

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

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, in the Nestor Falls 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. 28-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

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

Carried

Resolution No. 29-26

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls hereby approve and adopt the agenda for the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, Council meeting.

Carried

**Disclosure of Interest** – None.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Resolution No. 30-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

That the minutes of the February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, regular meeting be adopted as read and published.

Carried

**Correspondence** – Request from Emo-LaVallee Community Centre (Township of Emo) for sponsorship (4 levels at 4 different price points) to offset operating costs at the Emo Arena. General discussion took place and consensus was reached to decline the sponsorship request.

**Disbursements**

Resolution No. 31-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the February 2026 Disbursements, having been checked and found that all accounts are in order, passes same for payment in the amount of \$267,061.62.

Carried.

**By-Laws** –

Resolution No. 32-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the by-law to authorize The Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls to enter into a funding agreement with the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) for Project 75003005 Bass Lake Project, having been read a first time, and deemed read a second and third time, passes the by-law as read.

Carried

### **Staff Reports**

H. Gropp –CAO– report attached. Heather reported on the first meeting of the Communications Committee which created a tentative workplan. This included updating The Talk of the Town Blog monthly, creating a number of municipally relevant social media posts on topics such as building permits, health hub updates, election, trails and special events, updates about the landfill and recycling, and fire prevention in the community. There will be a community economic development update circulated the beginning of March, with the aim to have 4 of these prepared per year.

She reported the Sunset Country Health Team transition of the Sioux Narrows Clinic is ongoing with hopes of having the transition complete by the end of March.

She reported that we are pleased to have hired Cierra Parkhill as our new Deputy Treasurer/Deputy Clerk. Her appointment will take place at today's meeting. The plan is to work closely with Maureen Hanson to update our asset management plan in the upcoming months, coordinate election activities, work on the audit and grant reporting along with other duties. The competition for the Director of Community Development closed on February 27<sup>th</sup>, and applications are being reviewed, with the expectation of having the position filled by the end of March for an April start.

Heather reported on the Boundary Waters Fishing initiative (attached media release).

She also reported that the 2026 Moose & Fiddle Festival will be a transition year with Denise Lysak, the Festival Curator working with the SNNF Engagement Staff. We are working on some really exciting new initiatives for festival goers as well as looking at an expanded marketing plan aimed at increasing the audience of the event. We have been working with Ontario Parks on a special events agreement to host the event at Caliper Lake Provincial Park. We expect that the agreement will be in place in the very near future.

Councilor Brothwell extended a welcome to Cierra Parkhill. He asked Heather whether any members of the public were asked to join the Communications Committee. Heather suggested that public consultation would be a better way to engage the public.

K. Rimmer-McGuire – Trails lead - report attached. Katie reported on the January & February community Trails events. She reported on the Trail development & maintenance including the design and installation planning of new signage for the Red Pine Trailhead. She reported on the new maintenance equipment including the Snowdog for grooming winter trails, and overseeing the procurement of tools, materials and trail equipment purchase within approved budgets. She also reported on the development of risk assessments, safety planning for volunteer groups and public events, and the ongoing trail inspections and maintenance. She also reported on the creation of annual budget, funding applications and scheduling, and the future goals for expansion, public engagement, and enhanced event planning. She also reported on training and external partnerships.

### **Reports from Committees**

**H. Chant** - SNNF Fire Department. To date there have been 2 firecalls, 1 MVC and 1 fire. Training: Firefighters continue to demonstrate strong commitment to ongoing maintenance training, ensuring skills and readiness remain at a high level. As newer recruits continue to integrate into the department, they are encouraged increased attendance at training sessions so they can build experience, confidence, and operational proficiency alongside senior members.

By end of next month in April, they are planning on having an extrication night with the Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Paramedics teams, this will allow both emergency services to learn and work together at a Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC), working with different tools that each service has in their respective apparatus will help gain knowledge, hands-on experience, and most importantly, forming a bond between the two .

Nestor Falls Recreation Committee -

-hosted a “Galentine’s Event” on Feb. 12, with 28 people attending, was a great success. Holly attended the event and it was a really fun night. Thanks to the rec committee for hosting the event and special thanks to Val Everett for putting everything together for the event.

-Winter Carnival is happening this weekend, Mar. 6 - 8, with a fish fry dinner on Friday night, first 100 tickets sold, Saturday is fish derby, cribbage tournament, scavenger hunt, canteen and bar, dance that evening, Sunday there will be a pancake breakfast , kids curling and the lumberjack competition.

-there were a couple new folks at the last meeting that will hopefully be joining the committee formally. Holly will get confirmation and submit their names for approval at the April meeting.

-Holly was able to pick up some supplies that the rec committee requested to have in the kitchen at the Nestor Falls Community Hall for Carnival - pancake griddles, mixing bowls, utensils, dish cloths, tea towels, etc. The committee is excited for the kitchen renovations happening this year in summer/fall, and looking forward to it being upgraded to be in line with the rest of the building.

