

**Minutes**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 7, 2026

A Committee of the Whole meeting was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the municipal council chambers.

In attendance were Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Gordon Prost, Joel Hagarty, Florence Newman, Daniel Armstrong and Brent Helgeson (v).

Giving regrets was Councillor Martin Kreger.

Chief Administrative Officer Shara Lavallee recorded the minutes.

**1) Opening of Meeting**

At 5:24 p.m. Mayor Ewald opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**2) Additions, Deletions or Amendments**

No changes were made to the agenda.

**3) Disclosure of Interest**

No disclosures of interest were declared.

**4) Presentations/Delegations**

- a) Detachment Inspector, Jim Mills and Staff Sergeant, Dereck McLean – OPP and Lewis Kempf (Vice-Chair of the Rainy River Police Services Board)

The OPP 2025 Annual Report was reviewed. Discussion took place regarding the statistics and areas of concern. Council made a request regarding the possibility of having electronic speed signs placed on Atwood Avenue. Mr. Kempf will bring this up at the next police services board meeting.

**5) Adoption of Minutes – March 2, 2026**

The minutes were approved as presented.

**6) Correspondence**

A list of incoming correspondences for the month of March 2026 was reviewed. It was noted that these letters were on file at the town office if the Council was interested in further information.

**7) Committee Reports**

- a) Finance/Personnel – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Florence Newman, Martin Kreger and Daniel Armstrong (Chair)

Fireworks Quote – council agreed to leave fireworks in the annual budget but requested that sponsors be sought to help offset the cost.

- b) Health and Safety – Councillor Brent Helgeson (Chair) and Joel Hagarty

The committee had nothing to report at this time.

- c) Public Works/Water & Sewer/Recycling – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Martin Kreger, Brent Helgeson, Gordon Prost (Chair) and Joel Hagarty

A summary of the last committee meeting was provided. A motion of council is still required to pay the employee incentive bonus for course completion as approved at the March Committee of the Whole meeting.

- d) Property/By-laws/AMBIS – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Brent Helgeson, Gordon Prost (Chair), and Joel Hagarty

RFP 25-01 Hannam Park Addition – the updated drawings were reviewed the committee approved seeking quotes for this project.

- e) Economic Development/Tourism – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillors Martin Kreger, Daniel Armstrong (Chair), Florence Newman and Joel Hagarty

The Clerk provided an overview of the 2024 and 2025 Railroad Daze financials. It was noted that 2024 included expenses for the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There was a deficit for 2024 and a minor profit for 2025. The committee requested more information in this regard and will participate in the 2026 Railroad Daze operations.

- f) Beautification/Cemetery/Hannam Park – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Daniel Armstrong (Chair), Florence Newman, and Brent Helgeson

A summary of the last meeting was provided. Council had agreed to purchase a memorial bench for a past employee – the office staff will make these arrangements.

- g) Fire Board – Mayor Deborah Ewald and Councillor Martin Kreger

A summary of the last meeting was provided. The 2026 budget was reviewed and will be incorporated into the town budget.

- h) Recreation Board/Curling Club – Councillors Brent Helgeson and Florence Newman

The committee had nothing to report at this time.

- i) Library Board – Councillors Joel Hagarty and Florence Newman

A library board meeting has been scheduled, and library budget talks continue.

- j) Rainy River House/Medical Centre – Mayor Deb Ewald and Councillors Gordon Prost and Daniel Armstrong

Leases for the Locum House and Medical Clinic were renewed. A walkthrough of the Locum House is scheduled for May.

- k) DRRSB – Mayor Deborah Ewald

A summary was provided of the board's recent activities.

- l) Rainy River District Municipal Association – Councillor Martin Kreger

No updates are available at this time.

## 8) Other Business

- a) Administrative Report – Code of Conduct

Council agreed to the changes in this policy and a motion to approve the updated policy will be made at the next council meeting.

- b) Administrative Report – Notice By-law

Council agreed to the changes in this by-law and a motion to approve the updated policy will be made at the next council meeting.

- c) Administrative Report – Recognition Policy

Council agreed to the changes in this policy and a motion to approve the updated policy will be made at the next council meeting.

- d) Oro Medonte – Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments, Health and Safety Concerns

Council will support this resolution. It was noted that this resolution involved the letter from the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS).

- e) Emo – Tax Rate for Railway Rights-of-Way Per Tonne-Mile Concept

Council will support this resolution.

- f) Emo – Provincial Libraries Operating Grant

Council will support this resolution.

g) RRFDC – Request for Financial Support – Per Capita Contribution for 2026-27

Council will support this resolution. The Clerk will schedule a deputation.

h) RRFDC – Annual Report

Council received this report as information.

i) AORS Letter – Safe Working Conditions for Municipal Workers/Public Works Professionals

This matter was addressed earlier under Section 8(d).

**9) Next Meeting – Monday, May 4, 2026**

**10) Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Chief Administrative Officer