

**Council Meeting  
May 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.  
Council Chamber, Wawanesa, MB.**

The Council of the Municipality of Oakland-Wawanesa met in the Council Chamber in Wawanesa, Manitoba on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Members Present: Mike Fisher, Craig Hatch, Frank Jones, Bob McDonald and Dennis Rome (in the gallery due to Code of Conduct sanctions with the inability to perform council duties). Head of Council Dave Kreklewich presided.

Resignation of Brett McGregor leaves one position vacant.

Staff in attendance: Chief Administrative Officer Joni Swidnicki, Finance Officer Melissa Sturgeon and Public Works Manager Chelsea Long.

The meeting was open to the public.

**CALL TO ORDER** – 9:00 a.m.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Municipality of Oakland-Wawanesa would like to acknowledge and recognize that we are operating on Treaty 1 and Treaty 2 lands being the original territory of the Anishinaabe and Dakota Nations and the homeland of the Metis Nation.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Hatch-McDonald

1094 BE IT RESOLVED that the agenda for the May 20, 2025 meeting be accepted as presented with the addition of By-law 47-2025 under the Order of By-laws. CARRIED.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Fisher-Hatch

1095 BE IT RESOLVED that the minutes of the April 15, 2025 regular meeting of Council be hereby approved as circulated. CARRIED.

**FINANCE**

**General Account**

McDonald-Fisher

1096 BE IT RESOLVED that the May 13, 2025 general accounts payable, being cheque #'s 8020 to 8078 in the amount of \$228,585.54 be hereby approved. CARRIED.

Fisher-Jones

- 1097 BE IT RESOLVED that Direct Deposit 356, being staff payroll for the period April 12 to April 25, 2025 in the amount of \$13,561.92 be hereby approved. CARRIED.

McDonald-Hatch

- 1098 BE IT RESOLVED that Direct Deposit 357, being staff payroll for the period April 26 to May 9, 2025 in the amount of \$14,755.83 be hereby approved. CARRIED.

Jones-Fisher

- 1099 BE IT RESOLVED that Direct Deposit 358, being Council indemnities for the month of April, 2025 in the amount of \$4,848.97 be hereby approved. CARRIED.

### **Utility Account**

McDonald-Hatch

- 1100 BE IT RESOLVED that the May 13, 2025 utility accounts payable, being cheque #'s 1271 to 1286 in the amount of \$11,517.22 be hereby approved. CARRIED.

### **Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**

Jones-McDonald

- 1101 BE IT RESOLVED that the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures report to April 30, 2025 be received as presented. CARRIED.

### **Bank Reconciliations**

Fisher-Jones

- 1102 BE IT RESOLVED that the bank reconciliations for the month of April, 2025 be approved as previously circulated. CARRIED.

### **DELEGATIONS**

#### **Presentation for Meteorological Tower – Bright Diamond Consulting**

Fisher-Hatch

- 1103 BE IT RESOLVED that the presentation by Keshav Letourneau and Lucas Reindler of Bright Diamond Consulting and Adeline Thames and Maggie Hemphill from Innergex Renewable Energy Inc. related to the Souris Wind Energy Project be received. CARRIED.

Fisher-Jones

- 1104 BE IT RESOLVED that construction of a Meteorological Test Tower be approved in principle subject to provision of a development permit meeting all siting requirements as outlined in the Zoning By-law. CARRIED.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Association of Manitoba Municipalities – April 15, 2025  
Association of Manitoba Municipalities – April 22, 2025  
Association of Manitoba Municipalities – April 23, 2025  
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Association of Manitoba Municipalities – May 1, 2025  
Association of Manitoba Municipalities – May 5, 2025  
Association of Manitoba Municipalities – May 9, 2025  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – April 14  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – April 16  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – April 17  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – April 22  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – April 23  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – April 24  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – May 1  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – May 5  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Communique – May 12  
Liane Heinrichs – Ward 2 representation  
Manitoba Accessibility Office - Manitoba Access Awareness Week  
Manitoba Good Roads Association – 2025 MGRA Judging Competition  
Minister for Municipal and Northern Relations – The Buy Canadian Act  
Municipal and Northern Relations – Financial Plan Deadline and Tax Statement Production  
Prairie Mountain Health – Compliance with Manitoba Fire Code  
\*\*SmartSense Program – Fully Funded Energy Intelligence System  
Thank You's from Grant Recipients  
Transport Canada – Railway Safety Act crossings

### **Jones-Hatch**

1105 BE IT RESOLVED that the above noted communications be received. CARRIED.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **South Zone Report (Ward 3)**

Councillor Fisher – see written report  
Councillor Jones – see written report

### **North Zone Report (Ward 2)**

Councillor Hatch – see written report  
Councillor Rome

### **Wawanesa Zone Report (Ward 1)**

Councillor McDonald – see written report  
Councillor McGregor

**Head of Council's Report** – see written report

**Chief Administrative Officer Report** – see written report

**Finance Officer Report** – see written report

**Public Works Report** – see written report

**Fire Chief's Report** – see written report

McDonald-Hatch

1106 BE IT RESOLVED that the verbal and written reports be received. CARRIED.

**BY-LAWS**

**By-law No. 45-2025 – Being the 2025 Tax Levy By-law  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Readings**

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McDonald-Fisher

1107 BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 45-2025, being the 2025 Tax Levy By-law, be read a second time. CARRIED.

