

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RYERSON

MINUTES

TRI-COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2025

The combined in-person/virtual TRI Council meeting of the Councils of the Township of Armour, the Village of Burk's Falls, and the Township of Ryerson was held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Memorial Arena, hosted by the Village of Burk's Falls.

ATTENDANCE:

Township of Ryerson Council present included Councillors Beverly Abbott, Glenn Miller, Delynne Patterson, and Dan Robertson; Staff: Nancy Field, Clerk, Brayden Robinson, CAO/Treasurer, Joe Readman, Fire Chief

Village of Burk's Falls Council present included Mayor Chris Hope, Councillors Ryan Baptiste, Sean Cotton, Ashley Brandt; Staff: Denis Duguay CAO-Clerk, Tammy Wylie, Treasurer, Camille Barr, Senior Administrative Assistant, Graham Smith, Arena Manager, Christina Merrick Assistant Arena Manager

Township of Armour Council present included Mayor Rod Ward; Councillors Jerry Brandt, Dorothy Haggart-Davis, and Wendy Whitwell; Staff: Charlene Watt, Clerk, Dave Gray, CAO, Amy Tilley, Waste Management Administrator

Guests: Nieves Guijarro, Albine Cook, Jonathan Hind, Nancy Kyte, Tara Ratcliff, Vicky Roeder-Martin, Diane Brandt, Krista Trulsen, Ariel Baptiste, Laura Page, Cathy Still, Don Still, Sarah Cooke, Karen Hoffman, Chris Joiner, Kim Joiner, Dave Turkington, Jason Newman, Barry Burton.

By Zoom: Taylor Keetch, Douglas McLean, Kelly Morissette, Ana, Erica, Jim, Alison McGregor, Judy Kosowan, iPhone User, Jill, Candy Shuker,

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Chris Hope who welcomed all participants to the meeting.

2. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Chris Hope acknowledged the lands as the traditional territory of indigenous peoples, dating back countless generations, honouring the ancestral guardians of the land and its waterway and recognizing the Robinson-Huron and Williams Treaties, showing respect for the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

NoneApprove Notes from TRI Council Meeting

2025-01 Moved by Ryan Baptiste - Seconded by Beverly Abbott Be it resolved;

That the TRI Council of the Village of Burk's Falls, Township of Ryerson and the Township of Armour hereby approve the amended notes of the regular meeting held October 28, 2024. Carried.

4. Township of Armour Shared Services Resolution Clarification

Township of Armour Mayor started by providing a public apology for the comments that were made during a Township of Armour meeting held January 14, 2025.

The Township of Armour indicated they regularly review Council objectives, their strategic plan and progress. They shared that their concern is about shared services across Almaguin, not just those shared with Burk's Falls and Ryerson. The final matter to prompt the resolution was a decision the Village of Burk's Falls made to provide notice to the ACED program and the impact this decision could have on the program as a whole, which relies on regional partnerships to exist. They had hoped Burk's Falls would have discussed the financial concern with ACED prior to making the resolution and a negotiation could have occurred. Armour feels that Burk's Falls wants to go in another direction and there is desire for open communication and finding a common ground. Armour stated they wish to work with Burk's Falls and Ryerson however the current shared services agreement does not speak to the future and the feeling is little happens between TRI Council meetings. Armour wishes to have a new agreement which focuses a vision for the future of services.

Mayor of Burk's Falls Chris Hope stated Burk's Falls Council feels the same way and at times feels as though they are not heard. The Council is looking several years ahead and wishes to discuss the future. He clarified Burk's Falls did provide notice to ACED with a clause indicating this could be revisited. Mayor Chris Hope accepted the apology offered.

It was further discussed there is a strong need for the three municipal CAOs, Clerks and Mayors to meet on a frequent basis, to move forward collaboratively and further resolve the matter.

5. Library Agreement Impact in One (1) Year

Township of Armour Mayor Rod Ward met with the Chair of the Library Board to share that from an operations perspective, Armour will continue to cover their future share towards the library. Armour will discuss this matter tomorrow at their regular meeting with a resolution to follow.

6. Shared Services Agreement Impact in Two (2) Years

The current shared services agreement concludes at the end of 2027. The Township of Armour would like a new agreement with a focus on the future and the possibility of expanding the agreement with additional partnerships. Armour confirms that at this point they have stated they are leaving the current agreement when it expires, but at any point they can rescind the resolution or reword it. This provides an option to conclude the old agreement and develop a new plan.

