



**Rural Municipality of Whitehead
Meeting Minutes**

Regular Meeting of Council May 11, 2026 - 08:30 AM (RM Office)

In attendance: Reeve Trevor Tuttosi, Councillor Jeff Owens, Councillor Curtis Storey, Councillor Chris Semeschuk, Councillor Kevin Klassen, Councillor Dennis Foerster

Regrets: Councillor Kaley Mykula

1 CALL TO ORDER

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2026-094

Councillor Foerster - Councillor Semeschuk

Resolved that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3 ADOPTION OF MINUTES AS CIRCULATED

2026-095

Councillor Klassen - Councillor Foerster

Resolved that the regular minutes from April 13, 2026 and special minutes from April 24, 2026 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

5 PUBLIC HEARINGS

6 PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Manitoba Assessment Branch - Tax Impact Report

2026-096

Councillor Semeschuk - Councillor Klassen

That the presentation by the Manitoba Assessment Branch be received.

CARRIED

7 BYLAWS AND POLICIES

7.1 Donations Policy

Administration advised Council that the Municipality was eligible to issue charitable donation receipts but not obligated to do so. Discussion focused on the parameters to issuing receipts and reasonable limitations to same.

Council directed Administration to research and develop a policy for charitable receipts.

8 SUBDIVISION

8.1 Subdivision 4202-26-8827 - McLachlan - NW 29-10-20 W

2026-097

Councillor Storey - Councillor Owens

Whereas David McLachlan, on behalf of registered owners of Parcels A & B, Plan 34982 BLTO NW 29-10-20 W, Darcy & Tracy Wyborn and David & Noreen McLachlan respectively, made an application for subdivision;

The intent of the subdivision application is to re-align the boundaries of existing subdivided lots to accommodate some uses in Lot 1 and Lot 2.

Therefore, be it resolved that Subdivision File No. 4202-25-8756 be approved with the following conditions:

1. That a variance order be obtained for the proposed Lot 1, decreasing the site area from 2 acres to 1.58 acres within the “RR2” Rural Residential Zone as necessary to ensure compliance with the Zoning By-law;
2. That a single-lot subdivision application fee of \$110.00 be paid to the Rural Municipality of Whitehead;
3. That a financial levy of \$750.00 be made to the Rural Municipality of Whitehead Capital Reserve Fund for the formation of each new certificate of title incurred by the subdivision as per By-law No. 2111;
4. That any new or restored survey monuments required due to the subdivision are to be paid by the applicant;

TABLED

2026-098 **8.1.1 Tabling Motion**
 Reeve Tuttosi - Councillor Storey

That the above motion be tabled to the July 8, 2026 meeting to allow for an amendment to the application.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10 NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Whitehead Hall - Piano Replacement

Council discussed a donation offer to replace the Whitehead Hall piano with a unit in better condition. The potential doner had expressed interest in covering expenses for moving the replacement into the Hall. Council agreed that, were the donation to occur, that a period of two weeks would be given for any who wished to obtain the existing piano, after which it would be disposed of by staff.

2026-099 **10.2 Road 118 Repairs - Reserve Funds**
 Councillor Owens - Councillor Klassen

Whereas the Mitigation and Preparedness Program Reserve Fund (MPP Reserve) was created for funds from the Disaster Financial Assistance deductible for Provincially approved projects and to be used within five years from date received;

Therefore Be it Resolved that balance of \$14,212.74 in the MPP Reserve be allocated to partially fund the Road 118W rebuild between Road 49N and Road 48N.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.3 AMM Resolutions - Requests for Support

2026-100 **10.3.1 Support Resolution – Deloraine-Winchester - Primary Care Paramedics**
 Councillor Storey - Councillor Semeschuk

WHEREAS: Emergency Medical Services in Western Manitoba remain in crisis, with a reported 43% vacancy rate for Shared Health Primary Care Paramedics (PCPs), and ambulance response times well above the 30-minute target, often ranging from one to two hours. This crisis is also leading to ambulance shortages in the City of Brandon;

WHEREAS Rural communities expect and deserve the same level of care available in urban centres, where response to emergency medical calls by fully-trained paramedics is the norm; and while this remains the ultimate goal, achieving it will require significant provincial investment to train, recruit and

retain PCPs;

WHEREAS the AMM passed a resolution in Fall 2025 to advocate for the expansion of PCP training and resources for rural and Northern students in order to fix the paramedic staffing crisis, including the development of a training and employment model to hire PCP trainees and support them through their training from Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) to PCP;

WHEREAS The Manitoba Government has committed to supporting EMRs to upgrade their skills to become PCPs, and to help recruit and retain more paramedics province wide;

WHEREAS In 2022 the Manitoba Government along with the College of the Paramedics increased the required training hours for Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) to 312 hours from the previous 120 hours, creating a significant barrier to entry into the profession and limiting the growth of the workforce;

