

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LAURENTIAN HILLS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 10:58 a.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER** - The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills was held on Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 10:58 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

Absent:
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 – Made at the beginning of the PPP meeting.

- (a) Employee Service Award presentation for Jonathan Surette for his 10 years of service.
- (b) Clark Ramsay spoke to council regarding a noise By-Law and more police presence within the community.

IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty

THAT the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of 22 July 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 159-26

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Protection to Persons and Property of 22 July 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 160-26

- (b) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Public Works of 22 July 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 161-26

- (c) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Committee of the Whole for Finance and Personnel of 22 July 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Resolution 162-26

VI. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - None

VII. OTHER REPORTS

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

THAT this Council does acknowledge receipt of the Chalk River WWTP Quarterly Operations Reporting Period: Q2 2026 and Chalk River Drinking Water System Quarterly Operations Reporting Period: Q2 2026 from Veolia North America, Canada.

CARRIED Resolution 163-26

- VIII. MAYOR'S UPDATE** – The Mayor reported that on July 29 she attended the Municipal Shared Services Committee Meeting hosted by LH; on the 31 she attended "Province Invests in Community-Based Seniors Care" through Innovative New Program at DRDH; on August 12

MAYOR'S UPDATE (Cont'd)

she attended County Council, Health Committee, Corporate Services Committee and Chaired the Community Services Committee; on the 16-19 she attended AMO Conference in Ottawa with the County; on the 20 she attended a Municipal Shared Services Committee Meeting – hosted by HCM; on the 26 she attended a County Council, Operations Committee, Development & Property Committees; on September 1 she attended a Renfrew County Drug Strategy Meeting; on the 8-11 she attended the Ontario East Municipal Conference in Ottawa and on the 9 Deputy Mayor Blinkie attended the DRDH Joint Physician Recruitment Committee Meeting.

The Deputy Mayor reported on the Physician Recruitment meeting that she attended on behalf of the Mayor and suggested that the DRDH CEO Janna Hotson be invited to a future meeting in the new year with the new Council. Staff was asked to include a COMSOC agenda regardless of whether or not there was any municipal business on the agenda in order to facilitate reporting on the Lions/Legion/School House Museum activities. Utilizing the Town's facebook page to share Laurentian Hills events was suggested.

IX. BY-LAWS - None

X. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

- (a) Moved by Deputy Mayor Blinkie
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT this Council does acknowledge receipt of the unaudited statement of revenues and expenses as compared to budget as of 8 September 2026.

CARRIED Resolution 164-26

XI. PETITIONS

Moved by Deputy Mayor Blinkie
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty

THAT the Community Petition was received to restore the swim dock at Tee Lake – dated August 4, 2026 be received and referred to the 2027 budget workshop for discussion.

CARRIED Resolution 165-26

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

ACTION ITEMS

- (a) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blinkie

THAT the resolution from the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand regarding Beacons of Light British Home Children & Child Migrants be filed.

CARRIED Resolution 166-26

- (b/c) Moved by Deputy Mayor Blinkie
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT the resolution from the Municipality of Wawa and the Municipality of Central Manitoulin requesting the Province of Ontario to provide immediate and sustained funding to improve hospital finances and capacity be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 167-26

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

THAT the resolution from Tudor and Cashel and the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan regarding a request for review of extended producer responsibility for one-pound single-use propane cylinders be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 168-26

- (e) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blinkie

THAT the resolution of Tyendinaga regarding the Federal Bill C-15, the ALTO High-Speed Rail Project, and Municipal Interests be endorsed.

CARRIED Resolution 169-26

- (f) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty

THAT the request for sponsorship from Community Living Upper Ottawa Valley for their 30th Anniversary - Annual Golf Tournament be declined.

CARRIED Resolution 170-26

ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd)

- (g) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty
- THAT the resolution from the County of Renfrew regarding support for the From the Ground initiative be filed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 171-26
- (h) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Councillor Boucher
- THAT the resolution from the Town of Latchford regarding Provincial funding for Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning By-Law Reviews be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 172-26
- (i) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Councillor Boucher
- THAT the resolution from the City of Burlington regarding information on the new development charge reduction program be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 173-26
- (j) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
- THAT the resolution from the Town of South Bruce requesting the Province of Ontario to recognize outdoor education as an essential educational service, commit to equitable access for all students and halt the closure of outdoor education centers and restore stable funding for programming across Ontario be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 174-26
- (k) Moved by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
Seconded by Councillor Boucher
- THAT the resolution from Halton Hills regarding undertaking a review and modernization of Ontario's invasive plants regulations be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 175-26
- (l) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
- THAT the resolution from the Township of Puslinch supporting the Town of Halton Hills resolution regarding a request for review of Provincial-Municipal Fiscal framework be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 176-26
- (m) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor McAnulty
- THAT the resolution from the City of Mississauga regarding women and children experiencing intimate partner violence and emergency shelters be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 177-26
- (n) Moved by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
Seconded by Councillor Boucher
- THAT the resolution from Kincardine requesting the Province of Ontario to extend the deadline to January 1, 2030 for notice of intention to designate listed heritage properties be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 178-26
- (o) Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie
- THAT the resolution from the Township of Armour regarding the request for increased and sustainable provincial funding for public libraries be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 179-26
- (p) Moved by Councillor McAnulty
Seconded by Councillor Boucher
- THAT the resolution from Trent Hills regarding the elimination of the workplace safety and insurance board's second injury and enhancement fund (SIEF) be endorsed.
- CARRIED** Resolution 180-26

INFORMATION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor McNulty
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT all items of correspondence be filed.

CARRIED Resolution 181-26

It was noted that Council would be interested in receiving additional information that may be available on the Township of Hornepayne's proposed regional Waste to Resource Project.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Deputy Mayor Blinkie
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

WHEREAS Highway 17 is a critical component of the Trans-Canada Highway system and serves as the primary transportation corridor connecting communities, businesses, and essential services across Eastern and Northern Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Highway 17 is Ontario's longest highway, serving as the principal continuous highway link between Ontario and Manitoba and forming a vital part of Canada's national east-west transportation network;

AND WHEREAS Highway 17 serves as a nationally significant trade and transportation corridor, supporting the movement of goods and people between Central and Western Canada and contributing to the resilience of Canada's economy and supply chains;

AND WHEREAS commercial trucking and passenger vehicle traffic on Highway 17 continues to increase as Ontario's economy expands and supply chains become increasingly dependent upon safe, reliable, and efficient transportation infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS transportation needs and infrastructure have evolved over time, and the discontinuance of freight rail service and the removal of portions of the regional rail network have contributed to greater reliance on Highway 17 for the movement of commercial freight and passengers, increasing demand on this critical transportation corridor and reinforcing the need for continued investment in highway expansion and safety improvements;

AND WHEREAS numerous serious collisions, including fatal collisions involving passenger vehicles and commercial transport trucks, have occurred along two-lane sections of Highway 17, resulting in loss of life, injuries, extended road closures, and significant economic disruption;

AND WHEREAS many sections of Highway 17 remain two-lane highways and lack the capacity and safety features associated with modern four-lane divided highways, increasing the risk of head-on collisions and other serious incidents;

AND WHEREAS the expansion and twinning of Highway 17 have been identified as long-term provincial priorities; however, progress has occurred incrementally over many years despite increasing traffic volumes, growing transportation demands, and ongoing safety concerns;

AND WHEREAS improved highway infrastructure would enhance public safety, strengthen economic development, support regional industries, improve supply chain reliability, and increase connectivity between communities throughout Northern and Eastern Ontario;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills formally requests that the Province of Ontario prioritize and accelerate the planning, funding, and construction of the remaining Highway 17 expansion and twinning projects, with priority given to sections demonstrating high collision rates, significant commercial traffic volumes, and documented safety concerns;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario establish and publicly report a clear timeline for the completion of Highway 17 twinning and associated safety improvement projects across Northern and Eastern Ontario;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), and neighbouring municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED Resolution 182-26

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

WHEREAS an application has been received for the closure and purchase of the unopened road allowances identified as Buffalo Ave and Muskallonge Street designated as public highways under Registered Plan of Subdivision 224 (1931);

AND WHEREAS the chain of title and historical ownership and legal status of the subject unopened road allowances require verification by Town staff;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT contingent upon confirmation that the subject lands are under Town ownership and jurisdiction, Council directs staff to work with the applicant to implement the Town's Sale of Municipal In-land Road Allowances Policy to facilitate a potential sale.