Nestor Falls Marine Meeting:

-Gale and Holly met with Tim and Shayla Marden last week regarding concerns about parking at the NF Government Dock

-they have some concerns about the parking spots designated to Thompson’s Lodge, and parking for their business when doing demos, etc., for boats for their customers

-Gale and Holly shared that Council and staff are working on new government dock parking policies for the Township as well as a reviewing possibilities for expanding the parking lot, new signage, designating some parking spots as possibly short term parking, day use only, etc., and reviewing the parking fees

-Tim and Shayla thanked Gale and Holly for listening to their concerns and indicated they are planning to present an in person delegation with their concerns to council at the April 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**G. Black** – reported that she attended the virtual All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> , the Bass Lake Funding Agreement announcement with Minister Rickford on February 12<sup>th</sup>, the Police Services Board meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup> and the Arts Infrastructure Feasibility Stakeholder study meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

The ANHP OHT Partner Table engaged in a continued discussion of mental health, addictions and substance use disorder services and supports offered by partner organization in the Kenora region. Joel Willett, FIREFLY Director of Service Excellence and Partnerships, outlined breadth and scope of work with children and youth to provide mental health supports. Stacey Socholotuk, project manager for the workforce planning group, updated the table on the early stage development of the group. Co-chair Cheryl O’Flaherty initiated a discussion with partners about the system challenges of transitioning clients to the most appropriate housing. Request from the workforce planning group for partner organization leads to complete the Workplace Planning Partner Survey. Initiate a conversation with Ontario Health at Home to address challenges in local placement processes. Next meeting will be March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**D.Brothwell** – reported the scheduled Planning Advisory Committee meeting will be rescheduled due to the application being incomplete. Reported he attended (virtually) the Police Services Board meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed the quarterly report dated October, November, December 2025. Both cruiser and in person community on site officer hours were down (from 2 days per week to 1.5 days per week). It was reported that there are 3 different officers (with a 4<sup>th</sup> joining soon) serving SNNF. The committee suggested that 1 or 2 officers would be better (for familiarization). Ongoing discussion regarding community traffic safety cameras and speed signage (to bring both communities in alignment). A complaint regarding vandalism and disrespectful activity at the Norman Cottam Memorial Cemetery was discussed, as well as snowmobiles accessing the greens at the White Moose Golf Course. These activities are difficult to prove without cameras or being on site at the time of the incident. Doug asked Heather if the Communication Committee could look at posting about the incidents being very disrespectful. Heather advised that they would.

**Old Business** – none

**New Business**

Resolution No. 33-26

Moved by Matt Rydberg

Seconded by Holly Chant

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 Policy Additions:

A-01 A-05 A-06 A-08 A-10 B-01 B-07 B-08 B-09 B-10 B-11 B-12 B-13  
B-14 B-15 B-16 B-19 B-20 B-22 B-25 B-26 B-27 B-29 B-30 B-31

Carried.

Resolution No. 34-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

That the Municipal Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby authorizes an application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation's People and Talent Program in the amount of \$35,000 for the Director of Community Development position; and that the Township recognizes that it is responsible for any costs above this amount.

Carried

Resolution No. 35-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Municipal Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby authorizes an application to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation in the amount of \$15,000 for the 2026 Moose & Fiddle Festival; and that the Township recognizes that it is responsible for any costs above this amount.

Carried

Resolution No. 36-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby authorizes the Clerk to sign “Additional Services Statement of Work” with DataFix for Voter List Management services.  
Carried

Resolution No. 37-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby appoints Cierra parkhill as Deputy Treasurer/Deputy Clerk.  
Carried

**Delegations –**

Jamie Caron – representing Ministry of Natural Resources Kenora District attended to present the Aulneau Peninsula Prescribed Burn Project. A prescribed burn is a planned use of fire to meet set goals such as reducing hazardous fire loads, reset succession of degraded forests and increase forest health, increase quality of wood for future harvest rotations and enhancing wildlife habitat and in particular moose habitat. The Aulneau is approximately 820 sq km (82,000 ha). Insect damage, blow down, and reduction of natural disturbances such as natural fires have led to this decision. Project scope and benefits have been studied since 2022. Five sites were identified with the Hayter Peninsula (approx. 7.5 km from Sioux Narrows) targeted as the ideal site. Timeline is projected to take place in either the spring or fall of 2027.

Projected impacts to nearby communities would be smoke/reduced air quality, temporary restrictions, short term aesthetic impacts, and misperception by residents that the burn is an uncontrolled burn. MNR will be looking for ways to work together, by providing input on the burn, supporting engagement and education on the burn, seeking local knowledge integration, providing input on values in the area and support with with the timing of the burn.

M.Ryberg – expressed his disappointment that as an affected stakeholder (BMA’s and hunting grounds located on Hayter Peninsula) his business was not notified or consulted yet. Also stated that there is a heritage site located on Beryl Bay that should be considered.

D.Brothwell – asked how much consultation has there been with SNNF fire department? Nothing to date. Stated he felt spring would be better timeframe than fall, keeping in mind that it should only take place if there is a low forest fire level at the time.

H.Gropp – asked if there was any possibility to change the location from the preferred one? Jamie Caron said MNR could look at different locations. Heather also stated that visitor data indicates that April would be a more ideal time for this.

K.Rimmer-McGuire – asked if natural burn sites are tracked. Yes they are listed on the AFFES website.

Norbert Dufresne – Nestor Falls resident wished Mayor and Council best wishes and to keep up the good fight.

**Adjournment**

Resolution No. 38-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Matt Rydberg

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

Carried

Members Present

G. Black

H. Chant

M. Rydberg (virtual)

D. Brothwell (virtual)

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Mayor

Clerk