

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

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, May 5, 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.

Mayor Black read a statement thanking community members who rose to our Earth Day challenge and voluntarily picked up litter. The volunteers helped to beautify our community, whether it was along the highway, on a municipal trail, in a public space or elsewhere in the community. All efforts put forth by volunteer community members to help beautify and clean up our community are very much appreciated.

Resolution No. 64-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

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

Carried

Resolution No. 65-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls hereby approve and adopt the agenda for the May 5, 2026, Council meeting.

Carried

Disclosure of Interest – None.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 66-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the minutes of the April 7, 2026, regular meeting and the April 28, 2026 Special meeting be adopted as read and published.

Carried

Correspondence – None.

Disbursements

Resolution No. 67-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the April 2026 Disbursements, having been checked and found that all accounts are in order, passes same for payment in the amount of \$558,563.44

Carried.

By-Laws –

Resolution No. 68-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the by-law to set tax ratios for municipal purposes for the year 2026, having been read a first time, and deemed read a second and third time, passes the by-law as read.

Carried

Resolution No. 69-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the by-law to adopt the estimates of all sums required during the year to set and levy the rates of taxation and to further provide for penalty and interest in default of payment thereof for 2026, having been read a first time and deemed read a second and third time, passes the by-law as read.

Carried

Resolution No. 70-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the by-law to amend by-law No. 279 (Alexander, RR to General Commercial-C1), being the Zoning By-Law, 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.

Bass Lake Park- Preliminary design for Bass Lake Park. Once approved, will go out for tender. Tender will give us timelines for development. Hopefully fall 2026 construction.

Question from council: Plans show Pavillion (current) for removal and to be replaced with shade structures (to fit two or three picnic tables). While there were noted concerns about the structural integrity of the current pavilion, council concern is that pavilion is used frequently and should be remediated and kept in place.

Heather: Feedback can go back to developers. Council: does not want to lose a structure of that size.

Washrooms - We will be building them. Running water, but not flush toilet.

Large new beautiful playground in a slightly different location. The sand currently there will be used to beef up the beach.

Code of Conduct Policy has been revised to reflect current realities. For instance the old policy had no statement on social media. There will also be a customer service excellence requirement added..

-Council (for future policy updates) request for changes to be highlighted

-What happens if someone doesn't sign? Heather: Dismissal

Complaints of Vandalism at various municipal locations- Actions included clean up and also resulted the video surveillance installation request.

Council recognized Bill Pope who recommended that a Garbage disposal similar to the one at Bass Lake Park be installed at the various Trail heads. Trails are opened year round. He stated that he doesn't mind pick up the garbage, just needs somewhere to put it.

R.Stelter-Director of Community Development-report attached

Reported Nestor Falls Gov Dock review has started. Maintenance is going to paint some lines, to improve flow, and remediate a grassy section with Granular A gravel to create some new useable parking spots.

Capital Projects- EASE grant for Seniors and Accessibility, applied last year and was unsuccessful Sioux Narrows community hall- upgrades. Grant application taking a while, trying to get ahead of it.

Granite Ridge housing development- FEDNOR will support an access road on Father Moss Road. Funding is not available to the developer, but it is to the Township, so we will be the applicant and the developer will reimburse for our share of the costs.

Bike Trail - excavator damage causing erosion. Trail portion was closed to determine next steps with MNR.

Interpretive signs will be installed along trails.

SNNF Farmers Market applications are open. 12 already filled. There will be vendor selling fresh produce.

Health Hub- includes a Foot Clinic, CMHA- twice a month, and on May 13th, Chris Brown (Naturopath) workshop. We are taking over the wellness clinic with KPDSB.

Water sampling started for residents to drop off water samples two days per month.

Both Centers (Nestor Falls Info Center and NOSFC) will open May 15th and the Golf Course is ready as soon as the weather cooperates.

Questions:

Trail damage? Why was the excavator digging in that site? MNR is investigating. The Township has an LUP for the Trail and increased signage will be erected.

Estimate number of parking spots at gov docks? Possibly five for Thompson's Lodge.

SN Community Hall grant- will current problems with floor be addressed with renovations? Yes.

Produce providers- Can we ask they come regularly? It is difficult to require attendance.

Highway Banners. Are they up? Yes, but they are quite small. Heather on it to fix.

Who does NF Government Dock monitoring currently? Nestor Falls Info Center staff.

Reports from Committees

H. Chant -

Fire Department - Calls to date:

2 MVC calls since April 7th

1 Grass fire at info center in Nestor Falls April 22nd

Training:

As we move into May and summer months, the training nights are every other week, starting May 5th. Mike will be postponing the weekend FF1 training that was scheduled for May 16th, until early October. The department will be focusing on repetitive "maintenance" training for all the experienced members for the next 2 months, while teaching recruits. Recruits have 3 years to obtain their Firefighter Level 1 certification from the date they joined the fire department. Some recruits are already on the Who's Responding App as they met the required training hours.

The department has also had one member, Greg Welter step down from the department. The department wants to do something special for him for being the positive support for all the members, honor him with an award and framed picture him. The fire boats are being prepped for when the ice goes out. Fire boat 104 (Sioux Narrows) will be replaced with all new buoys, ropes, and hopefully the logo stickers as well.

Nestor Falls Recreation Committee:

- hosting Cinco de mayo today. It will be a dinner fundraiser for fireworks. \$25 ticket
- set regular meeting, every third Wednesday
- possible flower pot fundraiser
- bands booked for Wings and Wheels.- going to be their last, as it is getting too big

RRDMA:

- attended an RRDMA Executive meeting on April 14, discussion was about the AGM meeting in May
- will be held in Rainy River, 7pm on May 21, guest speakers include Rainy River Future Development Corporation on Local Initiatives program, Director/Lake of the Woods Water Sustainability Foundation, discussion about Mining Legislation Impacts – Rainy Lake Headwaters area (in the US Boundary Waters Wilderness Area) and high-level overview of mining impacts within the basin

NOMA:

- attended the Northern Ontario Municipal Association conference in Thunder Bay April 22-24, theme of the conference was ‘Resilience’

-some highlights for me included the following:

Minister of Transportation:

- highway safety is a priority, especially Hwy 11-17
 - vital corridor; transporting goods and supplies
 - still invested in the widening of 11-17
 - developing multiple passing lanes in Hwy 11 and 17 for trucks
 - expediting the design process, asking federal gov’t to make process for getting to construction quicker
 - 2 mobile inspection units across Hwy 11-17 to make sure there are more checks for trucks
- Keynote: Marci Ien, former Federal Minister and MP; Gender Equality and Youth (worked in the gender-based violence portfolio), award winning journalist
- calls to action - take the leap, lead where you are, find your calling
 - lead with kindness
 - think about your “dash”, most important piece on your gravestone is the dash, what are you doing between when you were born and when you pass, you want to leave your dash in a better place than what it might have been before
 - the art of listening, finding a way to get to middle ground with folks, there’s always something you can find in common, and a way to move forward
- AMO’s Healthy Democracy Project: Petra Wolfbeiss - Director Membership Centre, AMO
- supporting local leadership in an ever-changing political climate
 - growing strain on democracy, incivility toward elected officials
 - concerns becoming more frequent and consistent, within councils and municipal staff
 - seeing fewer people running and fewer people voting
 - We All Win Campaign, 2021
 - respect for democracy, engagement and education, improve understanding of council members roles
 - improve the tone of political discourse, safer for everyone

