



**The Corporation of the Town of Saugeen Shores  
Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, January 5, 2026, 6:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
600 Tomlinson Drive  
Port Elgin, Ontario**

Present:	Luke Charbonneau, Mayor Diane Huber, Deputy Mayor Mike Myatt, Vice Deputy Mayor Dave Myette, Councillor John Divinski, Councillor Cheryl Grace, Councillor Rachel Stack, Councillor
Members Absent:	Justin Duhaime, Councillor Bud Halpin, Councillor
Staff Members:	Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer Jim Bundschuh, Director, Corporate Services Ed Melanson, Director, Fire Services/Fire Chief Mark Paoli, Director, Development Services Matt Prentice, Director, Operations Kristan Shrider, Director, Community Services Jill Roote, Manager, Strategic Initiatives Morgan McCulloch, Deputy Clerk Jessica Rodgers, Supervisor, Assets Lyndsay Binning Dwayne Evans, Director, Development Services

---

**1. Call To Order**

Mayor L. Charbonneau called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Land Acknowledgement**

Councillor Deputy Mayor D. Huber read the land acknowledgement.

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and Nature**

No pecuniary interests were declared.

**4. Additions, Deletions, Amendments**

Item 9.3, the Perkins Encroachment Application was removed from the Agenda on consensus.

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

**5.1 Regular Council Minutes - December 8, 2025**

**Resolution Number: 001-2026**

Moved by: D. Myette  
Seconded by: J. Divinski

That Council adopt the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of December 8, 2025, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Public Meeting**

**7. Open Forum**

**8. Delegations**

**8.1 150th Celebration Cenotaph/Walls Donation Presentation**

Council heard a presentation from Joanne Robbins regarding 150th Celebration Cenotaph/Walls Donation.

**8.2 Committee of the Whole and Public Input**

Council heard a presentation from Brian Putman regarding the Committee of the Whole and Public Input.

Council has requested that staff prepare a communications plan for Council, staff and the public regarding the Town's Council procedure.

**8.3 United Housing for All Request**

Council heard a presentation from Mini Jacques regarding the United Housing for All Request.

Council suggested that staff add the Partnering for Impact report dated November 30, 2025 to upcoming agenda as communications.

**9. Report of Municipal Officers / Committees**

**9.1 Westario Power Sale Update**

Council heard a presentation from Wally Malcolm, Interim President and CEO of Westario Power and Ron Clark, Partner, Aird Berlis LLP providing an update to the Town of Saugeen Shores regarding the sale of Westario Power ("the Corporation") to EARTH Power Corporation ("the Buyer").

Members of the public can participate in the OMB, notice will be posted on the Ontario Energy Board Website, the public will be provided an opportunity to make submission. It is generally asked that media posts be made and links will be provided.

**Resolution Number: 002-2026**

Moved by: C. Grace  
Seconded by: D. Huber

That Council receive the Westario Power Sale Update Report for information.

**CARRIED**

**9.2 143 Knowles Lane Encroachment Agreement**

Council heard an a report regarding an encroachment agreement that is recommended to allow an existing deck to be replaced. The deck is attached to a house that has encroached onto the shore road allowance for a long time.

The revised Application has been attached to the minutes.

**Resolution Number: 003-2026**

Moved by: C. Grace  
Seconded by: R. Stack

That Council adopt By-law 03-2026, a By-law to authorize the Director of Development Services to execute an encroachment agreement for 143 Knowles Lane.

**CARRIED**

**9.3 Perkins Encroachment Application**

This item was removed from the Agenda on consensus.

**9.4 High Street Speed Limit and Stop Signs Bylaw**

On November 25, 2024, Council approved the final design for High Street, which included the installation of all-way stop controls at key intersections, a posted speed limit of 30 km/h, bike symbols on the roadway, and additional safety features along High Street. This report brings forward the required by-law for Council's consideration to implement these measures.

**Resolution Number: 004-2026**

Moved by: C. Grace  
Seconded by: J. Divinski

That Council adopt By-law 04-2026, a By-law to authorize the Speed Limit and Stop Control for High Street from Dominion Lookout Point to Grey Street.

**CARRIED**

**Amendment:**  
**Resolution Number: 005-2026**

Moved by: D. Myette  
Seconded by: D. Huber

Motion to amend the speed limit on Highstreet to remain at 40 km/h.

