

TOWNSHIP OF KERNS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of AUGUST 5TH, 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 Gordon Verok & Christine Lambert, Horizon New Energy
 Martina Gahwiler & Sylvie Rioux, Wind Turbine Opposition
 Steven Acland, C.P.A., Kemp Elliot & Blair LLP
 Andrew Mirabella & Adam Monteith, Hemson Consulting
 (virtual participation)
 1 Member of the Media
 31 Members of the Public

Regrets: none

1. Call Meeting to Order & Adoption of Agenda:

2025-100 **Moved:** **Carter Seymour** **Seconded:** **Loren Runnalls**
 That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, open the Regular Meeting of Council of August 5th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.
 “CARRIED”

2025-101 **Moved:** **Mark Lenover** **Seconded:** **Dennis Jibb**
 That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, accept the agenda as presented.
 “CARRIED”

2. Adoption of Minutes:

a. Regular Meeting of July 1st, 2025

2025-102 **Moved:** **Dennis Jibb** **Seconded:** **Mark Lenover**
 That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, adopt the following minutes:
 a. Regular Meeting of July 1st, 2025 as presented.
 “CARRIED”

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:

Councillor Runnalls declared conflict of interest on the following agenda items;

- 4.a. & b.
- 6.c.v. & vi.; and
- 8.b.

And did not participate in the discussion that took place during the items listed.

4. Delegations:

a. Gordon Verok & Christine Lambert – Horizon New Energy – Community Benefit & Agriculture Impact Assessment Part 1

Gordon presented an update to Council for their LT2 proposal. A Met Tower has been installed and is gathering information. An open house and Community Info Session is scheduled for August 7th from 5pm-8pm at the Kerns Hall. Other team members from Horizon will be present at the Open House. Gordon also provided an update on the funds both Kerns and Hudson will receive as a result of this project. These funds

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include a community vibrancy fund of \$35,000 each to Hudson and Kerns, a community benefit fund to each township valued at \$2,500 per MW located in each Township (approx. \$300,000 annually to Kerns and approx. \$225,000 annually to Hudson pending final layout of turbine locations), and an increase to property tax revenue estimated to be approx. \$155,000 to Kerns and approx. \$85,000 to Hudson Township. Gordon also outlined that the Agricultural Impact Assessment part 1 is complete. Soil classifications were evaluated as part of this assessment. Diversification on farmland is welcomed by interested landowners. *(brief summary only, entire presentation is available by contacting the municipal office)*

Council was provided an opportunity to ask questions.

Q: Reeve Phillips asked if they could provide a map of the proposed turbine locations and inquired where the soil classification data came from.

A: Not yet. Publicly available information was used for the soil classifications.

Q: Reeve Phillips asked if they know what dollar figure should be put in the trust fund for decommissioning.

A: Not yet, but this can be shared with council when they have it. Every landowner contract that is signed has a section to ensure a trust fund is put in place.

Q: Reeve Phillips asked for clarification on a previous comment regarding having an engineer assess the roads prior to construction.

A: Horizon will work with the Road Superintendent for all road related matters. Horizon will cover the cost of the engineer and will note which roads will be used and which ones will need to be upgraded prior to construction. A road use agreement will be put in place with Horizon and the Township.

Q: Councillor Lenover asked if the turbines are direct drive or gear box.

A: Gear box.

Q: Reeve Phillips asked what provisions they have for the Fire Department.

A: Horizon would be happy to come up with an emergency response plan to assist the fire department.

Q: Councillor Jibb asked what the next steps are in the AIA study.

A: Parts 2 and 3. Once turbine locations are determined, they will complete those parts, which determine strategies to minimize risks to those areas.

Q: Councillor Jibb asked if the met tower data is publicly available.

A: No, as the data is proprietary.

Q: Reeve Phillips asked for a copy of the turbine location map as soon as they have it. Soil classifications have changed due to improvements of the land through things like tile drainage.

A: You can put turbines on prime farmland, but you need to complete an AIA if doing so.

