



# Rideau Lakes

## Committee of the Whole

### Minutes

**April 27, 2026, 10:00 a.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, Dave Schur, Treasurer (virtual), Tom Fehr, Manager of Development Services (virtual), Steve Holmes, Manager of Facilities and Parks (virtual), Gene Richardson, Fire Chief/CEMC (virtual), Leila Stafford, Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator (virtual), Ben Rothwell, Works and Facilities Coordinator

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hoogenboom called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and provided an update on the ALTO lobby. In follow up to a virtual meeting that was arranged by myself and the Township, a letter to the Prime Minister and all MP's signed by 17 Mayors and Reeves representing up to 200,000 people is being finalized. It will include almost every municipality that touches on the proposed southern corridor and does show our solidarity against this particular project.

### **ROLL CALL**

### **EMERGENCY ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA**

Mayor Hoogenboom asked for any emergency additions or amendments to the Agenda and none were heard.

## **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

### **RECOMMENDATION 170-2026**

Moved by Councillor J. Banks  
Seconded by Councillor Bulloch

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

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 none were declared. the following was declared:

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 6.1 namely the Delegation - Portage Power regarding Jones Falls Generating Station Modernization on the Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda dated April 27, 2026. The declared interest is of the following general nature: Employee of a body that has a direct interest in the matter.

## **DELEGATIONS**

Olusey Smith, Director, Generation Engineering & Operations and Ramy Saadeldin - Senior Generation Engineer, Dam Safety & Structures: Jones Falls Generating Station Modernization

Councillor Bulloch declared a conflict on this item. (Employee of a body who has a direct pecuniary interest in the matter.)

Olusey Smith, Director, Generation Engineering & Operations and Ramy Saadeldin, Senior Generation Engineer, Dam Safety & Structures were in attendance from Portage Power to address Council regarding a grant application for Jones Falls Generating Station Modernization.

### **RECOMMENDATION 171-2026**

Moved by Councillor Bulloch  
Seconded by Councillor Carr

WHEREAS the Committee of the Whole acknowledges the presentation by Portage Power representatives regarding the Jones Falls Generating Station Modernization with a planned submission of a Green Municipal Fund grant application to fund proposed modifications;

AND WHEREAS Portage Power requires a resolution of support from the Township of Rideau Lakes to accompany the application;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council pass a Resolution of support for Portage Power to submit a Green Municipal Fund grant application for proposed modifications to the Jones Falls Generating Station.

Carried

**TREASURY: Dave Schur, Treasurer**

**Treasury Un-Audited 2025 Year End Results**

Dave Schur, Treasurer, provided a verbal and written Report to Committee regarding Treasury Un-Audited 2025 Year End Results, under Report FIN-2026-05.

**RECOMMENDATION 172-2026**

Moved by Councillor Bulloch  
Seconded by Councillor D. Hutchings

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that it receives the Un-Audited 2025 Year End Results,

AND FURTHER that the 2025 surplus of \$86,939 be transferred to the Working Fund, as presented in CoW report FIN-2026-05.

Carried

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES: Tom Fehr, Manager of Development Services**

**Request to Waive Planning and Building Fees – 30 B12**

Tom Fehr, Manager of Development Services, provided a verbal and written report to Committee regarding Request to Waive Planning and Building Fees – 30 B12, under Report DS-2026-10.

The recorded vote was requested by Councillor Maxwell.

**RECOMMENDATION 173-2026**

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

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that Option 2 (Partial fee waived (50% of noted required fees)) be approved regarding the request to waive planning and building fees for 30 B12, as presented in DS-2026-10.

For (6): Mayor Hoogenboom, Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Bulloch, Councillor D. Hutchings, and Councillor Pollard

Against (2): Councillor Carr, and Councillor Maxwell

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded

Carried (6 to 2)

**PUBLIC WORKS - ROADS: Dan Chant, Manager of Roads and Drainage**

**RFP Results for Half Ton Truck**

Dan Chant, Manager of Roads and Drainage, provided a written report to Committee regarding RFP Results for Half Ton Truck under report RDS-2026-18. Steve Holmes, Manager of Facilities and Parks was in attendance to answer any questions.

