



**Township of Howick Council Minutes
Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 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 Addendum Agenda

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby adopts June 24, 2025, Council Addendum 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: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

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

4.1 June 3, 2025, 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: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That Consent Agenda items 7.1 to 7.6 be received for information and approved.

- 7.1 PW-2025-17, June Department Update
For Information Only.**
- 7.2 FIN-2025-23, Accounts Payable
For Information Only.**
- 7.3 FIN-2025-24, 2023 Financial Indicator Review
For Information Only.**
- 7.4 REC-2025-08, Department Update
For Information Only.**
- 7.5 FIR-2025-10, May 2025 Department Update
For Information Only.**
- 7.6 FIR-2025-11, Fire Station Standby Generator
For Information Only.**

Carried.

8. Regular Agenda

- 8.1 Planning – Huron County Planner Sarah Kurtz**

9. Municipal Drains - Drainage Superintendent Scott Richardson

10. Staff Reports

- 10.1 Chief Building Official Ed Podniewicz**

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

- 10.2.1 MLE-2025-03, Backyard Chickens**

Manager of Development & Protective Services Josh Kestner presented research completed regarding implementing licencing to allow for backyard chickens within the villages and hamlets of Howick Township. Several stakeholders were identified and contacted to provide an opinion on backyard chickens within the urban areas of the municipality. Avian influenza and biosecurity were the main concerns from Huron Perth Public Health and the Huron County Federation of Agriculture. Grading of eggs was main concern of Egg Farmers of Ontario. They discourage the unregulated sale of eggs and meat from chickens. This poses a risk to other flocks of birds as well as human transmission of disease.

A public survey was conducted online with 138 responses received. Similar concerns were raised regarding biosecurity and disease, as well as by-law related concerns for manure storage, smell, roosters etc. Concerns were also shared about the Township's ability to enforce the program. Some survey responses were positive, with residents wanting to produce eggs and meat for their families. Some communities have backyard chicken programs, including the Town of Minto. Other municipalities have piloted the program but have not continued it. Program framework was drafted for Council's consideration. This

program puts restrictions on the number of birds, rules regarding selling by-products, enforcement guidelines, licencing costs, and application fee. The program proposes a backyard chicken permit fee of \$50 annually. The public is split on wanting or not wanting the program. Staff feel that the backyard chicken program would create far more work than we are capable of managing.

Council thanked Mr. Kestner for his thorough research into a proposed backyard chicken program and provided direction to continue with by-law enforcement on a complaint basis for existing backyard chickens within the urban areas. If the By-law Enforcement Officer observes backyard chickens within the urban areas, it can also be proactively enforced.

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick receive report MLE-2025-03 for information;

And Further that Council direct staff not to proceed with the implementation of a Backyard Chicken Program for the Township of Howick.

Carried.

10.3 Acting Manager of Public Works – Scott Price

10.3.1 PW-2025-18, Tender Results: PW-2025-02 Supply and Deliver of One 19,500lbs GVW Diesel Cab and Chassis

2015 Ford F450 One-Tonne needs replaced for the Public Works Department. The Recreation Department has taken the 2015 One Tonne for due to trailer use for grass cutting, trail and ball diamond maintenance. The Recreation truck is no longer in service.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick receives report PW-2025-18, Tender Results PW-2025-02 Supply and Deliver of One 19,500lb GVW Diesel Cab and Chassis for Information;

And that Council award Tender PW-2025-02 to Blue Mountain Chrysler Ltd. in the amount of \$153,851.00 plus HST and License to purchase a 2025 RAM 5500 REG 4x4, including a Switch-N-Go Cable Hoist System and the following interchangeable bodies: One (1) 14' dump body, one (1) 14' Arbor Body Chipper box, and one (1) toolbox.

And that Council authorize the purchase of three (3) 14' single swing door dumpster bins at the cost of \$23,028 (\$7,676.00 each) plus HST to be used at the Howick Landfill.

Carried.

10.4 Manager of Recreation and Facilities - Brady Ropp

10.5 Treasurer/Manager of Finance - Amy Van Meeteren

10.5.1 FIN-2025-25, Municipal Insurance Renewal

Treasurer Van Meeteren introduced the proposed municipal insurance renewal of July 1, 2025 at a cost of \$155,987.00, an increase of 8.38% over 2024. Includes increased valuation of over \$10,000,000 on our buildings. Breanne Chapman, principal broker for McDonagh Insurance was present to review the insurance renewal for Council. She specializes in municipal and farm insurance. Tony Commisso from Intact Public Entities was also present for the discussion. Tony provides a lot of provincial municipal insurance knowledge.

Education and risk management are huge themes for McDonagh Insurance. Online resources available with Intact with strategies on how to manage risk. The Township is currently claims-free, doing a great job on risk management. The 8.38% increase is due to asset valuation increasing.