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2025-103 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of presentation by Horizon New Energy regarding an update on the Community Benefit, Agriculture Impact Assessment Part 1, and Open House event scheduled for August 7th 2025.
“CARRIED”

b. Martina Gahwiler & Sylvie Rioux – Wind Turbine Opposition
Martina thanked Council for accepting their delegation. To date there are 54% of Kerns residents opposed to a wind turbine project. Risk assessments and baseline testing were also mentioned, as well as concerns with shadow flicker.

2025-104 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of presentation by the Wind Turbine Opposition group regarding updated opposition information.
“CARRIED”

5. Payment of Accounts – Voucher No. 2025-07

2025-105 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns, do hereby, approve the payment of accounts as presented:

Roads	\$16,392.10
Fire	\$2,078.51
Admin	\$23,051.51
Total Voucher 2025-07	\$41,522.12

“CARRIED”

6. Reports from Staff & Others:

a. Roads Department Report

The Roads Superintendent reports that roadside grass cutting was done for a second time this year, and the second layer of calcium will be applied to Milberta Rd once we get some rain. (currently too dry). Work was also done at the cemetery to remove trees and move the fence to align with the actual property boundary, and plot marking pins were installed to outline the new plots in the newly surveyed west end. The new pick-up is scheduled to arrive in the next couple of weeks.

Quotes for gravel have been received and are as follows:

Milberta Rd Project;

Miron Top Soil \$20.95 for 2,863 mt.
Conners \$19.50 for 3,076 mt.
Pedersen \$21.00 for 2,857 mt
Lathem \$17.90 for 3,351 mt

Wabi Pit Line to Highland Rd Project;

Miron Top Soil \$22.95 for 3,921 mt
Conners \$19.50 for 4,615 mt
Pedersen \$21.00 for 4,285 mt
Lathem \$ 17.90 for 5,027 mt

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Uno Park Rd Project;
Miron Top Soil \$9.38 per mt
Pedersen \$8.50 per mt
Lathem \$7.20 per mt

Jobs were awarded to Lathem and gravel hauling should start mid August for the lower traffic roads and mid September for higher traffic roads.

b. Fire Department Report

The Fire Chief reports that there were no calls for July. The washer and dryer have arrived part of which was funding with the year 1 OFM funding.

c. Others

**i. Steven Acland, C.P.A., Kemp, Elliot & Blair LLP – 2024
Financial Statements**

Steven Acland presented Council with the audited Financial Statements for 2024.

2025-106 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of Steven Acland, C.P.A. of Kemp, Elliot & Blair LLP's presentation regarding the 2024 audited financial statements; and

Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer and Reeve to sign the 2024 audited financial statements on behalf of the Township of Kerns; and

Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer and Reeve to sign Kemp, Elliot, & Blair LLP's engagement letter pertaining to the 2025 audit.
"CARRIED"

ii. Andrew Mirabella & Adam Monteith – Asset Management Plan
Hemson Consulting Ltd. presented the Asset Management Plan for 2025 and corresponding financial strategy, we well as outlined the methods used to determine the presented values.

2025-107 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
THAT we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge presentation of the 2025 Asset Management Plan prepared by Hemson Consulting Ltd; and

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Kerns adopts the 2025 Asset Management Plan, as prepared by Hemson Consulting Ltd., in accordance with Ontario Regulation 588/17; and

THAT the approved Asset Management Plan be posted on the Municipality's website as per legislative requirements and to ensure public access; and

THAT staff be directed to submit the Plan to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately following its passing; and

AND THAT Council direct staff to incorporate the financing strategy into the 2026 capital budget process and future budget discussions.
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- iii. **Eco-Logix’s Landfill Report – June 2025**
- iv. **Earlton Timiskaming Airport – Executive Minutes June 2024 & June 2025 Financials**
- v. **Memo 25-013 – Wind Turbine Opposition – ADDITIONAL – Rev 2**