**RECOMMENDATION 174-2026**

Moved by Councillor P. Banks  
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that a By-Law be passed authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a contract for the purchase of a Half Ton Truck (PW2026-12) with Petrie Ford Ltd. Proposal "B" at the submitted RFP price of \$61,989, (plus the Township's portion of the HST), as presented in CoW Report RDS-2026-18.

Carried

**PUBLIC WORKS - MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES: Steve Holmes, Manager of Facilities and Parks**

**Award of RFP – Three Ton Truck**

Steve Holmes, Manager of Facilities and Parks, provided a verbal and written report to Committee regarding Award of RFP Three Ton Truck, under report FAC-2026-11.

**RECOMMENDATION 175-2026**

Moved by Councillor D. Hutchings  
Seconded by Councillor Carr

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that a by-law be passed authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to sign a contract with Petrie Ford Sales for the supply and delivery of a 2026 Ford diesel regular cab 4x4 truck with landscape dump box, sand spreader and plow as per RFP PW2026-11 in the amount of \$138,524.25 (plus the Township's portion of the HST), as presented in CoW Report FAC-2026-11.

Carried

**COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE SERVICES: Gene Richardson, Fire Chief & Manager of Community Protection**

Gene Richardson, Fire Chief & Manager of Community Protection, provided verbal and written reports to Committee regarding the following:

- 1st Quarter Report
- Change to Job Title Functions - Schedule A By-Law 2019-65

1st Quarter Fire Services Update

**RECOMMENDATION 176-2026**

Moved by Councillor Bulloch  
Seconded by Councillor P. Banks

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that the Fire Services 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Update covering the period of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, be received for information, as presented in COW Report FIRE-2026-04.

Carried

Repeal and Replace Consolidated By-Law 2019-65 Establishing & Regulating

**RECOMMENDATION 177-2026**

Moved by Councillor Carr  
Seconded by Councillor P. Banks

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that By-Law 2019-65 be repealed and replaced with an updated Bylaw to establish and regulate the Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes Fire and Rescue, as presented in COW Report FIRE-2026-05, as amended.

Carried

**ADMINISTRATION - REPORTS**

Leila Stafford, Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator: Swim Program Policy

Leila Stafford, Recreation and Volunteer Coordinator provided a verbal and written report regarding a Swim Program Policy, under report CLS-2026-05.

**RECOMMENDATION 178-2026**

Moved by Councillor Maxwell  
Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

Be it resolved that the Committee of the Whole (CoW) recommends to Council that a By-Law be passed to adopt the Swim Program Policy, as presented in report CLS-2026-05.

Carried

**CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION/INFORMATION: None**

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

### **Rideau Lakes Alto Working Group: Verbal Update**

Paula Banks provided an Alto Working Group update on the following:

- pinning party in Elgin was successful.
- MP Michael Barrett attended
- Seniors who didn't have a device to pin properties were supported
- Signs are for sale at the Township office (small \$10, large \$15)

### **JHSC Recommendation: Return to In-Person Meetings**

The following motion was brought forward:

Moved by Councillor Bulloch

Seconded by Councillor Maxwell

WHEREAS at the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) Meeting held October 9, 2025, the Committee reviewed the work refusal stemming from the October 6, 2025 Council meeting and passed Recommendation #9OCT25 stating that meetings, at which all councillors are expected to attend, will be held virtually and that Council members take training regarding their responsibilities as employers in the area of health and safety as well as training on conflict de-escalation;

AND WHEREAS Rideau Lakes Township engaged the Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA) to design and deliver a purpose-built education program for Council with two primary areas of focus:

1. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Roles and Responsibilities and
2. Preventing Escalated Behaviours.

AND WHEREAS said education sessions were held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 which resulted in the PSHSA submitting a final report with various recommendations;

AND WHEREAS at the JHSC Meeting held April 9, 2026, the Committee reviewed the Preventing Escalated Behaviours Report from the PSHSA and made further recommendations;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council that it accepts the recommendations of the JHSC, mainly that meetings remain virtual and that Council members complete all steps outlined in the recommendation and provide details back to the JHSC when completed.

