



**The Township of Amaranth Council Meeting  
Minutes**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 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  
Deputy Clerk, H. Boardman  
Treasurer, S. VanGerven  
Roads Superintendent, K. Watson

The Township of Amaranth Council held a regular meeting on Wednesday March 19, 2025, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

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**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.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

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

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Resolution #: 1**

**Moved by:** G. Little

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do hereby approve the agenda as amended.

**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 March 5 2025

**Resolution #: 2**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** S. Graham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do hereby adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 5, 2025 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**6. Open Forum**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

6.1 Email re: tree removal

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

From: m R

Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 11:14 AM

To: Nicole Martin <[nmartin@amaranth.ca](mailto:nmartin@amaranth.ca)>

Subject: council question

Dear Nicole,

Thanks for clearing some items up for me regarding the Ritchie Brothers project on 2nd line.

We are certainly living in changing times with tough decisions all around us. I am wondering if there have been any decisions made regarding the large maple trees that stand on 2nd line, just north of Hwy 9. I'm sure a number are old and have begun to decline in health. I hope some can be saved. If there is anything I can do to this end or with regards to the continued care of any trees that will remain please let me know. We need to protect our environment as much as possible, and so provide a positive example for our young people.

Thanks so much for the work you do

M Reed

Council directed Staff to reach out to Ritchie Bros regarding the trees along the roadway.

Council discussed tree replacement for developments that require tree or vegetation removal.

6.2 Cars in Ditch

Laryssa Sawyer was present at the meeting to discuss cars going into a ditch on 8th Line near her property. The Roads Superintendent advised that he had completed an inspection and did not find any issues with the roadway.

**7. Delegations/Presentations (pre-registered)**

**Delegation will start at approximately 11:00am.**

A break was taken from 10:49 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. after closed session and prior to the delegation.

7.1 Dufferin Water Co. Ltd. – Annual Report

Joe Miedema from Dufferin Water Co. Ltd. presented the 2024 Waldemar Water reports to Council. Mr. Miedema advised that Well#2 is not in operation at this time as the communication lines have not been repaired. Council discussed the report as presented and water supply capacities for the fire departments.

The Treasurer advised that a water rate study will be completed this year which will determine water meter requirements. Staff will post the water reports to the Township website after the meeting.

**Resolution #: 6**

**Moved by:** S. Graham

**Seconded by:** A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council accept the Waldemar Heights Well Water supply Summary Report and Annual Report for 2024 prepared by Dufferin Water Co. Ltd.

**CARRIED**

**8. Public Meetings (Statutory and Non-Statutory)**

None for this meeting.

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

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

9.1 Memo to Council 2025–009

Orangeville Public Library Catchment Area

The Finance Co-op student provided an overview of the report as presented. Council was advised that the CAO/Clerk and the Finance Co-op student will be meeting with the Orangeville Library Board regarding this matter and further information will be provided at a future meeting.

Council discussed revisions to the catchment areas, payment terms and current agreements.

9.2 Report to Council 2025-028

Animal Control RFP results

The CAO/Clerk advised that one tender was received and is recommending entering into an agreement for Animal Control Services. The CAO/Clerk confirmed that reference checks have been conducted on the company.

9.3 Other

Nothing at this time.

**10. Building and Planning Department**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

10.1 Report to Council 2025-029

Building Transition Agreement

Council discussed the report and draft agreement as presented. Council and Staff discussed record retention concerns. Council discussed that building permit record searches should remain with the County as they have the records and means to charge a fee for this service if requested. Further information has been requested from the MMAH and will be provided to Council once received.

**Resolution #: 9**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council instruct staff to execute a building transition agreement with the County of Dufferin that includes wording for Section 6 Records Management as:

6.1. The parties shall work collaboratively to **share** all documents and records in the possession of the County's Building Department necessary to facilitate transition. At no additional fee cost to either the County of Dufferin or the Township of Amaranth.

6.2. Following the closure of permits for which the County is responsible under Section 3 above, the County will provide Amaranth all records related to the permit application. At no additional fee cost to either the County of Dufferin or the Township of Amaranth.

**CARRIED**

**Resolution #: 10**

**Moved by:** S. Graham

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council encourage the County of Dufferin to continue to provide services to residents of the Township of Amaranth as required on an ongoing basis.

Council direct Staff to circulate this motion to all Dufferin lower tiers.

**CARRIED**

10.2 Other

Nothing at this time.

**11. Roads and Public Works Department**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

11.1 Memo to Council 2025-011

Project Updates

The report provided an update on the Waldemar water storage upgrades and the Structure 21 construction.

11.2 Feedback to OSPC re: limited liability & road salt

The Roads Superintendent provided Council with information on the Townships current salt usage. The Deputy Clerk provided additional information on the proposed motion from the Township Engineer.

**Resolution #: 7**

**Moved by:** G. Little

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Whereas road salt is a known toxic substance designated under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act because of tangible threats of serious or irreversible environmental and health damage from road salt; and

Whereas salt levels in Ontario's groundwater aquifers, creeks, rivers, and lakes have increasingly worsened since the 1970s, seriously affecting municipal drinking water sources and aquatic life; and

Whereas the Ontario and Canadian governments have taken many actions over the past 25 years including setting water quality guidelines, developing voluntary codes of practice, signing the Canada-Ontario Great Lakes Agreement, and holding workshops, yet still the salt problem continues to grow; and

Whereas numerous situation analyses have recommended salt solutions involving liability protection, contractor certification, government-approved Best Management Practices (BMPs) and salt management plans; and

Whereas increased numbers of slips and falls claims, and other injury/collision claims related to snow and ice, are resulting in salt applicators overusing salt beyond levels considered best practices; and

Whereas unlimited contractor liability is making it difficult or expensive for snow and ice management contractors to obtain insurance coverage, resulting in contractors leaving the business, thereby making it difficult for municipalities and private owners to find contractors; and

Whereas the Snow and Ice Management Sector (SMS) of Landscape Ontario is working with the Ontario government to institute a limited liability regime for snow and ice management, including enforceable contractor training/certification and government-approved BMPs for salt application; and

Whereas many Ontario municipalities have Salt Management Plans, but these often require updating in light of improved science and better salt management practices now available.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This municipality urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially-endorsed standard BMPs for snow and ice management; and

2. This municipality urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems and drinking water from the impacts of salt pollution; and
3. This municipality commits to the reduction of salt as much as possible while maintaining safety on roads and sidewalks; and
4. This resolution be sent to all municipalities in Dufferin County, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), local MPPs, Conservation Ontario, Minister Andrea Khanjin (MECP), Interim Minister Todd McCarthy (MECP), Attorney General Doug Downey, Premier Doug Ford, and MP Kyle Seeback.

**CARRIED**

11.3 Other

The Roads Superintendent provided Council with an update on the purchase of the two plow trucks. Council was advised that there may be a tariff impact on these vehicles. The tariff impact cap fee proposed by the vehicle supplier would ensure that the Township would not be affected by further tariffs that may be imposed. The fee will not be applicable if the tariffs are not imposed.

Council directed Staff to provide an update on which structures have completed engineering and are shovel ready.

**Resolution #: 8**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**Seconded by:** G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council acknowledge there may be an additional \$3,500.00 USD tariff impact fee cap on each plow truck to be received in 2026.

**CARRIED**

**12. Treasury Department**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

12.1 Report to Council 2025-027

Structure Award

Council directed Staff to check with R.J. Burnside that bonding was included in the tender requirements.

**Resolution #: 11**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** S. Graham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council award contract no. 300058504.1000 for the replacement of structures 22 & 23 project to Nichols Excavating Inc for the contract price of \$790,650.29 plus applicable taxes.

**CARRIED**

12.2 Other

Nothing at this time.

**13. County and County Council Business**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

13.1 Southern Operations Centre

This matter was discussed in closed session as noted.

13.2 County Official Plan Amendment

COPA 1-25 - 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth

Council discussed an application to the County of Dufferin for an Official Plan Amendment(OPA) on a property located at 514504 Second Line in the Township Amaranth to permit a subdivision.

Council directed Staff to provide comments that the Township of Amaranth would not support the OPA. Staff will circulate the information to the Consulting Township Planner for comments as well.

13.3 Other

Nothing at this time.

**14. Committee Reports**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

14.1 NVCA

NVCA February 2025 Board Highlights

NVCA Draft Regulation Mapping Public Consultation & Open House

Launch of NVCA E-Permitting Platform

14.2 Shelburne Fire Board

Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2025

14.3 GRCA

Programs & Services under Category MOUs

Annual Update

14.4 CDRC

Approved board minutes

14.5 Grand Valley Fire Board

January 7, 2025 minutes

Motion regarding dissolution of Board

Council discussed the dissolution of the fire board, fire department recruitment and the preparation of an agreement. Council requested the Town of Grand Valley attend a future meeting to discuss the matters further.

**Resolution #: 12**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Township of Amaranth request that Chief Foreman and the Chair of the Grand Valley Fire Board attend a future Council meeting to discuss 2024 annual service levels, including budget, call volume breakdown and catchment area;

Further That the Township of Amaranth request the Mayor and/or CAO of Grand Valley attend to discuss possible dissolution of the Fire Board.

**CARRIED**

14.6 Grand Valley Public Library Board

Minutes February 2025

14.7 Other

Nothing at this time.

**15. General Business and Correspondence Consent Agenda**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

15.1 AMO

Policy Update - [Communities Brace for Tariff Impact](#), Events: Save the Date for the Inaugural AMO Rural Healthy Democracy Forum!, Watchfile - [March 6, 2025](#), Education: [Be an Equity Informed Leader in Your Municipality](#), Education Workshops: [Strengthening Municipal Leadership](#), Watchfile - March 13, 2025, Policy Update - [Continued AMO Action on Trade and Tariffs](#)

15.2 Ontario News

[Ontario Applied 25 Per Cent Surcharge on Electricity Exports to United States](#), [Ontario Honours Outstanding Civic Leaders](#), [Premier Doug Ford to be Sworn in with New Cabinet](#), [Province to Honour Recipients of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship](#), [Premier Doug Ford Congratulates New Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada](#)

15.3 OSUM

[2025 Conference Program Update](#)

15.4 Township of Melancthon

Motion support

15.5 Other

Nothing at this time.

**16. Added Items (Late Submissions)**

The CAO/Clerk advised that a revised agenda was distributed and published prior to the meeting.

**17. New Business**

17.1 85th Annual Santa Claus Parade AM



Donation request

**Resolution #: 13**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do hereby approve the request of the Grand Valley Santa Claus Parade Committee for a \$200.00 donation toward the 2025 Santa Claus Parade.

**CARRIED**

17.2 Autism Ontario

Proclamation Request

Council directed Staff to reach out to the organization to determine if they would like to schedule a flag raising at the next Council meeting.

**Resolution #: 14**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Township of Amaranth does hereby proclaim April 2, 2025 as World Autism Day 2025 and urges all citizens to show support for autistic individuals across Ontario and in our communities.

**CARRIED**

17.3 Memo to Council 2025-010

Staff Certificates

Council congratulated Staff on their accomplishments.

17.4 MADD Canada

Donation Request

Council did not wish to support the donation request.

**18. Notice of Motions**

18.1 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

Background:

The Township of Oro-Medonte has put forward a motion to initiate an amalgamation proposal for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. Although, NVCA serves the larger geographical area of Oro-Medonte, LSRCA is a much larger CA that includes the Region of York. It is the wish of Oro-Medonte to be served only by the LSRCA as they feel this will simplify their administration for planning and permitting purposes.

This proposal does not meet the needs of the 18 member municipalities of the NVCA as their lands are not impacted by Lake Simcoe but are affected

by the many rivers, streams and tributaries of the Nottawasaga that flow into Georgian Bay.

Conservation Authorities are designed on the basis of serving watersheds as supported by the MNR to ensure that developments do not result in changes to the floodplain and natural heritage (ie wetlands) that would put communities at risk from flooding and impacts of climate change.

Therefore be it resolved that:

The Township of Amaranth receive and endorse the correspondence from NVCA opposing an amalgamation with Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority given no expert analysis has been presented to support such a proposal to move away from watershed-based Conservation Authorities, and that the Township of Amaranth appoint Deputy Mayor Gail Little to vote at a forthcoming meeting that may be called to consider the amalgamation proposal.

**19. Closed Meeting**

**Closed Session will start at approximately 9:30am.**

**Resolution #: 3**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** G. Little

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:

Information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality by another level of government – County works yard

**CARRIED**

19.1 County Works Yard

19.2 Adoption of Closed Meeting minutes

February 19 and March 5, 2025

19.3 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 were affirmed. No other matters resulting of the closed meeting.

**Resolution #: 4**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**Seconded by:** A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do now rise and report from Closed Meeting.

**CARRIED**

19.4 Motion Arising from Closed Session

**Resolution #: 5**

**Moved by:** G. Little

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Township of Amaranth would support a County southern operations center provided it could be a facility that could be shared and consideration would be given to a payment-in-lieu to the Township.

**CARRIED**

**20. By-Laws**

Notice of intention to pass the following By-Laws:

20.1 2025 Tax Levy

**Resolution #: 15**

**Moved by:** S. Graham

**Seconded by:** A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Leave be given to introduce a by-law to provide for the levy and collection of taxes required for the Township of Amaranth for the year 2025 and that it be given the necessary readings and be passed and numbered as the next sequential number

**CARRIED**

20.2 Animal Control Services

**Resolution #: 16**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**Seconded by:** G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Leave be given to introduce a by-law to Authorize The Execution Of An Animal Control Services Agreement Between The Corporation Of The Township Of Amaranth And Municipal Support Services Inc. and that it be given the necessary readings and be passed and numbered as the next sequential number.

**CARRIED**

**21. Confirming By-Law**

**Resolution #: 17**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** S. Graham

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 March 19, 2025; 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 12:55 p.m.

**Resolution #: 18**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**Seconded by:** G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do now adjourn to meet again for the Regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday April 2, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor.

**CARRIED**

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Head of Council

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CAO/Clerk