March 4, 2026
COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES
On Wednesday, March 4, 2026, the Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin held a Regular Hybrid Council Meeting via Zoom and in Chambers, which was streamed to YouTube.

In Chambers:
Mayor Ethel LaValley
Councillor Collins
Councillor Joe Florent
Councillor Joan Kuiack
Councillor Shawn Pigeon
Councillor Bill Rodnick
Councillor Laurie Siydock

Staff: Bryan Martin, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer
Tracy Cannon, Deputy CAO/Deputy Clerk-Planner
Jennifer Baragar, Deputy Treasurer

1. OPEN MEETING/CALL MEETING TO ORDER:
Mayor LaValley called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL: All Present

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

4. ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:
- Unfinished Business-Chris Fitzpatrick Letter RE: Unemployment Insurance Framework.
- Petition, Delegation and/or Presentation: Trevor Pitts, A/Sergeant Bancroft OPP Detachment – Update of Transition of Services.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 26-627
THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the Agenda as circulated and amended for the Regular Council Meeting of March 4, 2026.
-Carried-

6. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST OR A GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:
None

7. PETITION, DELEGATION AND/OR PRESENTATIONS:
- Trevor Pitts, A/Sergeant with the Bancroft OPP Detachment, provided an update regarding the transition of O.P.P. services from the Killaloe Detachment to the Bancroft Detachment. A/ Sergeant Pitts advised that two O.P.P. officers will be working out of the Whitney Station, and efforts are underway to recruit additional officers for the area. Shifts are currently being briefed, and meetings with local stakeholders are planned for the coming month. Radio training is also being arranged to bring the Bancroft Detachment in line with the system currently in operation at the Whitney Station. April 8, 2026, is the anticipated date for the transition. A/ Sergeant Pitts also noted that his goal is to increase awareness in the area through school visits and a greater police presence in South Algonquin.
  A/Sergeant Trevor Pitts left the meeting.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
Moved by: Councillor Siydock Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 26-628
THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of February 4, 2026 as circulated.
-Carried-
Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Collins Res. # 26-629
THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of the Human Resources/Administration/Public Relations Committee Meeting of February 18, 2026 as circulated.
-Carried-

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9. COMMITTEE REPORTS, STAFF AND/OR COUNCILLOR REPORTS:

M&L Parks & Recreation Committee

M&L Parks and Recreation, RE: Minutes of January 13, 2026 and Agenda February 10, 2026 were provided in the Council package.

- Brendia Drew has offered to volunteer as a recreation volunteer her time three nights a week to keep the Mervin Dupuis Building open for the remainder of the season for the kids. The rink has been well used and positively received by the community this year.
- Staff will request a site visit from MNRF staff regarding the Tom & Mick Murray Boat Launch parking lot expansion request. The current low water levels make this an ideal time to assess the area in relation to MNRF's concerns and the studies they require.

Councillor Pigeon

- The Property Owners' Association held its 5th annual Crocacurl event on McKenzie Lake over Family Day Weekend. Crocacurl is a game combining elements of crokinole and curling. The event continues to grow and has become a popular event.
- The 30th annual Fish Derby will take place on March 14th, weather permitting, on McKenzie Lake, in honour of Norman Easto and to support the Alzheimer's Society.

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: None

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Chris Fitzpatrick Letter RE: Unemployment Insurance Framework -Staff to draft a letter to MP Cheryl Gallant in addition to a resolution of support for April Meeting.

12. CORRESPONDENCE-Action Items;

- Resolution of Support; RE: Transportation of High-Level Radioactive Waste on Our Highways.

13. CORRESPONDENCE-Information Items Received and Filed;

- Krista Marson, Regional Relations (A) Regional Services and Relationship Office RE: Highway 60.
- Cassellholme Board of Management Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2025 & Capital Levy
- 2025 Statement of Council Remuneration.
- Municipal Dog Pound Board Meeting Minutes, January 29, 2026.
- Renfrew County and District Health Unit – February 24, 2026 Medical Officer of Health Report to Board.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- Mayor LaValley, Councillor Pigeon and staff attended an exploratory meeting with MNRF staff regarding the disposition of Crown lands for potential housing. MNRF provided staff will their Disposition of Lands Policy and township staff provided MNRF Staff with the Housing Needs Study. Continued dialogue with MNRF will continue.
- OPG Freshet Zoom meeting is rescheduled for March 12th. Councillor Florent will be attending.

