

The Corporation of the Township of Mattice – Val Côté

Meeting 26-04 (regular)

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on March 26<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

Lyne Lodin, Lyne Malenfant, Claudine Brunelle, Justin Stewart & Naomie Bernier

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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:  
7.9 d) iii) update – water damage  
10.2 By-law no. 1045 – Public Library Board  
Councilor Manning requested that the items listed as 9 d) i) snow removal and ii) garbage collection be discussed in closed meeting  
- Resolution 26-47
3. Pecuniary interest  
Nil
4. Delegation, Presentation, Meeting requested by Council  
Nil
5. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meeting  
- Resolution 26-48
6. Treasurer's report  
Treasurer is obtaining estimates as she prepares a first draft of the budget. She shared information pertaining to the calcium shortage.

7. CAO's report

7.1 Resolutions/requests for support:

- a) MP Malette – Highway 11, a project of national interest
  - Resolution 26-49
- c) FONOM – highway safety, Highways 11 and 17
  - Resolution 26-50
- f) Prince Edward County – sustainable police services funding
  - Resolution 26-51
- g) Township of Oro Medonte – support AORS letters to ensure the safety of public works professionals
  - Resolution 26-52

The following requests were received and filed:

- b) Regional Municipality of York – equitable recycling collection services
- d) Township of Perry – reduced postal rates for libraries
- e) City of Ottawa – special constables to enforce the *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act*

7.2 FONOM - Executive Award and Ministerial Delegation requests

- Filed

7.3 NEOMA – Mayor Dupuis and Councilor Malenfant will attend the upcoming AGM on April 10<sup>th</sup>

- Agreed

7.4 Strategic Plan review – CAO outlines some of the activities that have taken place with respect to the 3 major orientations – Council will review further opportunities during budget preparation sessions

- Agreed

7.5 Health & Safety policies – annual review

- Resolution 26-53

7.6 Municipal Elections policies - review

- i) Use of municipal resources policy
  - Resolution 26-54
- ii) Recount policy – proceed with By-law
  - Deferred

7.7 Complaint no. 26-16 related to garbage protection – Council will respond to the complainant

- Filed

7.8 Hearst Connect – tower replacement in Mattice – information session on March 31<sup>st</sup>

- Filed

7.9 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 – nothing to report. CAO/Clerk to follow-up with the Beer Store on the empty container dealership.
    - Agreed
  - ii) 2026 Asset Management Plan update – Watson & Associates will present the results during a budget preparation session. Their report will be adopted in a regular Council meeting.
    - Agreed
  - iii) Water damage – another section of the floor and a portion of the wall need to be opened to change the leaking pipe. To be discussed further during budget preparation sessions.
    - Deferred

8. Mayor's report

8.1 Verbal report of the Northeast Public Health Board meeting held earlier today

8.2 Verbal report of a discussion which took place earlier today with Minister Pirie about provincial budget programs

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 March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

D. Councilor Manning

- Verbal report of the Kap LCC meeting held in Kapuskasing on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Verbal report of the Hearst LCC meeting held in Hearst on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

10. By-laws

10.1 By-law no. 1043 – 2026 Municipal Election Compliance Audit Committee

- Resolution 26-55

10.2 By-law no. 1045 – Mattice – Val Côté Public Library Board

- Resolution 26-56

11. Caucus

- a) Caucus – Resolution 26-57
- b) Regular meeting – Resolution 26-58

12. Minutes/Periodic reports/Correspondence

The following documents were received and filed:

- 12.1 L. Martin Veilleux and M. D'Amours – commenting on the new Northlander passenger train
- 12.2 Rideau Lakes Township – negative impacts of the Alto High Speed Rail Project
- 12.3 MNR – annual work schedule on the Gordon Cosens Forest
- 12.4 CDSAB – summary of the fall meetings
- 12.5 FONOM – press releases (Board meeting; Highway safety measures)

13. Resolutions

Agenda

Resolution 26-47: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon  
THAT the agenda, as amended, be hereby accepted.

