conservation authorities
 - Resolution 25-197
- e) FONOM – 2 + 1 design for Highways 11 & 17
 - Resolution 25-198
- g) Town of Parry Sound – alcohol container return system
 - Resolution 25-199

The following requests were received and filed:

- c) Town of Ajax – homelessness crisis
- d) Municipality of Calvin – protection against home invasions
- f) City of Brantford – PA day on Municipal Election Day
- h) Municipality of Magnetawan – ready-certified site designations

7.2 Asset Management Plan – new updated version prepared by Watson & Associates

- Resolution 25-200

7.3 Franchise Agreement with Enbridge Gas Inc.

- Filed

7.4 Depot agreement with Circular Materials Ontario

- Resolution 25-201

7.5 NeCN – update provided to Council on a number of issues

- Filed

7.6 OMERS governance model

- Resolutions 25-202 and 25-203

7.7 NCCC – a) 2026 Business Guide and b) 2026 Membership

- Resolution 25-204

7.8 Vested property – up for sale in early January, in the manner and with the conditions that were discussed

- Agreed

7.9 2026 Municipal insurance

- Resolution 25-205

7.10 Report on various items

- a) Training/meetings attended
- b) Complaints
- c) Information provided to Council
 - Filed
- d) For Council's consideration
- i) Tractor kept for emergency purposes: verify the cost of the required electrical setup at the arena
 - Agreed

- ii) Groundwater monitoring report: verify which consultants neighboring municipalities use before awarding the 2026 contract
 - Agreed
- iii) Future of the ice rink: nothing to discuss at this time
 - Agreed

7.11 Financial report – to November 30th, 2025
- Resolution 25-206

8. Mayor's report

8.1 Verbal report on a weekly meeting held with neighboring Mayors to discuss the future of Kap Paper.

8.2 Verbal report on a recent meeting for Mayors of small municipalities, held at the request of the Smooth Rock Falls Mayor.

9. Councilors' reports

A. Steve Brousseau

- Verbal report of the MVC Public Library Board meeting held on December 9th, 2025

B. Sophie Gagnon

- Inquired into the possibility of getting internet services at the Val Côté Fire Hall to facilitate the on-line training – CAO to look into the costs
- Agreed

C. Joyce Malenfant

- Verbal report of the Planning Board meeting held in Hearst on November 17th, 2025
- Verbal of the MVC Public Library Board meeting held on December 9th, 2025
- Verbal report of the Foyer des Pionniers Board meeting held in Hearst on December 15th, 2025

D. Councilor Manning

- Attended the annual dinner of the Kapuskasing LCC on December 10th, 2025

10. By-laws

10.1 By-law no. 1033

- Resolution 25-207

11. Caucus

a) Caucus – Resolution 25-208

b) Regular meeting – Resolution 25-209

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

- 12.1 Hours of work – November 2025
- 12.2 Saugeen First Nation – child well being law
- 12.3 MEPR – federal & provincial meeting on emergency management
- 12.4 MNR – black bear management
- 12.5 MMAH – authorization of minor variances
- 12.6 FONOM – a) federal support for steel and lumber sectors;
b) electricity planning activities;
c) Northern Ontario Hill Days in Ottawa
- 12.7 SOLGEN – OPP billing statements
- 12.8 MECP – proposed environmental assessment regulation

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 25-194: Joyce Malenfant – Réginald Manning
THAT the agenda, as amended, be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 25-195: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's regular meeting 25-13, held on November 18th, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Impact of Bill 5

Resolution 25-196: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has an obligation to ensure that economic growth is not achieved at the expense of women's safety, human rights or environmental integrity;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the resolution made by the Northern Ontario Women's Association on October 29, 2025, calling on the Province of Ontario to: 1. Ensure that women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people, particularly from indigenous and northern communities, are actively engaged at the forefront of all planning, consultation and implementation processes under Bill 5, from concept to completion; 2. Establish a dedicated Ministerial role or mandate for overseeing and safeguarding women's rights, safety and economic opportunity throughout the resource development process, including authority to apply gender-based impact assessments to proposed projects; 3. Mandate gender-based and intersectional impact assessments be carried out on all developments enabled by Bill 5, particularly with regard to safety, housing,

transportation, healthcare access and cultural impacts on women and girls; 4. Ensure environmental protections are explicitly tied to community health outcomes, especially for women and children, by investing in environmental monitoring and enforcing strong environmental safeguards tied to traditional ecological knowledge and include community-led, land-based health indicators; 5. Invest in training, apprenticeship and leadership programs to ensure women and girls, particularly those in remote, indigenous and underserved communities, can access opportunities in the skilled trades, environmental sciences, project management and public service tied to resource development; 6. Recognize and act on the findings of the MMIWG2S Inquiry by implementing protective measures around development zones, including funding for shelters, safe transportation, trauma-informed care, community safety initiatives and anti-violence strategies embedded in community agreements; 7. Publish annual, public-facing progress reports on the gendered impacts of development under Bill 5, including employment statistics, leadership inclusion, environmental outcomes and indicators of community safety and wellness, and;

