

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF NEEPAWA REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026, AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NEEPAWA MUNICIPAL OFFICE, 275 HAMILTON ST., NEEPAWA, MB

Present: Mayor Hedley, Deputy Mayor Parrott, Councillors Clark, Gerrard, Kostenchuk and Nadeau, CAO Colleen Synchyshyn

Regrets: Councillor Sisley

Guests: Jessica Omen – NACTV, Eoin Devereaux- Neepawa Banner & Press

5:00 p.m. – 5:30 P.M. – Committee of the Whole

In-Camera

Resolution No: 2026-24

Parrott/Nadeau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now sit a “Committee of Whole In-Camera” at 5:00 p.m. to discuss strategic planning and development matters.

CARRIED

Adjourn In-Camera

Resolution No: 2026-25

Kostenchuk/Clark

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn the “In-Camera” session at 5:23 p.m.

CARRIED

1. 5:30 p.m. Approval of Agenda

Resolution No: 2026-26

Nadeau/Kostenchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the Regular Meeting agenda for February 17, 2026.

CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes

Resolution No: 2026-27

Clark/Parrott

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 3, 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED

3. Presentations/Delegations/Public Hearings – Nil.

4. Council Reports

4.1 Councillor Nadeau – Spruce Plains Justice Committee

- The Committee has been discussing how to improve their visibility within the community.

4.2 Councillor Gerrard – Finance & General Government

- Continue to work on the 2026 budget based on maintaining existing service levels while still progressing with growth and development projects. To minimize the need to borrow funds and ensure that the burden of development does not significantly impact the Town’s residents, budgetary discussions focus on utilizing a balanced approach to managing the Town’s growth.
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4.3 Councillor Kostenchuk – Home Assistance Neepawa & District

- Working through issues whereby the signal strength and connection for the lifeline units is not functioning as intended. This issue may need to be addressed by hardwiring the units.

4.4 Councillor Clark

- Yellowhead Centre Board - has been discussing the struggles they are having with aging infrastructure and the importance of looking after the existing facility pending any possibility of a new facility.
- Recreation and Economic Development Committee – discussed upcoming programs for 2026.
- Attended a meeting with the executive members of the Fire Department to discuss budgetary needs, etc.

5. Department Reports - Nil

6. Correspondence

6.1 Manitoba Public Insurance – 2026 Firefighting Rates

- Effective March 1, 2026, a basic call rate will increase from \$1,085 to \$1,125; a complex call rate will increase from \$1,450 to \$1,503; and securing the scene rate will increase from \$81.26/hr to \$84.27/hr to a maximum of \$252.79. These changes reflect a 3.7% increase from 2025.

6.2 Hamilton Street – Speed Bump Request

- Correspondence was received from Mr. Shawn Buchanan who resides on Hamilton Street expressing concern regarding the speed of vehicles travelling on this street. Similar to Davidson Street, he requests council to consider installing a speed bump to slow traffic down from spring to fall. Council to review this request as part of the 2026 budget.

6.3 Trans Canada Trail

- Neepawa's application for the trail care grant was approved to a maximum of \$2,000.

7. Finance

7.1 Beautiful Plains Recreation Commission – Update Signing Authorities

Resolution No: 2026-28

Parrott/Kostenchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we update the signing authorities for the Beautiful Plains Recreation Commission by removing former Mayor Blake McCutcheon.

CARRIED

8. Unfinished Business – Nil

9. New Business

9.1 Storefront Improvement Incentive Program – 2026 Intake – Orv's Appliance

Resolution No: 2026-29

Clark/Kostenchuk

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we approve an application to the Storefront Improvement Program submitted by Aaron VanDenBussche of Orv's Appliance to update the windows and stucco on the second level of the storefront with metal siding at 396 Mountain Ave. Incentive provided at 50% of the total cost and equating to \$4,356.00.

CARRIED

9.2 Amending Policy – Disposal & Tipping Fees at Evergreen

Resolution No: 2026-30

Parrott/Gerrard

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Policy OP-015 be updated to reflect and increase of \$5.00 per tonne for construction & demolition material (now \$88.00/tonne), hog hair (now \$130.00/tonne) and contaminated recycling (now \$255.00/tonne)

CARRIED

9.3 Cemetery Trees – Maintenance and Replacement

- Council discussed a proposal received from Cemetery Chargehand Matthew Barrett to start a tree program at the cemetery to eradicate the spider mites and insects that have infested the spruce trees. The older trees are nearing the end of their life span and some of them are too far gone to save. Channeling is evident under the bark where the larvae of bark beetles are prominent. This information supported by Gontree Tree Service Ltd who inspected the trees in August 2025.
- The program would involve a regular application of Safer Insecticidal Soap to the younger trees to save them, and a removal of the large older trees which are beyond saving. The intent is to remove 40 older trees per year over the next 5 years. The largest trees, and those that would cause the most damage (if they fell), will be removed in the first few years with the aid of a professional tree service.
- The smaller trees would continue to be sprayed, and replacement trees planted to ensure a reasonable canopy of healthy trees throughout the cemetery.
- Council expressed an understanding of the condition of the older trees and acknowledged their concerns that several of the older trees are strewn throughout the cemetery amongst the monuments and headstones. With the trees aging and becoming more susceptible to damage during high wind events, proceeding with the proposed tree program will mitigate the potential for damage to property that cannot be easily replaced (headstones and monuments).
- Council to consider designating the required funding in the 2026 budget, which can be covered by the Cemetery Reserve. Mr. Barrett to be asked to outline in greater detail his methodology for proceeding.

9. By-Laws - Nil

10. Other Business

- Thankyou to staff and volunteers for a successful Family Day on February 15, 2026.
- Appreciation and well wishes to Cassandra Noonan-Robinson who will be leaving her position as Director of Recreation Services to pursue a new career path.

11. Adjournment

Resolution No: 2026-31

Kostenchuk/Nadeau

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we now adjourn this Regular Meeting of Council at 5:54 pm.

CARRIED



Mayor – Brian Hedley



CAO – Colleen Sychyshyn