



**Township of Howick Council Minutes
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Howick Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Reeve Harding called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby adopts the July 14, 2026, Council Agenda as presented.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

None declared.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby adopts the following minutes:

4.1 June 16, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes

4.2 June 16, 2026, No. 20 Municipal Drain Court of Revision Minutes

4.3 June 23, 2026, Special Council Meeting Minutes

4.4 July 6, 2026, Special Council Meeting Minutes

Carried.

5. Public Meetings/Hearings

6. Delegations and/or Presentations

7. Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and are enacted in one motion. Prior to the motion being voted on, any Council Member may request that one or more items be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed and/or

voted on separately.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson
Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That Consent Agenda items 7.1 to 7.5 be received for information and approved.

**7.1 BLDG-2026-03, Second Quarter Building Permit Comparison Summary
For Information Only.**

**7.2 DPS-2026-18, May & June 2026 Fire Department Update
For Information Only.**

**7.3 PW-2026-17, July Department Update
For Information Only.**

**7.4 FIN-2026-19, June 12 to July 6, 2026, Accounts Payable
For Information Only.**

**7.5 FIN-2026-20, 2026 2nd Quarter Operating and Capital Budget Variance
Report
For Information Only.**

Carried.

8. Regular Agenda

8.1 Planning – Huron County Planner

8.1.1 PLN-2026-02, Consent Application C39-2026

Huron County Planner Laura Simpson presented her report regarding Consent Application C39-2026, Concession 17 lot 3, 43842 Glenannon Road. Ms. Simpson confirmed that the applicants are present today at the Council Meeting. They are proposing to sever a 100-acre farm parcel into two 50-acre parcels. The property is designated Agriculture, Natural Environment, and Extractive Resources in the Howick Official Plan. This application does not conform the Howick Official Plan land division policies, nor the minimum lot size in an AG1 Zone.

During the circulation process of the application, a letter was received from the Huron County Federation of Agriculture in opposition to the proposed severance. The letter emphasizes the importance of following planning practices that protect prime farmland in Huron County. Questions were also received from a member of the Old Order Mennonite community with an interest in similar land divisions and requested an update after the application goes to Huron County Council in August.

Ms. Simpson provided an overview of the Provincial Planning Statement 2024 and emphasized that this application is not consistent with the provincial planning statement. The Huron County Official Plan identifies the values and policies for agriculture land use within the County and directs that farmland will be protected for agricultural uses. It has been established that the appropriate size for a new agriculture lot is between 74 – 94 acres to prevent farmland fragmentation.

The Howick Official Plan – Section 3 Agricultural Policies emphasizes that lot sizes and planning decisions must respect the long-term needs of agriculture and ensure that land remains flexible for all forms of agriculture. Section 10 states that for all land division in agricultural areas, a minimum size of 74 acres shall apply. In addition, the Minimum Distance Separation document states that new lot creations shall comply with the MDS formula. Figures were provided by the planner to outline that the proposed lot does not comply. For these reasons, the Planning Department is recommending denial of the application.

Reeve Harding opened the floor for any comments from the applicants. Jamie Dickson, son of the applicants, addressed Council. Jamie expressed that the purpose of this application is not to slow down or hinder agriculture in Howick. They are simply looking for a way to fit into the way that farming is going. Lot 3, Concession 17 was originally two 50-acre parcels that ended up being merged in 1966. They have no intention of changing anything they are doing, but the severance enables flexibility with the partners.

Reeve Harding called upon council for support for the planner's recommendation – none received.

Council discussed that nothing is changing by severing this property. It is simply returning it back to the two 50-acre parcels that it was prior to 1966. The farm property is not changing its usage and if we want to keep farm families in Howick, we have to consider the things farm families want to do.

Ms. Simpson explained that there is change when you divide farmland, as it affects surrounding farms abilities to construct new barns to have minimum separation distances if a home is built on the severed 50 acres. If Howick Council decides to support the application today, it will move onto Huron County Council for final approval. The plan is for this report to be brought to the Huron County Council in August.

Councillor Hargrave inquired whether Huron County Federation of Agriculture is circulated all consent applications, and if the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario or the National Farmers Union and other farm organizations are included. Planner Laura Simpson responded that Huron County Federation of Agriculture was the only organization that has requested to be included in the circulation process.

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson
Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That Howick Council hereby recommend approval of consent application file number C39-2026, owner Paul and Christine Dickson, Con 17, Lot 3, Township of Howick (43842 Glenannon Road) with the recommended conditions.

Carried.

9. Municipal Drains - Drainage Superintendent Scott Richardson

9.1.1 DRN-2026-05, Municipal Drain No. 20 Tender Results

Drainage Superintendent Scott Richardson presented the report explaining that the purpose of this report is to award the Municipal Drain No. 20 Tender. The project estimate provided by the engineers was \$146,500.00. Five bids were received though the tendering process. Nichols Excavating was the lowest bid coming in at \$119,807.84 with Robinson Farm Drainage coming in second at \$122,249.00. Staff are proposing this tender be awarded to Robinson Farm Drainage based on Dietrich Engineers' recommendation.

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That Howick Council award tender HWK-2026-002 to Robinson Farm Drainage Ltd for the construction and improvement to Municipal Drain No.20 at the bid price of \$122,249.00 plus HST.

And that Council give third and final reading to By-Law 40-2026, being a By-law to provide for drainage works cited as the No. 20 Municipal Drain By-law

Carried.

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Chief Building Official Ed Podniewicz

10.2 Manager of Development and Protective Services/Fire Chief - Josh Kestner

10.2.1 DPS-2026-17, Fire Technical Rescue Agreement with The Town of Hanover

Manager of Development and Protective Services/Fire Chief Josh Kestner expressed that discussion had began over a year and a half ago surrounding the lack of technical rescue services in Huron County. Currently no Fire Department in Huron County provides these services. The Howick Fire Department at one time did provide high-angle rope rescue, but as there are a lot of costs associated with the equipment and training requirements, it is no longer provided.

The Town of Hanover has been providing rope rescue and water rescue services to their municipality and surrounding municipalities for some time. They are working to meet their certification deadline to be compliant with the MOL and OFM standards by July 1, 2028. Hanover feels that the Township of Howick is within an acceptable range of Hanover to provide these services.

There is no annual cost, we will only be billed if the services are required. The hourly charge will match the current MTO rate. Staff expressed that it is good to have preventative measures in place prior to an emergency happening. Hanover Council approved the agreement at their Council Meeting on July 13, 2026.

Moved by: Councillor Hargrave
Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick receive report DPS-2026-17 for information purposes;

And That Council approve By-law No. 49-2026, Being a by-law to Authorize the Entering into and Execution of an Agreement between the Corporation of the Township of Howick and The Town of Hanover for the Provision of Fire Technical Rescue Services

And That Council authorize the Reeve and CAO/Clerk to execute the agreement

Carried.

10.2.2 DPS-2026-19, Pumper 2-4 Retirement and Replacement

The Manager of Development and Protective Services/Fire Chief explained that pumper 2-4 was identified in 2025 as being near the end of its useful life. At that time, council approved the purchase of an additional rescue vehicle and pumper 2-4 would remain in service. Unfortunately, Pumper 2-4 recently failed its pump test and was placed on restricted service.

Pumper 2-4 was transferred to the Howick Fire Department for \$250,000.00 in 2009. The life span of the truck based on the NFPA Standards is 20 years for front line fire suppression and 25 years for secondary service. If you keep a truck past their expiry date, you are accepting the liability of the truck.

Staff explained that a pumper-tanker carries a greater amount of water than a pumper. Considering there has been a noticeable water shortage in Howick and no municipal water system; the extra water capacity would be an asset.

Staff explained that current market pricing of a new Pumper-Tanker ranges between \$685,000.00 – \$850,000.00. A used Pumper-Tanker costs between \$120,000.00 – \$360,000.00, depending on their remaining service life. A list of service specifications for a replacement pumper tanker was provided to Council for review.

The retiring or disposal of Pumper 2-4 was discussed. Staff proposed possibly repurposing it in the Huron County Training Program. It would have to get the approval of the County Chiefs as there would cost born by the county training program, storage, insurance, maintenance etc.

Staff asked Council whether we wait until the next budget year to plan for a new truck or another means of replacement. Staff recommend that if we pursue a used apparatus, it will provide a minimum of 10 years of anticipated

remaining service life.

Staff explained that the Fire Reserves is anticipated to have a balance of \$395,000.00 at the end of 2026.

The Manager of Development and Protective Services/Fire Chief, Treasurer and CAO/Clerk met recently to discuss Pumper 2-4 and to discuss options for its replacement. It was noted by staff that Howick Fire Department can continue to operate using 2-5 and 2-6 for front line service, with 2-4 to be used only to carry personnel and to fill tankers. We also have Mutual Aid Agreements with surrounding departments that would provide additional resources during a fire.

A replacement apparatus from a dealer will have warranty. If we purchase privately or through Gov Deals, there is no warranty. Based on an estimated \$685,000.00 financed through Infrastructure Ontario over 10 years at 3.66%, annual payments would be \$82,416.00 which is a 1.75% budget increase annually. At a budget of \$850,000.00 over 10 years with the same interest rate, annual payments would be \$102,000.00, which is a 2.18% budget increase.