- AMO will support municipalities with this project
 - developed leading with respect hand guides, healthy democracy forums, voter turnout strategies, youth engagement guides
 - Lead Where you Live resource on AMO website
 - Stronger Leaders workshops
 - doing new councilor training as well
 - calls to action; identify next generation, policies, the hand guides, stay informed
- David Piccini: Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training, Skills Development
- showing the opportunities of coming to the north
 - expanding immigration program to “come north” program
 - help promote the “Come North Campaign” as a municipality
 - attracting workers to the north, opening the door for more communities to take part, opening up for municipalities to apply to the program
 - have high unemployment in the north, especially with youth
 - help linking employers with employees to companies that have been affected by tariffs, retraining those skills to get into an in demand field
- Session: HEAR in NWO Data for Planning and Policy - Leith Deacon-Associate Professor, School of Environmental Design & Rural Development
- Health, Economy, and Adaptation in Rural Communities; evidence for policy, partnerships for practice, and data for communities
 - data infrastructure for ON, that focuses on not urban
 - it’s hard to get local data for NWO, either it’s not there or it’s expensive to get, this program would allow for smaller NWO municipalities to obtain that data
 - something that supports funding applications, long term planning, etc.
 - household and individual-level survey in NO, collects data directly from residents, focuses on lived experience, access, and barriers, combines local data into a shared rural dataset
 - 300000 paper surveys being distributed across ON in May, 20% sample size
 - distributed through Canada Post to rural households (0) is second in postal code, and digital versions
 - who’s affected, what type of household, why?
 - what services exist?, who can access them, who cannot, why?
 - I attended two additional sessions about civility in gov’t
- #1. Session: Incivility & Respect: Working in a new political environment - Norm Gale, former City of TBay Manager, Norm Gale Strategies
- things are getting worse, have to have a common understanding of the construct in which we work, the council role, we should know our role, our job, how should you behave when you’re doing your job
 - having a disagreement doesn’t mean disrespect, changing a decision doesn’t mean you’re incompetent
 - people are allowed to change their minds, it’s not personal
 - ‘I pay your salary, know you don’t, you pay taxes, there’s a difference’
 - primary driver; incivility; rudeness/lack of disrespect, harassment; vexatious/unwelcome conduct, discrimination (code); protected personal traits
 - tools - OHSA, municipal act, code of conduct, bill 207, integrity commissioner; formal complaints, confidentiality, penalties, practical strategies; document everything, rule of two, enforce the CAO model
 - AMO leading with respect handguides; council commitment to civil governance

-Pause, Dr. Peggy Marshall, global [of.com/the-pause-model-a-framework-for-interrupting-leading-with-intention/](https://www.leadwithintention.com/the-pause-model-a-framework-for-interrupting-leading-with-intention/)

-five steps; P - pause and notice, A - acknowledge what's present, U - uncover the pattern, belief, or meaning, S - steady and shift, E - explore options and take aligned action

-“incivility may grab attention, but the ultimate result is less interest in what you have to say”

- in the long game civility wins

- normgalestrategies.ca

#2

Session: Protecting Staff and Maintaining Civility: A Practical Municipal Toolkit - Cody Fraser, Jordan Lester, Lawyers; Cheadles LLP

-Respect Zone policy, expectations for respectful conduct, response pathway, supports proportionate enforcement, Reduces inconsistent decision-making

-protect staff, preserve access to services; prohibited conduct, who can do what, incident reporting/follow-up

-incident happens, safety first, warning, document & review, outcome, don't hesitate to involve OPP with these situations

-Case Study: when municipalities go too far and the consequences; for municipalities the key lesson is that restricting access to public municipal property requires a clear legal basis and evidence of more than discomfort intimidation, or uncivil behaviour

-Town of RR vs. Olsen; courts may grant targeted property-based relief, but will be far more cautious about restraining speech in the absence of a clear legal basis and an established wrong

-Code of Conduct and Integrity commissioner protocols, Bill 9 proposed, greater standardization of municipal codes of conduct

-don't improvise, review documents together, keep documents current

-defamation can't be applied to a municipality, just individuals

-Trade Show had some interesting resources, was able to pick up some information on specialized building department services for Municipalities with limited resources, they can provide chief building official services support, building plan review services, etc., shared with Heather as our CBO only works part time and this might be a helpful service

D. Brothwell -

-PAC nor PSB have met since last meeting

G. Black - attended the following

-Open house - update on housing initiative - Granite Ridge

-Greg Rickford announcement- Rural Generalist Council for healthcare- the province is committing 29 million dollars over three years to ensure people in the Kenora Region and 10 First Nation Communities have reliable access to health care.

-Waste management meeting with Naotkamegwaning First Nation

-Partner table meeting summary- All Nations Health Team- report attached

- will be attending

-All Nations Health Partners/Ontario Health Team - preliminary master plan options review.