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

Carried

Conservation authorities

Resolution 25-197: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 2025-159 made by Council of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery and the protection and management of conservation lands, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Unities Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

2 + 1 highway design

Resolution 25-198: Marc Dupuis - Joyce Malenfant

WHEREAS Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors, and;

WHEREAS four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor, and;

WHEREAS the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow, and;

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway, and;

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

WHEREAS a phased 2+1 build, prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay to Cochrane, then Cochrane to Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew to Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury; Thunder Bay to Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices, and;

WHEREAS analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada be urged to designate 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, procurement, and construction, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as indicated above (subject to readiness and safety benefit), and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the program incorporate corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials), and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent 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, FONOM and our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Alcohol container return system

Resolution 25-199: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. RC25170 made by Council for the Municipality of Wawa, and Resolution no. 2025-160 made by Council for the Town of Parry Sound, supporting the development of an accessible, province-wide and publicly accountable alcohol container return system that 1) protects low-income earners and vulnerable residents who rely on bottle returns; 2) closes gaps in the deposit-return cycle to reduce landfill waste and environmental harm; 3) provides adequate infrastructure, training and support to retailers participating in the return system; 4) ensures strong, consistent enforcement of and oversight of return program compliance and 5) safeguards the public interest in recycling and waste diversion amid increasing privatization pressures, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council urges the Government of Ontario to collaborate meaningfully with municipalities, retailers, environmental organisations and experts to implement a fair, effective and inclusive solution that ensures the long-term success of Ontario's deposit-return and recycling systems, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Municipality of Wawa, the Town of Parry Sound, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Asset Management Plan

Resolution 25-200: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS the Municipality retained the services of Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. to develop a comprehensive asset management plan, and;

WHEREAS this new and improved asset management plan brings the Municipality into full compliance with the 2025 requirements of O. Reg. 588/17;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby adopts and approves said Asset Management Plan.

Carried

Depot Agreement

Resolution 25-201: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté is prepared to enter into a modifying agreement, Change Order #1, with Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) with respect to the upcoming changes to its depot recycling system, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council hereby confirms that the CAO/Clerk had the authority to sign said document on its behalf.

Carried

OMERS governance model

Resolution 25-202: Joyce Malenfant – Marc Dupuis

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the circulated letter be signed by the Mayor and sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and to the Minister of Finance, expressing Council's concerns with the proposed changes to the OMERS governance model.

Carried

Resolution 25-203: Joyce Malenfant – Marc Dupuis

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;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté 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, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté 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, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, to AMO and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

NCCC

Resolution 25-204: Steve Brousseau – Marc Dupuis

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté not contribute towards the 2026 Northern Corridor Business Guide and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipality not become a member of the Northern Corridor Chamber of Commerce.

Carried

2026 Municipal insurance

Resolution 25-205: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby authorizes payment to BrokerLink Inc., in the amount of ONE HUNDRED and NINE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN (\$109,477.00) DOLLARS, plus applicable taxes, for the 2026 municipal insurance coverage.

Carried

Financial report

Resolution 25-206: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the financial report ending November 30th, 2025, be hereby approved as circulated.

Carried

By-law no. 1033

Resolution 25-207: Réginald Manning – Steve Brousseau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council approves the form of draft by-law and franchise agreement attached hereto and authorizes the submission thereof to the Ontario Energy Board for approval pursuant to the provisions of Section 9 of the *Municipal Franchises Act*, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Council requests that the Ontario Energy Board make an Order declaring and directing that the assent of the municipal electors to the attached draft by-law and franchise agreement pertaining to the Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté is not necessary pursuant to the provisions of Section 9(4) of the *Municipal Franchises Act*.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 25-208: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 9:25 pm to adopt the minutes of a closed meeting and to discuss labour relations, personal matters about an identifiable individual, actual or potential litigation and information supplied in confidence by another level of government.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 25-209: Steve Brousseau - Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 9:43 pm.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 25-210: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's closed meeting 25-13, held on November 18th, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Employment

Resolution 25-211: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the available temporary full-time position of Equipment Operator be filled by Nicolas Rice.

Carried

First Response Team

Resolution 25-212: Sophie Gagnon - Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby approves the application submitted by Paul Payeur to become a member of the Mattice First Response Team.

Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, at 7:00 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 25-213: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1034, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Tuesday, December 16th, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 9:50 pm

Resolution 25-214: Joyce Malenfant - Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held on December 16th, 2025, be adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on January 20th, 2026

Mayor

CAO/Clerk