

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15th, 2025

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **October 15, 2025**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. This summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved Minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

Presentation and Public Meetings

- Debbie MacDonald from the Whitewater Historical Society and Ross Museum attended Council to present two proposed capital projects for 2026. The first involves brick repair work at St. Aiden's Church, where deterioration has occurred due to weather, water damage, and issues with the eavestroughs and downspouts. Two quotes have been obtained, and the Society has committed to covering half of the project costs. The second project is the construction of a shelter to house the historic snowroller, which represents the families who farmed and logged in the region. The snowroller is currently stored outdoors and requires protection from the elements. The Society is requesting support from the Township to assist with this project.
- CAO Ivan Burton and staff presented the Q3 report, highlighting recent accomplishments and departmental updates. The team updated the 2025 Departmental Workplan to reflect key achievements and priorities for the remainder of the year, managed the impacts of computer outages, and responded to staffing vacancies. Community Development issued 28 building permits worth over \$4.3 million and advanced several planning files. Community Services delivered a busy summer of recreation programs, arena maintenance, and accessibility upgrades. Corporate Services launched a new resident payment portal, and continued asset management and policy updates. The Fire Department responded to 40 calls, completed key training, and advanced wildfire preparedness.

Finance and Administration

Council received the 2026 Budget Preliminary Findings and timetable for information. The report highlights key financial pressures, including inflation, increased policing and insurance costs, and a continuing infrastructure funding gap. A 7% total levy increase is proposed, comprising a 2.8% operating levy increase and a 4.2% capital levy increase in line with the Township's Asset Management Plan, while water and wastewater rates are projected to rise by 5% and 4%, respectively. Future departmental budget presentations are scheduled, with final adoption planned for December 2025.

Contact: Kurtis McGonegal, Treasurer
kmcgonegal@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 138

Community Services

Council approved entering into a five-year lease agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Small Craft Harbours Branch for the Westmeath and Lapasse boat launches. The renewed lease ensures continued public access to the Ottawa River at both locations, allows the Township to proceed with planned capital work at the Westmeath launch, and authorizes revenue generation from the facilities. The annual lease cost is \$500 plus taxes, and staff will finalize the agreement while completing design work and permitting for the 2026 projects.

Contact: *Stephanie Plebon, Manager of Parks & Recreation*
splebon@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 143

Corporate Management & Legislative Services

Council deferred consideration of the proposed amendments to the Procedural By-law, Delegation of Authority Policy, and Procurement Policy to ensure all members are present for the discussion. The item has been moved to the November 5th Council Meeting. The proposed updates aim to modernize the Township's governance framework by improving efficiency, accountability, and transparency, including clearer rules for public participation, updated procurement limits, and expanded staff authority for certain budget and planning matters.

Contact: *Ivan Burton, CAO*
iburton@whitewaterregion.ca Ext. 124

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Additional information:

Ivan Burton, CAO
613-646-2282, Ext. 124
iburton@whitewaterregion.ca
nnicholson@whitewaterregion.ca

Neil Nicholson, Mayor
613-646-2282 Ext. 173
613-401-0097