



## **The Township of Amaranth Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, June 18, 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 Foreman, P. Heeremans

The Township of Amaranth Council held a regular meeting on Wednesday June 18, 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 9:01 a.m.

Deputy Mayor Little joined the meeting virtually.

### **2. Land Acknowledgement**

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 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 June 4, 2025

#### **Resolution #: 2**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**Seconded by:** A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do hereby adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on June 4, 2025 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

## 6. Open Forum

The Deputy Clerk read the following letters to form part of the meeting minutes:

### 6.1 Sideroad 20 - email - CORRECTION 25 Sideroad

Subject: ~~Side Road 20~~-25 Sideroad

Hello

I was wondering if there is any possibility of ~~side road 20~~ 25 sideroad from Mono Amaranth Townline to 2 line being paved. Many residents use that road to get their mail from the Canada Post box. The road constantly deteriorates and huge pot holes are created, making it difficult to get mail.

The current re-gravelling of the road only solves the problem temporarily. Maybe if paving the road is not an option, relocating the Canada Post to a paved road could be considered.

Regards,

Marzia Franchino

Council discussed this matter under item 11.1.

### 6.2 Fire Permit By-Law – email

**Subject:** Council members

**Dear Members of Council,**

I am writing to formally request a review and amendment to the current fire permit bylaw as it applies to properties in the Township of Amaranth. This request specifically addresses the evolving realities of multi-generational households and the practical limitations imposed by the current “one fire permit per property” policy as well as the “only the home owner can give consent” response I got from the township.

#### **Background and Issue**

As it stands, the bylaw restricts fire permits to one per property, and allows either the property owner or the individual setting the fire to obtain the permit. This policy creates an unintended and inequitable “first come, first serve” system that does not account for multi-generational families where multiple adults share the property and its maintenance for home value, land maintenance for fire prevention of fallen debris, or reasonable enjoyment.

This has led to a situation where one individual, solely because their name appears on the deed, is effectively able to restrict the legal use of fire on the property by other family members with no reasonable prior concerns. These restrictions have impacted the reasonable enjoyment of the property and slowed efforts to perform basic maintenance, such as controlled burns for brush and tree debris, and leisure campfires which have long been enjoyed without incident or complaint by both myself, the responsible party, and my son present.

### Concerns Raised

1. **Property Rights and Deed Ownership:** Not only title holders determine home ownership. Marriage, contribution factors such as purchase of the property or home can also determine home ownership without a name on title as some example of situations where more than one adult living on the property can have “home ownership” rights as determined in family law (matrimonial home) and estate law for other factors decided by the courts.
2. Therefore residents and occupants of a property, especially in long-term family arrangements, may have rights to the enjoyment and use of that property to maintain value, or simply enjoy use despite their name not being on title. The current bylaw does not reflect this legal nuance and allows for disproportionate control by one person named on the deed, regardless of their motivations, or even capabilities to even have a fire themselves, towards other family members not previously an issue.
3. **Change in Conduct Contrary to Past Practice:** In our particular case, I have safely used fires for leisure and maintenance for many years without any concern or objection raised by the deed holder or the Township reflected in photographic evidence of needed for several years even prior to moving in full time. We have now resided here since 2016 and have utilized fires for both cleaning trees debris and enjoyable family time without issue even with extended family and children present for testing marshmallows or relaxation. The fire pit falls into the guidelines and has always been used safely.
4. It is also worth noting that my home ownership rights have not yet been determined by council or the courts as not equal to dons in regards to our property therefore “the home owner” is actually still not determined by just the deed.
5. The recent refusal to allow fire use appears to stem from personal grievances rather than public safety, which is inconsistent with the spirit and purpose of fire bylaws
6. **Impact on Property Maintenance and Safety:** Denying fire permits to responsible family members who have historically managed brush and tree debris through safe burning increases the risk of unmanaged yard waste, especially when the permit holder is no longer physically capable to complete such tasks themselves and must have others do the physical labour of collection of debris and actual burning.
7. Leaving trees debris can potentially leading to greater fire hazards in the long term as fallen wood dries with lightning risk. As it stands

there is still a significant amount of work to do clearly ice storm damage which I have been the sole responsible party of until a member of the family this weekend that does not reside on the property burned what I had cleared.

