



**Township of Howick Council Minutes
Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Howick Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Reeve Harding called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby adopts the June 19, 2026, Council Agenda as presented.

Carried.

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

None declared.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

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

4.1 May 19, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes

Carried.

5. Public Meetings/Hearings

**5.1 Meeting to Consider Engineer’s Report – DRN-2026-04 Merkley
Municipal Drain 2026**

5.1.1 Engineer’s Report

Scott Richardson presented the report. A request for improvement was received in January 2026 to complete some upgrades to close two sections of open drain, installation of a new culvert crossing, brushing and dredging. Information meeting was held on May 4, 2026. Howick Township has an estimated assessment of \$3,345.00 for a catch basin south of Salem Road. Brandon Widner from Spriet Engineers presented his final report. The

Merkley Municipal Drain was originally constructed in 1955 with improvements later completed in 1970. The Mulders at the bottom end requested to close their portion to improve the workability of their land. The Merkleys' have also requested to fill their portion. The total cost of the project is \$318,000.00; enclosures are assessed directly to the Merkleys' and the Mulders.

5.1.2 Questions and Comments

- **Landowners in attendance**

No questions from the landowners in attendance.

- **Council**

No questions from Council.

5.1.3 Consideration of Provisional By-law 43-2026

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That leave be given to introduce By-law # 43-2026, being a by-law to provisionally adopt the engineer's report for the Merkley Municipal Drain 2026, and that it now be read a first and second time this 16th day of June, 2026.

Carried.

5.1.4 Date of Court of Revision and instruction to Tender

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Court of Revision for the Merkley Municipal Drain 2026 be set for July 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. and the project be tendered with results to be presented on August 11, 2026, pending no appeals.

Carried.

Council appointed Councillor Hargrave as Chair and Councillor Grimes.

5.2 2026 Insurance Renewal Presentation

FIN-2026-18, Insurance Renewal July 2026 to July 2027

Reeve Harding welcomed Breanne Chapman from McDonagh Insurance Brokers Ltd. and Tony Commisso from Intact. Breanne explained that the changes in the insurance policy from last year included an overall 3.24% increase. This includes a 4% inflationary increase to all buildings and

structures estimated value. The \$25,000.00 deductible will remain in the policy.

A member of Council inquired about accident coverage for members of Council. The overview states that there are only 4 members covered. Tony explained that any person over the age of 80 does not qualify for coverage. Council also inquired how we would be impacted if the deductible was lowered to \$10,000.00. Tony explained that the total cost would go up, and that it is standard for most municipalities to carry a \$25,000.00 deductible.

Staff also inquired about extending the renewal timeline, Tony also said that he has been asking for this for years and unfortunately it is not an option at this time.

Moved by: Councillor Grimes
Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That Howick Council of the Township of Howick approve the municipal insurance coverage presented in the July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2027, Renewal Report by Intact Insurance at a cost of \$161,037.00

Carried.

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 Rognvaldson

That Consent Agenda item 7.1 be received for information and approved.

7.1 FIN-2026-17, May 13 to June 11, 2026, Accounts Payable
For Information Only.

Carried.

8. Regular Agenda

8.1 Planning – Huron County Planner

9. Municipal Drains - Drainage Superintendent Scott Richardson

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Chief Building Official Ed Podniewicz

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

Kestner

10.3 Manager of Public Works – Scott Price

10.3.1 PW-2026-15, Hot Mix Paving Tender Results

Scott Price, Manager of Public Works, explained that the Manager of Operations of South Bruce Stu Moffat took the lead on this tender. This was a joint tender for the Hot Mix Paving of Huron-Bruce Road. One submission was received. Lavis provided a submission that was \$43.33 per ton less than what we paid last year for asphalt. George Street in Gorrie will also be completed as part of this tender. Howick will be invoiced separately for George Street.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson
Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That Howick Council receives report PW-2026-15, Hot Mix Paving Tender Results for information;

And That Council authorize Howick Township to enter into an agreement with the Municipality of South Bruce for 50% of the cost of Hot Mix Paving Huron-Bruce Road (\$89,142.50) and 100% of the cost of Hot Mix Paving George Street, Gorrie (\$45,420.00), for the total tendered amount of \$134,562.50 plus unrecoverable HST, as outlined in South Bruce Tender No. PW-2026-03;

And That Council give first, second, and third and final reading to By-law No. 44-2026, being a By-law to Authorize the Entering into and Execution of an Agreement between the Municipality of South Bruce and the Corporation of the Township of Howick;

And That Council authorize the Manager of Public Works to execute the agreement and all associated documents for the above-mentioned projects.

Carried.

10.3.1 PW-2026-16, Roadside Flail Mower Tender Results

Staff advertised on Bids and Tenders for the new roadside flail mower. There were thirteen specifications that staff outlined in the bid document with the lowest submission only meeting three of the specifications. Staff are recommending awarding the tender to Midwestern Equipment (Listowel)

In response to questions from Council, Staff explained that the township spent \$12,000.00 for the rental for the flail mower last year. Staff anticipate that the wait time will only be two weeks by the time that the new flail mower is delivered. The old disc mower has been put back together for the time being to start the

roadside mowing prior to the flail mower's arrival.

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Hargrave

That Howick Council receives report PW-2026-16, Roadside Flail Mower Tender Results for information;

And that Council award Tender PW-2026-03 to Midwestern Equipment (Listowel) Ltd. In the amount of \$21,355.87 (plus unrecoverable HST) for the purchase of a Roadside Flail Mower.

