

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

A regular open meeting of Council was held Tuesday, November 4th, 2025, 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.

Resolution No. 117-25

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

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

Carried

Resolution No. 118-25

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Council of the Township of Sioux Narrows - Nestor Falls hereby approve and adopt the agenda for the November 4th, 2025, Council meeting.

Carried

Disclosure of Interest – None.

Adoption of Minutes

Resolution No. 119-25

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the minutes of the October 7th, 2025, Closed, Special and regular meeting and the October 21st, 2025 Closed meeting be adopted as read and published.

Carried

Correspondence – None.

Disbursements

Resolution No. 120-25

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the October 2025 Disbursements, having been checked and found that all accounts are in order, passes same for payment in the amount of \$659,346.66.

Carried.

By-Laws – None.

Staff Reports

H.Gropp – CAO/Community Development Officer – report attached. Heather reported that in consultation with staff, all ongoing projects have been reviewed and prioritized and are moving forward accordingly. She reported that the Sioux Narrows 50+ Centre Capital project is coming along. The Centre received an additional donation from New Gold, and they plan to use the funds to install a new heat pump. She also reported that the waste dumping situation at the Nestor Falls Airstrip is awaiting the contractor to come and push the debris, and that new signage has been installed forbidding any further dumping. Heather highlighted a few items from her printed

She pointed out the uptick in visitors this season, primarily due to marketing campaigns, both locally and regionally. We used final Covid funding to work with Thrive Visuals to create four season videos for use in our marketing campaigns, which resulted in over one million impressions and over 900,000 views to the website. The new website has shown positive outcomes. She reported that further to council direction, funds were obtained from FedNor to prepare the Special Events Infrastructure Future Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study. Total funds were \$25,750.00. A small amount of this study will be funded from unbudgeted costs in 2025, with the rest being budgeted in 2026. Further to council direction from October 7th meeting, and RFP for pest control in some municipal facilities was put out and the contract will be awarded today. The RFP for On Call Snow Plowing service garnered one bid, and the contractor is meeting with the maintenance supervisor this week, and the contract will be signed and awarded at the December 2nd, 2025 council meeting. Heather received feedback from the Northwestern Health Unit in regard to Council's concern about lessening level of service in the municipality. Dr. Kit Young reported back (attached in CAO Report) that although there has been a change in staffing for the SNNF office of NWHU, this has not resulted in a change to service levels for SNNF as most programs were provided by staff from other offices. H. Chant replied that she does not agree with this conclusion, as there was always a staff person to coordinate with other agencies to run programs. She gave the example of vaccine clinics no longer being held in Nestor Falls. D. Brothwell suggests that we provide feedback to Dr. Kit Young informing him we are unsure if they plan to continue to staff the office Sioux Narrows, and without staff we are likely to see service decline over time, and we would therefore like to meet with them to discuss the issue.

Reports from Committees

D. Brothwell – Attended a PAC meeting on October 23rd, 2025 to deal with redrawing of property boundaries between neighboring properties. He also attended the NF Rec Committee Harvest dinner which was very nice.

S. Salvador – visited the SN Landfill and it looks in very good shape. Has not been to the NF Landfill yet.

H. Chant Fire Department: **Calls to date:** MVC's: 10, Hydro Pole Fires: 5, Fires/Wildfires: 7 Complaints/Other: 5, Total = 27

There were below average call volume for this year (it is usually around 40). The Fire Department did focus on fire prevention this summer, and with winter season around the corner there is more to prevention on heating, keeping exhaust vents clear of snow and ice, monthly testing on smoke and CO alarms in homes.

Equipment:

The department used their 2nd and 3rd year grant from OFM to purchased washer and drying rack for the Nestor Falls Fire Hall, a 4 gas monitor detector, 2 air cylinders, a set of turnout gear, balaclavas, extrication gloves and structure gloves, and a foam eductor for car fires that hook up to a pumper truck

Training:

The department recently had some extrication training at the training grounds. 9 volunteers honed their FF2 skills to prepare for the FF2 practical test and exam in the new year. Skills such as cutting/breaking window glass appropriately, removing doors and roofs and doing a dash roll. Before freeze up, there a plans to take both fire boats out on a weekend to give new members a glimpse of what it's like to be in a mustang suit.

Fire Trucks

Keewatin Fire Trucks from Winnipeg came out to do pump testing and do some minor repairs. They also installed some plug ins in Pumper 201 so devices can be charged, and tested ladders off the pumper trucks.

Xmas Dinner

Fire Department is planning to have their Christmas Dinner on December 16th at Yellowbird. Mayor and Council are welcome to attend.

Nestor Falls Recreation Committee:

-held a Harvest Dinner for seniors on October 16th, 2025. There were approximately 60 people in attendance

-held softball on Thursday nights over the summer and had between 7 and 15 people attend

-held a Halloween party for the kids and had about 50 kids attend.

-have started Yoga classes at the Nestor Falls Hall Monday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. – no cost to attend.

G. Black – attended the Nestor Falls Rec Committee Harvest dinner on October 16th, 2025. Attended the Jets Alumni Hockey game on behalf of the municipality on October 18th, 2025. It was a fundraiser for Triple Play to bring to the forefront the importance of children's mental health services. Attended the PFAC meeting on October 29th, and the SN Rec Committee meeting on November 4th. Plans to attend the following meetings: ANHP-OHT virtual meeting November 4th, 2025, Northern Municipal Council workshop (online) November 6th, 2025 & November 20th, 2025, SN Rec Committee Fall Fest November 8th, 2025, SNNF Police Services Board meeting November 18th, 2025, PFAC virtual meeting November 19th, 2025, Kenora District Municipal Association (virtual) meeting November 20th, 2025.

Old Business –

Resolution 121-25

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That Council hereby accepts the 2024 Financial Statements prepared and presented by MNP LLP.
Carried.

New Business

Resolution No. 122-25

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That Heather Gropp be appointed Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls.

Carried.

Resolution 123-25

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That Maureen Hanson be appointed Municipal Clerk for the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls.

Carried.

Resolution 124-25

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the CAO is authorized to sign the FedNor Agreement for Project 900426: Special Events Feasibility Study Contract.

Carried.

Resolution 125-25

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Steve Salvador

That the Council of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby accepts the proposal of Urban Systems for the Special Events Infrastructure Future Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study in the amount of \$47,900.00 plus HST.

Carried.

Resolution 126-25

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

WHEREAS municipalities across the Kenora District face acute labour shortages in essential sectors including health care, hospitality, retail, forestry, and mining, and rely heavily on access to immigration and temporary foreign worker programs to meet these demands; and

WHEREAS the Kenora District is among the most rural and remote in Ontario, with municipalities recording some of the highest Rurality Index of Ontario (RIO) scores — such as Red Lake (RIO 98), Pickle Lake (RIO 100), Sioux Lookout (RIO 97), Ear Falls (RIO 95), Machin (RIO 100), and Sioux Narrows Nestor Falls (RIO 96) — underscoring the extreme remoteness and limited labour market access faced by communities across our region; and

WHEREAS processing delays for Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIAs), particularly for renewals, have reached over 6 months in many cases, forcing workers into precarious legal status, disrupting businesses, and threatening the continuity of essential services such as hospitals, seniors' care, schools, and local retail; and

WHEREAS the recently implemented cap limiting temporary foreign workers to 10% of an employer's workforce further disadvantages small, remote northern communities, where unemployment is far below the provincial average and local Canadian labour simply cannot meet demand; and

WHEREAS the inability of LMIA applications to flag urgent renewals for skilled workers already contributing to the Canadian labour force compounds these delays and undermines the federal government's stated goal of attracting and retaining international talent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls urgently call upon the Government of Canada to:

1. **Establish a streamlined LMIA process** for work permit renewals for existing, employed foreign workers critical to maintaining services in remote and northern communities; **Expedite processing times** for renewal-related applications to prevent lapses in authorization and employer disruption; **Reconsider the 10% cap on temporary foreign workers**, with exemptions for rural and northern municipalities where chronic labour shortages are documented and Canadian recruitment remains unsuccessful; **Engage directly with Northwestern Ontario municipalities**, including a visit by the Prime Minister and federal Ministers, to witness firsthand the role immigration and foreign workers play in sustaining northern economies and communities.
2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, the Minister of Jobs and Families, and the Minister Responsible for the Federal Agency for Northern Ontario, with copies to the Premier of Ontario, relevant provincial Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, and partner municipal associations (NOMA, AMO). Carried.

Resolution 127-25

Moved by Steve Salvador

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the Council of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby accepts the proposal of Pouline Pest Control for Pest Control services in the amount specified in the contract.

Carried.

Resolution 128-25

Moved by Holly Chant

Seconded by Doug Brothwell

That the Council of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls hereby appoint the following volunteers to committees of council:

Planning Advisory Committee-Randy Hanson, Noreen Luce, Barb Salvador, Jeff Polakoff, Allison Motlong

Police Services Board - Jerry O'Leary, Kevin Kast, Doug Brothwell, Kris Tittlemier, Gale Black, Roxanne McCabe

Fire Rescue Service-Station 1-Fire Chief Mike Kakeeway, Deputy Chief Richard Mathieu, Firefighters Kevin Kast, Desirae Paypompee, Dawn Madden, Pete Corkey, Connor Bernard, Greg Welter, Andrew Letander, Ben Rinas, Dwayne Froese, Katie Rimmer McGuire

Fire Rescue Service – Station 2-Fire Chief Mike Kakeeway, Deputy Chief Robin Holden, Firefighters Mike Gate, Harvey Cottam, Todd Lougheed, Steve Hanson, Jordan Witzke, Debbie Rydberg, William Rice.

Sioux Narrows Recreation Committee -Jackie Kast, Kevin Kast, Dawn Madden, Jake Bennett, Kelly Sundmark, Pete Horley

Nestor Falls Recreation Committee-Diana Krukoski, Val Everett, Alexis Reynolds, Alana Stewart, Karien Scheepers, Tasha Monkman, Lauren Krukoski, Carlee Gallinger

Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Library Board-Joyce Milligan, Cathy Linton, Gayle Bouvier, Bev Williams, Judy Race, Jerry Race

Carried.

Resolution 129-25

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Holly Chant

That the following be appointed as Fire Fighter to the Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Fire Department: Katie Rimmer McGuire

Carried.

Delegations

Jerry O'Leary – inquired as to why he had not received a response to his letter in regard to the dumping at the Nestor Falls Airstrip. H.Gropp reiterated that a response had been sent out via email on October 8th, 2025. Mr. O'Leary stated it must have gone to his junk mail.

He asked whether there had been a competition for either the CAO or the Municipal clerk positions. Council replied it wasn't necessary as the positions were filled internally.

He asked whether there was council representation on the NWHU board. No there isn't. He stated that both they and the OPP are obligated to provide service and council should pressure them to do so. Holly Chant will provide the name of the regional representative.

Norbert Dufresne – offered congratulations to both the new CAO and municipal clerk. Stated that council is doing a great job and to keep up the good work. He stated he attended the NF Rec committee Harvest dinner and it was a great event. He also reported that the NWHU holds vaccination clinics in Emo – people need to go to their website and they will list all the clinics they host in the region.

Adjournment

Resolution No. 130-25

Moved by Doug Brothwell

Seconded by Steve Salvador

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

Members Present

G. Black

H. Chant

S. Salvador

D. Brothwell



Mayor



Clerk