### **Proposed Amendment**

I respectfully propose the following amendment for Council's consideration:

#### **Amendment Proposal:**

In recognition of multi-generational households and shared occupancy, the fire permit bylaw should be revised to allow:

- More than one fire permit per property, provided that each permit holder resides at the address and agrees to adhere to all fire safety requirements; **OR**
- That any adult occupant of the property who is a long-term resident may apply for a fire permit regardless of whether their name appears on the deed, with the provision that proper safety protocols are followed and that their right to reasonable use is not being obstructed without just cause.

### **Conclusion**

The Township's fire regulations must be adaptable to the modern realities of shared living situations. Excluding residents from the ability to engage in basic and safe uses of their property based solely on deed ownership creates unnecessary conflict, especially when those residents have a history of safe fire use and no prior infractions.

I urge the Council to consider this proposed amendment to better reflect fairness, safety, and the lived experiences of Amaranth families. I am available to speak at a Council meeting and provide further information if needed.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Julie MacIver

#### **6.3 Road work (positive) - email**

Good morning;

I live on the 8th line of Amaranth, every spring we have a lot of traffic with the transport gravel haulers coming out of the pit just down from us.

I've been on the 8th line since 1992, and have always dreaded the gravel haulers as they drove like the 8th line was a race track and it left me feeling very unsafe so I just chose (for my own safety) to avoid going out while they were doing their thing, we have witnessed an accident where a gravel hauler was rear ended for all the dust that was kicked up (their speed didn't help with this) the vehicle couldn't see it, we had a gravel hauler flip on its side into the ditch (where my husband just finished cutting grass) etc.

I just want to say, people are quick to complain but don't often enough share the positives - I just want to share that the company that is doing the gravel hauling this year are fantastic!!! They are very courteous and respect the roads the way they should. All of them - there are multiple

trucks and they are all fantastic! I can't think of anything to complain about in regards to the job they are doing this year!

Please do pass this on to has arranged for this trucking company - my hope is they are awarded the contracts in the years to follow!

Thanks

Angie Wallace

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

**7.1 Pickleball proposal**

Representatives from the Pickleball Court Committee provided a presentation to Council outlining the proposed pickleball court project.

Council discussed the options presented and will have further conversation regarding the matter under item 12.1.

**7.2 GRCA Annual Report**

Samantha Lawson and Kaylee Keegan from the Grand River Conservation Authority were at the meeting to provide a presentation to Council.

**7.3 Proposed Land Development – Cannabis Growing**

A representative, George Ragogna, and the owner, Luigi Misasi, were present at the meeting to discuss a proposed land development for cultivating cannabis.

Council advised that approval would not be granted at this meeting and that a formal planning application would be required.

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

**Resolution #: 3**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**Seconded by:** A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council now hold a Public Meeting regarding the following:

- Animal Control and Kennel Draft By-Law
- Parking Draft By-Law
- Tidy Yards Draft By-Law

**CARRIED**

**8.1 Memo to Council 2025-020**

Animal Control and Kennel Draft By-Law

Municipal Support Services, animal control for the Township, were present at the meeting to provide information and provide comments.

The CAO/Clerk advised that multiple comments were received by email prior to the meeting.

Residents were in attendance to provide comments and concerns with the proposed by-laws. Some of the comments received:

- Definitions and rules for guardian dogs/livestock protection dogs - number of dogs, running at large, microchipping instead of tagging
- Number of dogs permitted on a property - increase amount, exception for puppies, Section 3.2 exception for farming operations
- Kennels - remove purebred wording - cross breeding can have benefits
- Section 4.3 Kennel Conditions - needs to be reviewed, commercial vs personal kennel
- Section 7.4 - include guard and guide/service dogs - service/guide dogs needs appropriate documentation
- Pound location - wording is removed to accommodate animal control officers space availability, will be kept as local as possible, arrangements can be made under special circumstances
- Reclaim period - MSS provided further information around impound times and adoption facility wait times, rehoming times. MSS advised the minimum 72 hour holds times are in place so that the Township is not holding dogs for long periods of time
- Notifying owners - MSS stated that all efforts are made to contact the owner via the tagging system and/or microchipping
- Section 6.4 - adjust wording to make it clear that destroying an animal is last resort
- Section 7.5 - MSS confirmed that outside agencies are available to assist with determining a rabid dog diagnosis and when its necessary to destroy the animal
- Section 10.1 - needs a definition in preamble for domestic animal
- By-law needs to apply to farms and subdivisions
- Provisions for hunting dogs/hounds

MSS advised that the humane clauses are in the by-law to protect and care for an animals welfare while they search for an owner.

Residents were reminded that they still have the opportunity to submit written comments after the public meeting.

## 8.2 Memo to Council 2025-021

### Parking Draft By-Law

The CAO/Clerk reviewed the report as presented and noted that parameters around snow removal operations will need to be included in the by-law.

Council discussed agricultural equipment and camper trailer exemptions.

Council discussed reviewing the time restrictions in non-winter times, overnight parking, limiting parking in certain areas or on certain sides of the roads which may be addressed with signage.

Residents asked questions and made comments on the draft by-law.

## 8.3 Memo to Council 2025-022

## Tidy Yards Draft By-Law

The CAO/Clerk advised that this by-law has been in progress for a while and was initially drafted by the property standards committee.

Council asked questions regarding the appeal process and budgetary implications.

Residents were in attendance to provide comments and concerns with the proposed by-laws. Some of the comments received:

- Tall grass regulations and the height restrictions
- Maintenance for trees that are downed, dead or unmaintained
- Enforcement of the by-law and the costs incurred
- Focus the by-law on unoccupied and absentee home owners in the rural areas
- Increased from complaints from property owners that have disputes with each other
- Cars that have to be in a covered storage space
- Compost free of pests - unrealistic on farming property
- Standing water definition

### 8.4 Adjourn the Public Meeting

A break was taken between 12:08 p.m. to 1:04 p.m. after the public meeting for lunch.

#### **Resolution #: 4**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**Seconded by:** A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do now adjourn the Public Meeting 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 Draft motion to County on 109 corridor study

Council discussed the motion as presented and made minor changes.

#### **Resolution #: 7**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Council of the Township of Amaranth

1. Formally petition the Province of Ontario to reclassify County Road 109 as a provincial highway, restoring its designation as Highway 9,

under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO);

2. Request that MTO undertake a full corridor review of County Road 109 to assess its current and projected transportation capacity, infrastructure condition, and regional significance;
3. Urge the Province to commit to funding and undertaking necessary upgrades to bring the corridor to modern provincial highway standards, including safety enhancements, road widening, improved intersections, and support for multi-modal infrastructure as appropriate;
4. Request Dufferin County staff to initiate formal engagement with the MTO and relevant provincial ministries, and to coordinate with member municipalities in compiling data and advocacy materials in support of the reclassification;
5. Request Dufferin County Council provide regular updates and a proposed strategy for joint municipal and provincial collaboration.

Further That This resolution be circulated to all Dufferin County municipalities, Dufferin–Caledon MPP, County of Wellington and the Minister of Transportation of Ontario for their awareness and support.

**CARRIED**

9.2 Other

Nothing at this time.

**10. Building and Planning Department**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

10.1 Town of Orangeville

COA - Decision - A-06-25

10.2 Town of Orangeville

COA - Decision - B-01-25 - 15 C Line

10.3 Notice of Complete Application and Notice of Public Meeting

Z09-2025

10.4 Other

Nothing at this time.

**11. Roads and Public Works Department**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

11.1 Other

Council discussed the letter from open forum. Council directed Staff to deploy the black Cat in the area to gather traffic data.

**12. Treasury Department**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

12.1 Report to Council 2025-044



Parkland Reserve Fund

The Treasurer reviewed the report and requested Council direction.

Council discussed the projects as presented, grant opportunities and timelines for completing the projects.

**Resolution #: 9**

**Moved by:** S. Graham

**Seconded by:** G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council direct the pickleball committee to proceed with the 4 court pickleball court and direct Staff to prepare the preliminary design and costing estimate for the Waldemar Park pavilion.

**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 Other

Council commented that the Planning and Economic Development meeting was not well planned and lacked quality recommendations.

