

April 1, 2026

COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

On Wednesday, April 1, 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- Zoom
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 9:02 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL: All Present

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Following the land acknowledgement, Mayor LaValley referenced a recent incident in Sarnia in which a councillor made negative comments about Indigenous peoples. The Mayor noted that for many people these comments set back the progress on Truth and Reconciliation.

4. ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA:

- Motions of Council – Withdraw the motion pertaining to the City of Ottawa regarding proposed new Regulation under the Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act due to it being past the submission deadline.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon Res. # 26-638

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the Agenda as circulated and amended for the Regular Council Meeting of April 1, 2026.

-Carried-

6. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST OR A GENERAL NATURE THEREOF:

None

7. PETITION, DELEGATION AND/OR PRESENTATIONS: None

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Moved by: Councillor Collins Seconded by: Councillor Rodnick Res. # 26-639

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 4, 2026 as circulated.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Pigeon Seconded by: Councillor Siydock Res. # 26-640

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of the Economic Development Committee Meeting of February 26, 2026 as circulated.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Collins Seconded by: Councillor Rodnick Res. # 26-641

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of the Economic Development Committee Meeting of March 18, 2026 as circulated.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Collins Seconded by: Councillor Florent Res. # 26-642

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adopts the minutes of

the Asset Management Committee Meeting of March 18, 2026 as circulated.

-Carried-

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

M&L Parks & Recreation Committee

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

- Annual Trivia Night is scheduled for April 27th, with twelve teams already registered.
- The Bingo event on April 12th is sponsored by the Recreation Committee but organized by St. Matthews Parish. The parish is seeking donations, which are being collected by Rosemary Shalla.
- At the Library event in April featuring Adam Sholtz, the Recreation Committee will be operating a canteen.

Whitney Recreation Committee

Whitney Recreation, RE: Minutes of February 3, 2026 were provided in the Council package.

- Successful St. Patty's Day Dance.
- Bingo with Seniors New Outlook on Sunday was well attended.
- Easter Egg Hunt and Bake Sale this Saturday. Baked good donations welcomed.
- Next big event is the ATV Poker Run being held in May-more details to follow.

Councillor Pigeon

Councillor Pigeon reported that numerous complaints have been received regarding the condition of McKenzie Lake Road and McGuey Road. It was noted that staff are taking all possible measures; however, progress has been delayed due to current weather conditions. Gravel placement on these roads is scheduled and will proceed once the weather permits.

10. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- Economic Development Committee Meeting of March 18, 2026- It was recommended that the Terms of Reference for the Economic Development Committee Meeting align more closely with legislation.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Recommendation for Council to be more involved with the goals in the Trails Master Plan.
- Staff reported that no response has been received from Circular Materials Ontario regarding the Blue Box Program. Currently, the Township, along with other townships and First Nations, has not transitioned to the program and is not receiving funding under it. A resolution pertaining to the program is included in the Motions of Council. Staff were also directed to send an email to MPP Billy Denault regarding this matter.

12. CORRESPONDENCE-Action Items;

- Resolution of Support; RE: FONOM, Calls for Urgent Action Following Another Fatal Collision on Northern Highway.
- Resolution of Support; RE: City of Ottawa, Proposed New Regulation under the Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act. *-Withdrawn*
- Resolution of Support; RE: The Regional Municipality of York, Provincial Intervention on Blue Box Program/ Circular Materials Ontario
- Resolution of Support; RE: Township of McNab/Braeside, Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy.
- Resolution of Support; RE: Town of Whitby, Request for a Comprehensive Review of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework.
- Resolution of Support; RE: Prince Edward County, OPP- Sustainable Police Service Funding.

13. CORRESPONDENCE-Information Items Received and Filed;

- Inspection of 2026-2027 Annual Work Schedule for Algonquin Park Forest.
- Agriculture Development Branch – Weed Inspector Appointments.
- Integrity Commissioner Annual Report 2025.
- Cassellholme Board of Management Meeting Minutes January 29, 2026.
- Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility: 2026 Ontario Senior of the Year Award.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- Under the recently passed Liquor Licence legislation a by-law is required if Council wishes to permit “bring your own alcohol” at events; otherwise, consumption in public outdoor events remains illegal and is enforceable by the OPP.

15. MOTIONS OF COUNCIL:

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Collins Res. # 26-643

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin hereby proclaims May 3 to May 9, 2026 Emergency Preparedness Week.

-Carried-

Staff were directed to confirm the current federal minister for the following resolution responsible for employment services. Therefore, the resolution was amended to remove the Honourable Gary Anandasangaree and replace with the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families.

Moved by: Councillor Siydock Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res # 26-644

WHEREAS the Township of South Algonquin is a rural municipality within the Nipissing District that serves as an important gateway to Algonquin Provincial Park; and

WHEREAS tourism is a foundational component of the local economy in South Algonquin and across surrounding Northern Ontario communities, supporting accommodations, restaurants, outfitters, guiding services, and seasonal park operations that rely on a stable seasonal workforce; and

WHEREAS according to the 2021 Census, approximately 105 residents of South Algonquin are employed in the accommodation and food services sector, with an estimated additional 50 residents working seasonally within Algonquin Provincial Park; and

WHEREAS many of these positions are inherently seasonal due to the nature of tourism activity associated with Algonquin Provincial Park and the seasonal operations of tourism-related businesses across Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS under the current framework of the Employment Insurance Program, many seasonal tourism workers experience a gap between the end of their Employment Insurance benefits—often in February or March—and the resumption of seasonal tourism employment in late May or June when visitor activity returns to the region; and

WHEREAS this gap creates financial hardship for workers who reliably return to seasonal employment each year and creates workforce instability for tourism operators and small businesses across the region; and