The Township of Ryerson emphasized that time is of the essence as they have approximately two months or the firehall project will not move forward without a shared services agreement.

7. Shared Services Agreement Discussion

Discussion occurred above.

8. TRI R Agricultural Society Tent Rental Accounting Process

At present, when tents are rented for the fair, the funds are flowed through the Arena budget. This is not the ideal department for this to be allocated to. For 2025 the accounting process will be status quo. For 2026 the Agricultural Society will present at Tri Council (post fair) and a new process for tent rental accounting will be established.

9. Armour, Ryerson and Burk's Falls Memorial Arena 2024 Budget Actuals and 2025 Draft Budget

Assistant Arena Manager Christina Merrick presented the 2024 Arena Budget Actuals highlighting an increase in rentals and new interest in the facility. The arena saw a significant increase in total ice use. More use means greater wear and tear which can impact the budget. Significant and unexpected expenses were highlighted.

Arena Manager Graham Smith provided an overview of the draft 2025 budget. An increase in the staffing compliment to mitigate health and safety risks has been added as well additional expenses that continue to rise.

Council was provided an opportunity to ask questions regarding the 2025 draft budget.

10. Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library Budget (Armour Twp)

CEO Nieves Guijarro provided a presentation to Council focusing on the importance of the library and its services, 2024 statistics, and the 2025 draft budget. Council was provided the opportunity to ask questions regarding the 2025 draft budget.

11. Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library Update (Armour Twp)

The geo technical report was previously circulated to Councils and since, three options have been presented to address the needs as outlined in the report. Price varies between \$290,000 and \$320,000.00. A cost analysis has yet to be completed. Township of Armour CAO Dave Gray will share the options with the TRI Council.

12. TRI R Landfill and Recycling Report and 2025 Draft Budget

Waste Management Administrator Amy Tilley provided an overview of 2024 which included a significant reduction in fill at the site as a result of a decrease in house demolition. It is projected there is 13 years of life remaining at the landfill. Amy discussed the transition to Full Producer Responsibility. In 2026 comixing of recyclable materials will end. In Q3 more information will be provided.

Council was provided the opportunity to ask questions regarding the 2025 draft budget.

13. Joe Readman to Discuss Fireworks Certification Update

The department set aside \$1500.00 in the budget to have 9-10 fire fighters certified to set off fireworks. This will allow the department to purchase, store, set up, ignite, and clean up fireworks, allowing for a bigger show for the communities.

14. Firehall 2025 Draft Budget

Fire Chief Joe Readman provided an overview of the draft 2025 budget. Highlights included an enclosed trailer for swift access of equipment at the scene. As an option, the current sea can may be sold to recoup costs.

The concrete pad for the Training Build Building is in place. The unit will be installed in the spring.

Council was provided the opportunity to ask questions regarding the 2025 draft budget.

15. Firehall Project Update

Much effort has been invested into the project to this point. At present there are two obstacles the project faces: The future of a shared services agreement and a geo technical report.

Discussion occurred that although there is a current shared services agreement in place, The Township of Ryerson will not risk the potential termination of this agreement, leaving their residents in a potential repayment situation. It is said this should be a question for legal. Ryerson will not move forward without an agreement in place.

Greystone provided 5 site options for the new build; one included a helipad. The site plans include the firehall as well as a future health and wellness centre. The site plan and survey are complete, and the Township of Armour awaits results of the core sample.

16. Firehall Ownership

The Township of Armour confirmed that the purchase of the MTO lands has been completed. Title was transferred on December 12, 2024 and a survey of the land has been recently registered. Armour Mayor provided details on the ownership of the new fire hall that is to be constructed at the corner of Peggs Mountain Road and Ferguson Road. The Township of Armour will continue to own the property for the service. The ownership of the fire hall will be determined through a percentage of disbursed funds.

17. Next Quarterly Meeting

The next meeting of the TRI Council will be held on May 26, 2025 and hosted by the Township of Ryerson.

18. Adjournment

2025-02 Moved by Dan Robertson - Seconded by Sean

Cotton Be it resolved;

That the TRI Council of the Village of Burk’s Falls, Township of Ryerson and the Township of Armour hereby adjourn the regular TRI Council meeting held February 24, 2025.

Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm

Original Signed by Geroge Sterling

George Sterling, Mayor

Original Signed by Nancy Field

Nancy Field, Clerk