

Township of James Regular Council Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2026 Elk Lake Legion, 6 Fourth Street West

Reeve R. Donaldson, Councillor C. Cormier, Councillor M. Fiset, and Councillor M. DeCarlo attended the meeting. Reeve Donaldson chaired the meeting. Staff members were also in attendance along with members of the public. J. MacDowall was absent.

Cormier/Fiset:

A motion to approve the July 8/26 Regular Council Meeting Minutes:

Carried.

DeCarlo/Fiset:

A motion to approve the August 12/26 Regular Council Meeting Minutes:

Carried.

Conflict of Interest: None declared.

Delegations:

Jorge VanSlyke: Chief Executive Officer, Blanche River Health

- Grief and Bereavement Support is now available at Blanche River Health (BRH)
- BRH Recruited 1 physician this year so far and 17 students from our community are with NOSM University
- A sewer replacement project in Kirkland Lake may cause service interruptions to specific programs, but only temporarily. BRH is still facing ER closure challenges from time to time
- In 2025 BRH raised over \$800,000 through various funding initiatives, visit BRH Foundation.ca to find out how you can help!
- Ways we can donate: Magic of Christmas, donations on behalf of a loved one, grateful hearts program and split the pot. Smile Cookies, Rodger Donaldson asked if municipalities could pre-order smile cookies in the future to help raise more funds.

Reeve Rodger Donaldson thanked George & Cassandra for their presentation.

Richard LeBlanc: Richard presented council with information on the Temiskaming region municipalities experience with enforcement in regards to a 'chicken' By-Law

Reeve Rodger Donaldson thanked Richard for his dedication to providing information on the matter and By-Law 26-13 will be amended to allow for 3 hens.

Adam Gibson: Public Works monthly report.

- Trees were trimmed along Pine Street
- The museum and the beach were shut down for the season
- Connors submitted a quote for the 2026/2027 grader season
- Michelle mentioned dump trucks at Alexander just before the meeting, Adam will go take a look tomorrow.
- The indoor rink should be available to flood once the compressors are serviced.

Reeve, Rodger Donaldson thanked Adam for his report and Adam Stayed for the remainder of the meeting.

DeCarlo/Cormier:

A motion to approve payment of Township of James August/26 Bill Payment list in the amount of \$58,503.20. General Revenue Account Balance: \$1,419,242.83.

Carried.

DeCarlo/Cormier:

A motion to approve payment of ELCF August/26 Accounts in the amount of \$6.00. General Revenue Account Balance: \$138,225.70.

Carried.

By-Law 26-15: Being a By-Law to provide for advanced votes to be held prior to voting day.

Cormier/DeCarlo:

THAT a By-law to provide for advanced votes to be held prior to voting day be received and read a first time.

Carried.

Cormier/DeCarlo:

THAT a By-law to provide for advanced votes to be held prior to voting day be read a second time and be referred to a Committee of the Whole.

Carried.

Cormier/DeCarlo:

THAT a By-law to provide for advanced votes to be held prior to voting day as reported by the Committee of the Whole be read a third time, passed and numbered 26-15 that the said by-law be signed by the Reeve and Clerk, sealed with the seal of the Corporation, and be engrossed in the By-Law Book.

Carried.

Cormier/DeCarlo:

A motion to adoption of By-Law 26-15: A By-Law to provide for advanced votes to be held prior to voting day.

Carried.

Fiset/DeCarlo:

A motion to direct the clerk to amend DRAFT By Law 26-13 to allow hens, and review it at the October 14th Regular Council meeting.

Carried.

Michelle Fiset asked the Reeve to ask Council again if there was a conflict of interest. None were declared.

Fiset/Cormier:

A motion to send our current sea can by-law to legal for an opinion as to it's enforceability. Councillor Michelle Fiset also requested information on whether the building code superseded our Municipal By-Laws from Legal.

Carried.

A letter from Judy Bastien re: survey split, was received. No action will be taken until the survey of Maryland is completed.

Fiset/Cormier:

A motion to direct the clerk to prepare a DRAFT sale of laneway policy

Carried.

Funding Opportunity: Community Sport and Recreation Fund: no application will be submitted at this time. We will seek other funding opportunities that will cover a majority of the costs.

Funding Opportunity: Rural Ontario Development Program: A meeting will be held with Andre Brock (Economic Development Officer) to discuss potential opportunities and a grant application will be submitted by October 1st.

Michelle Fiset proposed an Economic Development Advisory Committee with members of the community as a potential new committee for the next council term.

Funding Opportunity: The Temiskaming Foundation Grants: Township staff will prepare an application for NERF wars supplies.

Connors grader pricing was received and a contract will be signed for the 2026/2027 snow plow season.

Cormier/Fiset:

A motion to proceed with the adoption of By-Law 26-16 A By-Law to adopt a Social Media Policy (*with the addition of the Volunteer Fire Department being able to create their own Facebook account*) to be passed at the next regular council meeting on October 14th, 2026.

Carried.

Fiset/Cormier:

A motion to enter into an agreement with Matachewan First Nations re: Landfill use.

Carried.

Christmas Party: The Legion is booked for December 11th for the staff appreciation dinner.

Correspondence:

- OPP costing is expected to be maximum 11% increase for the 2027 Budget.
- Monthly administration and library reports were received by Council.

Fiset/Cormier

A Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Carried.



