

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LAURENTIAN HILLS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 22 July 2026 at 10:36 a.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills was held on Wednesday 22 July 2026 at 10:36 a.m. in the Council Chambers.

The following members of Council were present:

Mayor	Anne Giardini
Deputy Mayor	Brenda Blimkie
Councillor	Bruce Boucher
Councillor	Gary McAnulty
Councillor	John Hoyle

Also present:

Chief Administrative Officer / Clerk	Sherry Batten
Treasurer/Deputy Clerk	Tammy Whalen

- II. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

- III. **DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- IV. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of 17 June, 2026 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED Resolution 135-26

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty

THAT the minutes of the Special Council meeting of 16 June, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 136-26

- V. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- (a) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Protection to Persons and Property of 17 June 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 137-26

- (b) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Public Works of 17 June 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 138-26

- (c) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Community and Social Services of 17 June 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 139-26

- (d) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Finance and Personnel of 17 June 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 140-26

- VI. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- VII. **OTHER REPORTS**

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT the resolution to accept the Chalk River WWTP Quarterly Operations Reporting Period: Q1 2026 and Chalk River Drinking Water System Quarterly Operations Reporting Period: Q1 2026 from Veolia North America, Canada.

CARRIED Resolution 141-26

VIII. MAYOR'S UPDATE – The Mayor reported that on June 30 she had a meeting with the Ministry of the Environment regarding a landfill complaint; on July 8 she attended a Shared Services Meeting #2 (next meeting to be on July 29th) Held at Deep River town hall; on July 10 she had a Zoom Meeting hosted by Deep River regarding Public Utilities Commission in Sault Ste Marie; on July 15 she had a first meeting of the DRDH Joint Physician Recruitment Meeting held in person (and zoom) with local mayors, CAOs to discuss a plan forward.

IX. BY-LAWS

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT By-Law No. 29-26 being a By-Law to appoint an acting Deputy Fire Chief do now be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED Resolution 142-26

X. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

(a) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT this Council does acknowledge receipt of the unaudited statement of revenues and expenses as compared to budget as of 6 July 2026.

CARRIED Resolution 143-26

XI. PETITIONS

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

ACTION ITEMS

(a) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty

THAT the resolution from Grey Highlands supporting the Town of Bruce Mines and the Township of Stone Mills regarding the changes to Ontario's Freedom of Information Act be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 144-26

(b) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the resolution from the Village of Merrickville Woford supporting the Municipality of North Grenville, Merrickville-Woford Village OPP Detachment Board's resolution regarding Traffic calming and speeding mitigation techniques be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 145-26

(c) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty

THAT the resolution from the Township of Laurentian Valley requesting the County of Renfrew to prohibit off-road motorcycle vehicles from travelling on the Algonquin Trail be filed.

CARRIED Resolution 146-26

(d) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Councillor Hoyle

THAT the resolution from the Town of Iroquois Falls requesting that the Office of the Fire Marshall revisit the mandatory Ontario Firefighter certification program be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 147-26

(e) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the resolution from the Village of Burk's Falls regarding support for the retention of the Cancer/Oncology Clinic at the Huntsville memorial Hospital site be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 148-26

(f) Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the resolution from the Town of Caledon requesting Provincial support, funding and coordinated plans to combat tick borne diseases be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 149-26

INFORMATION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT all items of correspondence be filed.

CARRIED Resolution 150-26

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 343/22 (Firefighter Certification) made under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, establishes mandatory certification requirements for firefighters performing specified fire protection services across the Province of Ontario.

AND WHEREAS municipal councils support the objective of enhancing firefighter safety, competency, and professionalism through appropriate training and certification standards.

AND WHEREAS many small and rural municipalities have experienced significant challenges in meeting certification requirements due to limited access to training opportunities, instructor availability, travel distances, scheduling constraints, and associated financial costs;

AND WHEREAS volunteer fire departments throughout Ontario have reported concerns regarding member attrition, recruitment difficulties, and the potential loss of experienced firefighters who are unable to complete certification requirements within prescribed timelines;

AND WHEREAS the loss of trained and experienced volunteer firefighters due to certification requirements may negatively impact emergency response capabilities, increase response times, reduce service levels, and place additional pressure on neighbouring municipalities and mutual aid partners, resulting in an increase of the loss of property and lives;