The recorded vote was requested by Councillor Maxwell.

### **RECOMMENDATION 179-2026**

Moved by Councillor P. Banks

Seconded by Councillor J. Banks

Be it resolved, that Council defer Agenda Item 14.2 – Health and Safety Recommendations, including staff recommendations, until an updated report from the Public Services Health & Safety Association is completed and reviewed.

For (4): Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Carr, and Councillor D. Hutchings

Against (4): Mayor Hoogenboom, Councillor Bulloch, Councillor Maxwell, and Councillor Pollard

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded

Recorded (4 to 4)

Mayor Hoogenboom called a Point of Privilege and advised that it was inappropriate to speak about past issues and being critical of former and current members of Council.

The Clerk advised that in the absence of the Deputy Mayor, another member of Council would need to rule on the Point of Privilege.

Councillor J. Banks advised that due to him being the next Deputy Mayor, he would rule on the Point of Privilege.

Councillor J. Banks: ruled on the Point of Privilege and ruled that there was valuable information in what Councillor P. Banks is saying and that there are more issues and more information to be dealt with so we will permit what Councillor P. Banks has to say.

Councillor P. Banks called a point of privilege advising that after four and half months of investigation, herself, Councillor Sue Dunfield, Councillor Debbie Hutchings and Councillor Linda Carr were cleared of mistreating or bullying the mayor, maxwell, pollard and staff. There were many, many allegations. However, Councillor Maxwell was found to have breached and bullied us March 3. So that is accurate information I am relaying. That is my point of privilege. What she just said is not true. If she feels that way she should file an integrity commissioner report just like anyone else. What she just said was not true.

Mayor Hoogenboom ruled on the point of privilege and rejected the point of privilege.

Discussion escalated between members and the CAO stepped in advising that the recommendation on the floor is regarding the safety of staff related to the conduct of Council. Council is demonstrating its inability to focus, have decorum, consider it a business meeting, were fighting, talking over each other and speaking out of turn. Could we bring this under some order and if we don't bring it under order, this will be my warning that we will also end this meeting.

Mayor Hoogenboom again ruled on the point of privilege and rejected the point of privilege

Councillor Hutchings called a point of order on Councillor Maxwell regarding comments made related to the opinions of Mayor Hoogenboom and Councillor Pollard.

The Mayor asked for an interpretation from the Clerk on the Point of Order and the Clerk advised that her opinion was that Councillor Hutchings explanation was not a point of order and was the opinion of Councillor Maxwell.

The recorded vote was requested by Councillor Maxwell.

**RECOMMENDATION 180-2026**

Moved by Councillor Bulloch  
Seconded by Councillor P. Banks

Be it resolved that the main motion be amended by adding a paragraph to add that a working group of four members of Council be formed to review the document and create an action plan.

For (7): Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Bulloch, Councillor Carr, Councillor D. Hutchings, Councillor Maxwell, and Councillor Pollard

Against (1): Mayor Hoogenboom

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded  
Carried (7 to 1)

**RECOMMENDATION 181-2026**

Moved by Councillor Bulloch  
Seconded by Councillor Maxwell

WHEREAS at the Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) Meeting held October 9, 2025, the Committee reviewed the work refusal stemming from the October 6, 2025 Council meeting and passed Recommendation #9OCT25 stating that meetings, at which all councillors are expected to attend, will be held virtually and that Council members take training regarding their responsibilities as employers in the area of health and safety as well as training on conflict de-escalation;

AND WHEREAS Rideau Lakes Township engaged the Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA) to design and deliver a purpose-built education program for Council with two primary areas of focus:

1. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Roles and Responsibilities and
2. Preventing Escalated Behaviours.