Fisher-Hatch

1108 BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 45-2025 be read a third and final time. CARRIED.

A recorded vote was taken on the above motion.

**FOR**

Head of Council Kreklewich  
Councillor Fisher  
Councillor Hatch  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor McDonald

**AGAINST**

**By-law No. 47-2025 – Being a By-law No. to amend Procedure By-law No. 37-2023  
related to meeting times  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

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Jones-Fisher

1109 BE IT RESOLVED that By-law No. 47-2025 being a by-law to amend Procedure By-law No. 37-2023 related to meeting times be read a first time. CARRIED.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Drainage Restrictions to Development**

#### Hatch-McDonald

- 1110 WHEREAS in the Province of Manitoba, reconnaissance soil surveys were completed between 1926 and 1996 and detailed soil surveys were completed between 1972 and 2022, classifying surface soils by their agricultural capability in accordance with the *Canada Land Inventory*; and
- WHEREAS the soil classifications from the *Canada Land Inventory* referenced in the *Planning Regulation*, the *Water Rights Regulation*, and the *Nutrient Management Regulation* are defined as: the mineral soils are grouped into seven classes according to their potentialities and limitations for agricultural use. Where Class 6 soils are capable only of producing perennial forage crops, and improvement practices are not feasible and Class 7 soils have no capability for arable culture or permanent pasture; and
- WHEREAS Manitoba Environment and Climate Change through the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch regulate drainage within the Province of Manitoba through the *Water Rights Act*; and
- WHEREAS all persons including municipalities must obtain a valid and subsisting license as per the *Water Rights Act*; and
- WHEREAS development of land cannot take place without obtaining a valid drainage license to construct pertinent development features such as roads and ditches; and
- WHEREAS the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch, as of 2019, has implemented an internal policy in which drainage licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils cannot be approved, for registrable or licensable projects; and
- WHEREAS the term “registerable project” is defined, separately from other licensable projects for drainage works, in the *Water Rights Act*. These are typically minor or less impactful drainage projects, often involving surface or subsurface drains. Registration allows for a streamlined process compared to full licensing, but still ensures compliance with regulations; and
- WHEREAS licensable applications for water control works are not restricted on Class 6 and 7 soils, only “registerable projects” are restricted per the *Water Rights Regulation*; and
- WHEREAS municipalities recognize the need to restrict development in environmentally sensitive areas and critical/significant wildlife habitats such as wetlands and habitats for migratory species; and

WHEREAS The *Planning Act*, The *Planning Regulation*, The *Environment Act*, The *Water Protection Act*, The *Water Rights Act*, The *Water Rights Regulation*, and The

*Nutrient Management Regulation* do not restrict the issuance of Water Control Works Licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils; and

WHEREAS the municipalities recognize that some subclasses of Class 6 and 7 soils are strongly associated with the presence of wetlands, however development of wetlands is already limited per the *Water Rights Regulation*; and

WHEREAS many subclasses of Class 6 and 7 soils are often viewed as desirable for rural subdivisions, lakeside cottage developments, and campgrounds due to their lack of agricultural capability, including soils which:  
have a restricted rooting zone depth for crops,  
contain poisonous plants to farm animals,  
are heavily forested,  
are affected by drouthiness (sandy and gravelly soils),  
have high salinity,  
have high groundwater table,  
are too stony to permit cultivation, and  
have a topographic slope of greater than 31%; and

WHEREAS the *Canada Land Inventory* soil classification system used in the reconnaissance and detailed soil surveys was published in 1965, this classification speaks only to agricultural uses, and predates current drainage practices and drainage regulations by 60 years; and

WHEREAS the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch is applying this internal policy to all undeveloped lands on Class 6 and 7 soils, regardless of current zoning designations; and

WHEREAS many municipalities are experiencing significant loss of developable land, portions of which have already been designated/zoned for development, from the implementation of this internal policy; and

WHEREAS this internal policy is unnecessarily restricting development and the potential for increased tax-base of municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Oakland-Wawanesa supports the request that AMM lobby the Province of Manitoba to only enforce current limitations published in the Acts and Regulations, and remove the internal policy denying Water Control Works Licenses on Class 6 and 7 soils; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Manitoba engage AMM to participate as stakeholders in the preparations of future internal policies within the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing Branch to adequately evaluate the impact of these internal policies on growth and future development  
CARRIED.

**RFNow Proposed Fibre Path Addition – Along Rd 43N across PTH #10  
in NE ¼ 3-8-19 WPM**

McDonald-Fisher

- 1111 BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed fibre path along Road 43N across PTH #10 in NE¼ 3-8-19 WPM as outlined on the map attached to correspondence dated May 1, 2025 from RFNow be approved subject to the terms and conditions of the installation agreement dated October 26, 2023 provided all necessary permits from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure are secured for crossing PTH #10. CARRIED.