15. MOTIONS OF COUNCIL:

Moved by: Councillor Collins Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon Res # 26-630

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin hereby accepts Lucas Pordonick, Ashton Etmanski, and Marcus Filiatrault as Firefighters for the Whitney Station, pending favourable Police record checks.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Collins Res. # 26-631

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin hereby accepts Justin Hunter as a Firefighter for the Madawaska Station, pending a favourable Police record check.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Siydock Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 26-632

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin hereby accepts the Jackie Findlay as a Member of the South Algonquin Library Board, pending a favourable Police record check.

-Carried-

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Moved by: Councillor Siydock Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon Res. # 26-633
THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin hereby appoints Cheryl Summers and Steve Gravefell as community members for the Killaloe Police Service Board for the remainder of this term of Council.
-Carried-
Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon Res. # 26-634
WHEREAS when Highway 17 is closed within the North Bay–Mattawa–Pembroke corridor due to weather conditions or motor vehicle collisions, traffic is redirected to Highway 60, which passes through the Township of South Algonquin, resulting in substantially increased traffic volumes within the municipality;
AND WHEREAS such diversions raise serious concerns regarding public safety, emergency response capacity, environmental protection, and infrastructure impacts within the Township;
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation for the Township of South Algonquin urges the federal government to direct the owners of high-level nuclear waste (Ontario Power Generation, Hydro Quebec and New Brunswick Power) to establish secure storage solutions for the nuclear waste in the vicinity of their reactor stations where the waste has been generated and is currently stored, as an alternative to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) project; and
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the federal government ensure that the impact assessment and regulatory and licensing processes for the NWMO project are comprehensive and include the impacts and risks of nuclear waste transportation and processing, and the long-term safety of the project, including alternative means of carrying out the project activities including nuclear waste transfers, transportation and processing; and
That this resolution be forwarded to We the Nuclear Free North.
-Carried-

16. BY-LAWS:
Moved by: Councillor Collins Seconded by: Councillor Florent Res. # 26-635
THAT:
1) By-Law 2026-862 to provide an Interim Tax Levy and to provide for Payment of Taxes.
2) By-Law 2026-863 to adopt the Expenditures and Revenue Estimates for 2026 and the amount required to be raised through Taxation to Cover Operation and Capital Costs.
3) By-Law 2026-864 to adopt the amendments to the 2026 Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.
4) By-Law 2026-865 to authorize the signing of a Contribution Agreement for a Boat Launch & Trails Masterplan.
5) By-Law 2026-866 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council.
BE READ A FIRST TIME AND BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME
-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon Res. # 26-636
THAT:
1) By-Law 2026-862 to provide an Interim Tax Levy and to provide for Payment of Taxes.
2) By-Law 2026-864 to adopt the amendments to the 2026 Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan.
3) By-Law 2026-865 to authorize the signing of a Contribution Agreement for a Boat Launch & Trails Masterplan.
4) By-Law 2026-866 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council.
BE READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED
-Carried-

17. CLOSED SESSION: None

Prior to adjournment, Mayor LaValley thanked staff for their efforts, particularly over the past few months. Staff have been managing numerous tasks outside their usual responsibilities, including an increased number of MFIPPA requests, as well as Ombudsman. While the public has the right to submit such requests, staff are currently stretched thin, and both Council and the public should understand that responses may take longer than usual. Staff will provide a follow-up report. Councillors Pigeon and Collins echoed Mayor LaValley's remarks.

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18. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by: Councillor Rodnick Seconded by: Councillor Siydock Res. # 26-637

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adjourns the Regular Council Meeting of March 4, 2026 at 10:24 a.m.

-Carried-

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

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Mayor Ethel LaValley CAO/ Clerk-Treasurer Bryan Martin

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