Staff expressed that the next big purchase for the Fire Department will be the SCVA breathing apparatus that are mandated to be replaced every 15 years. They were last purchased in 2018 or 2019 and their cost for replacement is approximately \$200,000.00.

Council and staff to revisit the retirement plan of 2-4 at a later date if a suitable replacement is sourced.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson
Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick approve spending up to \$300,000.00 from the fire reserve for the purchase of a used pumper-tanker;

And further that Council provide direction to staff regarding the retirement and replacement of Pumper 2-4 (2000 Freightliner FL-80) at a later date.

Carried.

10.3 Manager of Public Works – Scott Price

10.4 Manager of Recreation and Facilities - Brady Ropp

10.4.1 REC-2026-10, Kubota BX2380 Repairs

Manager of Recreation and Facilities Brady Ropp explained that during routine trail maintenance the Kubota Tractor experienced a mechanical failure. An unknown object hit the hydraulic oil filter area, resulting in the filter becoming unable to seal properly and a hydraulic oil leak. Staff are

recommend replacing the front transmission casing which was estimated to be \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00 plus additional parts and labour. The Kubota tractor is used for ball diamond maintenance, walking trail maintenance, and is essential for the operation of the recreation department. Staff will be leaving the mower deck on even when it is not in use to provide more protection to this area of the tractor in the future.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson
Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That Howick Council hereby receives report REC-2026-10, Kubota BX2380 Repairs for information;

And That Council authorizes up to \$3000.00 in funds required to repair this mower to be pulled from the Recreation Reserve.

Carried.

10.5 Treasurer/Manager of Finance - Amy Van Meeteren

10.6 CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis

10.6.1 ADM-2026-11, Belmore Arena Board Terms of Reference

CAO/ Clerk Caitlin Gillis presented that Draft Belmore Area Board Terms of Reference. Between 2024 and 2026, there were several meetings with the CAO/Clerks and heads of council from Howick. Morris-Turnberry, and South Bruce and the Belmore Arena Board to discuss the board's responsibilities, to review relevant policies and the operation and maintenance agreement between the three municipalities.

Draft Terms of Reference were provided to the Belmore Arena Board in August 2024, updated in May 2025 and provided to the board again. A small subcommittee of Belmore Arena Board members and community members was created to review the Draft Terms of Reference.

The amended Terms of Reference were approved by the Belmore Arena Board at their June 15, 2026 meeting and submitted back to Howick Council for adoption. These Terms of Reference have been reviewed by Morris-Turnberry and South Bruce with no objection.

Moved by: Councillor Grimes
Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That Howick Council receive report ADM-2026-11, Belmore Arena Board Terms of Reference for information;

And That Council adopt the Belmore Arena Board Terms of Reference as

Carried.

10.6.2 ADM-2026-12, Livestock Valuer

The Township of Howick recently received a claim through the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. The current By-law was last updated in 2016. The fee schedule for the Livestock Valuer requires updating. These fees will be added to the Township's Consolidated Fees and Charges By-law, which is reviewed and updated annually. The new \$36.00 per hour will come into effect for the remainder of 2026 and will repeal the old by-law.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That Howick Council appoint Randy Scott to act in the capacity of Livestock Valuer for the Township of Howick;

And that By-law 8-2016 be repealed.

Carried.

10.6.3 ADM-2026-13, Howick Township 170th Homecoming Parade Float

Howick's 170th Homecoming celebration was the first weekend in July and there was no budget line in the 2026 budget for the township to participate in the homecoming parade. A staff member was able to procure the donation of a people mover trailer which was decorated to accommodate staff and members of Council to ride in the parade. Staff have received great feedback from the public, and there was great representation from council and staff. Being as the expenses were not included in the 2026 budget, staff are recommending that we cover the decorating fees from the Council Donations account.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That Howick Council approve the payment of up to \$700.00 for decorative supplies for the Howick Township 170th Homecoming parade float from the Council Donations account.

Carried.

11. Committee and Board Reports

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That Howick Council adopt the following Committee and Board Minutes:

awning installment – should that be added to the asset management plan. Wood patio has been removed and cement patio added.

11.1 Wroxeter Hall Board – Meeting Minutes May 7, 2026

Carried.

12. Correspondence

12.1 County of Simcoe – Intimate Partner Violence

Council expressed that there was 174 cases alone of intimate partner violence in first quarter in Huron County, with the un-reported being much higher

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick endorse the resolution received from the County of Simcoe Regarding declaring intimate partner violence as an epidemic

Carried.

12.2 Gorrie Parks Board – Request for Municipal Significance

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby declares the Gorrie Community Parks Association Co-Ed Slow Pitch Tournament scheduled for Friday, July 17, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. and Saturday July 18, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m. to be of municipal significance.

