



DRAFT Regular Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 16, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Dunchurch Community Centre and Zoom Video Conferencing

Present: Mayor George Comrie
Councillor Janice Bray
Councillor Joe Lamb
Councillor Scott Nash
Councillor Brian Woods

Staff: Nigel Black, CAO/Clerk
Paula Macri, Planning Assistant
Wendy Schroeder, Deputy Clerk
Jessica Sinkowski, Treasurer / Tax Collector
Bob Whitman, Fire Chief

Invited Guests: Eva Fincham, CEO, Whitestone Library and Technology Centre
Amy Black, Shane Reynolds, Parents for Parry Sound

Other Guests: 3 in person
2 via audio/videoconferencing

1. **Roll Call and Call to Order** 10:05 a.m.
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

Mayor Comrie requested that any pecuniary interest be declared for the record.
None was declared.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Resolution No. 2025-287

Moved by: Councillor Lamb

Seconded by: Councillor Bray

WHEREAS the Members of Council have been presented with an Agenda for the September 16, 2025 Regular Council meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agenda for this meeting be adopted with the following amendments:

- Moving Correspondence Item "I" – Request for community bulletin board above Community Centre Water Dispenser, to be spoken to after presentation by Whitestone Public Library and Technology Centre.
- Moving Correspondence Items "H / H1" – Town of Parry Sound / Township of McKellar "Mega School", to be spoken to after presentation by Parents for Parry Sound

Carried.

4. Presentations and Delegations

Matters Arising from Presentation and Delegations

Resolution No. 2025-288

Moved by: Councillor Lamb

Seconded by: Councillor Woods

4.1 Eva Fincham, CEO - Whitestone Public Library and Technology Centre Update

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone receives the presentation of Eva Fincham, CEO of the Whitestone Public Library and Technology Centre, and thanks her for the information.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-289

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone directs staff to purchase and install at the Community Centre drinking water station, an enclosed bulletin board for posting of events.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-290

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

4.2 Parents for Parry Sound - Mega School

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone receives the presentation of Parents for Parry Sound regarding the status of the Mega School in Parry Sound, and thanks the group for the information.

Carried

Mayor Comrie relinquished the Chair to Deputy Mayor Lamb in order to move his resolution:

Resolution No. 2025-291

Moved by: Mayor Comrie

Seconded by: Councillor Woods

WHEREAS, when a new High School was proposed for West Parry Sound, the plans changed to building a “Mega School” to accommodate Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, with a day care, and closing of two elementary schools in McDougall Township;

AND WHEREAS numerous concerns were raised by the community with having all grades under one roof, and with the size of the proposed school being inadequate to accommodate the existing student population in West Parry Sound, with no room for anticipated population growth;

AND WHEREAS many of the West Parry Sound community's concerns were withheld from or not considered by the Near North District School Board trustees and administration;

AND WHEREAS the new Mega School build has raised serious concerns with regard to the ability of the Near North District School Board to handle a project of this magnitude;

AND WHEREAS concerns have surfaced with regard to accountability and transparency in all aspects of this project which is impacting students, their families, teachers, and the community at large;

AND WHEREAS the current structure of the Near North District School Board is not serving adequately the students of West Parry Sound;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Education has exercised his authority under Section 230 of the Education Act and Regulation 43/10 to order an "expedited performance review" of the NNDSB, which is now underway, and is expected to be completed by September 30th, 2025;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone supports the following actions by the Ontario Ministry of Education:

- (i) That immediate measures be taken to ensure that all Parry Sound High School students have the necessary facilities and resources to return to in-person learning with full programming for the balance of the current 2025-2026 school year; and
- (ii) That deficiencies in the Mega School facility currently being built be addressed to ensure that it can accommodate current student populations and anticipated future growth, with priority for the needs of secondary school students and programs, and without the need for portables; and
- (iii) That a new model of governance and administration for public education in Parry Sound District be developed and implemented that is transparent and accountable to the parents, teachers, students, and communities in the Parry Sound District.

AND THAT THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO:

Ontario Premier Doug Ford,
Minister of Education Paul Calandra,
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack,
MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka Graydon Smith,
AMO, FONUM, OSUM, ROMA
Community Schools Alliance.

