

## **CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON**

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon held a hybrid meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. Mayor Darren White (6:39 p.m.), Deputy Mayor James McLean (6:39 p.m.), Councillor Neilson, Councillor Ralph Moore, and Councillor Ruth Plowright were present. Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk, Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer and Kaitlin Dinnick, Deputy Clerk/Planning Coordinator, were also present.

Denise Holmes advised that both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are currently unavailable for the commencement of this meeting, as they are attending a Special County Council meeting, but will be joining later.

In accordance with Section 23 of Procedural By-law 4-2024, Council is required to appoint another Member of Council to preside.

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson**, that Councillor Plowright be appointed as the Presiding Officer of the February 5, 2026 Council meeting until the arrival of Mayor White. Carried.

Chair Plowright called the meeting to order.

Chair Plowright advised that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted to the Township's website under Council Agendas and Minutes.

### **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Councillor Plowright shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

### **Announcements**

Councillor Plowright advised that Pancake Tuesday is being held at the Horning's Mills Hall on Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 by donation.

### **Additions**

Addendum #1 - By-law to Authorize the Execution of the Municipal Ice Storm Assistance Program Grant Agreement

### **Deletions**

None.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, that Council approve the Agenda as amended. Carried.

### **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

Councillor Plowright 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.

### **Minutes**

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson**, that Council approve the minutes of the January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Council Meeting as circulated. Carried.

### **Business Arising from Minutes**

December 11, 2025 Council Meeting - Email from Alicia Kimberly, Tatham Engineering regarding Strada Annual Groundwater Compliance Monitoring Reports

Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk spoke to this item and advised that Councillor Neilson had asked some questions about this item at the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Council Meeting, and this is the response received by Tatham Engineering and Councillor Neilson spoke to the response.

**Point of Privilege or Personal Privilege**

None.

**Public Question Period**

None.

**2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget Discussion**

2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget

**Discussion started at 7:45 p.m.**

Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer presented the first draft of the 2026 budget and gave an overview of her budget report. The increase in this draft budget is 37.8% (36.44% with growth). Discussion ensued around which capital projects could be put off and which should proceed forward in 2026. Council requested that a breakdown of the percentage of the budget increase for fire, policing and recreation be brought to the next Council meeting. Staff were directed to make the changes to the budget as discussed and to bring back to the next Council meeting for further discussion.

2025 Statement of Development Charge Reserve Fund

Nothing for this item.

**Public Works**

Accounts Ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, that Council receive the Public Works accounts Ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 as presented. Carried.

Accounts January 2026

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, that Council receive the January 2026 Public Works accounts as presented. Carried.

Recommendation(s), if any, Infrastructure and Emergency Management Meeting – February 2, 2026

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson**, that Council accept the recommendation from the Infrastructure and Emergency Management Committee and direct that the matter be further discussed during budget deliberations. Carried.

Other

Councillor Moore asked Craig Micks, Public Works Superintendent about the amount of salt and sand we have left for the season. Craig advised that the sand dome is getting low and he has spoken to our sand supplier about getting more however there is an issue with getting more salt.

## **Planning**

### Applications to Permit

There were no questions on the applications on the spreadsheet.

### Other

Nothing for this matter.

## **Strategic Plan**

### Strategic Priorities – Road Safety

Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk spoke to the road safety priorities we have been working on and Staff were directed to bring a report forward at the beginning of each year outlining what we have completed in the plan and what still needs to be worked on.

## **Climate Change Initiatives**

None.

## **Dufferin OPP Detachment Board – Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur**

Nothing for this matter.

## **Committee/Board Reports & Recommendations** **Correspondence**

### Recommendation from Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Held January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson**, that Council accept the Recommendation from Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Held January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Carried.

Councillor Neilson spoke to the recommendation put forth from the Parks and Recreation Board.

## **Board, Committee & Working Group Minutes**

1. Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department – December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025
2. Parks & Recreation Board – July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, that Council receive the Board, Committee & Working Group Minutes Items 1 & 2 as information. Carried.

## **Items for Information Purposes**

1. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights – January 2026
2. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority 2025 Board Members Per Diem and Expenses
3. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness – 2026 Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) Guidelines
4. Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. – Implementation of Development Charges Regulatory Changes – Ontario Regulations 339/25
5. RJ Burnside & Associates Limited – Drainage Superintendent Services September to December 2025
6. Township of Southgate – Notice of Motion – OMERS Bill 68 Municipal Resolution

7. Centre Grey Health Services Foundation – Update
8. Dufferin County Council Highlights – January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026
9. Dufferin County Resolution regarding Scrap Tire Disposal Services
10. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Media Release – Jonathan Scott and Gail Little to Continue Delivering for Communities as NVCA Chair and Vice Chair
11. Town of Shelburne Resolution regarding the Shelburne and District Fire Board

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, that correspondence items 1-11, for information purposes, be received as information, except for item 6 & 9, pulled for further discussion. Carried.

Councillor Plowright spoke to item 6.

Councillor Neilson spoke to item 9 and would like Council to support the motion from the County of Dufferin regarding Scarp Tire Disposal Services.

