

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 26-03 (regular)

March 3rd, 2026

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on March 3rd, 2026, at 7:00 pm, in the basement of the Municipal Complex 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

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:
7.7 b) complaints – slip & fall and snow removal
7.7 d) ii) water damage
12.2 Hours of work – February 2026
- Resolution 26-34
3. Pecuniary interest
Nil
4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council
Nil
5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meeting
- Resolution 26-35
6. Treasurer's report
Nil

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support:

- a) Prince Edward County – *Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025*
 - Resolution 26-36
- b) Municipality of Magnetawan – affordable high-speed internet
 - Resolution 26-37
- c) Town of Hearst – driver's license reinstatement process
 - Resolution 26-38

The following request was received and filed:

- d) Town of Kapuskasing – Nuclear Waste Management Organization

7.2 Triennial report – landfill groundwater monitoring - recommendations

- Filed

7.3 2026 Badminton season – proceed with an 8 weeks' season, twice a week

- Agreed

7.4 Summer jobs – CAO to post a full-time temporary (14 weeks) supervisor position

- Agreed

7.5 Application by OAHSSC - property tax exemptions

- Resolution 26-39

7.6 MECP – expanding the boundaries of the Missinaibi Provincial Park – CAO has questioned the additions and is awaiting a response

- Deferred

7.7 Report on various items

- a) Training/meetings attended
 - b) Complaints
 - c) Information provided to Council
 - Filed
 - d) For Council's consideration
 - i) Future of the ice rink – email received by the Beer Store to verify interest in becoming an Authorized Empty Container Dealer – the Coordinator has yet to return the CAO's call
 - ii) Water damage – more water infiltration at the arena – CAO to look into the possibility of rerouting the pipes (out of the washroom floors)
- Deferred

7.8 Annual report – Water treatment plant

- Resolution 26-40

8. Mayor's report

- 8.1 Verbal report of the Northeast Public Health Board meeting held in February 2026
- 8.2 Verbal report of the NEOMA meeting held in Smooth Rock Falls on February 27th, 2026
- 8.3 Commented on OPP arrests made last night in Mattice (transports) and on an upcoming meeting with regional MPPs on continuing safety issues/concerns pertaining to Highways 11 & 17

9. Councillors' reports

A. Steve Brousseau

- Nil

B. Sophie Gagnon

- Nil

C. Joyce Malenfant

- Verbal report of the MVC Public Library Board meeting held on February 10th, 2026
- Verbal report of the Planning Board meeting held in Hearst on February 11th, 2026
- Verbal report of the Foyer des Pionniers Board meeting held in Hearst on February 18th, 2026

D. Councilor Manning

- Commented on the advantages of recycling

10. By-laws

- 10.1 By-law no. 1041 – Agreement with the Ministry of Infrastructure
- Resolution 26-41

11. Caucus

- a) Caucus – Resolution 26-42
- b) Regular meeting – Resolution 26-43

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

- 12.1 Ontario Northland – responding to Mr. D'Amours with respect to the passenger train
- 12.2 Hours of work – February 2026

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 26-34: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon
THAT the agenda, as amended, be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 26-35: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's regular meeting 26-02, held on February 9th, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Bill 21

Resolution 26-36: Sophie Gagnon – Réginald Manning
WHEREAS arable land is a critical finite resource, and;
WHEREAS Ontario has lost 2.8 million acres of farmland in the last three decades, and;
WHEREAS Ontario loses as much as 319 acres of farmland a day, and;
WHEREAS Ontario's farmland provides food, fiber and fuel to all Ontario and beyond;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 2026-32 made by Council for the County of Prince Edward, strongly urging the provincial government to support *Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025*, and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the County of Prince Edward, to the Premier of Ontario, to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Affordable high-speed internet

Resolution 26-37: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau
WHEREAS Bell Canada pricing structures place dedicated fiber services beyond the financial reach of many municipalities, small businesses, housing developments, non-profit organizations and community facilities;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 2026-20 made by Council for the Municipality of Magnetawan, calling upon the Government of Canada, including ISED, to strengthen affordability requirements tied to federal broadband funding and universal access programs, and;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Municipality of Magnetawan, to the Prime Minister of Canada, to the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry and to our local parliament representatives, MP Gaetan Malette and MPP Guy Bourgouin.

Carried

Driver's licence
reinstatement process

Resolution 26-38: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS for residents of Northern Ontario, where public transit options are limited or nonexistent, the loss of a driver's license due to a medical condition or other circumstances can mean the loss of access to essential services, social connections and the ability to live with autonomy, and;

WHEREAS the process of reinstating a driver's licence in northern communities often involves considerable logistical, financial and emotional challenges when compared to urban centers, which makes the process feel unfair and inequitable, and;

WHEREAS residents in Northern Ontario frequently face difficulty in obtaining services in the French language, adding to existing barriers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 40-26 made by Council for the Town of Hearst, urging the Province of Ontario and relevant agencies to implement practical, supportive and cost-effective measures to improve the accessibility and efficiency of the driver's licence reinstatement process for Northern Ontario residents, and;

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

Carried

OAHSSC application

Resolution 26-39: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation (OAHSSC) has brought forward an application for a declaration that the 2,470 properties it owns in 215 municipalities throughout the province should be exempt from property taxes, and;

WHEREAS OAHSSC is the registered owner of 13 properties in the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté and therefore named the Municipality as one of the respondents in said application;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in light of the number of respondents involved and in light of the fact that the Applicant owns up to 196 properties in some Municipalities, Council will rely on others to respond to the arguments raised in the Application and will not be seeking legal representation in this matter.

Carried

Annual report – WTP

Resolution 26-40: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Mattice Drinking Water System 2025 Annual compliance and Summary report be hereby accepted as circulated and filed.

Carried

By-law no. 1041

Resolution 26-41: Sophie Gagnon – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1041, being a By-law to authorize the execution of an Agreement with His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario, as represented by the Ministry of Infrastructure, for funding under the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program – Health and Safety Water Stream, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Caucus

Resolution 26-42: Réginald Manning – Joyce Malenfant
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 8:17 pm to adopt the minutes of a closed meeting and to discuss labour relations.

Carried

Regular meeting

Resolution 26-43: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 8:33 pm.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 26-44: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's closed meeting 26-02, held on February 9th, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

14. Next regular meeting: Tuesday, March 24th, 2026, at 7:00 pm

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 26-45: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1042, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 8:38 pm

Resolution 26-46: Joyce Malenfant – Sophie Gagnon
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held
on March 3rd, 2026, be adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on March 24th, 2026

Mayor

CAO/Clerk