Carried

Mayor Comrie resumed the Chair from Deputy Mayor Lamb

5. Committee of the Whole – None

6. Public Meeting – None

7. Consent Agenda

Resolution No. 2025-292

Moved by: Councillor Lamb

Seconded by: Councillor Bray

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone has reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of:

- 7.1 Council Meeting Minutes
 - 7.1.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2025
 - 7.1.2 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2025
- 7.2 Council Committee and Board Minutes
 - 7.2.1 Parry Sound Area Planning Board – July 28, 2025
 - 7.2.2 Parry Sound District Social Services Administration Board – June 12, 2025
- 7.3 Unfinished Business (listed on pages 4 and 5 of the Agenda)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone hereby approves the following Council Meeting Minutes:

- 7.1 Council and Committee Meeting Minutes
 - 7.1.1 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2025
 - 7.1.2 Regular Council Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2025; and

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone receives for information:

- 7.2 Council Committee and Board Minutes
 - 7.2.1 Parry Sound Area Planning Board – July 28, 2025
 - 7.2.2 Parry Sound District Social Services Administration Board – June 12, 2025
- 7.3 Unfinished Business (listed on pages 4 and 5 of the Agenda)

Carried

8. Accounts Payable

Resolution No. 2025-293

Moved by: Councillor Lamb

Seconded by: Councillor Woods

- 8.1 Accounts Payable

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone receives for information the Accounts Payable listing in the amount of \$266,343.42 for the period ending August 31, 2025.

Carried

9. Staff Reports

Resolution No. 2025-294

Moved by: Councillor Woods

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

- 9.1 Report ADMIN-2025-19
Dock Purchase Agreement between Magnatawan Pioneer Association and Municipality of Whitestone

THAT the Council the Municipality of Whitestone receives Report ADMIN-2025-19 (Bolger Dock Purchase) for information; and

THAT the Council accept this agreement and proceed with a By-law to authorize the CAO and Mayor to enter into the agreement to purchase the docks at Bolger Landing.

Carried

10. By-laws

Resolution No. 2025-295

Moved by: Councillor Woods

Seconded by: Councillor Bray

- 10.1 **THAT** By-law No. 32-2025 being a By-law to enter into an Agreement for Conditions of Approval of Consent B04/2025(W) – (Skeba), is hereby passed this 16th day of September, 2025.

Recorded vote as per Procedural By-law 80-2023 s.3.20

		YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN
<u>1</u>	Councillor Bray	X		
<u>2</u>	Councillor Lamb	X		
<u>3</u>	Councillor Nash	X		
<u>4</u>	Councillor Woods	X		
<u>5</u>	Mayor Comrie	X		

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-296

Moved by: Councillor Lamb

Seconded by: Councillor Woods

- 10.2 **THAT** By-law No. 33-2025, being a By-law to enter into an agreement with the Magnatawan Pioneer Association for the transfer of ownership of the docks and associated structures at Bolger Landing, is hereby passed this 16th day of September, 2025.

Recorded vote requested by Councillor Nash

		YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN
<u>4</u>	Councillor Bray	X		
<u>1</u>	Councillor Lamb	X		
<u>2</u>	Councillor Nash	X		
<u>3</u>	Councillor Woods	X		
<u>5</u>	Mayor Comrie	X		

Carried

11. Business Matters

Resolution No. 2025-297

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Nash

11.1 Furnace Upgrade at Fire Station 2

THAT the Council the Municipality of Whitestone receives for information report ADMIN-2025-20 (Fire Hall 2 Furnace); and

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone authorizes Fire Chief Whitman to proceed with the planned replacement of the furnace at Fire Hall Number 2 within the allotted budget.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-298

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Woods

11.2 Green Initiatives Budget Funding

THAT the Council the Municipality of Whitestone receives Report ADMIN-2025-21 (Green Initiatives Budget Funding) for information; and

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone direct administration to proceed with “Green Initiative” projects established by the conversation of this item.

Resolution No. 2025-299

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

Amendment to Item 11.2 Green Initiatives Budget Funding

THAT the Council the Municipality of Whitestone amends the second paragraph of the resolution to read:

“proceed with the ICECAP 2025 Workplan as set out in the report.”

Recorded vote requested by Councillor Nash

		YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN
<u>3</u>	Councillor Bray	X		
<u>4</u>	Councillor Lamb	X		
<u>1</u>	Councillor Nash		X	
<u>2</u>	Councillor Woods		X	
<u>5</u>	Mayor Comrie	X		

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-298 as amended

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Woods

11.2 Green Initiatives Budget Funding

THAT the Council the Municipality of Whitestone receives Report ADMIN-2025-21 (Green Initiatives Budget Funding) for information; and

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone direct administration to proceed with the ICECAP 2025 Workplan as set out in the report.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-300

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

11.3 District of Parry Sound Municipalities Association Fall Meeting – September 26

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone receives for information the agenda for the DPSMA Fall 2024 Meeting, and approves the following Council Members and staff to attend the DPSMA Fall Meeting:

Mayor Comrie

Councillor Bray

Councillor Lamb

Councillor Nash (tentative)

Councillor Woods (tentative)

CAO/Clerk Black

Treasurer Sinkowski

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-301

Moved by: Councillor Woods

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

11.4 Staging Request - Kashagaba Lake Dam Project

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone authorizes the CAO and Mayor to enter into an Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and EXP to utilize the designated area shown on the attached Schedule, for equipment staging related to the Kashagaba Lake Dam Project, effective immediately and continuing until project completion.