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Plowright**, that Council support the Dufferin County motion regarding Scrap Tire Disposal. Carried.

### **Items for Council Action**

Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Board 2026 Draft Budget

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson**, that the 2026 Draft Budget be deferred to 2026 budget discussion. Carried

### **General Business**

#### **Accounts Ending December 31, 2025**

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, that Council receive the General accounts Ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 as presented. Carried.

#### **Accounts January 2026**

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, that Council receive the January 2026 General accounts as presented. Carried.

#### **Notice of Intent to Pass By-law**

By-law to Authorize the Execution of the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, that leave be given to introduce a By-law to authorize the execution of the Ontario Transfer Payment Agreement and it be hereby read a first and second time and numbered 6-2026. Carried.

By-law to Authorize the Execution of the Municipal Ice Storm Assistance Program Grant Agreement – Addendum

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson**, that leave be given to introduce a By-law to authorize the execution of the Municipal Ice Storm Assistance Program Grant Agreement and it be hereby read a first and second time and numbered 7-2026. Carried.

### **New/Other Business/Additions**

Notice of Motion to Invite Sylvia Jones, MPP to a Future Council Meeting (Councillor Plowright)

**Moved by Plowright, Seconded by Moore**, that Council of the Township of Melancthon invite Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon, to attend a future Council meeting to continue discussions on the various issues and matters impacting the Township of Melancthon;

And that the CAO/Clerk be directed to extend the invitation. Carried.

Council discussed this further and decided that they did not get enough time to discuss all the ongoing issues in Melancthon Township with Sylvia at the last Council meeting.

Ontario News Release – Canada and Ontario Investing \$20 Million to Protect Local Farmers and Agribusinesses (Deputy Mayor McLean)

Deputy Mayor McLean spoke to this item and Staff were directed to keep an eye out for further updates so that we can inform the Farmers in Melancthon if they are eligible.

The Old Order Mennonite Church – Cemetery to be located on Part of Lot 241, Concession 1 NE – Municipal Approval for Care and Maintenance Fund – Staff to provide further information at the meeting

Deferred to the next meeting as we are waiting for further clarification from the BAO.

Addition(s)

None.

**Unfinished Business**

Report from Denise B. Holmes regarding Advocating for Strong OMERS Governance

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Moore**, WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children’s aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

WHEREAS the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS’ governance structure through Bill 68; and WHEREAS these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

WHEREAS the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS municipalities are already under significant fiscal strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Melancthon does not support the legislative changes to the OMERS Act contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Melancthon Council supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to: 1. Ensure Sponsors retain full control without restrictions over their appointments to the new Sponsors Council and Administration Corporation; 2. Guarantee the Sponsors Council's independence from the plan administrator and access to resources needed to perform its duties; and 3. Limit the Minister's regulation-making authority over plan design and the Sponsors Council's internal affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to: • The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs; • The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; • Sylvia Jones, MPP; and • The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). Carried.

### **Reports/Updates from Members of Council & Administrative Staff**

#### Councillor Neilson – Shelburne & District Fire Board

Councillor Neilson advised that at the Shelburne & District meeting last week it was discussed that the fire department had a record number of calls in 2025.

#### Councillor Plowright – Parks & Recreation Board

Councillor Plowright provided an update on the Melancthon Day 2026 plans.

**Council took a break at 5:40 p.m.**

**Council reconvened at 6:39 p.m.**

### **Delegations**

6:30 p.m. - Chris Johnston – Johnston Consulting By-law Enforcement Services – Update on an ongoing By-law Enforcement Matter (**Closed Session**)

This item took place in Closed Session.

### **Closed Session**

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Neilson**, that Council move into a Closed Session Meeting at 6:39 p.m. pursuant Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reasons: Section 239(2)(d) – Labour relations or employee negotiations – Draft Township of Melancthon Human Resources Policy and Procedures Manual and Report from Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer regarding changes to the policy, Section 239(2)(f) – Advice that is subject to Solicitor/Client privilege – Memo from Sarah Culshaw, Treasurer regarding Friday Office Closure and Lunch Hour Office Closure and Section 239(2)(b) – Personal Matters about and Identifiable Individual – Update on an ongoing By-law Enforcement Matter. Carried.

#### Rise With or Without Report from Closed Session

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Plowright**, that Council rise at 7:44 p.m. with Report. Carried.

Report being the directives given to Staff in closed session.

### **Third Reading of By-laws**

**Moved by Moore, Seconded by Plowright**, that By-laws 6-2026 and 7-2026 now be read a third time, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed and engrossed in the By-law Book. Carried.

**Notice of Motion**

Councillor Plowright would like to carry forward the notice of motion to invite Sylvia Jones, MPP back to further discuss ongoing issues in the Township until Sylvia attends the meeting.

**Confirmation By-law**

**Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Plowright**, 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 Council meeting held on February 5, 2026 and it be given the required number of readings and numbered 8-2026. Carried.

**Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting**

**Moved by McLean, Seconded by Plowright**, that Council adjourn this meeting at 8:39 p.m., to meet again on Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor. Carried.

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MAYOR

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CLERK