

REGULAR AGENDA – AGENDA 55
CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAIRD
April 16, 2026, at 6:00 pm
Laird Township Council Chambers

Present: *Mayor:* Shawn Evoy
Councillors: Todd Rydall, Brad Shewfelt, Wayne Junor
Regrets: Matt Frolick
Clerk: Jennifer Errington
Acting Road Supt.: Ed Lapish
Treasurer: Rhonda Crozier
Delegate: Mitch Marinovich

1. Call to Order

Mayor Evoy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

3. Agenda Approval

#88-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council hereby approves the April 16, 2026, agenda as presented with an amendment to include agenda item 14. a. 2080-26 Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy By-law and 14. b. 2081-26 Regulate Election Signs By-law.

Carried.

4. Delegations and Presentations

a. Stefanizzi Professional Corporation Chartered Professional Accountant

i. Consolidated Financial Statements for year ended December 31, 2025
DRAFT

- Mitch Marinovich presented the Audit Findings and Financial Overview PowerPoint presentation.

- Opinion, clean audit.

#89-26

Moved by: Brad Shewfelt

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Treasurer and the Clerk to sign the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2025.

Carried.

5. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. Council Regular Meeting – March 19, 2026

b. Council Special Meeting – April 2, 2026

c. Recreation Committee Meeting – March 31, 2026

#90-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held March 19, 2026, the Special Council Meeting held April 2, 2026, and the Recreation Committee Meeting held March 31, 2026;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorses the Recreation Committee's recommendation to apply for the 2026–27 Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE) Grant for the Bar River Hall accessible washroom project, and directs staff to work with the Bar River Hall sub-committee to submit the application prior to the May 7, 2026 deadline;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approves the Recreation Committee's recommendation to select Jo-Anne Entwistle as the 2026 Senior of the Year.
Carried.

6. Adoption of Accounts

a. General accounts to March 31, 2026
#91-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the general accounts to March 31, 2026, in the amount of \$16,644.20.

Carried.

b. Roads accounts to March 31, 2026
#92-26

Moved by: Wayne Junor

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the roads account to March 31, 2026, in the amount of \$40,992.37.

Carried.

7. Staff and Committee Reports

a. **Road Superintendent** (Roads, Waste Disposal & Recycling, and Maintenance)

i. Road Superintendent Report – Verbal Report

#93-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the Road Superintendent Report dated April 16, 2026, as presented; and arising out of the report:

THAT Council approves the project of ditching on Government Road from Knox Church to the bridge and directs staff to notify property owners abutting the ditching project area;

AND THAT Council approves the purchase of an 18-foot landscaping trailer, and directs staff to inspect the trailer available at Martin's; and if it meets operational needs, to proceed with the purchase, otherwise to purchase a suitable trailer from Action, including delivery costs;

AND THAT Council directs staff to arrange for the removal of the street light located at the intersection of Government Road and Lake George Road.

Carried.

b. **Clerk Administrator, Deputy Treasurer**

i. Clerk's Report – Verbal Report

#94-26

Moved by: Wayne Junor

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the Clerk's Report dated April 16, 2026, as presented.

Carried.

ii. Memo: Restricted Acts of Council (Lame Duck Periods)

#95-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RSOLVED THAT Council receives the Clerk's report regarding the Restricted Acts of Council ("Lame Duck" periods) for the 2026 Municipal Election, noting the two potential restricted periods from August 21, 2026 to October 26, 2026 and from October 26, 2026 to November 14, 2026, and

that the Clerk will advise Council should it enter into a Lame Duck position during either period.
Carried.

iii. Task Summary Sheet & Recent Activity Log

iv. Concern/Information Log – Updates

#96-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives the April 16, 2026, Task Summary Sheet & Recent Activity Log and the Concern/Information Log as presented.

Carried.

c. Treasurer's Report

i. Status of Tax Collection – Verbal Update

- The largest arrears account is now on a payment plan. The second largest has provided post-dated cheques until June.

d. Recreation Committee & Recreation Sub-Committees

e. Cemetery Board

f. Planning Board

i. Mayor's Verbal Report – Planning Board Meeting

- Mayor Evoy provided a verbal report on his attendance at the March 24, 2026, Planning Board meeting, presenting updates on the Official Plan objectives, consultation process, remaining review steps, and budget status.

g. Police Detachment Board

i. OAPSB Training and Communications Team correspondence

h. Algoma District Services Administrative Board (ADSAB)

i. Algoma District Municipal Association (ADMA)

8. Unfinished Business

a. Final Budget 2026

#97-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopts the 2026 Municipal Budget, establishing a municipal taxation levy of \$2,083,088, representing a Council-approved levy increase of 3.5%;

AND THAT the Clerk be directed to prepare the 2026 Tax Rates By-law to implement the approved levy.