Carried.

12.3 Corporation of the County of Huron – REDI Program

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby direct staff to prepare a letter of support for Huron County's application for the Regional Economic Development through Immigration (REDI) program 2026-2027.

Carried.

12.4 Municipal Finance Officers Association – Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby direct staff to prepare a letter of support requesting that the Government of Ontario make permanent the five-year doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund from \$200 million/year to \$400 million/year in advance of the 2027 OCIF allocation calculations.

Carried.

- 12.5 Civic Night Invitation – Stratford Festival Guys & Dolls**
- 12.6 Avon Maitland District School Board – Meeting Highlights June 23, 2026**
- 12.7 The Township of McGarry – Northern Ontario OPP Funding Model**

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

THAT the Council of the Township of Howick hereby direct staff to prepare a letter of support requesting the Province of Ontario conduct an immediate review of the OPP Municipal Policing Billing Model and the policing funding structure for unorganized territories;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be requested to implement a fair and equitable funding model that ensures all communities receiving OPP policing services contribute appropriately to the cost of the services;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be requested to consult with municipalities, particularly those in Northern Ontario, regarding the financial impacts of OPP policing costs and the current inequities in the system

Carried.

13. Unfinished Business

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority - Renewal of Programs and Services Agreement 2026- 2030

Phil Beard presented the draft agreement at the May 19, 2026 Council meeting and is seeking Council's endorsement and execution of the agreement.

Deputy Reeve Gibson recommended that Council enter into the agreement with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. With the changes coming with the amalgamation of all Conservation Authorities to 9, these MOU's have been drafted to retain the current level of service we are getting. The newly amalgamated Conservation Authorities are expected to have no representation rurally, with most input coming from the County level.

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby authorize the execution of the

Carried.

14. Council Reports

14.1 Council Member Reports

Reeve's Verbal Update from County Council

Only one meeting in July and one meeting to come in August.

Verbal Update from Council Members

Councillor Grimes confirmed that the Wroxeter Community Hall is open as a cooling station.

14.2 Requests by Members

14.3 Notice of Motions

14.4 Announcements

15. Other Business

CAO/Clerk Gillis requested council's approval to advertise that several members of council are not planning to run in the 2026 municipal election, in order to encourage residents to consider running. Council requested that the specific members are not listed in the advertisements.

16. Enactment of By-laws –Third Reading

16.1 By-law 40-2026

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Hargrave

That the Council of the Township of Howick give third and final reading to adopt By-law 40-2026, being a By-law to provide for drainage works cited as the No. 20 Municipal Drain By-law

Carried.

Enactment of By-laws – First, Second & Third Reading

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Hargrave

That By-laws 49-2026, 50-2026, 51-2026, 52-2026, 53-2026 all receive first,

16.2 By-law 49-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first and second reading to By-law 49-2026;

Being a By-law to Authorize the Entering into and Execution of an Agreement between the Corporation of the Township of Howick and The Town of Hanover for the Provision of Fire Technical Rescue Services

16.3 By-law 50-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second third and final reading to By-law 50-2026;

Being a By-law to award tender HWK-2026-002 Robinson Farm Drainage Limited for the Municipal Drain No. 20 Construction and Improvement Tender

16.4 By-law 51-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second third and final reading to By-law 51-2026;

Being a By-law to adopt terms of reference for the Belmore Arena Board.

16.5 By-law 52-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 52-2026;

Being a By-law to Appoint a Livestock Valuer for the Township of Howick, in accordance with the Ontario Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, and the Protection of Livestock and Poultry from Dogs Act

16.6 By-law 53-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 53-2026;

Being a By-law to Authorize an Agreement for services with Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.

Carried.

17. Closed Session

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That a closed meeting of Council of the Township of Howick be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 10:39 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Township Office, in accordance with Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, for the purpose of considering the following matters:

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

(d) labour relations or employee negotiations;

(e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;

(f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

Carried.

Agenda moved to Closed Agenda at 10:39 a.m.

Council to refer to Closed Agenda for July 14, 2026

Agenda Returned to Open Agenda at 11:09 a.m.

18. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session and Reporting Out

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That Council of the Township of Howick reconvene into Open Session at 11:09 a.m.

Carried.

Reeve Harding reported that the reason Council met in closed session was to discuss legal matters and fees not included in the 2026 Municipal Budget.

19. Confirming By-law

19.1 By-law 54-2026

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 54-2026;

Being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council meeting held on

Carried.

20. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Hargrave

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That the Council of the Township of Howick adjourn the July 14, 2026 Regular Council meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Carried.

Reeve, Doug Harding

CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis