



Rideau Lakes

TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES

Regular Meeting of Council

Minutes

**April 7, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Municipal Office, Chantry**

Members Present: Mayor Arie Hoogenboom, Deputy Mayor Sue Dunfield (virtual), Councillor Jeff Banks (virtual), Councillor Paula Banks (virtual), Councillor Dustin Bulloch (virtual), Councillor Linda Carr (virtual), Councillor Deborah Anne Hutchings (virtual), Councillor Marcia Maxwell (virtual), Councillor Ron Pollard (virtual)

Staff Present: Shellee Fournier, CAO/Deputy Clerk, Mary Ellen Truelove, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoogenboom called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and advised that in the past week we've had the passing of Betty James, former Councillor of Bastard and South Burgess and sends condolences to the family.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Township of Rideau Lakes acknowledges that we live and work and are meeting on ancestral territories of indigenous people. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous peoples and honour their past, present and future. The Township values and respects their cultural heritage and relationship to the land.

ROLL CALL

EMERGENCY ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA

Mayor Hoogenboom asked if there were any emergency additions or amendments to the Agenda and the following were provided:

Addition: ADD 9.3 - Motion from Economic Development Committee Meeting this morning - Spring into Rideau Promotion

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RESOLUTION 58-2026

Moved by Councillor Pollard
Seconded by Councillor Maxwell

Be it resolved, that the Agenda be approved and adopted as amended.

Carried

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

Mayor Hoogenboom asked if any Council Member had a Pecuniary Interest in any Item on the Agenda and if so, the Nature of that Interest and the following were declared:

I, Jeff Banks, do declare a pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 18.3 namely the Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026 on the Closed Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Spousal.

Signed: Jeff Banks
Received: Arie Hoogenboom

I, Paula Banks, do declare a pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 18.3 namely the Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026 on the Closed Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Personal & Legal.

Signed: Paula Banks
Received: Arie Hoogenboom

I, Marcia Maxwell, do declare a pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 18.3 namely the Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026 on the Closed Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Personal legal matter.

Signed: Marcia Maxwell
Received: Arie Hoogenboom

I, Ron Pollard, do declare a pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 18.3 namely Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026 on the Closed Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Personal legal matter.

Signed: Ron Pollard
Received: Arie Hoogenboom

I, Dustin Bulloch, do declare an indirect pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 10.1 namely the Regular Council Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026 (Delegation - Poonamalie Rd), on the Regular Council Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Employee of a body that has a direct interest.

Signed: Dustin Bulloch
Received: Arie Hoogenboom

I, Arie Hoogenboom, do declare an indirect pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 18.3 namely Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026 on the Closed Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Personal legal matter.

Signed: Arie Hoogenboom
Received: Mary Ellen Truelove

I, Debbie Hutchings, do declare pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 18.3 namely Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026 on the Closed Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Personal

Signed: Debbie Hutchings
Received: Arie Hoogenboom

I, Sue Dunfield, do declare a pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 18.3 namely Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026 on the Closed Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Personal

Signed: Sue Dunfield
Received: Arie Hoogenboom

I, Linda Carr, do declare a pecuniary interest in accordance with the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50 in regards to item 18.3 namely Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026 on the Closed Meeting Agenda dated April 7, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Personal

Signed: Linda Carr
Received: Arie Hoogenboom

DELEGATIONS: None

STAFF REPORTS

Dave Schur, Treasurer: Council Remuneration 2025 - Amended

Dave Schur, Treasurer, provided a revised 2025 Council Remuneration Report.

RESOLUTION 59-2026

Moved by Councillor Pollard
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

Be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes acknowledges the revised Council Remuneration Report for 2025.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING

Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board 2026 Budget

RESOLUTION 60-2026

Moved by Deputy Mayor Dunfield
Seconded by Councillor P. Banks

Be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes approves the 2026 Budget of the Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board as presented.

Carried

Rideau Lakes Alto Working Group: Verbal Update

Councillor P. Banks provided the following update:

- still meeting regularly
- branched off into different groups: Letter writing, sign.
- letters coming forward to the Clerk to be added to the agenda
- looking at holding town hall and pinning parties

Economic Development Committee: Motion re - Spring into Rideau Promotion

RESOLUTION 61-2026

Moved by Councillor Hutchings
Seconded by Councillor P. Banks

WHEREAS at the Economic Development Committee meeting held April 7, 2026, a recommendation was passed recommending that promotional materials for Spring into Rideau be distributed widely at no cost to the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes concurs with said recommendation.

Carried

MINUTES

Councillor Bulloch declared a conflict on this item. (10.1 Employee of a body that has a direct interest)

The following minutes were read as distributed to Council. Mayor Hoogenboom asked for any errors, omissions or questions and none were noted.