Carried.

b. Memo: Free Open Arena Horse Nights – Insurance Requirements

#98-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the report titled "Free Open Arena Horse Nights – Insurance Requirements"; and

THAT Council approve proceeding with Free Open Arena Horse Nights with *mandatory equestrian liability insurance* required for all participants; and

THAT proof of equestrian liability insurance be incorporated into the mandatory waiver and verified as part of the participant registration process; and

THAT staff be directed to assist participants who do not currently hold equestrian liability insurance by identifying accessible insurance options, including potential

collaboration with the North Shore Agricultural Society or other such associations, whose membership programs may provide coverage for riders if they host or support the event; and

THAT staff report back to Council should significant participation barriers arise due to the insurance requirement, including potential solutions or partnership opportunities.

Carried.

9. New Business

a. Setting Waste Disposal Site Spring Clean-up dates

#99-26

Moved by: Brad Shewfelt

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council sets the Waste Disposal Site Spring Clean-up dates for Saturday, May 23, 2026, and Sunday, May 24, 2026.

Carried.

b. NSCAN Participation Request – Council Consideration

Motion Withdrawn with no objections.

c. Memo: Provincial BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle) Framework – Municipal Implications and Options.

Motion deferred to a future Council meeting once the Clerk has additional information.

10. Notices of Motion

a. Project Youth Program Commitment and Budget Support

#100-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Township of Laird hereby formally supports Algoma Public Health's request for municipal participation in the Planet Youth Program; and

THAT Council commit to the five-year funding request from APH in the amount of \$777.60 per year for five (5) years; and

THAT Council authorize the Mayor to represent the Township of Laird on the Planet Youth Steering Committee; and

THAT Council commit to promoting and/or hosting community engagement events connected to the Planet Youth initiative; and

THAT Council commit to participating in local priority setting and to enacting changes to municipal policies and practices where necessary and practical to support Planet Youth objectives.

Carried.

11. Closed Session

#101-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council proceed into closed session at 8:36 p.m. in accordance with Section 239 (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees and Section 239 (2) (e) litigation or potential litigation.

Carried.

Rise and Report:

- Approval of closed meeting minutes of February 19, 2026 and March 19, 2026.
- Council received an employee update regarding the Road Superintendent under Section 239(2)(b).
- Council received an employee update regarding the Waste Disposal Site Attendant under Section 239(2)(b).

- Council received a litigation update regarding a by-law enforcement matter at 151 Birch Point Drive under Section 239(2)(e).
- Council received updates for information. No direction was given.

#102-26

Moved by: Wayne Junor

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council come out of closed meeting session at 8:45 p.m. and continue with the Regular Council Meeting.

Carried.

Consideration of and action on matters arising out of the closed meeting.

N/A

12. Communications and Correspondence

- a. Support Resolution: East Zorra-Tavistock, RE: Township of Oro-Medonte – Association of Ontario Road Supervisors Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments, April 2, 2026.

#103-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Brad Shewfelt

BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL of the Township of Laird supports the Township of Oro-Medonte regarding the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors request for Provincial Legislation Amendments to strengthen protections for municipal workers and contractors;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario, Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response, Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Prabmeet Sakaria, Minister of Transportation, MPP Ernie Hardeman, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors (AORS).

Carried.

13. Mayor and Council Comments

Councillor Shewfelt asked that the Acting Road Superintendent report on the backhoe saw at the next meeting. Is this equipment surplus or are we using it?

14. By-laws

- a. 2080-26 Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy By-law

#104-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopts By-law 2080-26, being a by-law to adopt the Use of Corporate Resources for Election Purposes Policy.

Carried.

- b. 2081-26 Regulate Election Signs By-law

#105-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopts By-law 2018-26, being a by-law to regulate Election Signs within the Township of Laird.

Carried.

- c. 2082-26 Conformity By-law

#106-26

Moved by: Brad Shewfelt

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council adopts By-law 2082-26, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on April 16, 2026.

Carried.

15. Adjournment

#107-26

Moved by: Todd Rydall

Seconded by: Wayne Junor

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this Council shall now adjourn to meet again on April 21, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for a Special Council Meeting or until the call of the chair.

Carried.

Mayor – _____
Shawn Evoy

Clerk – _____
Jennifer Errington