-review updates for Campus of Care masterplan

-consideration of broader site in collaboration with Kenora Chief's Advisory - building location site, circulation and guiding principles

- SN Rec Committee meeting May 7th

-Feasting Ceremony at Wauzhukonigum First Nation to celebrate the collaborative commitment to strength in Health care for all communities

-Spring BBQ at SN Hall hosted by the SN Rec Committee

-Police Services Board Meeting

S. Salvador- SNNF Library Board Meeting

- Timber Signs should have hours sign finished in July for front of library
- Old books get sent to Dufresne Furniture in Kenora for distribution to the Children's Hospital of Winnipeg sale
- Library received written notice along with a cheque in the amount of \$9,814.82 from BDO Canada Ltd who were tasked with dispersing surplus assets from Library Services Centre pursuant to subsection 123(2) of the *Not for Profit Corporations Act* for the purpose of winding up the activities and affairs of the LSC, as set out in the Act. Pursuant to special resolution of members of the Library Services Centre at a special meeting held on August 13, 2025, whereby Members resolved that all of the surplus assets of the LSC be distributed equally among all Members of the LSC, Council will decide whether these funds are to be used by the Library or can be deposited into general funds (as the municipality is the library funder).
- Library has offered the former vault area of the facility to the History Book committee to store the new history books.
- Library hours changing soon
- thank you to The Snackhouse and Allison Motlong for \$345 book donations from the used books set up at the restaurant.

Old Business – none

New Business

Resolution No. 71-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

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

Whereas the following policy has been discussed and reviewed;

Be it resolved that the Corporation of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby amends and approves Municipal Policy B-19 – Employee Code of Conduct.

Carried.

Resolution No. 72-26

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby supports an application to the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility's 2026-27 Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant in the amount of \$60,000 to provide accessible access to the beach/water area at Bass Lake Park and to ensure that the upgraded playground space meets accessibility standards and includes accessible options for inclusive play.

Carried

Resolution No. 73-26

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby supports an application to the NOHFC Community Enhancement Funding Stream in the amount of \$500,000 for the Sioux Narrows Community Hall renovations. The Municipal Contribution to this project is \$125,000

and Council recognizes that it will be responsible for any cost overruns associated with this project.

Carried

Resolution No. 74-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby supports an application to FEDNOR Northern Ontario Development Program in the amount of \$270,000 to help with cost of road construction at the Granite Ridge housing development. The Municipal Contribution to this project is \$135,000 and Council recognizes that it will be responsible for any cost overruns associated with this project.

Carried

Resolution No. 75-26

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby appoint the following Volunteer Fire Fighter - Chris Barkman

Carried

Delegations –

Ben Reynolds, Holly McGogy from KDSB
CEO-Sarah Stevenson sends regrets

KDSB Update to Council

Housing- big shift happening with affordable housing. CMHC was the primary, previously. Sunsetting program.

New program from Build Canada Homes.

Policy framework there, lots of unknown details.

Northern Ontario Service Delivery Board (NOSDA) made up of 10 northern DSABs.

Modern methods of construction, modular builds, and money going into building sector.

Identify properties: Sioux Narrows Community Centre property, not viable to develop at scale.

Well and Septic. Could only do 5 instead of ten.

New location to properly support 10 unit seniors housing development. (Fickas Rd area)

Nestor Falls affordable 10 unit housing site is continuing with a projected 2027-2028 construction in the Batch 2 phase.

Will more know as application moves through Build Canada Homes process

Childcare-

Sioux Narrows -Awarded contract last summer to Sierra Construction for child care at the Sioux Narrows Public School- June 10th – waiting on flooring.

Lengthy lead times

Site protection, playground. Legislation changes, site safety. Looking at addressing additional licensing requirements.

Looking to advertise staff postings and informing parents to put their children on the wait list with a target opening of September 2026.

Nestor Falls – new school being built in NF (approved 2022) in 2023, approved to do childcare, once constructed. Canada wide early childhood expansion, 1101 new spaces across the district. Priorities to communities that didn't have previous childcare.

Goal-End of this year- get all spaces licensed

Tenders out for NF. Nothing has been awarded. Planning for move in September 2027.

Nestor Falls- job posts, waitlists deferred to next year when a better sense of when the place will be open.

Council thanked Ben and Holly for their update.

Delegations from floor-

Mike Gate- Nestor Falls Government Dock

Current parking spaces - will more be open - some designated? Concerned about potential backlash, lack of enforcement. (do not have a by-law enforcement officer. Would cost more than the money we collect.) Worried about enforcement.

Jeff Port- Compliance will not be 100%- without being jerks, we do the best we can. Legally, we need to make sure our bases are covered, but moving forward progressive discipline will be used. Eg. Godbout Towing will be used if needed.

Adjournment

Resolution No. 76-26

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

G. Black

H. Chant

D. Brothwell

S. Salvador

M.Rydberg (virtually)

Mayor

Clerk