

**THE CORPORATION OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF SIOUX NARROWS - NESTOR FALLS**

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, August 4, 2026, in the Sioux Narrows Council Chambers. A quorum of Council was present, and this was a duly authorized meeting of the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls. This meeting was made available virtually, and all participants were notified that they were being recorded.

Resolution No. 104-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That Matt Rydberg is hereby appointed as acting Mayor for the purposes of the business at hand for the August 4th, 2026 open session Council Meeting.

Carried

Resolution No. 105-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Acting Mayor now calls this meeting to order to deal with matters pertaining to general.

Carried

Resolution No. 106-26

Moved By Steve Salvador

Seconded By Doug Brothwell

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls hereby approve and adopt the agenda for the August 4, 2026, Council meeting.

Carried

Disclosure of Interest –

Any Members of Council to declare any Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof pertaining to any items as follows: On today's agenda or from a previous meeting or from a meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance.

Councilor Doug Brothwell declared an indirect pecuniary interest as it relates to a donation to the municipality from the Sioux Narrows Men's Club. Councilor Brothwell is the Treasurer of the Men's Club.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 107-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the minutes of the July 7, 2026, regular meeting be adopted as read and published.

Carried

Correspondence –

-Donation Request: Wings and Wheels Committee

General discussion was had. Council was sad to hear this will be the last year Wings and Wheels is being held. It was noted that the municipality donates the use of the venue every year, and supports marketing efforts. The municipality has not donated a monetary amount in the past to this specific event. This event is hosted and organized by the Nestor Falls Recreation Committee, which is a committee of council.

Council was in agreement to not donate monetary funds.

Disbursements

Resolution No. 108-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the July 2026 Disbursements, having been checked and found that all accounts are in order, passes same for payment in the amount of \$679,002.41

Carried.

By-Laws –

Resolution No. 109-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the By-Law to Repeal By-Law 532 (Sale of Certain Lands) and to Authorize the Sale of Certain Lands (Location KM 322, Willingdon Twp – PIN 42117-1051) to the Kenora District Services Board, for the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls, having been read a first time, and deemed read a second and third time, passes the by-law as read.

Carried

Resolution No. 110-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the By-Law to Update the Emergency Management Program and Emergency Response Plan for the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls, having been read a first time, and deemed read a second and third time, passes the by-law as read.

Discussion: Councilor Brothwell noted some editorial changes that need to be made within the Emergency Response Plan. Changes were noted and will be made.

Motion was carried.

Staff Reports

H. Gropp –CAO– report attached.

BYOB Legislation-

In March 2026, the Province of Ontario announced changes to alcohol regulations that expand the former tailgate event framework, where outdoor community and cultural events may permit attendees aged 19 years and older to bring and consume their own alcohol within designated event areas, subject to provincial requirements and approvals.

The changes, proposed by the Province of Ontario, do not permit unrestricted public drinking. Alcohol consumption remains limited to designated event areas and is subject to provincial laws and public safety. Event organizers must also comply with applicable Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

The Province is requiring municipalities to pass a bylaw authorizing the use of alcohol in public and establish a local process that would determine whether an event qualifies as community or cultural. Starting April 30, 2026, event organizers in participating municipalities will be able to apply for bring-your-own permits through the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO).

Attached to the CAO report was a study from the Northwestern Health Unit regarding Alcohol Consumption in communities.

Staff recommend that at this time, there is little tangible benefit to this type of change to our municipal alcohol policy. This type of legislation will also have impacts on health, and security within the community.

Discussion:

Council had clarifying questions about the Province's new regulations and what the impact would be on the local businesses and fundraising events held in the community.

Concern was had for a variety of reasons. It was noted that many public community events, raise money through alcohol sales and allowing a permit of this kind, would remove that ability.

Council expressed worry about how this permit would work, such as the liability, safety concerns and the impacts this could have on events that are entirely volunteer run. Concern surrounded the safety and ability to enforce such a permit. The Township has limited resources when it comes to local law enforcement, emergency response and does not have a by-law enforcement officer.

Council noted that although the report from the Northwestern Health Unit was based on other Northwestern Ontario communities, the results may not be transferable to the community of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls.

There was agreement that a handful of annual community events may benefit from this.