WHEREAS The Manitoba First Responder (MFR) program has been well received in the regions where it operates; MFR's are not paramedics and do not have the qualifications required to staff an ambulance, reinforcing the need for a sustainable paramedic workforce strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AMM continue lobbying the Manitoba Government to implement a new training and employment model whereby each vacant PCP position in the Province results in the immediate hiring of a trainee who will begin formal PCP education; be supported through mentorship, paid training and part-time work opportunities; and commit to a return-of-service agreement to ensure long-term staffing stability in rural communities, similar to the successful BC model; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to engage the College of Paramedics to revisit the curriculum and be flexible on the 312 required EMR training hours so that more PCP trainees can be recruited and rural Manitoba can get more ambulances on the road sooner;; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while it is recognized that the goal is to have the highest trained paramedic possible, the current service gaps require practical approach to ensure residents receive timely emergency response, stabilization, and transport to hospital care; and that the AMM having heard from its rural municipalities, fully supports these initiatives.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10.3.2 Support Resolution – Wallace-Woodworth – Pest Control

Councillor Owens - Councillor Storey

2026-101

WHEREAS gopher infestations continue to cause significant crop damage, increase operational costs, and pose safety risks to livestock due to unstable grounds conditions;

AND WHEREAS strychnine-based pest control products are currently restricted under federal regulations administered by Health Canada and are not available for use in Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS a recent time-limited emergency authorization has been granted for controlled used of strychnine in Alberta and Saskatchewan, creating unequal access to effective pest control tools and placing Manitoba producers at a competitive and economic disadvantage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the RM of Whitehead supports the request to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities to lobby the Province of Manitoba to:

1. Advocate to the Federal Government and Health Canada to expand the current emergency authorization, or establish a similar approval framework, in include Manitoba producers; and
2. Engage with AMM and relevant stakeholders to promote equitable and consistent access to effective gopher control tools across the Province.

CARRIED

2026-102 **10.3.3 Support Resolution – Wallace-Woodworth – Rural EMS Coverage**
Councillor Storey - Councillor Foerster

WHEREAS Shared Health has implemented a directive requiring EMS units to complete Priority 2 interfacility transfers without ensuring minimum local ambulance coverage;

AND WHEREAS this may result in communities being left without adequate emergency response capacity; particularly in rural and regional areas;

AND WHEREAS data indicates that ambulance services in regions such as Prairie Mountain Health are already operating at or beyond capacity, with significant shortages and vacancy rates impacting service delivery;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the RM of Whitehead supports the request to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) to lobby to the Province of Manitoba and Shared health to:

1. Review and amend the directive to ensure minimum ambulance coverage is maintained within each service area;
2. Incorporate local EMS operational input into dispatch and transfer decisions; and
3. Address EMS staffing shortages to support sustainable service delivery.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2026-103 **10.3.4 Support Resolution – Boissevain-Morton – Small Business Lending**
Councillor Semeschuk - Councillor Foerster

WHEREAS rural communities rely on small businesses and local entrepreneurs to sustain growth, population retention and essential services;

AND WHEREAS individuals in rural municipalities-particularly young entrepreneurs and new business owners- are increasingly unable to secure financing due to stringent lending requirements, including high equity thresholds and risk-averse banking practices;

AND WHEREAS this lack of access to capital is creating significant barriers to business succession, new business development, and local investment, ultimately threatening long-term viability of rural communities;

AND WHEREAS traditional financial institutions are reducing their rural presence and limiting flexible lending options tailored to small or emerging markets;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality call upon the AMM to lobby both Provincial and Federal Governments to work with financial institutions and economic development agencies to develop and expand accessible financing tools for rural entrepreneurs, including loan guarantees, and flexible lending criteria;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT AMM lobby to advocate for policies that incentivize financial institutions to increase rural lending and support business succession and startup opportunities in small communities.

DEFEATED

11 ACCOUNTS

11.1 Accounts

2026-104

Councillor Foerster - Councillor Klassen

Resolved that the List of Accounts as paid for April 2026, cheques numbers #16887 to #16902, EFT numbers #176 to #190 (both inclusive) and 3 auto withdrawals for a total of \$128,833.04 and Direct Deposit Register totaling \$28,372.94 inclusive of payroll and council indemnity as per by-law no. 2023-01 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.2 Bank Reconciliation

2026-105

Councillor Klassen - Councillor Storey

Resolved that the March 2026 Bank Reconciliation be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.3 Budget to Actual

2026-106

Councillor Semeschuk - Councillor Foerster

That the April 2026 year-to-date budget to actual report be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12 COMMITTEE AND BOARDS REPORTS

12.1 AMM Spring Convention

12.2 Assiniboine West Watershed District - Oak River Sub-District Meeting

12.3 LUD Report - April 2026

13 CORRESPONDENCE

2026-107

Councillor Owens - Councillor Semeschuk

Resolved that the Correspondence listed below be received;

- RCMP Policing Report

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14 NOTICE OF MOTION

15 IN CAMERA

16 Adjournment

2026-108

Reeve Tuttosi - Councillor Klassen

Resolved that we now adjourn to meet again on June 8, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. for a Regular Council meeting or at the call of the Reeve.

Time: 10:28am

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY