



**The Township of Amaranth Council Meeting
Minutes**

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Council Chambers

Council Present: Mayor, C. Gerrits
Deputy Mayor, G. Little
Councillor, S. Graham
Councillor, B. Metzger
Councillor, A. Stirk

Staff Present: CAO/Clerk, N. Martin
Treasurer, S. VanGerven
Deputy Clerk, H. Boardman
Planning Coordinator, A. Harris
Roads Superintendent, K. Watson
Consulting Township Planner, V. Schmidt

The Township of Amaranth Council held a regular meeting on Wednesday May 15, 2024, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

1. Call To Order

The CAO/Clerk determined quorum was obtained and the meeting was able to proceed.

Mayor Gerrits called the Meeting to Order at 9:02 a.m.

Councillor Metzger joined the meeting virtually.

2. Land Acknowledgment

The Mayor read the Land Acknowledgement declaration that was provided in the agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution #: 1

Moved by: A. Stirk

Seconded by: S. Graham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do hereby approve the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

Council was reminded that they could declare a conflict at any time during the meeting should one arise.

5. Approval of Minutes

5.1 Regular Meeting of Council Minutes held May 1, 2024

5.2 Special Meeting of Council Minutes held May 8, 2024

Resolution #: 2

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do hereby adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on May 1, 2024 and the Special Meeting of Council held on May 8, 2024 as circulated.

CARRIED

6. Open Forum

The CAO/Clerk read the following letters to form part of the minutes:

6.1 Gladys Meek Letter

May 2, 2024, Township of Amaranth

I am corresponding with you about the need for a new culvert and additional gravel on 15 SIDEROAD especially in the area which I am

going to describe and picture. The culvert is between a driveway accessing a shop and a farm entrance on the north side of 15 SIDERAOD immediately west of the Mono-Amaranth Townline. I have been in contact with Township office on multiple times this spring regarding this section of road. Pot holes I can handle but what I am going to describe as a canyon I cannot. It has cost me a car repair. We have had multiple grades by the township but these are only temporary fixes. I appreciate them but everytime we have significant precipitation the problem is back. I know it costs money but do I keep repairing my car or do we fix the problem so everyone benefits? I have reached out to our mayor as well but I write this I have not heard from him.

I trust this explains the structure well enough but feel free to telephone me or visit me to discuss further.

Gladys M Meek

This item was discussed further under item 11.3.

6.2 McCallum email

Hi thank you for looking after the 9th Line north of 20th Sideroad this road can get quite bad Thanks Shirley and Paul McCallum

7. Delegations/Presentations (pre-registered)

None for this meeting.

8. Public Meetings (Statutory and Non-Statutory)

Resolution #: 3

Moved by: A. Stirk

Seconded by: G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council now hold a Public Meeting under the *Planning Act* regarding the following:

B05-2024 - Madronich

CARRIED

8.1 Report to Council 2024-044

Application for Consent B05-2024 Concession 7 East Part Lot 3

The CAO/Clerk read the regulations and advised that notice has been provided in accordance with the *Planning Act*. The Planning Coordinator advised the purpose and effect of the application is to sever a portion of the subject property to create a new rural lot. The subject property legally described as Concession 7, East Part Lot 3 is designated Rural (RU) and Environmental Protection (EP) in the Township Official Plan. The proposed area to be severed is approximately 0.78ha with a retained area of approximately 7.3ha. The Planning Coordinator advised that at the time of writing the report, not all comments were received from circulated agencies.

The Applicant, Chris Corosky from VanHarten Surveying, was present at the meeting for comments and questions. The Applicant reviewed the location of the proposed severance parcel in respect to the regulated lands on the property. The Applicant advised that the Grand River Conservation Authority had been contacted regarding the proposed severance and did not require an Environmental Impact Study as the location is outside the regulated area. The Applicant reviewed the Minimum Distance Separation(MDS) from the surrounding barns.

Alexia Meli, an adjacent lot owner, was present at the meeting to discuss fencing along the property line and the location of the driveway entrance for the severed parcel. Alexia Meli will follow up with staff regarding the fencing requirements for the severed portion.

The Property Owner, Michael Madronich, was present at the meeting for questions and comments.

Joanne Ison was present at the meeting to discuss the MDS setbacks from her barn and the implications if the barn housed livestock in the future. Joanne Ison inquired on the effect to the ponds on her property and the grading of the proposed severance. The Applicant advised that the ponds would most likely be sourced from ground water in the area and the grading should not affect the ponds.

The Consulting Township Planner reviewed the MDS guidelines and setback calculations. The measurement would be from the barn to the house location on the severed parcel, not the property line.

Jane Riseborough was present at the meeting to discuss the MDS calculations from barns in the area. The Consulting Township Planner will look into if dilapidated barns would be subject to the MDS guidelines.

Council discussed the railbed that is currently being used to enter the property and the Property Owner advised that an entrance has been installed on the property with the intention to install another entrance for the severed parcel.

8.2 Adjourn the Public Meeting

Resolution #: 4

Moved by: B. Metzger

Seconded by: G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do now adjourn the Public Meeting held under the *Planning Act* and resume regular business.

CARRIED

9. Unfinished Business Matters Arising from Minutes/Matters Arising from Delegations

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

9.1 Water testing services for private drinking water

Resolution #: 5

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Whereas the Ontario Auditor General's annual report on public health from December 2023 indicates that Public Health Ontario is proposing the phasing-out of free provincial water testing services for private drinking water; and

Whereas free private drinking water testing services has played a pivotal role in safeguarding public health, particularly in rural communities, including the entire Township of Amaranth, that rely predominantly on private drinking water; and

Whereas the removal of free private drinking water testing could lead to a reduction in testing, potentially increasing the risk of waterborne diseases in these vulnerable populations; and

Whereas the tragic events in Walkerton, Ontario underscored the critical importance of safe drinking water.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that The Township of Amaranth hereby requests that the Province reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing-out of free private drinking water testing services.

Further Be It Resolved that this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, Minister of Health, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health Unit, and MPP Sylvia Jones.

CARRIED

9.2 Other

Nothing at this time.

10. Planning Department

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

10.1 Town of Shelburne

Planning Application Circulation: A24/01 - Luxton Way & Z24/01 - 393 Colonel Phillips Drive

10.2 Notice of Passing of Decision and Grand Valley By-Law 2024-21

10.3 Other

Nothing at this time.

11. Public Works Department

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

11.1 Report to Council 2024-042

Tractor Quotes

The Roads Superintendent provided an overview of the report and the quotes obtained for a tractor. The Roads Superintendent advised that there may be further discounts when quotes are received through the Canoe purchasing program. Council discussed timelines for obtaining the tractor and staffing requirements to operate the new equipment. Council directed Staff to obtain firm quotes for the John Deere and New Holland

Tractors through the Canoe purchasing program with financing options and to provide a report at a future meeting.

Resolution #: 6

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council accept Report to Council 2024-042 as information and provide any direction accordingly.

Furthermore, that Council declare the 2003 John Deere 5220 tractor and 6 ft mower as surplus and authorize staff to liquidate these items, using the gains for future equipment purchases.

CARRIED

11.2 RFP 05 - 2024 Design-Build Structure 21 and 36

The CAO/Clerk advised that RFP05-2024 for structures 21 and 36 presented was drafted utilizing the content from the previous RFP 1-2017 as directed by Council. Council discussed and directed changes that would allow the opportunity for more options on the type of structure replacement. The CAO/Clerk advised Council of the process under the procurement by-law.

Resolution #: 7

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council request the following changes to RFP05-2025

Work Scope

#1 abutments replacement or rehabilitation, #5 remove prefabricated, #6 remove entirely, #14 use rehabilitation or replacement, #17 add if required to the end

Specifications

Move #6, #7 and #8 to a reference under Work Scope and;

That the RFP be released once the changes have been made.

CARRIED

11.3 Other

Council discussed the letter from Gladys Meek that was read in open forum. The Roads Superintendent advised that the public works department is continuing to monitor the roadway and will look into graveling or rehabilitating the area.

Council discussed structure 22 and 23 replacements. The Treasurer advised that work on the RFT for structures 22 and 23 has been halted at this time as per Councils direction and advised that these structures will be placed on the monitoring list to ensure public safety.

Staff will investigate if there is engineering completed for other structures and will provide further information at a future meeting.

12. County Council Business

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

12.1 Building Department

MPAC uploads March 2024

12.2 ERO County of Dufferin

Approval to amend a municipality's official plan

[2023-09-28 Community Development and Tourism Agenda \(ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com\)](https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/2023-09-28%20Community%20Development%20and%20Tourism%20Agenda)

[2023-09-28 Community Development and Tourism Minutes \(dufferincounty.ca\)](https://dufferincounty.ca/2023-09-28%20Community%20Development%20and%20Tourism%20Minutes)

<https://www.dufferincounty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2023-10-12-CouncilMinutes.pdf>

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-8488>

Council discussed the County's Transportation Master Plan and the Shelburne by-pass.

Council was in support of the Transportation Master Plan showing County Road 12 remain as an intricate part of the plan for traffic flow.

Council requested a recorded vote for the motion. Council directed the Planning Coordinator to forward a copy of the motion to the ERO notice board.

Council discussed the County's Official Plan Amendment and will respond to the Ministry through the ERO with copies of their maps showing the lands which the Township would like to designate for development. The lands discussed would be around the Town of Shelburne, Farmington area zoning housekeeping and the Waldemar/Laurel areas that have agricultural land that is slated for development.

Resolution #: 10

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council does not support a Shelburne by-pass truck route through the Township of Amaranth shown as option #1 on the County of Dufferin Transportation Master Plan

For (5): C. Gerrits, G. Little, S. Graham, B. Metzger, and A. Stirk

CARRIED (5 to 0)

12.3 Other

Nothing at this time.

13. Committee Reports

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

13.1 Grand Valley Fire Board

Minutes March 4, 2024

13.2 Grand Valley Library Board

Minutes April 10, 2024

Council discussed that the library is engaging Service Ontario on the possibility of a Service Ontario Kiosk at the library.

13.3 Shelburne Library Board

Minutes March 19, 2024

13.4 Centre Dufferin Recreation Complex

Minutes March 13, 2024

13.5 Grand River Conservation Authority

Consultation Period: Grand River Conservation Authority's Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy

13.6 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

NVCA Media Release - NVCA Board of Directors advocates to province to maintain free testing for private wells

NVCA April 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

NVCA Media Release - Apply for NVCA permits early to avoid delays

13.7 Other

Council was advised that the Grand Valley Fire Chief has raised concerns regarding oversized burn permits. Council requested Staff bring the by-law to a future Council meeting for review.

14. General Business and Correspondence Consent Agenda

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

14.1 AMO

Watchfile - [May 2, 2024](#), Policy Update - ["Team Ontario" Federal Infrastructure Funding Agreement Negotiation and Bill 185 Comments to Standing Committee](#), Watchfile - [May 9, 2024](#), 2024 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Delegation Form

Council discussed delegation requests for the 2024 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference. Council will provided delegation request information to the CAO/Clerk for submission.

14.2 Ontario News

[Ontario Building Highway 413](#), [Ontario Connecting People in Lambton County to Mobile Mental Health Services](#), [Ontario Completes Largest Battery Storage Procurement in Canada to Meet Growing Electricity Demand](#), [Canada and Ontario Increasing Access to High-Speed Internet Service in Wellington County](#), [Ontario Improving Mental Health Care for Postsecondary Students](#)

14.3 FCM Voice

[AC2024 mainstage | FCM Board elections | Sustainable Communities Awards | and more](#)

[Sustainable Communities Awards | Municipal Trailblazers | 2024 Ann McLean Award | and more](#)