Seniors Housing Development-

In 2023 the Township agreed to sever the lot beside the community hall in Sioux Narrows and transfer it to the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) for seniors housing.

After some initial work, it became clear the site was no longer viable for the project and KDSB informed the township that they were unable to proceed with the development due to cost, as the development of the site was prohibitively expensive.

Municipal staff immediately met with the KDSB and determined a new site along Fickas Road was more conducive to this development. Additionally funding restrictions regarding proximity to services have been removed making this new site an ideal choice. KDSB has agreed to return the site beside the community hall to the Township in exchange for the land along Fickas Road.

Landfill Update-

On July 29th, 2026 the municipality held a regional meeting to discuss the Landfill situation in Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls and surrounding communities.

The meeting was well attended with representatives from Naotkamegwanning, Animakee Wa Zhing 37, Onigaming, the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls, Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks, Stantec and Indigenous Services Canada.

The Landfill situation is of great concern to all communities and the purpose of the meeting was to come together to discuss the opportunity to collaborate.

As a result of the discussion of the meeting, the preferred option to move forward was the expansion of the Sioux Narrows Landfill and accepting waste from the neighbouring communities. Although this is a lengthy process, it was agreed that the first step was the entering into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between all communities. The final draft of the MOU will come to Council for full discussion and decision, likely in September. However, at this time staff is seeking Council direction to proceed with negotiating the MOU.

Stantec, who is the municipal landfill consultant, will be supporting the project and will coordinate the necessary permit application process for the landfill with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). They will also assist the Township in development of an operating model that will support the agreements within the MOU.

Discussion:

Council had some questions regarding the operational and maintenance costs that would arise from accepting a larger amount of waste. Council noted that a similar discussion has been held in the past, with costs landing on the Township for upkeep.

CAO, H.Gropp, assured Council that a fee structure would be established to cover maintenance, operations and other costs. Neighbouring First Nations communities would be able to have these costs reimbursed by ISF. Each community would be working on their own diversion strategies for recycling.

New Sioux Narrows Trail Naming-

The construction of the new trail in Sioux Narrows is well underway. The mapping and roughing out of the trail has been completed. The construction phase on the trail is underway, the trail just needs a name. Having the trail named is an important step so that updates to the trail guide can be made, as well as the interpretive signage. Discussions were

held as part of our trail interpretive signage project regarding the name. The working group for the project brainstormed some new names, based on the physical features of the trail. All trails in our community are currently named after their predominant physical characteristic.

Once the list was narrowed down, the top four choices were shared on the Township Facebook page as a poll for the community to vote on.

The four choices were as follows:

- The Lookout
- Gathering Pines
- The Perch
- Windy Pine Trail

Of these choices, Gathering Pines was the resounding community choice with 57% of respondents selecting it. There were 58 votes in total.

R.Stelter-Director of Community Development

Bass Lake Park Revitalization Project-

Tenders have closed for the Bass Lake Park Revitalization Project. Viking Landscaping Inc. has been identified as the preferred bidder, having submitted a tender in the amount of \$383,928.80. The tender amount exceeds the Township's approved project budget of \$500,000 and staff will work with the contractor to identify potential scope adjustments that will enable the project to be delivered within available funding.

Staff recommends that Council accept Viking Landscaping Inc. as the preferred bidder for the Bass Lake Park Revitalization Project and authorize staff to negotiate a final project scope and contract value within the approved budget; and that the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the final agreement.

Discussion:

General discussion between Council was had with concern to what elements may be lost when scaling back the project to meet budget constraints.

Council was reminded that there is still some grant funding The Township is waiting for. Until then, no decisions will be made about cost cutting measures.

Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre Window Replacement-

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for the replacement of five broken exterior window units at the Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre. The project involves the supply and installation of five dual-pane tempered sealed glass units within the building's existing curtain wall and entrance door systems.

Two proposals were received by the closing date of July 16. Pro Auto Glass & Windows submitted a proposal in the amount of \$18,419.00 (inclusive of HST), while The Window & Door Store submitted a proposal in the amount of \$19,707.23 (inclusive of HST).

Staff have reviewed the proposals and recommend that the contract be awarded to Pro Auto Glass & Windows as the lowest-cost proponent. The proposal includes all labour, materials, travel, scaffolding, installation, and disposal of debris required to complete the project.