And that the CAO/Clerk and Reeve be authorized to sign and execute the agreement and all relevant documents.

Carried.

10.4 Manager of Recreation and Facilities - Brady Ropp

Manager of Recreation and Facilities Brady Ropp touched on the Howick Idol prelims that are taking place this weekend. Reeve Harding announced that the Howick Women's Institute and the Homecoming Committee have done a great job selling decorations to the community in advance of the Homecoming 170th celebrations.

10.5 Treasurer/Manager of Finance - Amy Van Meeteren

10.6 CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis

10.6.1 ADM-2026-10, Fordwich Parkland Funds

CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis presented that staff are looking for Councils approval of \$18,000.00 being pulled from the Parkland Reserve and transferred to the Fordwich Parks Board. This is the amount of money that was received when the Fordwich North Estates Subdivision was approved in 2025. This consists of a \$750.00 per lot payment for the cash-in-lieu of parkland. It was decided that instead of creating a new park land, this money should be invested in the parks that are already established.

The Fordwich Parks Board reached out to staff and presented quotes for the tennis court to be refurbished. This money will go toward that project.

Under the Planning Act, parkland funds must be spent on the purchase of land, improvement of buildings or capital items. \$44,000.00 is currently in the Parkland Reserve.

Reeve Harding announced that the Huron County Accessibility Committee was in Howick doing an assessment on a few of our parks and trails. They would like to thank staff for all the effort that has been put into our public spaces, parks and walking trails and how nice everything looks.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Hargrave

That Howick Council authorize the transfer of \$18,000.00 from Parkland Reserves to the Fordwich Park Board for repairs and resurfacing of the Tennis Court.

Carried.

11. Committee and Board Reports

Belmore Arena board. Four board members have stepped down off the board and they are recruiting new people. New Secretary and Treasurer have been appointed. Randy Scott has taken over as Chair. 15 board members. New board to be installed – pickleball has started back up.

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick adopt the following Board or Committee minutes:

11.1 Howick Homecoming – Meeting Minutes April 7, 2026

11.2 Howick Homecoming – Meeting Minutes May 26, 2026

11.3 Belmore Arena Board – Meeting Minutes March 16, 2026

11.4 Belmore Arena Board – Meeting Minutes April 4, 2026

Carried.

12. Correspondence

Council discussed and would like to pass a motion to endorse correspondence item 12.11.

12.1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Protecting Ontario's Streets and Communities Act, 2026 (Bill119)

12.2 Ministry of the Attorney General – Follow-up to Updates to "Tailgate Event" Permits

12.3 Avon Maitland District School Board – Meeting Highlights May 26, 2026

12.4 Huron County Federation of Agriculture – Warden Caucus Comments

12.5 Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Improving Ontario's Conservation Authority System

12.6 Maitland Conservation – Meeting Minutes April 15, 2026

12.7 Drinking Water Source Protection – Municipal Newsletter

12.8 Huron OPP Detachment Board – Meeting Minutes

12.9 The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa – Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario

12.10 Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin – Request for Provincial Review of CVA- Based Apportionment for Shared Municipal and Provincially Mandates Services

12.11 The Town of Plympton – Wyoming – Support for Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario

Moved By: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Hargrave

That the Council of the Township of Howick endorse the resolution received from The Town of Plympton-Wyoming calling upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite, and full-time fire departments across Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services.

Carried.

12.12 Ministry of Natural Resources – Ontario's Flooding Strategy

13. Unfinished Business

Reeve Harding asked members of council if there was any interest in being on a float in the Homecoming Parade. Staff are putting together a float and anyone interested in being on the float is asked to reach out to staff.

14. Council Reports

14.1 Council Member Reports

Reeve's Verbal Update from County Council

Verbal Update from Council Members

14.2 Requests by Members

14.3 Notice of Motions

14.4 Announcements

Councillor Grimes commented that the Fordwich Cenotaph looks good and the Wroxeter Hall Fish Fry was a success, the Brussels Legion does an excellent job.

15. Other Business

Reeve Harding announced that the Waste Management Demonstration Night for the new wheeled bins is June 22, 2026. 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Howick Community Centre.

The Joint Candidate Information Session is being held in Clinton at the Libro Hall on Wednesday June 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in running for council or anyone currently on council is welcome to attend. This will be a very educational evening.

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

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That By-laws 43-2026, 44-2026, and 45-2026 all receive first, second, third and final reading and are finally passed.

16.1 By-law 43-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first and second reading and provisionally adopt By-law 43-2026, a by-law to provide drainage work in the Township of Howick for the improvement to the Merkley Municipal Drain

16.2 By-law 44-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second third and final reading to By-law 44-2026;

Being a By-law to Authorize the Entering into and Execution of an Agreement between the Corporation of the Township of Howick and the Corporation of the Municipality of South Bruce for Hot Mix Paving as outlined in South Bruce Tender Documents PW-2026-03

16.3 By-law 45-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second third and final reading to By-law 45-2026;

Being a By-law to Authorize the Entering into and Execution of an Agreement Between the Corporation of the Township of Howick and Midwestern Equipment (Listowel) Ltd. For the Supply and Delivery of one (1) Roadside Flail Mower

Carried.

17. Confirming By-law

17.1 By-law 46-2026

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 46-2026;

Being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council meeting held on June 16, 2026.

Carried.

18. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Hargrave

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick adjourn the June 16, 2026, Regular Council meeting at 7 :46 p.m.

Carried.

Reeve Harding

CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis