

COUNCIL MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF COCKBURN ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING

5:00 PM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 2026

Meeting On-line by ZOOM

ZOOM LINK <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84944196668>

(link is the same for every regular meeting)

PRESENT

- Mayor: Brenda Jones
- Councillors: Lee Chappell
- Jeff House
- Simon Lacombe
- Scott Stewart
- Clerk: Brent St. Denis
- Lynn Jackes: Observer (CT orientation)
- (A number of ratepayers observed the meeting.)

Time – 5:02 PM

Call to Order

Declarations of any pecuniary interest

Delegations – if any

New Business – if any

Resolution # 26-02-01

Moved: S Stewart

Seconded: S Lacombe

That the February 4th, 20256 Council meeting agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

Resolution # 26-02-02

Moved: J House

Seconded: L Chappell

That the minutes of the January 14th, 2026 regular meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

Informal Public Works Committee meeting – these meetings will start again with the first meeting of the 2026 Public Works season.

Action Items

By-Law #2026-01 Borrowing

Resolution # 26-02-03

Moved: S Stewart

Seconded: J House

That Be It Resolved that By-law #2026-01 being a by-law to authorize borrowing from time-to-time to meet current needs be read a first, second, third and final time, be adopted, be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, be sealed with the corporation's seal, be numbered #2026-01, and be filed with the by-law records.

CARRIED

By-Law #2026-02 to set Rates and Charges for 2026 -machine rental rates, gravel, dock rates etc

Resolution # 26-02-04

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: S Lacombe

That Be It Resolved that By-law #2026-02 being a by-law **to adopt the various Rates and Charges for 2026** be read a first, second, third and final time, be adopted, be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, be sealed with the corporation's seal, be numbered #2026-02, and be filed with the by-law records.

CARRIED

By-Law #2026-03 to set Honoraria, Wage and contract adjustments for 2026

Resolution # 26-02-05

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Stewart

That Be It Resolved that By-law #2026-03 being a by-law **to adopt the various Wage and Honorarium rates for 2026** be read a first, second, third and final time, be adopted, be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, be sealed with the corporation's seal, be numbered #2026-03, and be filed with the by-law records.

CARRIED

Report on New Boom Mower (Brush Hog) Purchase – adopt resolution of purchase approval

Resolution # 26-02-06

Moved: S Stewart

Seconded: L Chappell

That we accept the recommendation of Council member House;

- That we purchase a 120 HP John Deere **boom mower** to replace the older and failing brush-hog that is now used to mow roadside vegetation along township road allowances.
- That we agree on the purchase price of \$105,000 plus about \$10,700 for spare parts and maintenance parts for a total before tax of \$115,713.36 (Taxes= \$15,042.74 Grand Total= \$130,756.10).
- That the Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to redeem the township's \$150,000 GIC at NCU for this purpose.

CARRIED

Resolution # 26-02-07

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Lacombe

That we accept the recommendation of Council member House;

- That we purchase a VGM ZK10 **TANDEM AXLE DUMP TRAILER** (2016)
- That we agree on the purchase price of \$ 20,000 plus HST (\$2600) for a Grand Total = \$22,600.
- That the Clerk-Treasurer is authorized to use the balance of the \$150,000 GIC not needed for the Boom Mower for this purpose.

CARRIED

By-Law #2026-04 to adopt the 2026 Township Budget – as per resolution adopted January 14th, 2026.

Resolution # 26-02-08

Moved: S Stewart

Seconded: S Lacombe

That Be It Resolved that By-law #2026- 04 being a by-law **to adopt the 2026 township budget and tax rates** be read a first, second, third and final time, be adopted, be signed by the Mayor and Clerk, be sealed with the corporation's seal, be numbered #2026-04, and be filed with the by-law records.

CARRIED

ArcGis Mapping System – consider opting into the Manitoulin Planning Board's ArcGIS Mapping system as a "Viewer" for \$240 per year.

Resolution # 26-02-09

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Lacombe

That we decide as follows as it concerns subscribing to ArcGIS for \$240 per year.

- Try it for one year to test it out

CARRIED

Portable Storage Containers (Sea Cans) – "to allow or not" – the Zoning Bylaw now prohibits the use of these storage units on the island.

Resolution # 26-02-10

Moved: L Chappell

Seconded: S Stewart

That we decide as follows as it concerns amending the current prohibition on the use of portable

steel containers (“sea cans”)

- Leave the Zoning Bylaw “as is” which is that portable storage containers also known as “sea cans” be prohibited.

CARRIED

Table-Top Emergency Exercise? – consider simulating one of the following scenarios at this or February meeting – this is an annual requirement of the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Preparedness. The Clerk has included AI generated notes on the first 2 scenarios – **extended hydro outage** and **major storm**. AI Notes for both are attached to assist with the discussion.

- Hydro outage for an extended period (water wells, generators?)
- Major storm (tornado, hurricane etc)
- Super Low lake levels causing access issues (marina, barge etc)
- Super High lake levels
- Large island forest fire
- Other ideas?

That, for the record, the Council discussed (simulated) the following emergency scenario. There has a loss of hydro and communications with fuel supplies low. Due to weather leaving island not possible.

- 1) Communications off-island is cut-off due to loss of internet (hydro required)
 - Turn to the two-way radio system
 - PW’s Spot messenger service should still be viable
- 2) Fuel (gas) supply becomes an issue
 - Share/ration with ratepayers for generators
 - Keep extra on-hand
 - If large boat available go to Manitoulin or Thessalon for fuel?
 - Make keys available for essential supplies access

Financial Report - Receive report on disbursements by cheque, transfer, auto-debit, NCU “pay bills” and VISA.

Northern Credit Union Bank balances as of January 31st, 2026	
Dock Account 101	\$16,005.50
Heritage Account 102	\$75,298.39
Operating Account 100	\$51,862.59
1 YEAR 3 PT 1 LANDFILL GIC 403	\$10,000.00
1 YEAR 3 PT 1 OPERATING GIC 404	\$150,000.00
TOTAL	\$303,166.48

Current Interest Rate earned on Operating account2.45 %
 Current Interest Rate earned on Twp Heritage Account 1.95 %
 Current Interest Rate earned on Dock Account.....1.95 %
 Both GICs3.1%, one-year from Sept/25

Resolution # 2026-02-11

Moved: S Lacombe

Seconded: J House

That the Treasurer's report on bank balances, cheques, auto-debit payments, EFTs, e-transfers and the VISA card statement(s) be hereby received.

CARRIED

Council Members' Concerns –

- Council Member House felt we should settle the matter of a pick-up truck for Public Works. He felt \$15,000 might get us one,
- Council Member Chappell suggested we sell the old brush-hog and old dump trailer as surplus. He's working with streetlights contractor, Eric Fortier, to finalize arrangements. The initial light model has been discontinued so is working with the vendor on an alternate (7 units),
- Council Member Stewart said the Lake Huron water levels may be down considerably over last season. The low level might allow for some dock work to be done (bumper logs),
- Council Member Lacombe extended an invitation to Lynn to attend the August Homecoming weekend,

CARRIED

Clerk's Report

- a) Clerk's recent chat with the Blue Box folks
- b) Update on transferring Clerk-Treasurer role to Lynn
- c) Update on Pothole Repair Program PRP \$38K grant – an agreement with CIL will be drafted for Council review – needs feedback from Corey Avra

Adjournment

Resolution # 2026-02-12

Moved: J House

Seconded: S Lacombe

That this meeting be now adjourned and that Council meet again by Zoom at 5 PM Wednesday March 11th, 2026 or at the call of the Mayor.

CARRIED

Time – 6:00 PM