Sioux Narrows Community Hall Update-

The project hit its first milestone this month. FedNor and NOHFC have moved the Sioux Narrows Community Hall renovation and expansion into the second phase of the grant application. The Township has received the final Special Events Infrastructure Study conducted by Urban Systems, which concludes that expanding and renovating the Sioux Narrows Community Hall is the preferred long-term solution for supporting a broader range of community events.

M.Kakeeway- Fire Chief

Fire Operations-

The Department responded to a total of six calls for service in July. Of these, five were smoke complaints where no active fires were located and the other was a cancelled paramedic assist to an island in Nestor Falls.

Year to date, the department has responded to a total of 30 calls for service, as follows:

Fires-7

Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC's)-6

Assists- 3

Complaints-6

Other-8

Equipment-

The department is expecting the arrival of new-to-us battery operated hydraulic spreaders for Station 2 Nestor Falls. This equipment will enhance extrication capabilities and improve response effectiveness for Motor vehicle collisions and rescue situations in the Nestor Falls area.

Interdepartmental Collaboration-

On July 22, 2026, Kenora Fire Chief Gord Howard and Deputy Chief Dextor Hupe visited the Sioux Narrows Fire Station. Their visit focused on reviewing fire boat operations, as they are exploring similar capabilities for their department. Fire Chief M. Kakeeway provided them with a demonstration on the lake, highlighting the boats' equipment and operational readiness. They were impressed with how the vessel is outfitted with essential gear, as well as the inclusion of a backboard system used for safely transporting patients from islands during paramedic assist calls.

Their visit reflects continued collaboration and knowledge sharing between neighbouring fire services, which help strengthen regional emergency response capabilities,

Emergency Control Group-

On July 14th, 2026 the Township's emergency control group met to discuss annual planning, training needs and emergency plans. We also reviewed information from the Fire Chief in West Kelowna regarding their response to significant wildfires in their community so we could learn from it and become better prepared.

From this discussion we learned that the success that West Kelowna experienced was due to the public response. Their community was well informed and knew what to do in an emergency. We identified this as a gap in our community and have begun work on increasing awareness around emergency preparedness including the distribution of a community wide newsletter with fire smart tips and tricks and a QR code to our emergency preparedness website which includes important information. We have also increased the communications around emergency preparedness on social media.

Presentation:

Members of the Sioux Narrows Men's Club Leadership Committee- Mark Hansel-Goodyear, Arizona, Woody Linton- Sioux Narrows and Greg Welter- Sioux Narrows

The SN Men's Club is a longstanding organization in the area that supports the community in a variety of ways. Through raising money, hosting community events or volunteer work, the SN Men's Club is continuously reinvesting back into the community. The Leadership Committee presented to Council about the Club, and their donations to the municipality.

\$5,000.00 to be used for the Sioux Narrows Community Hall renovations

\$5,500.00 to be used for a storage locker for club storage at White Moose Golf Course.

\$500.00 for the Sioux Narrows Recreation Committee to help with projects or events in Sioux Narrows

The SN Men's Club has reinvested a total amount of \$16,000 within community. This includes a swim ladder for Bass Lake Park, life jackets for the Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Fire Department and events such as Canada Day Fireworks, Bassin for Bucks, and the Men's Club Community Fish Fry.

The Council thanked the Men's Club for their dedication over the years to the community and for their current donation to the municipality.

General discussion as had about the proposed shed on White Moose Golf Course. The Men's Club clarified the shed would be for public use for locked golf club storage (for a fee, adding revenue for the golf course) and would be managed by the golf course staff.

There was some general discussion surrounding the construction of the shed, and the liability of it being built on municipal property.

Reports from Committees

D.Brothwell –

-PSB- has not met since last meeting, but noted the increased visibility of the OPP through marine patrol and foot traffic at the Arts Festival.

-PAC- Committees has not met.

S. Salvador-

Landfill Committee- Mentioned the great turnout had at the Regional Landfill Discussion. All parties present are working forward to working together.

H.Chant-

Nestor Falls Recreation Committee-

-Held Canada Day Festivities at Sunset Cove Resorts. There was a boat parade, scavenger hunt, fireworks and BBQ. Noted there was some concerns about hosting a municipal committee event at a private resort. Some community members shared that they were uncomfortable attending a municipal public event at a private business. She advised she spoke the Committee about hosting events at municipal facilities, and the possible liability and insurance concerns about holding events at private businesses. There was also some concern regarding safety, as the parking situation was not ideal. There was not enough parking at Sunset Cove, so attendees had to park at other locations, such as the school and hardware store, and walk down the highway to the event location.

