

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon held a virtual meeting on the 6th day of March, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Darren White, Deputy Mayor James McLean, Councillor Ralph Moore, Councillor Bill Neilson and Councillor Ruth Plowright were present. Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk, Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer and Kaitlin Dinnick, Deputy Clerk/Planning Coordinator, were also present. Mayor White presided and called the meeting to order.

Mayor White advised that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted to the Township's website under Council Agendas and Minutes.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor White shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Announcements

Councillor Plowright advised that there had been two successful Strada meetings at the Hall this past week and congratulated Mayor White on fielding a majority of the questions. She also thanked Jack Polonsky for donating the sound system for the Horning's Mills Hall and reminded everyone of the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Bingo Event is coming up on March 15th, 2025.

Additions

None.

Deletions

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Moore, that Council approve the Agenda as presented. Carried.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Mayor White advised that disclosure of pecuniary interest can be declared at this time or anytime throughout the meeting by giving the general nature thereof and that declarations must be submitted to the Clerk in writing.

Minutes

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Plowright, that Council approve the minutes of the February 20th, 2025 Council meeting as circulated. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Point of Privilege or Personal Privilege

None.

Public Question Period

None.

Public Works

Accounts

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Moore, that Council receive the Public Works Accounts as presented. Carried.

Other

Nothing for this matter.

Planning

Other

Nothing for this matter.

Strategic Plan

Nothing for this matter.

Climate Change Initiatives

Nothing for this matter.

Dufferin OPP Detachment Board – Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur

Deferred to later in meeting, however Al Blundell, Chair of the 3M Committee was unable to attend, and this item was not discussed.

Committee/Board Reports & Recommendations

The following verbal reports were given:

Councillor Neilson – Shelburne and District Fire Board – March 2025 Meeting
Deputy Mayor McLean – Heritage Advisory Committee – February 2025 Meeting

Correspondence

Items for Information Purposes

1. Dufferin County Resolution Supporting the Resolution from the Town of Shelburne urging the Provincial and Federal Governments to Promote the Use of Canadian Companies and to Request Dufferin County Develop a “buy local” Campaign
2. Dufferin County Resolution Supporting the Resolution from the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus (EOWC), to Support the Federal and Provincial Negotiations with the United States on Trade Tariffs
3. Dufferin County Resolution Supporting the Resolution to Support the Actions of the Western Ontario Wardens’ Caucus as Outlined in the Media Release from Kevin Marriot, Vice Chair, Western Ontario Wardens’ Caucus (WOWC) regarding Tariffs
4. Dufferin County Resolution Supporting the Resolution made by the Town of Orangeville Regarding Road Safety
5. Email from Michelle Hargrave, County of Dufferin Regarding Melancthon Township’s Resolution Regarding the Shelburne Bypass
6. Town of Mono Resolution Supporting and Endorsing the Township of Puslinch’s Resolution Calling on the Province to Prioritize the Protection of Agricultural Lands

7. Town of Mono Resolution Supporting and Endorsing the Town of Aylmer's Resolution Opposing Provincial Legislation Governing Bicycle Lanes on Municipal Roads
8. Town of Mono Resolution Regarding the 25% Tariff that the President of the United States has Placed on Canadian Goods
9. Town of Mono Resolution Supporting Option 4 from the Multi-Jurisdiction Fire Prevention and Protection Modernization Plan, Maintaining the Status Quo
10. Township of Amaranth Resolution Regarding Funding the Crime Stoppers Program
11. Township of Amaranth Letter of Support to The Township of Melancthon Motion Regarding the Shelburne Bypass
12. Town of Orangeville Resolution Regarding a Feasibility Study for Highway 407
13. Township of Uxbridge Motion Regarding the Implementation of "Buy Canadian Policy"
14. Town of Parry Sound Resolution Regarding United States Tariffs
15. Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula Regarding Proposed Mandate that all New Cars and Trucks Sold in Canada be Equipped with a Tow Hook
16. Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula Motion Regarding Cell Towers and their Associated Maintenance
17. Dundalk Fire Department – 2024 Year End Report

Moved by Moore, Seconded by McLean, that correspondence items 1-17, for information purposes, be received as information, except for item 10, pulled for further discussion. Carried.

Councillor Neilson spoke to item 10 and would like Councils support for the Township of Amaranth's motion regarding Provincial Funding for Crime Stoppers.

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore, that Council supports the motion from the Township of Amaranth regarding Funding the Crime Stoppers Program. Carried.

