



# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

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## Highlights from the February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meetings of Montague Township Council and Committee of the Whole

### Council

- Following the Land Acknowledgement, the Reeve provided a reminder of the following:
  - If you would like to submit comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Animal Control By-law, please complete the online survey posted on the Township's website and Facebook page, or forward your comments to the Clerk.
  - The Alto High-Speed Rail Open House is on March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Perth Lions Club. There are two sessions (11:00am - 3:00pm and 5:00pm - 9:00pm). To learn more about this proposal, or submit your feedback, visit their online portal at [Online Consultation Platform | Alto](#).
  - We are accepting applications to be a member of the Montague Township Fire Department. Application forms can be found on the Township's website and dropped off at the Township Office or e-mailed to the Fire Chief by February 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.
- After the Moment of Silence, Council approved the agenda, followed by the February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, minutes from the Regular Meeting of Council and Committee of the Whole, as presented.
- The Public Works Manager presented the following reports:
  - **Appointment of a Drainage Superintendent:** Council received Staff's report recommending the appointment of Robinson Consultants Inc. as the Township's Drainage Superintendent and later passed the required appointment by-law and by-law authorizing the Township to enter into an agreement for these services.
  - **Tandem Truck RFP 2026-PW-02:** Council directed Staff to award the Tandem Truck contract to Premier Truck Group for a total price of \$417,363.55 (including non-refundable HST), plus up to \$5,000.00 for any incidentals. Once the new unit arrives, Truck 11 will be advertised on GovDeals.
- The Clerk/Planning Manager presented the following reports:
  - **Alto High-Speed Rail Working Group:** Council appointed Reeve Jennings to the Working Group as a replacement for Councillor Johnson. The Working Group's comments for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Roundtable Discussions were reviewed and additional remarks made. Reeve Jennings will bring these points to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Alto Meeting.
  - **2026 Lanark County Harvest Festival Working Group:** Montague Township was successful in its application to be the spotlight municipality at the 2026 Harvest Festival and Council appointed Reeve Jennings to be the Township's Council Appointee on this Working Group.
- The Municipal Manager/Treasurer/Deputy Clerk presented the following reports:
  - **Request for Council Approval for Past MPAC Administration Error of Commercial Taxation:** Staff presented three options to Council regarding an MPAC administration error related to the commercial taxation of a municipal property. Council approved the Section 358 Application under the *Municipal Act* to reduce a portion of the commercial taxes levied.

- **2026 Draft Water and Wastewater Budget:** Council approved the 2026 Water and Wastewater Budget and later passed the required by-law approving the rates.
- The following By-laws was passed by Council:
  - **4196-2026** - Adopt the 2026 Municipal Water/Sewer Operating and Capital Budgets
  - **4197-2026** - Appoint a Drainage Superintendent for the Township of Montague
  - **4198-2026** - Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with Robinson Consultants Inc. for Drainage Superintendent Services
  - **4199-2026** - Authorize the Execution of a Development Agreement - Clost
  - **4200-2026** - Authorize the Execution of a Development Agreement - 15221315 Canada Inc.
- A past delegation to Council issued a written apology for inappropriate remarks made during their presentation. This apology was received and Council and Staff noted that we have a zero-tolerance for threatening and abusive behaviour towards Council and Staff. Council expressed the need to prioritize protective measures to be put in place for the municipal office.

### **Committee of the Whole**

- Council approved the Committee of the Whole agenda, as presented.
- The following 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Reports from 2025 were presented as information:
  - Montague Recreation and Culture Committee (MRCC) Report - Chair, J. Johnston
  - Planning Report - Junior Planner, C. Michaud
  - Fire Report - Fire Chief/CEMC/Water Operator, M. Greer
  - Water Report - Fire Chief/CEMC/Water Operator, M. Greer
  - Septic Report - Building & Septic Inspector, J. Hammill
  - Building Report - Building & Septic Inspector, J. Hammill
  - Public Works Report - Public Works Manager, E. Haynes
  - Report on Staff Overtime - Municipal Manager/Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, A. Vereyken
  - Report on Capital Works and Grant Projects - Municipal Manager/Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, A. Vereyken
  - Budgetary Control Report - Municipal Manager/Treasurer/Deputy Clerk, A. Vereyken
  - Clerk's Department Report for 2025 - Clerk/Planning Manager, K. Cote
- The Clerk/Planning Manager presented the following reports:
  - **Revision of Election-Related Policies:** Council approved the proposed revisions to the *Municipal Employee Involvement Policy*, *Use of Municipal Resources Policy* and *Election Campaign Material Policy* in preparation for the upcoming 2026 Municipal Election.
  - **Proposed Revisions to Fees and Charges By-Law:** Council accepted Staff's report providing a review of current fees, and the justification for amending these fees, and directed that the revised By-law be brought back to Council for passage.

**The next Regular Meetings of Council & Committee of the Whole are scheduled for Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

**Livestream on YouTube: [Montague Township - YouTube](#)**

**Join In Person:** Township Office Council Chambers  
6547 Roger Stevens Drive, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 4S6