**DEFEATED**

**9.5 Striking Committee Report - January 5, 2025**

Council received a request to approve housekeeping amendments to the Procedural By-law

**Resolution Number: 006-2026**

Moved by: D. Huber  
Seconded by: M. Myatt

That Council approve a By-law to Amend the Procedural By-law, as presented

**CARRIED**

**10. Consent Agenda**

**Resolution Number: 007-2026**

Moved by: M. Myatt  
Seconded by: C. Grace

That Items 10.1 through 10.2 be approved and received for information.

**CARRIED**

## 10.1 Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling (BASWR) 2026 Budget Approval

Council received a report regarding the BASWR a joint collaboration involving seven lower tier municipalities within Bruce County for waste / recycling collection and disposal. Under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, BASWR's annual budget requires approval by each member municipality. The 2026 budget reflects changes due to the new Extended Producer Responsibility program for Blue Box materials starting January 1, 2026. Council is being asked to approve the BASWR 2026 budget.

Council suggested that staff consider that the site for collection for ineligible sources be available a couple of days per week beyond regular landfill hours to accommodate businesses that can not deliver materials before closing. It was noted that these service level requests could be considered after the program has been in operation for several months.

Vice Deputy Mayor Myatt intends on presentation at a Regular Council Meeting the acceptable materials for recycling.

That Council approve the 2026 Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling Budget.

## 10.2 Communications

Council requested clarification regarding the outcome of the Enbridge Gas Inc. 2024 Utility Earnings and Disposition of Deferral & Variance Account Balances Application.

That the following be received for information:

1. Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Correspondence - Additional Materials for Consideration RE: ERO Posting on Regional Conservation Authority Consolidation
2. Town of Wasaga Beach - Advocacy for Funds to Effectively Manage Emerald Ash Borer Infestation
3. Westlinks Subdivision - Petition to Council
4. Enbridge Gas Inc. - 2024 Utility Earnings and Disposition of Deferral & Variance Account Balances - Notice of Application & Hearing

**Amendment:**

**Resolution Number: 008-2026**

Moved by: M. Myatt

Seconded by: D. Huber

Motion to refer back to staff for a report regarding the various issues identified within the Westlinks Subdivision - Petition to Council, tax related terms, property value assessments and a path forward for addressing issues.

Council suggested consideration of changing the status of this road. Staff to follow up with County Planning on the possibility of of changing the status of this road, and the differences of private and public roads.

**CARRIED**

**Amendment:**

**Resolution Number: 009-2026**

Moved by: D. Myette

Seconded by: D. Huber

That Council support the resolution of the Town of Wasaga Beach - Advocacy for Funds to Effectively Manage Emerald Ash Borer Infestation.

**CARRIED**

**11. Motions and Notice of Motions**

**11.1 Notice of Motion - Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority**

**Resolution Number: 010-2026**

Moved by: D. Myette

Seconded by: R. Stack

**Whereas** the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority “The Authority” was established in 1950, 75 years ago by a group of municipalities, as a response to problems associated with flooding; and

**Whereas** the Town of Saugeen Shores is the single largest member by apportionment in this collection of 8 member municipalities, comprising of the main channel and mouth of the Saugeen River at Southampton. The Town of Saugeen Shores is the largest contributor of annual levies that cover the operation of the Authority; and

**Whereas** the member municipalities cover 44% of the operational costs of the SVCA, 7% coming from the Provincial funding and the remaining is generated through internally generated revenue and permitting fees; and

**Whereas** the fees charged by Conservation Authorities have been frozen for 3 years which has had the effect of shifting the financial burden onto levies and by extension the property tax payers; and

**Whereas** the Provincial Conservation Authorities Association (Conservation Ontario) has and continues to provide the respective Authorities with guidance, oversight, and consistency of regulation application; and

**Whereas** the development of the “Agency” is proposed to be funded by municipalities and serves only to add another layer of Government bureaucracy, which by definition will serve only to increase financial burden on member Municipalities; and

**Whereas** one of the stated objectives of the “Agency” is development of a single digital permitting platform. This approach will serve to alienate a significant portion of our residents who do not have access to internet services, due to rural location or due to religious beliefs; and

**Whereas** the SVCA is located in a primarily rural geographic region, that due to the proposed consolidation of 7 Authorities will be seemingly overshadowed by much larger and more densely populated authorities with much larger urban components; and

**Whereas** the SVCA has worked hard to achieve a streamlined and efficient operation and service delivery model, due in large part to the direct oversight by a Board comprised of member municipalities appointed elected officials; and

**Whereas** the proposed consolidated Huron-Superior Authority would be comprised of up to 80 municipalities, 23,000 sq/km and by extension, a Board of Directors that would be so large as to be unmanageable, and would surely result in smaller rural municipalities losing direct control over the operation of the Authority; and