General Business

Accounts

Accounts Ending December 31st, 2024 & February 2025 Accounts

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Moore, that Council receive the General Accounts – Accounts Ending December 31, 2024 and February 2025 Accounts as presented. Carried.

New/Other Business/Additions

Proclamation for World Autism Day 2025

Whereas: World Autism Day is recognized on April 2, 2025, in Canada. Autism Ontario is one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community, and the work we do helps all autistic individuals and families in their communities have access to meaningful support, information, and connections — not only on April 2 but every day throughout the year.

Whereas: Autism impacts more than 135,000 individuals in Ontario, representing 1 in every 50 Canadian children and youth. It not only influences the lives of autistics but also their friends, families, and communities. It's crucial for us to raise awareness, and acceptance, provide support and promote a more inclusive society.

Whereas: Autism is a diverse spectrum that varies widely among individuals. Each person's experience with autism can change over time. This evolving journey highlights

the uniqueness of every autistic individual, emphasizing the need for understanding and support tailored to their specific needs.

Whereas: Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism, and since 1973, has been providing support, information, and opportunities for thousands of families and individuals across the province.

Whereas: Autism Ontario is devoted to raising public awareness about autism and addressing the everyday challenges faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who work alongside them. We urge everyone to recognize and celebrate the unique differences and needs of others, fostering an inclusive environment where all individuals can participate fully in activities and discussions. Together, we can create a society that values and includes everyone.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that I, Mayor Darren White, on behalf of Council, do hereby recognize April 2 as World Autism Day while committing to embrace awareness and acceptance today and every day throughout the year.

Grand River Conservation Authority Access Agreement

There were no questions or concerns regarding this. Staff will prepare a By-law for the March 20th meeting to direct the CAO to sign the Agreement.

2025 Shelburne Public Library Board Agreement

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore, that the Mayor and CAO/Clerk be directed to sign the 2025 Library Agreement between the Shelburne Public Library Board and the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon. Carried.

Reports/Updates from Members of Council & Administrative Staff

EOLECTRIC Wind Energy Proposal – Mayor White

Mayor White advised that Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk and himself had met with a company called EOLECTRIC regarding a wind farm opportunity in the Township of Melancthon. They are looking at a small project 8-10 turbines and Mayor White advised them that he would discuss this with Council. Council did not object to them doing their due diligence, however Council was reminded that Melancthon Township currently has a motion in place that the Township is an unwilling host. Staff will invite them as a to discuss further with Council.

Delegations

6:00 p.m. – Public Meeting and Presentation - Draft 2025 Capital and Operating Budgets

Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation to Council on the 2025 Draft Operating and Capital Budgets. She highlighted the budget summary, provided an expense and revenue breakdown, as well as information on the current reserve fund accounts from 2017 to 2024. Sarah's presentation also outlined a 5-year capital equipment plan, capital roads plan and capital bridge plan. Harvey Lyon and Jack Polonsky were in attendance and raised some questions on the budget. At the end of her presentation, she explained the tax rate impact on assessment. The draft budget represents a 3.82% tax increase after growth of 2.08%. When there were no further questions, Staff were directed to prepare the Levying By-law for the March 20th meeting to adopt the Budget.

Closed Session

Moved by Moore, Seconded by McLean, that Council move into a Closed Session Meeting at 5:24 p.m. pursuant Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reasons: (b) – Applications for the Parks and Recreation Board, and (k)

– Draft Agreement between Mulmur and Melancthon Township regarding the North Dufferin Community Centre. Carried.

Rise With or Without Report from Closed Session

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore, that Council rise from Closed Session at 6:03 p.m. with Report. Carried.

Report:

That Staff be directed to proceed with the direction given in Closed Session.

Third Reading of By-laws

None.

Notice of Motion

All of Council supported the below Notice of Motion put forward by Deputy Mayor McLean at this Council meeting.

Moved by McLean, Seconded by White, that Council requests that our MPP Sylvia Jones attend Council to update us on the priorities of the government and to hear the concerns from Members of Council at both the Township and County levels. And a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Dufferin County Council and all lower tier municipalities in Dufferin County. Carried.

Confirmation By-law

Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson, that leave be given to introduce a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon at its Council meeting held on March 6, 2025 and it be given the required number of readings and numbered 10-2025. Carried.

Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Moore, that Council adjourn this meeting at 7:07 p.m., to meet again on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor. Carried.

MAYOR

CLERK