**14. Committee Reports**

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

14.1 South West Dufferin OPP Detachment Board

Proceedings By-Law, February 20 2025 Minutes, May 15 2025 Minutes

14.2 Shelburne Fire Board

Minutes May 6 2025

14.3 Shelburne Public Library Board

Minutes April 15 2025

Rose Dotten sent thanks for the gift that was given for her retirement. Council was advised that agreements are still in preparation.

14.4 Grand Valley Public Library

Minutes and CEO report May 2025

14.5 POA

2025 - Q1 Dufferin Disbursements

14.6 Credit Valley Conservation

CVC Announces Leadership Transition

14.7 Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

NVCA Public Consultation-Update to Procedures for the Implementation of the Conservation Authorities Act and Associated Regulations

14.8 Other

Nothing at this time.

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

The following items were received and/or dealt with:

15.1 AMO

[AMO's Important Trade and Tariff Forum – Join the conversation](#),  
Education: [AMO Strategic Leadership Workshops June 25](#), Watchfile -  
[June 5, 2025](#), Policy Update - [Bill 46, Bill 10 and Supporting Public Safety Workers](#), Watchfile - [June 12, 2025](#)

AMO 2025: Program Update

15.2 Ontario News

[Protecting the Good Things that Grow in Ontario](#), [Government Delivering on Mandate to Protect Ontario](#), [Province to Honour New Appointees to the Order of Ontario](#), [2025-26 Connecting Links Funding by Municipality](#), [Ontario Building New Transmission Lines to Power Growth Across the Province](#)

15.3 Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education

15.4 Dufferin Business Monthly: June 2025

15.5 Illegal Land Use Letter

Council directed Staff to send a letter of support.

15.6 OBIAA's June 10, 2025 Newsletter

15.7 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

Reaffirmation of WOWC Position on Strong Mayor Powers

15.8 Other

Nothing at this time.

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

The CAO/Clerk reviewed that an added items agenda was distributed and published prior to the meeting.

**17. New Business**

17.1 Proclamation – Seniors Month – June 2025

**Resolution #: 8**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** S. Graham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Township of Amaranth hereby proclaims June, 2025, as Seniors Month in the Township of Amaranth and recognizes the importance of supporting our older adults through programs and initiatives that promote wellness, social engagement, and education.

**CARRIED**

17.2 Memo to Council 2025-019

Amending Site Alteration Agreement Braiden

The CAO/Clerk advised the applicant would like an date extension to the original agreement and that no work has taken place.

Ms. Fran Braiden was present at the meeting for question and comments.

17.3 Elect Respect Motion

**Resolution #: 10**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council of the Township of Amaranth supports the *Elect Respect* pledge and commits to:

- Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online,
- Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,
- Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,
- Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,
- Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and
- Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct.

And That Council of the Township of Amaranth calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the *Elect Respect* campaign and sign the online pledge at [www.electrespect.ca](http://www.electrespect.ca).

And That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, relevant MPs and MPPs, Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**CARRIED**

17.4 Other

Council discussed a meeting that was held with Chief Hill of the Six Nations of the Grand River.

**18. Notice of Motions**

**19. Closed Meeting**

**Resolution #: 5**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** S. Graham

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:

Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose – Site alteration Agreement

**CARRIED**

19.1 Site alteration Agreement Wesley Kot Field/Castlewood Airfield

19.2 Adoption of Closed Meeting minutes

March 19, 2025 and May 7, 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 and the solicitor were affirmed. No other matters resulting of the closed meeting.

**Resolution #: 6**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**Seconded by:** S. Graham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do now rise and report from Closed Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**20. By-Laws**

Notice of intention to pass the following By-Laws:

20.1 Site alteration amending Agreement - Braiden

**Resolution #: 11**

**Moved by:** S. Graham

**Seconded by:** A. Stirk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Leave be given to introduce a by-law to Authorize The Execution Of An Amending Site Alteration Agreement Between The Corporation Of The Township Of Amaranth and Fran Braiden; and that it be given the necessary readings and be passed and numbered as the next sequential number.

**CARRIED**

**21. Confirming By-Law**

**Resolution #: 12**

**Moved by:** B. Metzger

**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 June 18, 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 2:54 p.m.

**Resolution #: 13**

**Moved by:** A. Stirk

**Seconded by:** S. Graham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Council do now adjourn to meet again for the Regular Meeting of Council on Wednesday July 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