Carried

12. Correspondence

Resolution No. 2025-302

Moved by: Councillor Woods

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone has reviewed the Correspondence Items as listed on page 5 of the September 16, 2025 Council Meeting agenda,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the correspondence items for information, with the following extracted for further discussion / action:

A	Town of Parry Sound	Request to province to complete 4-laning of Hwy 400
C	West Nipissing	Suspend aerial spraying of glyphosate
D	Armour	Family Health Teams should have mandatory governance standards across the province
E	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing	Carling and McDougall withdrawal from Parry Sound Area Planning Board

Carried

Matters Arising from Correspondence

Items A, C, D – supporting motions to be drafted by staff and brought to Council at next Regular Council Meeting.

Resolution No. 2025-303

Moved by: Councillor Lamb

Seconded by: Councillor Nash

Item E: - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Carling and McDougall withdrawal from Parry Sound Area Planning Board

WHEREAS the Parry Sound Area Planning Board is a joint planning agency that has been servicing the West Parry Sound municipalities for land division applications for the past 40 years;

AND WHEREAS this service has been helpful and successful in assisting the public and the councils with their land division needs;

AND WHEREAS all of the member municipalities have similar land use planning concerns;

AND WHEREAS any further diminishing of the member municipalities will jeopardize the viability of the Parry Sound Area Planning Board;

AND WHEREAS Council of Whitestone Resolutions 2024-477 and 2024-478 pertain to the requests submitted by the Township of Carling and the Township of McDougall to withdraw from the Parry Sound Area Planning Board;

AND WHEREAS the majority of Council voted on December 10, 2024, that:

The Council of the Municipality of Whitestone does not support the Township of Carling and the Township of McDougall's requests for their withdrawal from the Parry Sound Area Planning Board;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone hereby petitions the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to preserve the current structure of the Parry Sound Area Planning Board and deny any removal of any of its member municipalities in the order to continue to provide a form of area wide planning reviews, preserve administrative

efficiencies and recognize the special function of the area planning board in the West Parry Sound District.

Recorded vote requested by Councillor Lamb

		YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN
<u>2</u>	Councillor Bray		X	
<u>3</u>	Councillor Lamb	X		
<u>4</u>	Councillor Nash	X		
<u>1</u>	Councillor Woods	X		
<u>5</u>	Mayor Comrie		X	

Carried

13. Councillor Items

Councillor Bray

- Saturday September 27 Repair Café at the Township of McKellar Public Library, held by Georgian Bay Biosphere - a free community event where registered participants can bring an item to be repaired by a volunteer. Information can be found at this website: [Repair Café | Georgian Bay Biosphere](#)
- Sunday, October 5, 2025, the Ontario Fire Fighters Memorial Foundation will be holding a Memorial Service honouring 54 firefighters who have fallen in the line of duty since 2024

Councillor Lamb

- Congratulates the Public Works department for their work rehabilitating the “Twist” property

Councillor Nash

- Whitestone Environmental Stewardship Committee will purchase garbage bins to be installed at the Whitestone and Gooseneck Lakes boat launches
- Has questions about By-law enforcement: is the Municipal By-law Enforcement Officer issuing warnings or tickets, and if it is warnings why not issuing tickets? CAO/Clerk Black answered that enforcement is taking place, certain situations call for different actions; we are following a ‘warning-ticket-action’ process; staff will look into enforcement processes going forward

14. Questions from the Public - none

15. Closed Session

Move into Closed Session

Resolution No. 2025-304

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Nash

THAT this meeting be adjourned into a Closed Session meeting at 2:59 p.m. for the following matters:

15.1 Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Closed Session Council meeting of Tuesday, August 19, 2025

15.2 A matter that is regarding a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board, pursuant to the Ontario Municipal Act, Section 239(2)(c)

- Cogeco Building/Tower Assets transferred to the Municipality

Carried

RECORDING PAUSED

Reconvene into Regular Meeting

Resolution No. 2025-305

Moved by: Councillor Nash

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

THAT this meeting be reconvened to a Regular Meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Carried

RECORDING RESUMED

Matters arising from Closed Session

Resolution No. 2025-306

Moved by: Councillor Bray

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

15.1 Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Closed Session Council meeting of Tuesday August 19, 2025

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Whitestone hereby approves the Regular Closed Session Council meeting minutes of Tuesday August 19, 2025.

Carried

15.2 - addressed in Closed Session

16. Confirming By-law

Resolution No. 2025-307

Moved by: Councillor Woods

Seconded by: Councillor Lamb

THAT By-law No. 34-2025 being the Confirmatory By-law for the Regular Council meeting of the Municipality of Whitestone on September 16, 2025 is hereby enacted this 16th day of September, 2025.

Carried

Resolution No. 2025-308

Moved by: Councillor Lamb

Seconded by: Councillor Bray

17. Adjournment

WHEREAS the business of this Meeting has concluded;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 3:39 p.m. until the Special Council Meeting of Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. or at the call of the chair.

Carried

George Comrie

Mayor

Nigel Black

CAO / Clerk