AND WHEREAS a "one-size-fits-all" approach to firefighter certification does not adequately recognize the unique circumstances, service levels, call volumes, and operational realities of small rural volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the expectation that volunteer firefighters, who balance full-time employment, must log hundreds of hours of intensive training poses a severe threat to local recruitment and retention;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills respectfully requests that the Minister of the Solicitor General and the Government of Ontario revisit Ontario Regulation 343/22 and undertake meaningful consultation with rural municipalities, volunteer fire departments, and municipal associations regarding its implementation and long-term impacts on volunteer and composite fire departments.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province provide additional funding and resources to support firefighter certification, including regional training delivery, mobile training teams, local examination opportunities, and reimbursement of training-related expenses.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province consider flexible compliance pathways that recognize prior experience, competency-based assessments, and the unique operational realities of volunteer fire services while maintaining firefighter and public safety standards.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Province develop measures to address volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention challenges arising from the implementation of Ontario Regulation 343/22.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Solicitor General of Ontario, the Office of the Fire Marshal, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP), and all Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

CARRIED Resolution 151-26

Resolution 152 -26 was asked to be amended (include rail line loss) and brought back to the next Council meeting.

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

WHEREAS rural and small municipalities across Ontario are facing significant financial pressures resulting from escalating costs associated with infrastructure renewal, maintenance, and replacement, including roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems, and other essential municipal assets.

AND WHEREAS municipalities are required to maintain balanced budgets and have limited revenue-generating tools, relying primarily on property taxation to fund municipal services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Cont'd)

AND WHEREAS the cost of policing services provided by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has increased substantially in recent years and is projected to continue rising, creating significant budgetary challenges for rural and small municipalities.

AND WHEREAS rising OPP costs place additional strain on municipal taxpayers and reduce the ability of municipalities to invest in critical infrastructure and other essential community services.

AND WHEREAS community safety is a shared responsibility and the Province of Ontario has an interest in ensuring equitable and sustainable policing services across rural Ontario.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills calls upon the Province of Ontario to review the current OPP municipal billing model and provide increased financial assistance or funding support to rural and small municipalities experiencing significant policing cost increases.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province consider implementing measures to limit annual policing cost increases to municipalities and explore alternative funding mechanisms that recognize the limited tax base and fiscal capacity of rural communities.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Solicitor General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED Resolution 153-26

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT WHEREAS Council recognizes the importance of maintaining efficient, responsive, and cost-effective municipal services while supporting modern workplace practices that enhance employee recruitment, retention, and workplace satisfaction; and

AND WHEREAS Administration has developed a voluntary compressed work week pilot that maintains the Municipality's existing weekly hours of operation without increasing labour costs or requiring amendments to existing employment contracts; and

AND WHEREAS Administration has recommended a six-month pilot project to evaluate operational effectiveness, service impacts, employee satisfaction, public feedback, productivity, and recruitment and retention outcomes before any permanent decision is considered;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves a six-month voluntary compressed work week pilot program for eligible administrative staff, effective on a date determined by the Chief Administrative Officer; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT during the pilot period:

1. The Municipal Office shall close to the public at 1:00 p.m. on Fridays
2. Participating administrative employees shall reduce their unpaid lunch break from one (1) hour to thirty (30) minutes, Monday through Thursday.
3. Participating administrative employees shall work seven and one-half (7.5) hours per day, Monday through Thursday, and five (5) hours on Fridays, maintaining their regular weekly hours of work.
4. Participation in the pilot shall be voluntary and subject to operational requirements as determined by the Chief Administrative Officer.
5. Administration shall monitor service levels, public feedback, employee satisfaction, productivity, operational impacts, and recruitment and retention outcomes throughout the pilot period.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Administration shall provide Council with a report at the conclusion of the six-month pilot evaluating the program's outcomes and recommending whether the compressed work week should be continued, modified, or discontinued.

CARRIED Resolution 154-26

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) Road Access policy. The draft policy was reviewed and discussed.

An amendment will be made to paragraph 3.1 to add the word NOT so that it reads will not be provided. The policy will be sent to the Town's solicitor for review and brought back to a future meeting.

XV. CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the next portion of the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to section 239 (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

CARRIED Resolution 155 -26

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT this meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills does now move out of closed session to rise and report.

CARRIED Resolution 156 -26

XVI. MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTION - None

XVII. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT By-Law No. 30-26 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills meeting held on July 22, 2026 do now be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED Resolution 157-26

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Hoyle
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT this meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills do now adjourn at 11:46 a.m.

CARRIED Resolution 158-26

MAYOR

CLERK