**Whereas** the inclusion of Lakehead Region CA in North West Ontario, could have detrimental repercussions arising from travel distance and geographic differences alone; and

**Whereas** the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority owns and manages thousands of acres of CA land, many of which are income generating, through user fees, land leases, managed forest harvest,

and campground fees. The Amalgamation plan does not address how these assets, which by extension belong to member Municipalities, would be equitably divested. Many of these properties were granted to the Authority, specifically detailing the nature and terms of ownership which legally must be maintained going forward; and

**Whereas** Authorities across the province have liquid assets in the form of trusts, and reserves that belong to member municipalities which run the risk of being swallowed up by large Authorities with larger budgets and resources.

**Now Therefore, be it Resolved** that the Town of Saugeen Shores requests that the Amalgamation into the “Huron Superior Regional Conservation Authority” as outlined in ERO 025-1257 be reconsidered. This in order to maintain the local oversight and protect against as yet unforeseen consequences which will serve to undermine the SVCA’s ability to provide regional knowledge-based service delivery and management of properties under our stewardship and ownership; and

**Further** ensure that should the amalgamations go forward that consideration be given to grouping Rural Authorities with similar watershed characteristics together, while grouping more Urban Authorities together for similar reasons; and

**Further** ensure that any transitional costs are fully funded by the Province and not borne by member Municipalities, and that Municipalities are provided with clear funding models in 2026 so as to allow for sufficient planning data for the 2027 budgets; and

**Further** that Saugeen Shores Council urges the Province to engage with affected municipalities and First Nations communities in a meaningful way to collaboratively review the service delivery model, and standardize only where necessary paying attention to the different needs of Rural and Urban Authorities. That the Province use this approach rather than develop another level of administration and the associated financial burden that would surely result; and

**Finally** that this resolution be included in the Municipalities ERO response and be forwarded to the:

- Premier of Ontario;
- Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks;
- Bruce County Council;
- All of Ontario’s Municipalities;
- Huron Bruce MPP/ Minister of Rural Affairs;
- The board of Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- AMO; and,
- Conservation Ontario.

**CARRIED**

## 12. **Mayoral Decisions and Directions**

## 13. **Closed to Public**

It is recommended that Council move into a Closed to Public Session:

- To discuss confidential matters about identifiable individuals and labour relations or employee negotiations with regards to organizational considerations.

**Resolution Number: 011-2026**

Moved by: R. Stack  
Seconded by: C. Grace

That Council move into a Closed to Public Session in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239 (2):

(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; and

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations.

**CARRIED**

**13.1 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and Nature**

**13.2 Adoption of Closed to Public Meeting Minutes**

**13.3 Closed to Public Staff Reports**

**13.3.1 Organizational Considerations**

**14. Report and Business Arising from Closed Session**

**14.1 Resume Regular Council Meeting**

Mayor L. Charbonneau reported that during the Closed to Public Session, Council approved Closed to Public minutes and gave direction to staff with respect to organizational considerations.

**Resolution Number: 012-2026**

Moved by: C. Grace  
Seconded by: J. Divinski

That Council arise from the Closed to Public Session and resume the Regular Council Meeting.

**CARRIED**

**15. By-laws**

**15.1 By-law 01-2026 - Tax Levy By-law**

**15.2 By-law 02-2026 - Borrowing By-law**

**15.3 By-law 03-2026 - Authorize Encroachment Agreement (143 Knowles Lane)**

**15.4 By-law 04-2026 - Establish Speed Limit and All-way Stop Controls (High Street)**

**15.5 By-law 05-2026- Appoint Deputy Treasurer**

**Resolution Number: 013-2026**

Moved by: R. Stack  
Seconded by: D. Myette

That By-laws 01-2026, 02-2026, 03-2026, 04-2026, and 05-2026 are hereby read, passed, and sealed this 5th day of January, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**16. Confirmatory By-law**

**16.1 By-law 06-2026 - Confirm the Proceedings of January 5, 2026**

**Resolution Number: 014-2026**

Moved by: R. Stack  
Seconded by: J. Divinski

That By-law 06-2026 being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Saugeen Shores is hereby read, passed, and sealed this 5th day of January, 2026.

**CARRIED**

**17. Adjournment**

**Resolution Number: 015-2026**

Moved by: R. Stack  
Seconded by: C. Grace

That this Regular Council meeting of January 5, 2026, hereby adjourns at 10:34 p.m.

**CARRIED**

---

Luke Charbonneau, MAYOR

---

MORGAN MCCULLOCH, DEPUTY  
CLERK