Carried

Minutes

Resolution 26-48: Joyce Malenfant – Steve Brousseau  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's regular meeting 26-03, held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

Highway 11, a project of national interest

Resolution 26-49: Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon  
WHEREAS MP Gaetan Malette recently presented Motion M-26 Trans Canada Highway 11 to the House of Commons, and;  
WHEREAS said motion urges the House to recognize that there is an urgent need to improve safety of all travellers and reliability along the Trans Canada Highway 11, a critical corridor for the movement of goods, services and people across provincial boundaries, and;  
WHEREAS said motion urges the House to recognize that the safety and reliability of the Trans Canada Highway 11 is essential to support Canada's economic stability, supply chain resilience, national security and regional development.  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté fully support Motion M-26, asking the federal government to: i) designate Trans-Canada Highway 11 as a project of national interest under the *Building Canada Act*, to complete the work started under the *Trans-Canada Highway Act of 1949*; ii) prioritize planning to ensure that Trans-Canada Highway 11 can safely and efficiently accommodate current and future transportation demands, minimize delays and strengthen interprovincial connectivity and national security; iii) adopt a coordinated strategy to

ensure timely and effective delivery by establishing a joint task force between Infrastructure Canada, Transport Canada and the affected provinces to align standards, funding and timelines, and; iv) implement that strategy to transform Trans-Canada Highway 11 into a safer, more resilient and more efficient national corridor that strengthens interprovincial trade and supports Canada's long-term economic competitiveness, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Highways 11 and 17 safety

Resolution 26-50: Joyce Malenfant – Reginald Manning

WHEREAS Highway 11 and 17 form the backbone of the Trans-Canada Highway through Northern Ontario and are essential corridors for the movement of people, goods and emergency services across Canada, and;

WHEREAS these highways support Northern Ontario's resource economy, connect communities to health care and services and carry significant national supply chains, and;

WHEREAS Northern Ontario continues to experience a troubling number of serious collisions and highway closures each year, and;

WHEREAS the tragic fatal collision near Smooth Rock Falls on March 7, 2026, involving four tractor-trailers and a passenger vehicle, resulted in the death of a Kapuskasing resident and marked the tenth highway fatality in Northern Ontario so far in 2026, and;

WHEREAS in April 2023, the Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force, co-chaired by representatives of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) and the NOMA, delivered a comprehensive set of recommendations to the Province of Ontario aimed at improving safety, reliability and economic connectivity across Northern Ontario's transportation network, and;

WHEREAS Northern leaders, Indigenous partners and transportation experts invested significant time and effort developing practical and achievable recommendations, many of which have yet to be fully implemented, and;

WHEREAS Northern Ontario residents should not have to accept a higher level of risk simply because they live, work or travel in the North, and every preventable highway fatality underscores the urgent need for action;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support FONOM's call upon the Province to urgently accelerate the implementation of the recommendations contained within the Northern Ontario Transportation Task Force Final Report, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario prioritize meaningful safety improvements along Highways 11 and 17, including increased passing opportunities through four-laning where feasible and expanded implementation of the 2+1 highway model in appropriate sections, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province work collaboratively with Northern municipalities, Indigenous communities and the Government of Canada to modernize this critical national transportation corridor, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province provide an update to Northern municipalities on the status of the Task Force recommendations and the timeline for their implementation, and;

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

Carried

Police services funding

Resolution 26-51: Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant

WHEREAS policing is a provincially legislated responsibility, yet municipalities are bearing the brunt of rising costs to implement provincial mandates, and;

WHEREAS double digit increases in municipal annual Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) budgets are unsustainable, especially as Ontario municipal police services tackle provincial responsibilities such as mental health, addictions and homelessness challenges that place police resources under enormous financial strain, and;

