

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANTHON

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melanthon held a special electronic meeting on the 19th day of December, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Mayor Darren White, Deputy Mayor James McLean, Councillor Ralph Moore, Councillor Bill Neilson and Councillor Ruth Plowright were present. Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk, and Kaitlin Dinnick, Deputy Clerk/Planning Coordinator were also present. Mayor White presided and called the meeting to order.

Mayor White advised that the open session of the meeting was being recorded and would be posted to the Township's website under Council Agendas and Minutes.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

Mayor White shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by McLean, that Council approve the Special Council Meeting Agenda as circulated. Carried.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

Mayor White advised that disclosure of pecuniary interest can be declared at this time or anytime throughout the meeting by giving the general nature thereof and that declarations must be submitted to the Clerk in writing.

General Business

Moved By Moore, Seconded By Neilson, that Council move into a Closed Session Meeting at 1:32 p.m. pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason(s): (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board – Shelburne and District Fire Department – Future of Fire Services. Carried.

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Plowright, that Council rise from Closed Session at 2:04 p.m. with Report. Carried.

The Report being the following Motion be introduced:

Moved by Moore, Seconded by White,

WHEREAS the Township of Melanthon is a participating municipality in the Shelburne and District Fire Board, which provides fire services pursuant to joint arrangements amongst participating municipalities;

AND WHEREAS in 2019, the Township of Amaranth, the Township of Melanthon, the Township of Mono and the Township of Mulmur, executed a new Fire Protection Agreement (the "2019 Fire Protection Agreement"), and the Town of Shelburne executed that agreement in 2025, at which time that agreement became binding upon all participating municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Melanthon maintains that, by reason of the full execution of the 2019 Fire Protection Agreement, the Fire Board and participating municipalities are governed by that agreement and not the previous 1991 Fire Protection Agreement;

AND WHEREAS in reliance upon the 2019 Fire Protection Agreement, the Township of Melanthon will separately provide notice in accordance with Article 18 of that agreement of the Township's intention to terminate its participation in the Fire Board;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Melancthon is of the opinion that for adequate and legislated fire services to be provided to its residents, a fire service must be located geographically in the Town of Shelburne or alternatively on the highway 10 corridor immediately adjacent to the Town of Shelburne, and that a fire service located outside of the referenced areas above is not able to cover the required geographic boundaries required within the Township of Melancthon;

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding the Township of Melancthon's position that the 2019 Fire Protection Agreement governs, and solely in the alternative and out of an abundance of caution, the Township of Melancthon wishes to provide notice under the 1991 Fire Protection Agreement in the event that it is later determined that the 1991 agreement remains operative;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Without prejudice to the Township's position that the 2019 Fire Protection Agreement governs and without admission, the Township of Melancthon hereby gives written notice, effective December 19, 2025, of its intention to terminate its participation in the joint Fire Board in accordance with Article 17(a) of the 1991 Fire Protection Agreement;
2. The Township of Melancthon's withdrawal pursuant to Article 17(a) of the 1991 Fire Protection Agreement shall, strictly in the alternative and only if that agreement is determined to govern, become effective December 31, 2027;
3. This resolution and the notice hereby provided shall not be interpreted or relied upon as acknowledgment, concession, or confirmation by the Township of Melancthon that the 1991 Fire Protection Agreement governs, nor shall it derogate from the Township of Melancthon's position that the 2019 Fire Protection Agreement is the binding governing agreement; and
4. Township Staff are authorized to distribute copies of this resolution to all participating municipalities on the Shelburne and District Fire Board and to take all necessary administrative steps to give effect to this resolution.
5. Township staff are authorized to immediately begin discussions with the Township of Southgate regarding fire service border area adjustments.
6. Township staff are authorized to request response time and service level data from all of its partner fire services to further councils decision making ability. Carried.

Confirmation By-law

Moved by McLean, Seconded by Neilson, that leave be given to introduce a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon at its Special Council meeting held on December 19, 2025 and it be given the required number of readings and numbered 47-2025. Carried.

Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting

Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson, that Council adjourn this Special Council Meeting at 2:06 p.m. Carried.

MAYOR

CLERK