

# WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 2026

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **April 1, 2026**. 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.

### Mayor's Address

Mayor Nicholson highlighted that he attended eleven meetings and events on behalf of the municipality since the March 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, and congratulated CAO Ivan Burton on his appointment as President of the Renfrew County Clerks' and Treasurers' Association.

Mayor Nicholson also reminded residents that the Annual Volunteer Recognition Award nominations are open until April 10th on the Township's website.

### Presentations

Council received an update from Muskrat Watershed Council Treasurer Debbie Macdonald and Acting Director of Science & Water Quality Brian Whitehead, outlining ongoing initiatives to protect and enhance water quality in the Muskrat Lake watershed. These efforts include agricultural best management practices, shoreline and riparian restoration, water quality monitoring and assessment, and community engagement, all focused on reducing nutrient runoff and supporting the lake's long-term health. At Mayor Nicholson's request, the Muskrat Watershed Council will provide details on lab costs for the municipality to present at a potential delegation during the upcoming AMO Conference.

### Public Meeting

Council held a public meeting to consider a technical zoning by-law amendment (D-14-224) to the Comprehensive Zoning By-law, in accordance with the Planning Act. No members of the public were in attendance to provide comments or concerns.

### Community Development

Council approved a technical and corrective amendment to Comprehensive Zoning By-law 24-01-1655 to address minor errors, improve clarity, and enhance planning provisions. The amendment includes updates to definitions, formatting corrections, new provisions such as septic system setbacks and additional permitted uses, and site-specific zoning corrections for select properties to better reflect existing uses. These changes support a more accurate and effective zoning framework while maintaining the Township's overall land use policies.

Council received the 2025 Muskrat Lake Annual Report for information and directed staff to submit it to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. The report outlines development activity, infrastructure investments, and water quality initiatives within the watershed, including

septic system upgrades, stormwater improvements, and ongoing collaboration with the Muskrat Watershed Council to support the protection and long-term health of Muskrat Lake.

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## Public Works

Council awarded the Government Road paving project (Tender 2026-03) to Thomas Cavanagh Construction Ltd. for \$376,606.13. The 3.0 km reconstruction from Foresters Falls Road to Fletcher Road will include asphalt removal, culvert replacement, drainage improvements, and paving, with completion expected in 2026.

Council approved the purchase of a 2027 Freightliner tandem plow truck from Gin-Cor Trucks for \$419,637.89. The new unit will replace an aging truck in the fleet and support road construction and winter maintenance operations, coming in under budget.

Council awarded Robinson Consultants Inc. a \$55,639.32 contract for engineering design of the Crawford Street Reconstruction project. The work includes updating designs, replacing sections of watermain, and assessing storm servicing, with construction anticipated for 2027.

**Contact:** Lane Cleroux, Manager of Public Works  
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## Finance & Administration

Council received an update on the Sunshine Coach Service and approved the Township's annual funding allocation of \$600 to support accessible transportation for residents with disabilities. In 2025, Whitewater Region contributed 2,271 trips, reflecting growth in service use, and the funding continues to support collaborative, cost-effective transit services in partnership with neighboring municipalities. Staff will process the annual grant allotment.

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### Additional information:

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