



The Corporation of the Township of White River

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of Council on October 22, 2025

Present:

Council:	Tara Hart	Mayor
	Dwijen Bharad	Councillor – via zoom
	Rodney Swarek	Councillor
	Rob Sedore	Councillor
	Raymond St. Louis	Councillor
Staff:	Renée Berube	Deputy Clerk
	Whitney Roussy	Administrative Assistant
	Marilyn Lethbridge	Acting CAO/Clerk

Public: Matk- via zoom

1. Call meeting to order

Mayor Hart called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest/Pecuniary Interest None

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 2025-143

Moved by: Councillor Sedore
Seconded by: Councillor Swarek

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Township of White River approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2025, as circulated.

Carried

4. Delegations/Presentations (none scheduled)

5. Adoption of Minutes of Prior Council Meetings (Open Session)

Resolution No. 2025-144

Moved by: Councillor Swarek
Seconded by: Councillor Sedore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for The Corporation of the Township of White River adopt the minutes for the open session of the Regular Council meeting of September 24, 2025, as circulated

6. Business Arising from Minutes

No business arising from the minutes was raised.

7. Departmental Reports

7.1 Receive Departmental Reports Resolution

Resolution No. 2025-145

Moved by: Councillor St Louis
Seconded by: Councillor Sedore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Township of White River receive the departmental reports listed in item 7 of this evening's agenda.

Carried

7.2 Community Beautification Committee
N/A

7.3 Economic Development Committee

N/A

7.4 Water/Sewer/Public Works/Parks & Rec

N/A

7.5 Fire Department

N/A

7.6 CAO/Deputy Clerk Report

The Deputy Clerk and the Acting CAO/Clerk overviewed their report for Council

7.7 Council reports

Update on Barrick meeting, discussions on change of ownership, available funding, Scholarships.

Mayor Hart had a mill tour and met with a company to discuss Creating Biofuel.

Mayor Hart will be attending the mayor's working meeting in Chapleau Nov 8.

Mayor Hart discussed housing market issues and spoke about Titan Tiny Homes has Shown interest in development in White River.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Email: MTO & Chapleau Area Mayors Group follow up
8.2 Email: CPKC Holiday Train

9. Resolutions

9.1 Disbursements

Resolution No. 2025-146

Moved by: Councillor Sedore
Seconded by: Councillor Bharad

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Township of White River approves the disbursements as of October 22, 2025, in the amount of \$334,236.78 as circulated

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-147

Moved by: Councillor Swarek
Seconded by: Councillor Sedore

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Township of White River approves Kim Morgan's attendance at the Northern Finance Workshop held on November 5 – 7, 2025, in Thunder Bay

AND THAT any expenses incurred for this travel will be reimbursed according to municipal policy.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-148

Moved by: Councillor Swarek
Seconded by: Councillor St Louis

WHEREAS there is visible disparity between the northern and southern population of Ontario; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario has an abundance of opportunity in the form of municipality serviced building lots for both industry and population growth; and

WHEREAS the addition of a small northern residential property tax class and sub class would create an incentive for the building of new homes in small northern communities

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of White River does hereby request that the Honorable Minister Peter Bethlenflavy, the Minister of Finance, amends the Assessment Act to include a small northern residential property tax class and sub class; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, Bill Rosenberg, MPP, Algoma Manitoulin; the Honorable Minister Peter Bethlenflavy, Minister of Finance; the Honorable George Pirie, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth; the Honorable Minister Rob Flack, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; all Northern Ontario Ministers: AMO; FONOM; NOMA; NEOMA; NESMG; and small Northern Ontario municipalities.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-149

Moved by: Councillor St Louis
Seconded by: Councillor Sedore

WHEREAS the Ontario government enacted O. Reg 343/22, establishing mandatory certification requirements for firefighters under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997;

AND WHEREAS although it is important to standardize firefighting training and safety, these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers and reliance on volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of these requirements without additional flexibility or support may negatively impact the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters to provide adequate fire protection;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Council of the Township of White River strongly encourages the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General, to provide for support and an extension of the Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements as currently outlined in O.Reg. 343/22;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, John Vanthof, MPP, Algoma-Manitoulin, The Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-150

Moved by: Councillor St Louis
Seconded by: Councillor Swarek

WHEREAS the Council for the Township of White River authorizes the use of \$700,000 from the Royal Business Premium investment account, which was funding attained by NWMO.

Carried

10. Other Business

- 10.1 Project Tracker
- 10.2 User fees
- 10.3 Festival

11. Closed Session

Resolution No. 2025-151

Moved by: Councillor St Louis
Seconded by: Councillor Sedore

BE IT RESOLVED that the time being 8:46 p.m. the Council for the Corporation of the Township of White River close the next portion of the meeting to the public.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-152

Moved by: Councillor St Louis
Seconded by: Councillor Sedore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the time being 8:48 p.m. the Council for the Corporation of the Township of White River rise from Closed Session and report in Open Session.

Carried

Council entered Closed Session at 8:46 pm pursuant to discuss a personnel matter under s.239(2)(b)(personal matters about an identifiable individual). No discussion or action took place. Council returned to open session at 8:48 pm.

12. Adjournment

Resolution No. 2025-153

Moved by: Councillor St Louis

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this meeting be adjourned at 8:50 pm

Carried

13. Next Meeting

The next Council Meeting is the Regular Meeting on November 12, 2025.


Sarah Hart
Mayor


Acting CAO/Clerk