

TOWNSHIP OF KERNS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of JULY 1ST, 2025
Held at the Kerns Community Hall

Present: **Reeve:** Terry Phillips
 Councillors: Loren Runnalls
 Dennis Jibb
 Mark Lenover
 Carter Seymour
 Staff: Krystle Seymour, Clerk-Treasurer
 Guy Godmaire, Road Superintendent
 Others: Martina Gahwiler & Sylvie Rioux
 Edgardo Sepulveda, Sepulveda Consulting Inc. [*electronic participation*]
 34 Members of the Public

Regrets: None

1. Call Meeting to Order & Adoption of Agenda:

2025-085 **Moved:** Loren Runnalls **Seconded:** Carter Seymour
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, open the Regular Meeting of Council of July 1st, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
“CARRIED”

2025-086 **Moved:** Loren Runnalls **Seconded:** Carter Seymour
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, accept the agenda as amended.
Remove: 4. c. Steven Acland, C.P.A Kemp, Elliot & Blair – 2024
 Financial Statements [*no item*]
“CARRIED”

2. Adoption of Minutes:

a. Regular Meeting of June 3rd, 2025

2025-087 **Moved:** Loren Runnalls **Seconded:** Mark Lenover
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, adopt the following minutes:
 a. Regular Meeting of June 3rd, 2025 as presented.
“CARRIED”

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:

Councillor Runnalls declared conflict of interest on the following agenda items;
4.a. & b.
6.iv; and
8.b.
And did not participate in the discussions that took place during the items listed.

4. Delegations:

a. Martina Gahwiler & Sylvie Rioux – Presentation of Petition – Wind Turbine Opposition

Martina and Sylvie presented a petition to Council that has been signed by almost 50% of the Kerns Township population and outlined details for an open house they are hosting on Wednesday, July 30th, 2025 at Riverside Place in the City of Temiskaming Shores. The petition

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requests that Council pass a resolution declaring the Township of Kerns to be an “unwilling host” for current and future wind turbine projects. The group also asks that council defer any decision on the wind turbine projects until the October meeting of Council to allow time for further contact with residents.

2025-088 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge presentation of petition by Martina Gahwiler and Sylvie Rioux which states the following;

“We the undersigned, petition the Council of Kerns Township as well as the Council of Hudson Township to individually and collectively pass a by-law declaring these townships as an unwilling host of all proposed wind turbine projects, present and future. We feel wind turbines are dangerous to our eco system, our environment, our health and the health of our livestock and domesticated animals; and that any economic benefit does not outweigh the cost this would bring to our community”; and

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby accept the petition as submitted.
“CARRIED”

b. Edgardo Sepulveda – Economics of Wind Generation in Ontario
[electronic participation]

The presentation discussed the analysis and findings of the data-driven report prepared by Edgardo in September of 2024 and subsequently published by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute. The analysis concluded that wind in Ontario is an “average” resource and uncorrelated with demand at peak times on the grid. Ontario currently has one of the cleanest grids in the world with low-emission nuclear and hydro accounting for 77% of the generation between 1990-2023. The study concluded that there is likely no net social benefit to new wind projects. The conclusions were based on a general Ontario-wide analysis, and not on any particular project.

(brief summary only, entire presentation is available by contacting the municipal office)

Council was provided an opportunity to ask questions.

Q: Councillor Jibb asked if the contracting price of \$72 mentioned during the presentation fluctuated.

A: This is new information as of just last week and was the price contracted for renewals of legacy projects. The legacy project contracts were for 20 years, but the renewal contract lengths are unknown.

2025-089 **Moved: Loren Runnals** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge presentation by Edgardo Sepulveda regarding economics of wind generation in Ontario
“CARRIED”

5. Payment of Accounts – Voucher No. 2025-06

2025-090 **Moved: Loren Runnals** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**

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That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns, do hereby, approve the payment of accounts as presented:

Roads	\$34,471.39
Fire	\$15,052.50
Admin	\$74,500.16
Total Voucher 2025-06	\$124,024.05

“CARRIED”

6. Reports from Staff & Others:

a. Roads Department Report

The Roads Superintendent reports that roadside grass has been cut and half load restrictions have been lifted from township roads last week. A new employee has been hired for Harley Township and may be working in Kerns at times given the shared road services contract with Harley Township. There are no updates on the delivery of the new pickup truck. Quotes for Hillcoat Bridge are as follows: Demora \$31,284 plus HST and Miller \$37,240 plus HST. The work was awarded to Demora and will be scheduled for this year.