**RFNow Proposed Fibre Path Addition – Along Rd 46N between Roads 103W and  
102W in NW ¼ 24-8-18 WPM**

McDonald-Fisher

- 1112 BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed fibre path along Road 46N between Roads 103W and 102W in NW¼ 24-8-18 WPM as outlined on the map attached to correspondence dated April 11, 2025 from RFNow be approved subject to the terms and conditions of the installation agreement dated October 26, 2023. CARRIED.

**RFNow Proposed Fibre Path Addition – North of PTH #2 between Smith Cemetery  
Road and Green Acres Colony Road in SW ¼ 30-7-17 WPM**

Hatch-Jones

- 1113 BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed fibre path north of PTH #2 between Smith Cemetery Road and Green Acres Colony Road in SW¼ 30-7-17 WPM as outlined on the map attached to correspondence dated April 25, 2025 from RFNow be approved subject to the terms and conditions of the installation agreement dated October 26, 2023. CARRIED.

**RFNow Proposed Fibre Path Addition – Along and Across PTH #2  
in NW ¼ 14-7-17 WPM between Roads 97W and 98W**

McDonald-Fisher

- 1114 BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed fibre path along and across PTH #2 in NW¼ 14-7-17 WPM between Roads 97W and 98W as outlined on the map attached to correspondence dated May 13, 2025 from RFNow be approved subject to the terms and conditions of the installation agreement dated October 26, 2023 provided all necessary permits from Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure as secured for crossing PTH #2. CARRIED.

**Application for Tile Drainage – NE 2-8-17 WPM (NextGen Drainage Solutions o/b/o  
Badiou)**

Hatch-Fisher

- 1115 WHEREAS information has been received from Nextgen Drainage Solutions on behalf of Ron Badiou with respect to a proposed tile drainage project located on NE 2-8-17 WPM;

AND WHEREAS no concerns have been expressed by the Public Works Manager;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the request for tile drainage permission and consent from NextGen Drainage Solutions on behalf of Ron Badiou to supply and install tile drainage on NE 2-8-17 WPM be approved subject to:

1. any municipal lands impacted being returned to their original state following installation with all work to be completed in consultation with the Public Works Manager; and
2. receipt of permit application fee and deposit in accordance with Drainage By-law No. 41-2024.

CARRIED.

### **Paving Tender**

McDonald-Jones

- 1116 BE IT RESOLVED that Administration be directed to prepare the necessary tender documents for immediate release for paving in Wawanesa in accordance with budget allocations. CARRIED.

### **By-Election for Ward Councillor**

Jones-Fisher

- 1117 BE IT RESOLVED that a by-election for a Ward 1 Councillor be held on Thursday, July 24, 2025. CARRIED.

### **Manitoba Municipalities Online Report**

McDonald-Fisher

- 1118 BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoba Municipalities Online report for the month of April 2025 be received and any necessary actions to the by-law maintenance program be hereby approved. CARRIED.

### **IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Hatch-Fisher

- 1119 BE IT RESOLVED that this regular meeting now adjourns to an “in-camera” meeting to discuss matters in preliminary states as per Subsections 152(3)(b)(iii) of The Municipal Act, and all matters discussed in-camera are confidential until discussed in an open meeting as per Section 83(1)(d) of The Municipal Act. CARRIED.

Jones-Fisher

- 1120 BE IT RESOLVED that this “in camera” meeting does now resume back to a regular meeting. CARRIED.



**General Store**

Fisher-McDonald

- 1121 BE IT RESOLVED that Council send a letter to the Heritage Co-op to encourage investment in the community to meet the needs of a community grocery store. CARRIED.

**Gravel Crushing Tender**

Hatch-Fisher

- 1122 BE IT RESOLVED that the one-year extension to Blue Star's previous agreement as per Council's November resolution be confirmed and a new tender be issued for two years commencing 2026. CARRIED.

**Equipment for Road Reconstruction Projects**

McDonald-Hatch

- 1123 BE IT RESOLVED that Council accept the bids received from the qualified bidders to constitute a bid price sheet for equipment for 2025 as per availability. CARRIED.

**Materials for Road Reconstruction Projects**

McDonald-Fisher

- 1124 BE IT RESOLVED that Council accept the bids received from the qualified bidders to constitute a bid price sheet for materials for 2025 as per availability. CARRIED.

**Project Oversight**

McDonald-Fisher

- 1125 BE IT RESOLVED that Administration be directed to obtain phone quotes for project oversight for road reconstruction projects for 2025. CARRIED.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Hatch-Fisher

- 1126 BE IT RESOLVED that this meeting does now adjourn (10:45 a.m.) to meet again on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Municipal Office in Wawanesa. CARRIED.

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Dave Kreklewich, Head of Council

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Joni Swidnicki, Chief Administrative Officer