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are experiencing increased police operating and capital costs directly related to new compliance and operational standards required under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, (the Act) and;

WHEREAS THE costs of other measures such as providing provincial court security are increasing and are not part of providing core, adequate and effective municipal policing, and;

WHEREAS rural municipalities are especially negatively affected impacted by these developments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté hereby support Resolution no. 2026-111 made by Council of the County of Prince Edward, requesting that the Province provide financial assistance to municipalities to offset all additional costs directly and demonstrably incurred as a result of compliance with the Act and not general increases to police budgets, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council urges the Province of Ontario to expeditiously review and reform its current police grant programs to ensure a more equitable distribution of funding to municipalities so that municipalities with changing populations and expanding service demands receive fair and sustainable provincial support, and;

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

Carried

Safety of public works professionals

Resolution 26-52: Réginald Manning – Sophie Gagnon

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté received and reviewed copies of the letters sent in February last by the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) to the Minister of Labour, David Piccini and to the Solicitor General, Michael Kerzner, reporting unsafe working conditions for municipal employees created by interference, harassment and dangerous actions by members of the public and requesting legislative changes to protect workers and enforcement and protection services from the OPP, and;

WHEREAS municipal workers are responsible for maintaining roads, bridges and other essential services, often in extreme weather conditions and high-risk environments and;

WHEREAS threatening or obstructing their work becomes not only a workplace safety issue but also a broader public safety concern, and;

WHEREAS Mattice – Val Côté municipal public works employees also experienced increasingly aggressive comments and behaviour from members of the public during the 2025-2026 winter season;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté fully support the requests made by the AORS for additional legislative and protection measures in this regard, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the AORS, to the Township of Oro Medonte, to the Minister of Labour, to the Solicitor General of Ontario and to our local parliament representatives, MPP Guy Bourgouin and MP Gaetan Malette.

Carried

Health & Safety policies	<p><u>Resolution 26-53:</u> Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant BE IT RESOLVED THAT the municipal policies on Health &amp; Safety, Violence in the Workplace and Harassment in the Workplace, be hereby approved as circulated.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Use of municipal resources	<p><u>Resolution 26-54:</u> Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon BE IT RESOLVED THAT the municipal policy on the use by candidates of municipal resources during an election campaign be hereby approved as circulated.</p> <p>Carried</p>
By-law no. 1043	<p><u>Resolution 26-55:</u> Réginald Manning - Sophie Gagnon BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1043, being a By-law to establish the 2026 Municipal Election Compliance Audit Committee, be hereby adopted.</p> <p>Carried</p>
By-law no. 1045	<p><u>Resolution 26-56:</u> Steve Brousseau – Joyce Malenfant BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1045, being a By-law to appoint the members of the Mattice – Val Côté Public Library Board, be hereby adopted.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Caucus	<p><u>Resolution 26-57:</u> Steve Brousseau - Réginald Manning BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council go into a closed meeting at 8:08 pm to adopt the minutes of a closed meeting, to discuss personal matters about identifiable individuals and to discuss labour relations.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Regular meeting	<p><u>Resolution 26-58:</u> Steve Brousseau – Sophie Gagnon BE IT RESOLVED THAT the regular meeting of Council resume at 9:20 pm.</p> <p>Carried</p>
Minutes	<p><u>Resolution 26-59:</u> Sophie Gagnon – Joyce Malenfant BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of Council's closed meeting 26-03, held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, be hereby adopted.</p> <p>Carried</p>

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

15. Confirmatory by-law

Resolution 26-60: Steve Brousseau – Réginald Manning  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law no. 1044, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be hereby adopted.

Carried

16. Adjournment: 9 :26 pm

Resolution 26-61: Sophie Gagnon – Joyce Malenfant  
BE IT RESOLVED THAT this regular meeting of Council held on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be adjourned at 9:26 pm.

Carried

Read and confirmed on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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Mayor

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CAO/Clerk