AND WHEREAS said education sessions were held on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026 which resulted in the PSHSA submitting a final report with various recommendations;

AND WHEREAS at the JHSC Meeting held April 9, 2026, the Committee reviewed the Preventing Escalated Behaviours Report from the PSHSA and made further recommendations;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Committee of the Whole recommends to Council that it accepts the recommendations of the JHSC, mainly that meetings remain

virtual and that Council members complete all steps outlined in the recommendation and provide details back to the JHSC when completed

AND FURTHER that a working group of four members of Council be formed to review the document and create an action plan.

Carried

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Proposed Motion: Councillor P. Banks - LBLP MECP Regulatory Requirements**

Mayor Hoogenboom advised that he would be leaving the chair to debate and discuss and in the absence of Deputy Mayor Dunfield, Councillor J. Banks took over as Chair.

Deputy Mayor Sue Dunfield (virtual) joined the meeting at 12:04 pm.

Councillor J. Banks asked to hand the Chair back to Mayor Hoogenboom.

Councillor P. Banks called a Point of Order on Chair J. Banks advising that he cannot hand the Chair back to Mayor Hoogenboom to then debate this motion.

Councillor J. Banks asked to hand the Chair back to Mayor Hoogenboom.

Councillor P. Banks called a Point of Order on Chair J. Banks advising that he cannot hand the Chair back to Mayor Hoogenboom to then debate this motion until this item is finished.

A recorded vote was requested by Councillor Maxwell.

Moved by Councillor P. Banks

Seconded by Councillor D. Hutchings

WHEREAS Lower Beverley Lake Park is undertaking required infrastructure work and the current permit expires in February 2027 unless extended;

AND WHEREAS the February 2, 2026 Report to Committee of the Whole titled *Lower Beverley Lake Park Compliance Matters* identifies barrel systems, broader deficiencies, and associated risks, while concerns regarding blue barrel systems raised with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), the Mayor, and the previous term of Council and CAO in 2022, and again in 2025 and 2026, are not currently included in the engineering scope of work;

AND WHEREAS preliminary estimates identified approximately \$100,000 in budgeted funds and potential total project costs in the range of \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000, excluding the blue barrel systems, with total costs expected to increase and remain unknown pending engineering review, and projects of this scale may require borrowing, increased user fees, or Township financial support, as demonstrated by the Township's prior experience with a significant unfunded liability in 2016;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Council requests that the Lower Beverley Lake Park Board revisit the inclusion of blue barrel systems within the engineer's scope of work;

AND FURTHER that the Lower Beverley Lake Park Board provide Council with:

- a timeline for completion of the full scope of work;
- complete cost estimate for all required works, including blue barrel systems;
- a financial plan outlining funding sources, including reserves, revenues, fee adjustments, and any required borrowing, including confirmation of borrowing capacity and any potential reliance on Township funding;
- confirmation of whether an extension to the February 2027 permit timeline will be required and when it will be requested;

AND FURTHER that this financial plan be provided in advance of final cost confirmation, recognizing that estimates may change as engineering work progresses, and that monthly written updates be provided to Council on the engineer's report, project timeline, regulatory coordination, financing, and related correspondence;

AND FURTHER that Council directs Township staff and the CAO, in coordination with Cathy Chisholm, Kingston District Manager, MECP, to report back publicly to Council outlining:

- what was known in 2022;
- what actions were taken by the Township and MECP;
- why no action was taken on the 2022 and 2025 complaints;
- why the blue barrel systems were not included in the 2022 inspection record or approval framework; and
- why they are not included in the current scope of work required for compliance by 2027.

The recorded vote was requested by Councillor P. Banks.

**RECOMMENDATION 182-2026**

Moved by Mayor Hoogenboom  
Seconded by Councillor Maxwell

Be it resolved that the main motion be deferred.

For (4): Mayor Hoogenboom, Councillor Bulloch, Councillor Maxwell, and Councillor Pollard

Against (5): Deputy Mayor Dunfield, Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Carr, and Councillor D. Hutchings

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded

Defeated (4 to 5)

A friendly amendment was proposed to remove the financial aspects from the motion.

Councillor P. Banks called a Point of Privilege advising that Mayor Hoogenboom should not call a person's motion flawed and feels it's a personal attack.

Councillor J. Banks ruled on the Point of Privilege advising that the motion stands and asked that they move on to the motion.

The recorded vote was requested by Councillor Maxwell

### **RECOMMENDATION 183-2026**

Moved by Councillor P. Banks

Seconded by Councillor D. Hutchings

WHEREAS Lower Beverley Lake Park is undertaking required infrastructure work and the current permit expires in February 2027 unless extended;

AND WHEREAS the February 2, 2026 Report to Committee of the Whole titled *Lower Beverley Lake Park Compliance Matters* identifies barrel systems, broader deficiencies, and associated risks, while concerns regarding blue barrel systems raised with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), the Mayor, and the previous term of Council and CAO in 2022, and again in 2025 and 2026, are not currently included in the engineering scope of work;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Council requests that the Lower Beverley Lake Park Board revisit the inclusion of blue barrel systems within the engineer's scope of work;

AND FURTHER that the Lower Beverley Lake Park Board provide Council with:

- a timeline for completion of the full scope of work;
- a complete cost estimate for all required works, including blue barrel systems;
- confirmation of whether an extension to the February 2027 permit timeline will be required and when it will be requested;

AND FURTHER that Council directs Township staff and the CAO, in coordination with Cathy Chisholm, Kingston District Manager, MECP, to report back publicly to Council outlining:

- what was known in 2022;
- what actions were taken by the Township and MECP;
- why no action was taken on the 2022 and 2025 complaints;
- why the blue barrel systems were not included in the 2022 inspection record or approval framework; and
- why they are not included in the current scope of work required for compliance by 2027.

For (5): Deputy Mayor Dunfield, Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Carr, and Councillor D. Hutchings

Against (4): Mayor Hoogenboom, Councillor Bulloch, Councillor Maxwell, and Councillor Pollard

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded

Carried (5 to 4)

Proposed Motion: Councillor P. Banks - LBLP Records Disclosure and Transparency

Mayor Hoogenboom advised that he was handing the chair over to Deputy Mayor Dunfield for this item.

Councillor P. Banks called a point of order on Councillor Bulloch advising that we are discussing releasing emails.

Deputy Mayor Dunfield advised that discussion should be focused on the motion on the floor.

Councillor P. Banks called a point of order on Councillor J. Banks to focus on the motion and the release of information.

Deputy Mayor Dunfield advised again that discussion should be focused on the motion not move toward blue barrels.

The following motion was brought forward:

Moved by Councillor P. Banks  
Seconded by Councillor Carr

WHEREAS this term of Council was not fully apprised of compliance issues at Lower Beverley Lake Park, and has since received information identifying regulatory, environmental, and legal risks, and recognizing that the Township is both regulator and owner/operator and must ensure transparency, consistency, and informed decision-making;

AND WHEREAS bringing the park into compliance represents an estimated \$1 million to \$1.5 million unfunded liability requiring full transparency to Council and taxpayers;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that staff conduct a targeted records review and report back on all correspondence and records relating to Lower Beverley Lake Park;

AND FURTHER that all records and correspondence, including emails between the Mayor, all current and past Council members, all current and past Township employees, all Lower Beverley Lake Park Board members, and all Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks employees, be provided to Council in full;

AND FURTHER that in the interest of transparency, all such correspondence and records currently in the possession of members of Council or the Township, or brought forward through this review, shall be presumed non-confidential by default upon passage of this motion, and may be treated as non-confidential by members of Council and staff unless they clearly meet the statutory requirements for confidentiality under

the *Municipal Act, 2001* or an exemption under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, with only necessary and lawful redactions applied.

The recorded vote was requested by Councillor Maxwell.

**RECOMMENDATION 184-2026**

Moved by Councillor Maxwell  
Seconded by Councillor Pollard

Be it resolved that the main motion be deferred.

For (4): Mayor Hoogenboom, Councillor Bulloch, Councillor Maxwell, and Councillor Pollard

Against (5): Deputy Mayor Dunfield, Councillor J. Banks, Councillor P. Banks, Councillor Carr, and Councillor D. Hutchings

Voter Type: Majority (Present), Recorded

Defeated (4 to 5)

**RECOMMENDATION 185-2026**

Moved by Councillor P. Banks  
Seconded by Councillor Carr

Be it resolved that the motion be withdrawn.

Carried

Following the vote, Mayor Hoogenboom resumed the Chair.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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

**Councillor Bulloch: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy**

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability;

AND FURTHER this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

#### Councillor Bulloch: Reduced Rate Distribution of Library Resources

WHEREAS public libraries play a vital role in ensuring equitable access to information, literacy, education, and culture for all residents;

AND WHEREAS inter-library loan services are an essential component of public library operations, particularly for small and rural communities with limited local collections;

AND WHEREAS reduced postal rates for library materials have historically enabled libraries to share resources efficiently and affordably across Canada;

AND WHEREAS recent amendments to the Canada Post Corporation Act have removed the legislative requirement to provide reduced postal rates for library materials, creating uncertainty for the continued delivery of this essential service;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Rideau Lakes support the Township of Terrace Bay's call upon the Government of Canada to maintain and protect reduced-rate postal distribution for library materials through legislation;

AND FURTHER that Council requests that the Minister responsible for Canada Post ensure continued, affordable postal access for libraries and inter-library loan services;

AND FURTHER that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Joel Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, Michael Barrett, MP for Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands-Rideau Lakes, Steve Clark, MPP Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands-Rideau Lakes and all Ontario municipalities for support.

#### Councillor P. Banks: Tree Sapling Giveaway Program – Staff Report Request

WHEREAS neighbouring municipalities such as Beckwith Township and Montague Townships have successfully implemented annual tree sapling giveaway programs that are simple to deliver and widely used by residents;

AND WHEREAS tree planting supports shoreline protection, helps reduce erosion, improves water quality, and contributes to the long-term health of the Township's lakes and rural environment;

AND WHEREAS providing residents with access to native tree species is a cost-effective way to support environmental stewardship on private property while offering a direct benefit to ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to explore a practical and affordable program aligned with initiatives already in place in neighbouring municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that staff be directed to bring forward a report outlining options for an annual tree sapling giveaway program for residents of the Township of Rideau Lakes, including potential partnerships, estimated costs, program delivery options, and a recommended implementation plan for Spring 2027.

### **MAYOR'S UPDATE**

- April 14: I attended a special meeting of the Lower Beverley Lake Park Board in Delta;
- April 15: I along with most of Council attended the Business Awards Breakfast in Elgin. An excellent, well attended event the recognized 50 businesses that were nominated for the 3 annual awards;
- April 17: I attended a meeting in Brockville with MNR Minister Mike Harris Jr. arranged by our MPP Steve Clark. I had the opportunity to lobby on the Delta Dam issue and our efforts to create various bass fishing sanctuaries;
- April 18: I participated in the once again very successful Delta Maple Syrup Festival with large crowds and excellent venues;
- April 22: I along with 2 neighbouring mayors met with the CEO of Perth & Smiths Falls District Hospital to discuss Physician recruitment. The United Counties of Leeds & Grenville continues to engage health care recruitment consultants in an effort to reduce the local doctor shortages;
- April 23: I attended in Brockville the Regular County Council meeting. That evening approximately 70 community volunteers were thanked at an event at the Portland Hall. Kudos to staff who arranged an excellent evening with excellent entertainment;
- April 26: I attended the volunteer appreciate BBQ at the Salvation Army in Smith Falls;
- I want to note as well that last week was pitch in week in Rideau Lakes and we need to thank the many community volunteers that work to clean up our road sides and parks. It is not to late to participate and yellow bags are still available and do not require a Township tag.

### **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 and no members had questions on line.

**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 there were no questions on line.

**CLOSED MEETING: None**

**REPORT REGARDING CLOSED MEETING: None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Hoogenboom declared the meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

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Arie Hoogenboom, Chair

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Mary Ellen Truelove, Clerk