- Regular Council Meeting: March 2, 2026
- Committee of the Whole Meeting: March 9, 2026 & March 23, 2026
- Special Committee of the Whole Meeting: March 11, 2026
- Economic Development Committee Meeting: March 2, 2026
- Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting: March 19, 2026
- Planning Advisory and Committee of Adjustment Meeting: March 18, 2026
- Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee Meeting: March 26, 2026
- Elgin Seniors Housing Board Meeting: March 25, 2026
- Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board Meeting: February 24, 2026
- Rideau Lakes Public Library Board Meeting: January 22, 2026 & February 26, 2026
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Meeting: February 26, 2026
- Delta Athletic and Recreational Society Meeting: March 17, 2026

RESOLUTION 62-2026

Moved by Councillor Hutchings
Seconded by Councillor P. Banks

Be it resolved, that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes Approves the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 2, 2026.

Carried

RESOLUTION 63-2026

Moved by Councillor J. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

Be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes Approves the Minutes and Adopts all Recommendations contained within the Minutes, unless otherwise dealt with, of the:

- Committee of the Whole Meeting: March 9, 2026 & March 23, 2026
- Special Committee of the Whole Meeting: March 11, 2026
- Economic Development Committee Meeting: March 2, 2026
- Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee Meeting: March 19, 2026

- Planning Advisory and Committee of Adjustment Meeting: March 18, 2026
- Rideau Lakes Lake Association Committee Meeting: March 26, 2026

AND FURTHER that Council Acknowledges the Minutes of the:

- Elgin Seniors Housing Board Meeting: March 25, 2026
- Lower Beverley Lake Park Management Board Meeting: February 24, 2026
- Rideau Lakes Public Library Board Meeting: January 22, 2026 & February 26, 2026
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority Meeting: February 26, 2026
- Delta Athletic and Recreational Society Meeting: March 17, 2026

Carried

BY-LAWS

RESOLUTION 64-2026

Moved by Councillor J. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Bulloch

Be it resolved that the following By-Laws be taken as read a first and second time the short way this 7th day of April, 2026:

- By-Law 2026-30: Building By-Law
- By-Law 2026-31: Amend 2019-72 (Sale-Disposal of Real Property)
Independent Appraisal
- By-Law 2026-32: Agreement with Plum Hollow Excavating Ltd. - Roadside Mowing
- By-Law 2026-33: Agreement with Terrafix Geosynthetic - Geotextile Cloth
- By-Law 2026-34: Lease Agreement with Chaffeys Lock Heritage Society - Chaffey's Lock Hall
- By-Law 2026-35: ZBA-2-2026 (NG PROPERTIES - BALL)
- By-Law 2026-36: Safe Properties (Rescinds 2006-85)
- By-Law 2026-37: Cooperative Purchase Agreement-Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley and Miller Paving Ltd
- By-Law 2026-38: Tax Rate By-Law
- By-Law 2026-39: Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy (Rescinds 2010-78)
- By-Law 2026-40: Amend By-Law 2005-11 (Private Signs on Twp Property - Remove Election Signs)
- By-Law 2026-42: Adopt Township Unopened Road Allowance Policy

Carried

RESOLUTION 65-2026

Moved by Councillor Pollard
Seconded by Councillor Carr

Be it resolved that By-Laws 2026-30, 2026-31, 2026-32, 2026-33, 2026-34, 2026-35, 2026-36, 2026-37, 2026-38, 2026-39, 2026-40 and 2026-42 be taken as read a third time and finally passed this 7th day of April, 2026.

Carried

The following motion was brought forward:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Dunfield
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

Be it resolved that By-Law 2026-41, being a By-Law to Regular Election Signs, be taken as read a first and second time the short way this 7th day of April, 2026.

RESOLUTION 66-2026

Moved by Councillor J. Banks
Seconded by Councillor P. Banks

Be it resolved that Section 16.1 of By-Law 2026-41 be amended to reflect one-hundred Dollars (\$100) for a first offence and not more than two-hundred Dollars (\$200) for any subsequent offence.

Carried

RESOLUTION 67-2026

Moved by Deputy Mayor Dunfield
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

Be it resolved that By-Law 2026-41, being a By-Law to Regular Election Signs, be taken as read a first and second time the short way this 7th day of April, 2026, as amended.

Carried

RESOLUTION 68-2026

Moved by Councillor J. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Hutchings

Be it resolved, that By-Law 2026-41 be taken as read a third time and finally passed this 7th day of April, 2026.