WHEREAS recognition of tourism-dependent rural communities within the framework of the Employment Insurance Program would help stabilize the regional workforce, support tourism businesses, and contribute to the economic sustainability of rural municipalities that depend on seasonal tourism; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Northern Ontario experience similar workforce challenges associated with seasonal tourism economies and would benefit from federal policies that better reflect the realities of seasonal employment in rural regions; and

WHEREAS regional municipal organizations such as the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities play a key role in advocating for policy solutions that address the unique economic conditions of Northern Ontario communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of South Algonquin formally request that the Government of Canada review and consider adjustments to the Employment Insurance Program to better recognize the realities of seasonal tourism employment in Northern Ontario and communities within the Nipissing District. Council further requests the support and advocacy of the local Member of Parliament, Cheryl Gallant, in bringing this matter forward to the Government of Canada. Additionally, Council requests that the Government of Canada, including the Honourable Steven MacKinnon and Honourable Patty Hajdu, review potential policy measures or pilot programs that address the seasonal Employment Insurance gap affecting tourism-dependent rural communities. Council also calls upon the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and municipalities across Northern Ontario to support advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring federal Employment Insurance policies reflect the economic realities of tourism-dependent communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be circulated to M.P. Cheryl Gallant, M.P. Pauline Rochefort, the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities within the Nipissing District and Northern Ontario for endorsement and support.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Kuiack Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon Res # 25-645

THAT: Council of the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin hereby authorizes the placement of a one-quarter page advertisement in Zine magazine at a cost of \$325.00.

-Carried-

A friendly amendment was proposed and accepted to revise the following resolution to include Victor Fedeli, Chair of Cabinet and Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade.

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 26-646

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin supports the resolution from FONOM regarding Calls for Urgent Action Following Another Fatal Collision on Northern Highway; and

THAT this resolution along with the resolution from FONOM be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Transportation; the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth; Victor Fedeli, Chair of Cabinet/Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; Billy Denault, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; Cheryl Gallant, MP for Algonquin-Renfrew-Pembroke; and FONOM.

-Carried-

The following resolution was requested to be removed and was accepted for withdrawal from consideration during the Additions/Amendments to the Agenda.

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin supports the resolution from City of Ottawa regarding proposed new Regulation under the Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act; and

THAT this resolution along with the resolution from the City of Ottawa be forwarded to Solicitor General of Ontario.

-Withdrawn-

Moved by: Councillor Kuiack Seconded by: Councillor Pigeon Res. # 26-647

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin supports the resolution from The Regional Municipality of York regarding Provincial Intervention on Blue Box Program/ Circular Materials Ontario; and

THAT this resolution along with the resolution from The Regional Municipality of York be forwarded Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Billy Denault, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and Circular Materials Ontario.

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Siydock Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 26-648

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin supports the resolution from the Township of McNab/Braeside regarding Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy; and

THAT this resolution along with the resolution from the Township of McNab/Braeside be forwarded Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming; Billy Denault, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Pigeon Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 26-649

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin supports the resolution from the Town of Whitby regarding a request for a Comprehensive Review of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework; and

THAT this resolution along with the resolution from the Town of Whitby be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure; Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; Billy Denault, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Kuiack Seconded by: Councillor Collins Res. # 26-650

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin supports the resolution from Prince Edward County regarding OPP sustainable services funding; and THAT this resolution along with the resolution from Prince Edward County be forwarded Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Solicitor General of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Billy Denault, MPP; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA); Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC); the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB).

-Carried-

16. BY-LAWS:

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 26-651

THAT:

- 1) By-Law 2026-867 to Adopt Tax Ratios for 2026.
- 2) By-Law 2026-868 to Adopt Tax Rates for 2026 and to Establish Penalty and Interest on Overdue Taxes.
- 3) By-Law 2026-869 to Authorize a Tiered Response Agreement between South Algonquin Fire Department and Nipissing District Paramedic Services.
- 4) By-Law 2026-870 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council.

BE READ A FIRST TIME AND BE DEEMED READ A SECOND TIME

-Carried-

Moved by: Councillor Siydock Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res. # 26-652

THAT:

- 1) By-Law 2026-863 to Establish 2026 Expenditures and Revenues
- 2) By-Law 2026-867 to Adopt Tax Ratios for 2026.
- 3) By-Law 2026-868 to Adopt Tax Rates for 2026 and to Establish Penalty and Interest on Overdue Taxes.
- 4) By-Law 2026-869 to Authorize a Tiered Response Agreement between South Algonquin Fire Department and Nipissing District Paramedic Services.
- 5) By-Law 2026-870 to Confirm the Proceedings of Council

BE READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED

-Carried-

Council took a short recess

17. CLOSED SESSION:

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Collins Res: # 26-653

THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin move into Closed Session pursuant to Section 239(2)(k) of the Municipal Act, 2001, to discuss a matter related to a position, plan, procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board regarding discussion on procedures and negotiations for housing development at 10:19 a.m.; and

FURTHER THAT Council will consider the approval of the Closed Session minutes of the Closed Council meeting held June 4, 2025, and the Closed Session minutes of the Human Resources/Administration/Public Relations Committee meeting held February 18, 2026.

-Carried-

Rising Report from Closed Session

Council rose from Closed Session. Staff will proceed as directed in Closed Session.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by: Councillor Florent Seconded by: Councillor Collins Res. # 26-654

THAT: Council for the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin adjourns the Regular Council Meeting of April 1, 2026 at 11:46 a.m.

-Carried-

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Ethel LaValley

CAO/ Clerk-Treasurer Bryan Martin