The Clerk-Treasurer provided a verbal update that the office currently has data to show 54% of Kerns residents are opposed to a wind turbine project and 51% of Hudson residents are opposed. The Clerk-Treasurer also notified council that she had to opportunity to speak with the IESO regarding the upcoming procurement as well as join in on one of the webinars they put on in July. Staff clarified why there is confusion around when the AIA should be completed (before or after an MSR is requested), and the reason is because there are 3 Parts to the AIA. Part 1 needs to be completed before an MSR is requested and Parts 2 and 3 would happen after the project is awarded. IESO reminds Townships to revert back to their Official Plans and zoning by-laws as well to assist in answering land-use questions. Kerns Township has neither an Official Plan nor Zoning By-Law. The IESO said an estimated or rough idea of turbine placement should be known to assist Council in making a decision at this stage in the process.

- vi. **Memo 25-014 – Wind Turbine Support**

The Clerk-Treasurer outlined that a few emails had been received by the office outlining support for a wind turbine project, and several letters of support were also provided by Horizon New Energy.

- vii. **Treasurer’s Report – July 2025**

2025-108 **Moved: Mark Lenover Seconded: Carter Seymour**
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. Steven Acland, C.P.A., Kemp, Elliot & Blair LLP – 2024 Financial Statements
 - ii. Andrew Mirabella & Adam Monteith – Asset Management Plan
 - iii. Eco-Logix’s Landfill Report – June 2025
 - iv. Earlton-Timiskaming Airport – Executive Minutes June 2024 & June 2025 Financials
 - v. Memo 25-013 – Wind Turbine Opposition – ADDITIONAL – Rev 2
 - vi. Memo 25-014 – Wind Turbine Support
 - vii. Treasurer’s Report – July 2025

“CARRIED”

- 7. **Correspondence for Council’s Consideration:**
 - a. **FONOM – NORDS Funding Program Permanency**

2025-109 **Moved: Carter Seymour Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of draft resolution from FONOM regarding support for making the NORDS program permanent and expanding the program eligibility; and

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WHEREAS the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) pilot program was introduced to help Northern Ontario municipalities address infrastructure pressures resulting from natural resource sector activities;

AND WHEREAS the funding provided through the NORDS pilot was very well received by the municipal sector, as it delivered timely and much-needed financial support to many communities across the North;

AND WHEREAS the program has allowed municipalities, such as the City of North Bay, to strategically stack multi-year allocations in order to support large-scale infrastructure initiatives critical to community development and economic growth;

AND WHEREAS the NORDS pilot program has clearly demonstrated its value and effectiveness in helping Northern municipalities address the infrastructure challenges tied to resource development and extraction;

AND WHEREAS rural and northern municipalities are also facing infrastructure degradation resulting from the increasing size and frequency of agricultural machinery and activity, which is currently outside the scope of the pilot;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Kerns strongly urges the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program a permanent fixture of its support to Northern municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province consider expanding program eligibility to recognize the significant impact that agricultural equipment and operations have on municipal infrastructure, particularly in rural communities;

AND FURTHER THAT municipalities be encouraged to continue utilizing the ability to stack NORDS allocations over multiple years to support the planning and delivery of major infrastructure projects;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Natural Resources, local MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, Rural Ontario Municipalities Association and all Northern Ontario municipalities for their awareness and support.

“CARRIED

b. Township of Larder Lake – Delegations at FONOM Annual Conference

2025-110 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of resolution from the Township of Larder Lake requesting that delegations to Ontario Provincial Ministers become part of the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM's) Annual Conferences; and

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Direct municipal staff to issue a letter of support to the Township of Larder Lake.

“CARRIED”

8. Correspondence for Council’s Information:

- a. **Community Safety & Well-Being – Newsletter – June 2025 – Issue 3**
- b. **Case Study – Impact of a Wind Turbine Project on a Rural Community**

9. Other Business:

None

10. By-Laws:


None

11. Resolution to Move to Closed Session:


None

12. Adjournment:

2025-111 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:55 p.m. and will meet again on September 2nd, 2025 or at the call of the Reeve.
“CARRIED”



Terry Phillips, Reeve



Krystle Seymour, Clerk-Treasurer