-Community Yard Sale fundraiser- had a BBQ- well attended. Did quite well with the fundraising. Thanked the NF Rec Committee for working so hard and putting on these events.

Township/ OPP BBQ at Red Pine Trails-

OPP attended after a call, as things were wrapping up which was unfortunate.

Rainy River District Municipal Association- Upcoming meeting on August 19, 2026.

Sunset Family Health Team- has been unable to attend the most recent meetings.

New Business

Resolution No. 111-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

WHEREAS, the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls has undertaken the Bass Lake Park Revitalization Project; and

WHEREAS, tenders for the project have been received and evaluated, with Viking Landscaping Inc. being identified as the preferred bidder with a tender submission of \$383,928.80; and

WHEREAS, the tendered amount exceeds the budget currently allocated for the project;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council accepts Viking Landscaping Inc. as the preferred bidder for the Bass Lake Park Revitalization Project;

AND FURTHER THAT Municipal staff be directed to work with Viking Landscaping Inc. to identify a final project scope and budget that can be delivered within the Township's approved budget;

AND FURTHER THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement with Viking Landscaping Inc. for the Bass Lake Park Revitalization Project, provided that the final contract value remains within the approved project budget and available funding.
Carried.

Resolution No. 112-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby accepts Miller Group to complete our Municipal Road resurfacing for the 2026 year in an amount that is not to exceed the 2026 Budgeted amount for roads resurfacing (\$210,000.00 including HST).

Carried

Resolution No. 113-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby awards the Northern Ontario Sportfishing Centre Window Replacement Project to Pro Auto Glass & Windows in the amount of \$18,419.00 inclusive of HST, and authorizes the CAO to execute the necessary agreement.

Carried

Resolution No. 114-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

WHEREAS, Municipal Council recognizes the importance and requirements of policies that ensure fair and equitable practices in all areas of work; and

WHEREAS, the following policies have been discussed and reviewed;

Be it resolved that the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls amends and approves the following Municipal Policies:

A-04-Health & Safety Policy

A-09-Heat Stress

B-13-Hours of Work

C-01-Council Chambers

C-02-Community Halls

C-04-Capital and Equipment

C-05-Insurance

C-06-Records Management

C-07-Procurement

C-08-Highway Boulevard

C-09-Key Deposit

D-02-Payroll and Compensation

Be it also resolved that the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls no longer requires Municipal Policy B-28 – Salary Grid.

Discussion: Councilor Bothwell noted some editorial changes that need to be made within the Health and Safety Policy, Community Halls Policy and Records Management Policy. Changes were noted and will be made.

Motion was carried.

Resolution No. 115-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls accepts the following donations and terms for expenditure from the Sioux Narrows Men's Club:

\$5,000.00 to be used for the Sioux Narrows Community Hall renovations – these funds should be returned if the renovation project does not take place.

\$5,500.00 to be used for purchasing lumber from Mayer Hardware to erect a storage locker for club storage at White Moose Golf Course.

\$500.00 for the Sioux Narrows Recreation Committee (a committee of council) to help with projects or events in Sioux Narrows.

Carried

Resolution No. 116-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby agrees/**does not agree** to be a participating community in the Province of Ontario's BYOB program administered by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

The motion passed with three votes against and one in favor of the BYOB program.

Resolution No. 117-26

Moved By Steve Salvador

Seconded By Doug Brothwell

Whereas, the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls approved the construction of a new trail in Sioux Narrows; and

Whereas the trail is nearing completion and requires an official name around which there has been considerable community consultation;

Be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby approves Gathering Pines and the official name of the new trail.

Carried

Delegations – none

Adjournment

Resolution No. 118-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the business of the meeting having been dealt with, a motion for adjournment is so made.

Carried

Members Present-

D. Brothwell

H.Chant

M. Rydberg

S. Salvador

Staff Present-

H.Gropp

M.Hanson

R.Stelter

C.Parkhill

M.Kakeeway

Mayor

Clerk