14.4 ROMA

Newsletter: [Economic Development, Broadband Highlights](#)

14.5 WOWC

[Priorities Report](#)

14.6 Support Letters from various municipalities concerning Highway 413 and Operation Budget funding

14.7 Letter from the Multi-Municipal Energy Working Group

Re: Unwilling Host Declaration

14.8 OPP News Portal

DUFFERIN OPP LAUNCH COLLISION REPORTING CENTRE

14.9 Township of Melancthon

Significant Incident Reporting

14.10 Letter of Support

Re: Amenity Sharing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with School Boards for Evening/Weekend Gymnasium Use

14.11 Town of Orangeville

Ontario Heritage Act

14.12 Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

Submission re Bill 185 ERO 019-8369 - Municipal Act and Planning Act

14.13 Other

Nothing at this time.

15. Treasury Report

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

15.1 Report to Council 2024-043

Overview and Evaluation of Budgeting

The Treasurer provided an overview of the proposed new budget format. Council would like to see supporting reports and/or documents with the budget package that provides further information on line items. Council requested that the report on the 2024 capital expenses from last year come back to Council at a future meeting to review. Council would like notations added to the expense reports showing where there is an offsetting revenue.

Resolution #: 11

Moved by: A. Stirk

Seconded by: G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The 2025 budget use the presented format for budget discussions.

CARRIED

15.2 Other

Council inquired about outstanding invoices for the Grand Valley Fire Department.

The Treasurer advised the invoices were not billed in accordance with the by-law and there remains a discrepancy between the new agreement and the by-law that should be addressed. Council directed Staff to bring information regarding the invoices and discrepancies back to a future meeting for consideration.

16. Added Items (Late Submissions)

Nothing at this meeting.

17. New Business

17.1 Flag and Proclamation Request

Dufferin County Multicultural Foundation, Multicultural Day June 27 2024

Resolution #: 12

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Township of Amaranth proclaims June 27, 2024 as Multicultural Day to promote diversity, inclusion, equality and equity in our community.

CARRIED

17.2 The Brave Canoe Launch

Paint Dufferin County Orange

17.3 Pride Flag Raising

June 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Amaranth Municipal Office

17.4 Memo to Council 2024-023

2024 Good Roads Conference

17.5 Report to Council 2024-041

Health and Safety program support

Council discussed the report as presented and was in support of internalizing the health and safety program in order to better suit the needs of the Township.

Resolution #: 13

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council direct staff to give notice to the County of Dufferin that the Township of Amaranth will be internalizing the Health and Safety program and are no longer in need of the upper tier staff support, effective June 30, 2024.

CARRIED

18. Notice of Motions

None for this meeting.

19. Closed Meeting

Resolution #: 8

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council move to a Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 239 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, for the following reasons:

Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board – County Road 11 property resolution; OPA 4 County mapping

Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose – update on Amarlinc project

CARRIED

19.1 County Road 11 property resolution; OPA 4 County mapping

19.2 Update on Amarlinc project

19.3 Adoption of Closed Meeting minutes

April 3, 2024 and April 17, 2024

19.4 Rise and Report from Closed Meeting

It was confirmed that the only items discussed in closed session were those items on the closed agenda. Items discussed in closed and instruction to Staff, the Township Engineer and the Township Solicitor were affirmed. No other matters resulting of the closed meeting.

Resolution #: 9

Moved by: A. Stirk

Seconded by: G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do now rise and report from Closed Meeting.

CARRIED

20. By-Laws

None for this meeting.

21. Confirming By-Law

Resolution #: 14

Moved by: S. Graham

Seconded by: G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Leave be given to introduce a by-law to confirm the Regular Meeting of Council of the Township of Amaranth for May 15, 2024; and that it be given the necessary readings and be passed and numbered as the next sequential number.

CARRIED

22. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Resolution #: 15

Moved by: B. Metzger

Seconded by: A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do now adjourn to meet again for the Regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday June 12, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor.

CARRIED

Head of Council

CAO/Clerk