In response to a question from Council, Breanne and Tony clarified that the Township's general commercial liability policy covers the municipality and its committees and boards. Insurance costs have increased due to municipal exposure through Covid with disease and via committees of Council. Additional policies are dependent on the level of exposure the municipality is willing to take on regarding insurance. For larger or special events (i.e. Homecomings), staff have recommended that the hosts take out additional insurance policies to limit the exposure to the municipality for claims that arise out of these larger events. Council will need to decide if this is what they want to continue to do.

Breanne and Tony are happy to host lunch and learn with sub-committees, council, municipal staff regarding insurance.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Hargrave

That the Council of the Township of Howick approve the Municipal Insurance Coverage presented in the July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026, Renewal Report by Intact Insurance at a cost of \$155,987.00.

Carried.

10.6 CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis

10.6.1 ADM-2025-08, Road Crossing and Tile Drain Outletting Policies

CAO/Clerk Gillis reviewed the two draft policies that set out procedures and costs for when private tiles outlet onto Township Right of Ways or require a road crossing.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick adopt the Tile Drains Outletting onto or Crossing Township Right-of-Ways Policy PW-2025-01;

And That Council adopt Road Crossing Policy PW-2025-02;

And That all fees associated with both policies be added to the Township's Consolidated Fees and Charges By-law.

Carried.

11. Committee and Board Reports

Three representatives of Howick, Morris Turnberry and South Bruce had a chat at the Belmore Homecoming opening ceremonies. They would like to have a chat now that Homecoming is over to discuss the facility moving forward.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

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

11.1 Belmore Arena Board Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2025

Carried.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Gorrie Parks Board – re. Adult Co-Ed Slow Pitch Tournament, July 18th to 19th 2025

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby declares the Adult Co-Ed Slow Pitch Tournament scheduled for Friday July 18th, 2025- Saturday July 19th, 2025, at the Gorrie Ball Park and hosted by the Gorrie Parks Board to be of municipal significance.

Carried.

12.2 Huron County OPP Detachment- re. Board Report March – May 2025

12.3 Avon Maitland District School Board – Meeting Highlights – June 10, 2025

13. Unfinished Business

14. Council Reports

14.1 Council Member Reports

Reeve's Verbal Update from County Council

Fordwich Village Nursing Home 50th Anniversary celebration last week was well attended. Owner spoke about being happy to be in business in Fordwich.

County Road 7 is being repaved. Crack filling process was completed a few years ago. The Wroxeter Bridge on Harriston Road is to be finished later this year.

The County of Huron owns both Huron View and Huron Lea Retirement Homes. There are a lot of aging baby boomers moving into long-term care, but there seems to be more competition in spaces available at different facilities. A lot of social programs at the County level. Reserves are at \$61 million, but with funding allocations, they should be down to \$43 million at the end of the year. The Wingham Public Works Shed is not quite finished, costing over \$6 million.

Verbal Update from Council Members

The Belmore Homecoming kickoff was well attended. Reeve Harding and Councillor Grimes attended Belmore Homecoming on behalf of the Township. The parade had 106 floats.

CAOs and Heads of Council from South Bruce, Howick and Morris Turnberry are to meet again with the Belmore Arena Board once they have reviewed the Terms of Reference.

CAO/Clerk Gillis will gather information on what has been spent so far for the legal case.

Councillor Rognvaldson also attended the Fordwich Village Nursing Home 50th Anniversary.

Sustainable Huron meeting last Friday with a focus on source water protection. Burnside made a presentation on drainage done differently using barefoot culverts that have no bottom, only sides and a top. They are cheaper and easier to install. The RJ Burnside representative spoke highly of them. Council provided direction to the Acting Manager of Public Works to investigate barefoot culverts through RJ Burnside and Associates Ltd. for Howick.

14.2 Requests by Members

14.3 Notice of Motions

14.4 Announcements

15. Other Business

16. Enactment of By-laws – Third and Final Reading

16.1 By-law 31-2025

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That the Council of the Township of Howick give third and final reading to finally adopt By-law 31-2025;

Being a By-law to provide for a minor improvement for the Blind Lake Municipal Drain-Weber Minor Improvement.

Carried.

16.2 By-law 35-2025

Moved by: Councillor Hargrave

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 35-2025;

Being A By-Law To Authorize the Entering into and Execution of an Agreement between the Corporation of the Township of Howick and Blue Mountain Chrysler Ltd. for the Supply and Deliver of One 19,500Lbs GVW Diesel Cab and Chassis.

Carried.

17. Confirming By-law

17.1 By-law 36-2025

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 36-2025;

Being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council meeting held on June 24, 2025.

Carried.

18. Adjournment

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Hargrave

That the Council of the Township of Howick adjourn the June 24, 2025 Council meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Carried.

Reeve, Doug Harding

CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis