

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ATHENS
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2026**

MEMBERS PRESENT Mayor Herb Scott, Deputy Mayor Rob Layng
Councillors Darin Alguire, Anne Marie Dancy,
Todd Evans, Greg Kearney, Matt Smith

STAFF PRESENT Darlene Noonan, CAO/Clerk Treasurer
Chris Fenlong, Director of Public Works
Gerry Bell, CBO/Fire Chief
Tom Fenn, Deputy Fire Chief

ALSO PRESENT Linda Flanigan, Elizabeth Earl, Margaret Rusland,
Ken Barrington, Emily Bohusz, Ray Heffernan,
Connie Heffernan, Steve Godkin, Lucas Dixie,
Rebecca Meier

CALL TO ORDER

- H. Scott – called meeting to order and introductions at 7:00 p.m.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- G. Kearney – as I was leaving work tonight I was handed this invoice to bring to Council – it's from G. Tackaberry & Sons Construction Co. Ltd., for work at Centennial Park in preparation for Farmersville: 91 tonne Gran M stone, 1064.50 tonne asphalt, 10 hours dozer rental, 14 hours grader rental, 2 hours tree removal – total invoice for time and materials \$21,284.48 – balance owing – zero – donation – all members – thank you very much G. Tackaberry and crew.

- D. Noonan - under #9 – Bill Thake nomination

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- None -

MINUTES

MOVED BY R. LAYNG

SECONDED BY T. EVANS

THAT Council approve the minutes of the July 13th 2026 meeting as circulated.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- A. Dancy – Director of Public Works – update on Dixie Road – spoke to Howards and home owner attempted to turn the bus where child is and it won't work in winter, spoke with home owner who was doing it and working on it – agreement at some point.

- D. Alguire – veterans cross walk in contact with company and will be 2nd or 3rd week of September – let office know in advance for street closure and notifications.

- T. Evans – paperwork filled out for JBC flooring request should be in for next month's Lions meeting.

R. Layng – any concerns or issues over bingo machine with JBC/PAC – no shows since – JBC have not met since approval was given, so they are not yet aware. - T. Evans - on behalf of J. Smid and I thank you very much and it's working very well.

DELEGATION(S)

- None -

PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

MOVED BY T. EVANS

SECONDED BY R. LAYNG

THAT Council approve the accounts for payment as circulated.

CARRIED

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

- **Admin. Assistant** – YTD Building report

- **CAO** - YTD vs 2026 budget – G. Kearney - word is out in the community that we aren't planning for the future and we have low reserves – wanted to make note that we are sitting with over \$800,000 in reserves and that is still with having to use or transfer out in 2026 approx. \$378,000 for the arena condenser and the Fire Dept. tanker, so for a small Municipality I think that's pretty great.

- **CAO** – the final disbursement of bequeath to the Township and to the Fire Dept., from the estate of the late George Ivan Pike has been received - \$3582.20 each. Donations have been received as follows: Mayor Scott \$100.00 towards the Centre 76- 50th celebration and Councillor Alguire \$500 towards the remembrance crosswalk.

- **CAO** - We have a resident who is territory sales manager for a company that does curbside and transfer site refuse collection and is inquiring about being given the opportunity to submit a proposal for this service for the Township – everyone agrees and contact will be made with current collector requesting a proposal prior to end of contract for Council discussion.

- **CAO** – Current Council upcoming regular meeting schedule is October 13th and November 9th – the current term ends November 14th and the new term starts November 15th with the inaugural and first meeting to be held November 16th. Current council agrees their last meeting will be October 13th and there shouldn't be a need for the November 9th meeting.

- **Dept. of Public Works** – capital service quote – will cover the 95m to do drainage from Mill St. to Sarah St., had not put in for a capital project, however would like permission to transfer from operating budget to cover this cost and have it completed - \$30,371.00 – there is an additional cost for another 20m \$6,394.00, but do not feel that is necessary at this point and may not have the funds – 50 year life expectancy

MOVED BY M. SMITH

SECONDED BY R. LAYNG

THAT Council approve the request of the Director of Public Works to move certain surplus budgeted operational funds to a capital expenditure for drainage works from Mill St. to Sarah St. Capital expenditure shall equal transferred budgeted funds and is not an increase in overall expenses. **CARRIED**

- **Dept. of Public Works** - Continue to work on the Asset management update – 40-50% complete.

- **Dept. of Public Works** - will get camera and check the other 20m and see what if anything needs to be done there right now, at a county meeting this week brought up what we are looking at doing and trying to see if we can work with the county because a lot of county storm drains are through ours and intertwine and connected as well and work with them.

- **H. Scott** – Mapleview have some artifacts to donate – given the fact our heritage is full and some can't be displayed the County is also contacting other committees in Leeds and Grenville and see if they want anything, there will be some coming to Athens.

CORRESPONDENCE

– **Novatech** – recommendation to update zoning bylaw – 3 (County) amendments.

MOVED BY M. SMITH

SECONDED BY T. EVANS

THAT Council approve recommendation of Novatech Engineering to have three amendments consolidated into the Township's Zoning Bylaw. **CARRIED**

- **D. Johnson** – request for any amount to waive, donate or reduce ice rental rate for Women's 3 on 3 hockey tournament fundraiser for palliative care – 8 hour rental – Saturday September 26th – Council unanimously agreed to reduce the rental rate 50%.

- **AMCTO** – recognition of D. Noonan 35-year membership milestone.

- **Bill Thake award**

MOVED BY T. EVANS

SECONDED BY M. SMITH

THAT Council endorse and support the nomination of William (Billy) Dixie Jr. for the 2026 Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership. **CARRIED**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Centre '76 - 50th ad hoc – a draft sign has been proposed with betty signs – incorporated old rink with new with the lettering blue 48 x 60 – approx. \$700.00 plus HST. - request for committee for anniversary, financial support, approval of fire hall for future meetings, removal of bulletin board, approval for free public skating and the sign placement, paint the wall will need to be all white – use of the tv for slide show what has been gathered - to clarify about governance vs operation - what is needed to be approved by Council – everything. - Mayor Scott has resigned from the Committee.

- **T. Evans** – JBC - September 27th – euchre tournament and raise funds and cut the costs of the event. - D. Noonan - put out for us a gmail account of past experiences at the rink and incorporate in our slide show and E. Earl has provided some information the museum has and asking for donations and other than that – not sure what financial support we will need – mainly the sign and refreshments.

MOVED BY G. KEARNEY

SECONDED BY A. DANCY

THAT Council approve the purchase of a 50th celebration plaque for Centre '76, as presented by the ad hoc committee, Council also approves expenditures for refreshments for the event. **CARRIED**

PLANNING

MOVED BY D. ALGUIRE

SECONDED BY A. DANCY

THAT Council approve consent application B-51-26 – Raats – 72 County Road 5, South. **CARRIED**

BY-LAWS

MOVED BY A. DANCY

SECONDED BY G. KEARNEY

THAT Council introduce and read a first and second time bylaws to provide for advance votes to be held prior to voting day, to allocate 2026 budgeted revenue to reserves, to transfer funds from reserves and reserve funds, to authorize the execution of an agreement for Centre '76 canteen services and to provide for reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes. **CARRIED**

MOVED BY G. KEARNEY

SECONDED BY A. DANCY

THAT Council read a third time bylaws to provide for advance votes to be held prior to voting day, to allocate 2026 budgeted revenue to reserves, to transfer funds from reserves and reserve funds, to authorize the execution of an agreement for Centre '76 canteen services and to provide for reduced hours of voting in institutions and retirement homes. Signed by the Mayor and the Clerk and numbered 2026-19, 2026-20, 2026-21, 2026-22, 2026-23. **CARRIED**

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

- E. Earl – McAvoy Road and digging and lots for sale – no signage – 3 approved severances – they can post for sale however they like.

- M. Rusland - glad to see dead trees at Elbe Cemetery cut down.

QUERIES AND COMMENTS BY COUNCIL

- **C. Fenlong** – approached about making Wiltse to George from Elgin a one way street only during school year – a lot more to it than that and did speak to principal the way it is setup now they feel it is 100% better – don't know if it will come back to look at further – did tell her and talked to D. Howard and didn't have an issue with buses using George St. that's where the problem was.