CARRIED Resolution 183-26

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Deputy Mayor Blimkie

WHEREAS the Town has received an incomplete request for an Encroachment Agreement regarding an unauthorized subsurface geothermal private utility installation for a property located at 436 McNulty Road;

AND WHEREAS the request only addresses the Unopened Road Allowance (URA), but the unauthorized installation physically impacts both the Unopened Road Allowance (URA) and the Town-owned Shoreline Road Allowance (SRA);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills directs staff to place the request on an Administrative Hold due to its incomplete and unauthorized status, and that the file remain deferred until the applicant satisfies the following preliminary requirements at their sole expense:

1. **A Reference Plan** prepared by a licensed Ontario Land Surveyor (OLS) paired with "As-Built" engineering drawings from the installation contractor, confirming the exact location of all subsurface lines relative to the applicant's property boundaries, the Town-owned URA and SRA, and all immediately adjacent private properties;
2. **Written confirmation** from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) confirming whether permits or approvals were required, or an explicit exemption under the Public Lands Act for the infrastructure installed within the municipal shoreline road allowance; and
3. **Documented resolution** of the active third-party boundary dispute with the adjacent property owner.

AND FURTHER to ensure the applicant is fully notified of their core long-term obligations before a final agreement is prepared, Council directs that any future draft Encroachment Agreement include the following terms, together with any additional terms or amendments deemed necessary by the Town solicitor during the legal drafting stage:

- **Comprehensive Scope:** The application must be formally expanded to encompass both the URA and SRA within a unified legal framework;
- **Provincial Compliance Records:** Submission of the contractor's Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA), borehole logs, and grout logs confirming adherence to Ontario Regulation 245/11 [Ontario Regulation 245 11 geothermal];
- **Insurance & Indemnity:** Provision of a minimum \$2,000,000 liability insurance policy naming the Municipality as an additional insured, alongside a full indemnification protecting the Town from trail subsidence or shoreline instability claims;
- **Total Cost Recovery:** A binding undertaking to reimburse the Municipality for 100% of all legal, engineering review (if required), and administrative fees incurred to draft and register the necessary documentation; and
- **Covenant of Total Owner Cost & Maintenance:** A binding covenant holding the property owner 100% responsible for all current and future infrastructure costs, including:
 - a. The immediate restoration and repair of the public trail should any subsurface voids cause a sinkhole or ground subsidence within the URA or SRA;
 - b. The total cost of excavation, decommissioning, or repair should the property owner need to service their private utility; and
 - c. The total cost to relocate, protect, or abandon the private lines should the Town require excavation of the right-of-way for any future public capital works, emergency stabilization, or municipal infrastructure upgrades.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

AND FURTHER THAT once the preliminary requirements are satisfied, staff are authorized to direct the Town Solicitor to draft the encroachment agreement to be brought back to Council for final approval.

CARRIED Resolution 184-26

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor McNulty

THAT this Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills does authorize the closing of the Municipal office and operations for Christmas on December 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 and 31.

CARRIED Resolution 185-26

XV. CLOSED SESSION - None

XVI. MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTION - None

XVII. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

Moved by Councillor McNulty
Seconded by Councillor Boucher

THAT By-Law No. 31-26 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills meeting held on September 16, 2026 do now be read a first, second and third time and passed.

CARRIED Resolution 186-26

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Boucher
Seconded by Councillor McNulty

THAT this meeting of the Council of the Town of Laurentian Hills do now adjourn at 11:51 a.m.

CARRIED Resolution 187-26

MAYOR

CLERK