



**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.



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Mayor



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Acting CAO/Clerk