Carried

CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION

The following Correspondence was received and considered by Council:

12.1 Rebecca Hines, Hines Law: Closed Meeting Investigation Report

RESOLUTION 69-2026

Moved by Councillor P. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

WHEREAS a Closed Meeting Investigator's report (CMI Report No. 2026-01) was received and reviewed by Council, which found contraventions of Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, during parts of the January 5, 2026 Meeting of Council;

AND WHEREAS the report outlines recommendations for improvements in the closed meeting procedures, including clearer resolution language, ensuring votes are taken only on matters within the statutory exceptions, and staying focused on the subject matter under discussion;

AND WHEREAS Subsection 239.2(12) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001 requires Council to pass a resolution stating how it intends to address the findings of the report;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Council acknowledges the findings and recommendations of the Closed Meeting Investigator's report;

AND FURTHER that Council intends to address the findings as follows:

1. Ensure Proper Closed Session Identification: Council will review and revise the language used in resolutions to enter closed session to ensure that the nature of the discussions is clearly defined and related to the statutory exceptions under Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001.
2. Clearer Agenda Descriptions: Council will ensure that the agenda for closed meetings explicitly identifies the matters to be discussed, so that the public can understand the general nature of the issues under consideration, consistent with the requirements of Section 239(4).
3. Separation of Matters: Council will ensure that where a matter involves multiple components, those components not falling within a statutory exception will be addressed in open session, and only those parts that clearly meet the criteria for a closed meeting will be discussed in camera.
4. Focus on Authorized Subject Matter: Council will remind members that closed meetings must remain focused on the specific subject matter identified for the session, avoiding discussions that deviate from the authorized topics. This will be reinforced through ongoing training and procedural reminders.
5. Encourage Professional Conduct: Council will remind members of the importance of maintaining decorum and professional behaviour during closed meetings, avoiding unnecessary personal commentary that could undermine the integrity of the discussions;

AND FURTHER that Council will ensure that the Closed Meeting Investigator's report is made publicly available in accordance with subsection 239.2(11) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, by including the report on the Township website.

Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Motion: Councillor P. Banks - Air Quality Monitoring

RESOLUTION 70-2026

Moved by Councillor P. Banks
Seconded by Councillor Hutchings

WHEREAS two residents have raised concerns regarding air quality in the Township of Rideau Lakes, including health impacts related to asthma and respiratory conditions;

AND WHEREAS residents have asked that the Township review local air-quality monitoring as wildfire smoke events become more frequent;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Council directs staff to prepare a report outlining:

1. Existing provincial and federal air-quality monitoring available to Rideau Lakes residents.
2. Whether community air-quality sensors could be installed in the Township and the approximate cost.
3. Potential partnerships with the health unit, provincial agencies, or other organizations related to monitoring or data sharing.
4. Options for sharing air-quality information with residents during wildfire smoke events.
5. Whether a municipal facility such as the Community Hall in Portland could serve as a temporary clean-air safe space during wildfire smoke events, including what would be required and the estimated cost.

Carried

Proposed Motion: Councillor P. Banks – Return to in-person Meetings

Mayor Hoogenboom advised that he would be leaving the chair to debate and discuss this item and handed the Chair over to Deputy Mayor Dunfield.

Mayor Hoogenboom called a Point of Order on Councillor P. Banks stating that she is disparaging the Mayor and focus should be on the motion.
Deputy Mayor Dunfield ruled that Council shall not talk about personalities.

The following motion was brought forward:

Moved by Councillor Hutchings
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

WHEREAS Council meetings are governed by the Township of Rideau Lakes Procedural By-Law and the Municipal Act, 2001;

AND WHEREAS Council has experienced ongoing challenges related to the consistent application of procedural rules during Council meetings, particularly in a remote meeting format;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that if the Health and Safety Committee recommends that Council and Committee of the Whole meetings continue remotely beyond April 9, 2026, the Township retain Clerks on Call – Municipal Governance Training (101 Parkview Drive, Dorchester, Ontario) to provide further procedural and Chair training for members of Council that will chair council meetings;

AND FURTHER that any member of Council who chairs Council meetings for the balance of this Council term shall complete this training;

AND FURTHER that where a member declines to complete the training, the responsibility to Chair Council meetings shall pass to the next member of Council who has completed, or agrees to complete, the training.

RESOLUTION 71-2026

Moved by Councillor P. Banks
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

Be it resolved that the main motion be deferred until after the Health & Safety Committee has met to discuss return to in-person meetings.

Carried

Following the vote, Mayor Hoogenboom resumed as Chair.

Proposed Motion: Councillor Hutchings - Funding from Taxpayers - ALTO

RESOLUTION 72-2026

Moved by Councillor Hutchings
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

WHEREAS the proposed ALTO Rail Project is anticipated to require substantial public funding supported by taxpayers across Canada;

AND WHEREAS residents and taxpayers in municipalities across the country may bear the financial burden of this project through federal taxation, regardless of whether they will directly benefit from or have access to the service;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised regarding the long-term fiscal responsibility and equitable distribution of costs associated with the project;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Alto Working Group prepare a formal letter, on behalf of Council, to be sent to all Members of Parliament and Senators across Canada outlining concerns regarding the potential cost to taxpayers associated with the proposed ALTO Rail Project;

AND FURTHER that the letter requests that federal representatives carefully consider the financial impacts on their constituents and the broader national taxpayer base before supporting further funding or advancement of the project.

Carried

NOTICE OF MOTION

As per the Procedural By-Law, Notice is being provided that the following will be discussed and debated at the next regular scheduled meeting:

Deputy Mayor Dunfield: Support PEC Resolution re OPP - Sustainable Police Services Funding

Be it resolved that the Township of Rideau Lakes supports Prince Edward County's Resolution 2026-111 urging the province of Ontario to expeditiously review and reform its current police grant programs to ensure a more equitable distribution of funding to municipalities, so that communities with changing populations and expanding service demands receive fair and sustainable provincial support;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Solicitor General of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards (OAPSB), Ontario Eastern Municipal Conference (OEMC), North Eastern Ontario Recreation Association (NOERA), Rural Recreation Association (RRA) and all Ontario municipalities for endorsement

Councillor P. Banks: Council Member Participation in OMERS

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System Act, 2006 permits municipalities to allow members of council to participate in the OMERS;

AND WHEREAS participation in OMERS for members of council is optional and requires a municipal by-law;

AND WHEREAS more municipalities across Ontario are moving to include this option as part of council compensation to help attract new candidates;

AND WHEREAS Council recognizes the importance of attracting a broader and more diverse pool of candidates for the 2026–2030 term;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that staff be directed to report back with a draft by-law to permit Members of Council, beginning with the 2026–2030 term, to opt into OMERS on a voluntary basis, including financial and administrative implications.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

March 24: Attended in Brockville the St. Lawrence Lodge Board Meeting in the morning and the Lower Beverley Lake Park Board Meeting that afternoon.

March 25: Attended in Chantry, the regular Meeting of the Elgin Seniors Housing Board in the morning and a Zoom meeting with the Newboro Heritage Society and Parks Canada in the afternoon. The Heritage Society has an excellent vision for moving forward with development in Newboro in partnership with Parks Canada.

March 26: I chaired a Rideau Lakes Lake Association Meeting in Morton where all were updated on issues relevant to our various Lake Associations.

March 28: Attended the Leeds County Federation of Agriculture Breakfast in Elgin and brought greetings from Council. I was joined by 3 Mayors, our MPP, and MP in recognizing the importance of agriculture to our local economy.

April 2: I attended the office in Chantry to review the agenda for this Council Meeting.

I hope everyone had an awesome Easter Break.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Hoogenboom asked if any questions had been received from the Media and the Clerk advised no questions had been submitted via email and no members of the media were in attendance at this meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Hoogenboom asked if any questions had been submitted by the Public regarding Agenda Items and the Clerk advised no questions had been received via email and no members of the public in attendance had questions.

CLOSED MEETING - As per Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act

RESOLUTION 73-2026

Moved by Councillor Hutchings
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

Be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes closes Meeting at 7:24 p.m. to discuss matters as per Section 239(2) of the *Municipal Act*:

- Council Closed Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2026;
- Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes: March 9, 2026;
- Committee of the Whole Closed Meeting Minutes: March 23, 2026;
- Employee Conduct: Section 239(2)(b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including Municipal or local board employee; and
- Potential Disposition of Township Lands: Section 239 (2)(c) - a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the Municipality or local board.

Carried

REPORT REGARDING CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Hoogenboom advised that a closed session was held and there's nothing to report out.

BY-LAW #2026-43: Govern Proceedings of Council: April 7, 2025

Councillor Jeff Banks (virtual) left the meeting at 8:04 pm.

RESOLUTION 74-2026

Moved by Councillor Maxwell
Seconded by Councillor Hutchings

Be it resolved, that By-Law Number 2026-43 being a By-Law to Govern the Proceedings of the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes at its Meeting held April 7, 2026, be taken as read a first, second and third time this 7th day of April, 2026.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hoogenboom declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Arie Hoogenboom, Mayor

Mary Ellen Truelove, Clerk