- **R. Layng** – regarding Farmersville and observations, power at the pavilion seems to be ongoing problem and condition of the washroom the hand dryer was broke off the wall and would be nice to clean up the washrooms and get it painted - I know people are in and out or who or what but for weekends like Farmersville, it should be more presentable and cleaned up – C. Fenlong - it was painted last year and within a month you wouldn't know it had been done – also a few years ago at Lions request a panel was put on the outside of the rink for use for Farmersville and now everything has moved to pavilion/canteen area and that's not used and the panel at pavilion not meant for that much use and it's overloaded.

- **R. Layng** - New condenser – annual maintenance requirements and warranty set? in and all good - yes

- **M. Smith** - backhoe running and useful? - C. Fenlong – yes, used several times - 8th line and transfer site and beavers.

- **T. Evans** – new condenser and ice falling from roof in winter – looking at installing a heat tracer on roof.

- **T. Evans** - Inspection forms – C. Fenlong – yes, using what you gave me, office staff revamped. – T. Evans - asked could you put the backhoe report in with time sheets and documented weekly? — time stamped photos maybe as well, start a job and finish a job both you and A. Sargent.

- **G. Kearney** — speed signs? – C. Fenlong - already sent somewhere else, going to try to pull two for next year – can keep replacing batteries in them but two months they last, need to take them down.

- **A. Dancy** - nothing

- **D. Alguire** – let everyone know I'm removing my name from the 2026 election –a lot going on. – H. Scott - will you please see the crosswalk project through to the end – D. Alguire - absolutely and everyone will have the information I do and proceed forward when done. D. Noonan advised looking into logistics as withdraw date from candidacy has passed and name is already on the ballots; it will remain as is.

- **D. Noonan** – nothing

- **H. Scott** – Maplevue – 3 weeks ago tomorrow watched as they moved 60 residents George and I on hand – honour to be there. - As of 14th of August, had 283 on waiting list took those 60 in and then took 13 from Brockville hospital, 2 from Kingston, 1 from Perth and 1 from Ottawa – finished with list of people in crisis – been operating under construction funding, took out a mortgage for building it is setup so when new mortgage kicks in no increase in county taxes.

- **H. Scott** - Ross Nichols needed \$40 for insurance for candidate meeting so I gave him \$20 for half.

- **H. Scott** - At ball field the building used by Horse A Rama – I offered T. Scott and I would supply paint for the building – the building is supposed to be taken home, can we let it stay there and put a stone base under it to set it on and their group would paint it?

– M. Smith - it's not in the way. – G. Kearney - it's grown from the time when they started – not in the way. – D. Alguire - when brought it in, it was an annual proposal – in spring out in fall and not stay there permanently – H. Scott - will make it look better – D. Alguire - is ok if it's not in the way remaining – H. Scott - can we give them a load of stone if they need it to sit it on – everyone agrees it can remain, paint and stone.

- **H. Scott** – to C. Fenlong - can someone trim the cedars, near his place, can't see the formerly Farmersville sign – C. Fenlong - our plan was to take it all out – the cedars are over grown and take them out and put two small ones in - they are in the hydro lines almost.

- **H. Scott** – T. Scott and I working on cemetery and T. Evans came and cut the trees and won't take too much before it can be mowed by the caretaker and will be great to have it done.

- Thank you everyone for coming.

NOTICE OF MOTION

MOVED BY A. DANCY

SECONDED BY G. KEARNEY

THAT Council close the public meeting and enter in camera at 8:20 p.m., as per S. 239(1)(b) of the Municipal Act. **CARRIED**

MOVED BY D. ALGUIRE

SECONDED BY G. KEARNEY

THAT Council Close the in camera meeting which was according to S. 239(1)(b) of the Municipal Act. At 9:30 p.m. and re-enter regular open public meeting. **CARRIED**

- Deputy Chief Fenn will have his position reclassified from part time to on call, therefore still allowing him to be considered a volunteer.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY A. DANCY

SECONDED BY D. ALGUIRE

THAT there being no further business this meeting of Council adjourn at 9:32 p.m., Council to meet again Tuesday October 13th 2026 at 7:00 pm or sooner at the call of the Mayor. **CARRIED**

MAYOR

CLERK