b. Fire Department Report

The Fire Chief reports that there were no calls during the past month and they are still waiting on the delivery of the washer and dryer partially funded under the OFM grant.

c. Others

- i. Eco-Logix’s Landfill Report – May 2025**
- ii. NEPH – Meeting Minutes – May 8th, 2025**
- iii. Treasurer’s Report – June 2025**
- iv. Memo 25-009 Various Correspondence Re: Wind Turbine Opposition – ADDITIONAL**

The Clerk-Treasurer provided recently received information from the IESO that outlined information for councils information including Council’s ability to determine the level or degree of community engagement required by developers to be deemed satisfactory by a host community for a bid in their upcoming procurement in October of 2025 and provided further clarification on how a municipal support resolution would be interpreted and used by the IESO if received.

2025-091 **Moved: Carter Seymour** **Seconded: Loran Runnalls**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt and accept the following reports/minutes, and that it be filed along with the minutes of the regular meeting:

- a. Roads Department Report
- b. Fire Department Report
- c. Others
 - i. Eco-Logix’s Landfill Report – May 2025
 - ii. NEPH – Meeting Minutes – May 8th, 2025
 - iii. Treasurer’s Report – June 2025
 - iv. Memo 25-009 Various Correspondence Re: Wind Turbine Opposition – ADDITIONAL

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7. Correspondence for Council's Consideration:

a. Town of LaSalle – Northern Health Travel Grant Program

2025-092 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, support the Town of LaSalle's resolution regarding the Northern Health Travel Grant Program; and

Direct municipal staff to issue a copy of this resolution to the Town of LaSalle.

“CARRIED”

b. Township of Black River-Matheson – Exemption to Mandatory Firefighter Certification

2025-093 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, support the Township of Black River-Matheson's resolution regarding their concerns with the mandatory firefighter certification requirements under Ontario Regulation 343/22; and

Direct municipal staff to issue a copy of this resolution to the Township of Black River-Matheson.

“CARRIED”

c. District of Parry Sound Municipal Association – Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education

2025-094 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, support the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association's resolution regarding their support for municipal ethics through access and education; and

Direct municipal staff to issue a copy of this resolution to the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association.

“CARRIED”

d. Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury – Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

2025-095 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, support the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury's resolution regarding their advocacy for increased income support thresholds for Canadian Veterans; and

Direct municipal staff to issue a copy of this resolution to the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

“CARRIED”

e. MPP John Vanthof – Bill 49, Northern Highway 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025

2025-096 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, support the Private Members's Bill, *The Northern Highways 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025* proposed by MPP Guy Bourgouin, MPP Lise Vaugeois and MPP John Vanthof; and

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Direct municipal staff to issue a copy of this resolution to the Minister of Transportation; the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing; and MPP John Vanthof.

“CARRIED”

8. Correspondence for Council’s Information:

- a. Ontario Supporting Flood Recovery in Timiskaming District
- b. Memo 25-010 – Horizon Energy – FAQ Fact Sheet

2025-097 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of *Memo 25-010 – Horizon New Energy – Update and FAQ Fact Sheet*; and

Direct the Clerk-Treasurer to notify all developers wanting to submit a bid for the IESO’s Procurement process in October 2025 and beyond that the Township of Kerns requires each developer to hold a public meeting so that the public can engage with the developers.

“CARRIED”

9. Other Business:

- a. Memo 25-011 – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - 2025

2025-098 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Loren Runnalls**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of *Memo 25-011 – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - 2025*; and

Authorize the organization of a joint appreciation night on Friday November 7th, 2025 as a gesture of thanks to municipal volunteers, staff and their spouses for the Townships of Hudson, Harley, Casey and Kerns; and

That the cost of such event will be shared with all participating municipalities.

“CARRIED”

10. By-Laws:

None

11. Resolution to Move to Closed Session:

None

12. Adjournment:


2025-099 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:43 p.m. and will meet again on August 5th, 2025 or at the call of the Reeve.

“CARRIED”



Terry Phillips, Reeve



Krystle Seymour, Clerk-Treasurer