

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 25-08 (regular)

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 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  
Treasurer – Annie Plamondon

Others

Renée-Pier Fontaine, Hearst Medias (left prior to caucus)  
Lynn Malenfant, Dany Brisson, Pierre Payeur, Chantal Groleau-Payeur, Justin Stewart, Naomie Bernier (some people went outside and came back, some left early, most left prior to caucus)

*Note: Fifteen (15) Shallow Lake property owners, along with Kemal Kapetanovic from WSP (virtually), were present at the opening of the meeting to attend the Zoning By-law Amendment public meeting but left thereafter*

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1. Opening of meeting

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:00 pm

The Mayor asked for a resolution to adjourn the regular meeting of Council in order that a public meeting be convened to hear comments on a proposed amendment to the Zoning By-law No. 847 of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté to provide for conditions to be met to allow development, redevelopment or residential intensification around Shallow Lake and to modify the zoning of the existing campgrounds.

- Resolution 25-101

The Mayor asked for a resolution to reconvene the regular meeting of Council.

- Resolution 25-102

2. Approval of the Order of Business

- Resolution 25-103

3. Pecuniary interest

Councilor Manning declared an interest at item 7.1 c).

4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council

Nil

5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meeting

- Resolution 25-104

6. Treasurer's report

6.1 Water Financial Plan

- Resolution 25-105

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support:

- a) Township of Black River – Matheson – mandatory firefighter certification
  - Resolution 25-106
- b) County of Prince Edward – exempting federal disability benefit from income tax
  - Resolution 25-107
- c) Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury – income threshold for veterans
  - Resolution 25-108
- d) City of North Bay – protecting lakes from invasive species
  - Resolution 25-109
- f) Town of Cobourg – Bill 5 impact on food systems
  - Resolution 25-110
- g) Township of Fauquier – Strickland – financial crisis
  - Resolution 25-111

The following request was received and filed:

- e) Town of Prescott – stronger powers to the province

The following request was deferred:

- h) FONOM – maintenance and expansion of the NORDS program

7.2 Gagnon Road culvert replacement – the engineering plans need to be changed (culvert length) and the closing date is therefore postponed.

- Deferred

7.3 Currently available funding programs

- a) ROD: given the substantial municipal contribution required, no application will be made
  - Agreed
- b) Agri-Esprit
- c) ACCESS
  - Resolution 25-112

7.4 Guy Bourgouin MPP – Bill 49

- Resolution 25-113

7.5 Recycling – non-eligible sources – CAO shared comment inserted on the Environmental Registry

- Filed

7.6 SGS – surveillance audit of the Hearst Forest – members of Council wishing to participate in the process will do so individually

- Agreed

7.7 Report on various items

a) Training/meetings attended

b) Complaints

020725-2: CAO to advise complainant to call MTO or OPP if trailer continues to obstruct visibility when she drives

040725: CAO to verify how neighbouring communities deal with chickens in a residential setting

- Agreed

Other complaints

- Filed

c) Information provided to Council

- Filed

d) For Council's consideration

i) Comfort Station - keeping it locked: status quo for 2025

ii) Future of the ice rink – to be discussed with the Minister

iii) Parking for transports/trailers in Val Côté - Councilor Gagnon explained that all truckers are currently making their own arrangements to have their trucks parked on their property. CAO to send them a letter advising that only empty trailers are allowed on municipal roads.

iv) Closure of Desfossés Road in Val Côté: Council is not convinced that this suggestion would be well received by Val Côté residents. Not prepared to entertain it any further at this time.

- Agreed

7.8 Complaints and allegations pertaining to Gagnon Road – Council will respond to every allegation. Letter to be signed by the Mayor.

- Agreed

8. Mayor's report

8.1 Verbal report of the James Bay OPP Detachment Board 1 meeting held in Hearst on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

8.2 Verbal report of the Northeast Public Health Board meeting held and listened to on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2025.

8.3 The Mayor informed Council that the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, the Honourable George Pirie, will be in Mattice on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, for a short meeting and tour.

9. Councilors' reports

A. Councilor Brousseau

- Nil

B. Councilor Gagnon

- Inquired about the timeline for the VC bridge replacement and commented on the June 21<sup>st</sup> celebrations in Val Côté.

C. Councilor Malenfant

- Verbal report of the Foyer des Pionniers Board meeting held in Hearst on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Verbal report of the MVC Public Library Board meeting held on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

D. Councilor Manning

- Nil

10. By-laws

10.1 By-law no. 1025

- Resolution 25-114

11. Caucus

a) Caucus – Resolution 25-115

b) Regular meeting – Resolution 25-116

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

12.1 Hours of work – June 2025

12.2 MMAH – clarity re: authority for building standards

12.3 Various ministries – development of Northern Ontario

12.4 MEM – Ontario Energy Plan

12.5 MNR – herbicide project on the Gordon Cosens Forest

12.6 MECP – environmental permissions for waste management systems

12.7 FONOM – impact of tariffs on softwood lumber industry

13. Resolutions

Adjournment

Resolution 25-101 : Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon  
THAT the regular meeting of Council be hereby adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Carried

Resume meeting

Resolution 25-102: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning  
THAT the regular meeting of Council be reconvened at 7:51 pm.

Carried

Agenda

Resolution 25-103: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon  
THAT the agenda be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 25-104: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's regular meeting 25-07, held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Water Financial Plan

Resolution 25-105: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Financial Plan for the Mattice Water Treatment and Distribution Systems, for the period of 2025 to 2031, be hereby approved as circulated.

Carried

Mandatory Firefighter  
Certification

Resolution 25-106: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant  
WHEREAS the Ontario government has enacted O. Reg. 343/22, establishing mandatory certification requirements for firefighters under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, and;  
WHEREAS these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers and reliance on volunteer fire departments;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the letter and the resolution dated June 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 made by the Township of Black River – Matheson formally opposing the mandatory firefighter certification requirements and requesting that the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General 1) defer its full implementation for rural and northern municipalities; 2) provide exemptions or

alternative compliance pathways tailored to the needs and limitation of small, remote fire services; 3) increase funding and training supports for municipalities outside major urban centres, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Black River - Matheson, to the Fire Marshal of Ontario, to the Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General, and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Federal Disability Benefit

Resolution 25-107: Marc Dupuis – Sophie Gagnon

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 2025-345 made by Council for the County of Prince Edward, calling upon the Government of Canada to commit to exempting the Canada Disability Benefit from income tax and work towards supporting Canadians with a disability to live without poverty, and;

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

Carried

Income threshold for Veterans

Resolution 25-108: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution 2025-185 made by Council for the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, calling on the Government of Canada and all federal parties to increase the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit program for veterans from \$20,000 to no less than \$40,000 annually for a single-person household and urging Veterans Affairs Canada to review all income support programs with the intent to modernize eligibility criteria in line with the current cost of living across Canada, and;

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

Carried

Protecting lakes from  
invasive species

Resolution 25-109: Sophie Gagnon – Joyce Malenfant  
WHEREAS there is growing concern regarding the significant risk of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) being introduced into local lakes by boats arriving from high-risk areas without proper inspection or decontamination;  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 2025-233 made by Council for the City of North Bay, supporting Resolution no. 25-076 made by Council for the Municipality of Temagami, calling upon the Ministry of Natural Resources and on the Ministry of Transportation to establish an AIS program similar to Manitoba's, to protect lakes in Ontario, and;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario be urged to designate select new rest stop locations, such as Marten River, as sites for AIS inspection and decontamination stations, and;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the City of North Bay, to the Municipality of Temagami and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Bill 5 impact on food systems

Resolution 25-110: Sophie Gagnon – Marc Dupuis  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support the resolution made by Council for the Town of Cobourg on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, opposing Bill 5 in its current form and calling upon the Government of Ontario to strive to uphold the long-term health of our food systems, environment and democracy in any future version of this bill, and;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Town of Cobourg and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Fauquier - Strickland

Resolution 25-111: Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon  
WHEREAS by letter dated July 9<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Mayor for the Township of Fauquier - Strickland informed Council of the financial crisis their municipality is facing and requested Council's support in advocating with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for immediate provincial intervention;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby support Fauquier – Strickland in its current survival efforts and that a letter be sent to Minister Flack in this regard.

Carried

Funding programs

Resolution 25-112: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby directs the CAO/Clerk to apply for funding under the AgriSpirit Fund to improve the Food Bank quarters (cupboards and shelves), and;  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council hereby directs the CAO/Clerk to apply for funding under the EASE program to improve accessibility to both the splashpad in the Community Park and the gazebo in Brisson Park.

Carried

Bill 49

Resolution 25-113: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant  
WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté is cognizant of the constant risks that threaten members of our northern communities when they use northern highways, and;  
WHEREAS Council is unfortunately very familiar with the countless long highway closures that occur in northern Ontario as a result of road conditions and accidents, and;  
WHEREAS inexperienced drivers are often involved in the accidents that result in said road closures.  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté strongly supports Bill 49, known as the *Northern Highway 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025*, which proposes concrete and feasible measures to address these issues.

Carried

By-law no. 1025

Resolution 25-114: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1025, being a by-law to amend the Township of Mattice – Val Côté Zoning By-Law no. 837, as adopted by Council on November 26, 2019, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 25-115: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 9:25 pm to discuss labour relations, personal matters about an identifiable individual and litigation or potential litigation.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 25-116: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 9:55 pm.

Carried



New hire

Resolution 25-117: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Denis Brunelle be hired as an occasional part-time employee.

Carried

First Response Team

Resolution 25-118: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby approves the application submitted by Nancy Boucher to become a member of the Mattice First Response Team.

Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 7:30 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 25-119: Sophie Gagnon – Joyce Malenfant  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1024, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 9:58 pm

Resolution 25-120: Steve Brousseau - Joyce Malenfant  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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Mayor

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CAO/Clerk