

TOWNSHIP OF KERNS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of MARCH 3RD, 2026
Held at the Kerns Community Hall

Present: **Reeve:** Terry Phillips
Councillors: Loren Runnalls, Dennis Jibb, Mark Lenover, Carter Seymour
Staff: Krystle Seymour, Clerk-Treasurer
 Allison Doyon, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer
 Guy Godmaire, Road Superintendent
Regrets: None

1. Call Meeting to Order & Adoption of Agenda:

2026-039 **Moved:** Mark Lenover **Seconded:** Carter Seymour
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, open the Regular Meeting of Council of March 3rd, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.
“CARRIED”

2026-040 **Moved:** Dennis Jibb **Seconded:** Loren Runnalls
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, accept the agenda as presented.
“CARRIED”

2. Adoption of Minutes:

a. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 3rd, 2026

2026-041 **Moved:** Mark Lenover **Seconded:** Carter Seymour
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, adopt the following minutes:
 a. Regular Meeting Minutes of February 3rd, 2026 as presented.
“CARRIED”

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest:

None

4. Delegations:

None

5. Payment of Accounts – Voucher No. 2026-02

2026-042 **Moved:** Carter Seymour **Seconded:** Mark Lenover
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns, do hereby, approve the payment of accounts as presented:

Roads	\$20,509.69
Fire	\$1,198.52
Admin	\$24,391.09
Total Voucher 2026-02	\$46,099.30

“CARRIED”

6. Reports from Staff & Others:

a. Roads Department Report

The Roads Superintendent reports that they had a good February. The Department has started opening ditches and culverts for the upcoming spring thaw. The Superintendent provided Council with an equipment update:

Grader – 5,410 Hrs

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
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Loader – 7,380 Hrs
MF Tractor – 1,311 Hrs
Western Star – 1,226 Hrs & 40,007 kms
Half Ton – 10,241 kms
Steamer - Unknown

The Superintendent also provided Council with an update on the bid submissions for the joint calcium tender for 2026 that is administered by the City of Temiskaming Shores:

Pollard was the lowest bidder with a rate of \$0.465 per Litre. This is an increase from \$0.40 per Litre in 2025 (16.25%).

Lastly, he provided an update from last month's Ontario Good Roads Association Board meeting. He will remain on the board for another 2 years and will attend the annual conference being held at the end of March.

b. Fire Department Report:

The Fire Chief reports that the fire trucks have been safetied for another year. The big tanker will need to be replaced very soon, and a few members are looking into options for replacement. The radiator on the pumper truck is leaking and was brought in for repairs. (The truck remains in service as there was a temporary replacement rad installed). Lastly, a few members have completed the theory portion of the exterior attack course.

c. Others:

- i. Landfill Report – January 2026**
- ii. Reports from Council and Staff [no item]**

2026-043 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Loren 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. Landfill Report – January 2026
 - ii. Reports from Council and Staff [no item]

“CARRIED”

7. Correspondence for Council's Consideration:

- a. County of Prince Edward – Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act. 2025**

2026-044 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**

That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, support the County of Prince Edward's resolution regarding support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 strongly urging the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and

Direct municipal staff to issue a copy of this resolution to the County of Prince Edward.

“CARRIED”

- b. FONOM – Planned Closure of Sudbury LifeLabs Laboratory**

TOWNSHIP OF KERNS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of MARCH 3RD, 2026
Held at the Kerns Community Hall

- 2026-045 **Moved:** Loren Runnalls **Seconded:** Dennis Jibb
WHEREAS LifeLabs has announced its intention to close its Greater Sudbury laboratory, and the transfer of medical specimen processing from Northern Ontario to laboratories in southern Ontario; and
- WHEREAS** the Greater Sudbury laboratory provides essential diagnostic services to communities across Northern Ontario, including urban, rural, and remote municipalities, and plays a critical role in ensuring timely and reliable medical testing for Northern residents; and
- WHEREAS** patients with chronic illness, newborns, long-term care residents, and individuals on time-sensitive medications depend on predictable laboratory turnaround times to support clinical decision-making; and
- WHEREAS** transporting medical specimens long distances to southern Ontario increases the risk of delays, specimen degradation, and retesting, particularly during frequent winter highway closures—potentially jeopardizing patient outcomes; and
- WHEREAS** Northern Ontario is already experiencing shortages of health-care professionals, and the closure of this laboratory further undermines regional workforce stability, training capacity, and recruitment and retention efforts;
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Corporation of the Township of Kerns call on the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to take immediate action to ensure that essential medical laboratory services remain accessible within Northern Ontario, including maintaining local laboratory processing capacity in Greater Sudbury; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Province be urged to ensure reliable, timely, and medically appropriate laboratory turnaround times for Northern Ontario patients, recognizing the unique geographic and climatic challenges of the region; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Province be requested to protect and support the Northern Ontario health-care workforce, including medical laboratory technologists, by preventing further service centralization that disproportionately impacts Northern communities; and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, MPP John Vanthof, FONOM, AMO, and ROMA.
“CARRIED”

8. Correspondence for Council’s Information:
a. TMA – Urgent Highway Safety Concerns

- 9. Other Business:**
a. **Memo 26-003 – Presentation of the Draft Municipal Budget - 2026**
The Clerk-Treasurer presented Council with the proposed 2026 budget and provided a line-by-line presentation of all departments projected income and expenses. Three (3) options were presented for council’s consideration.

TOWNSHIP OF KERNS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of MARCH 3RD, 2026
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- 2026-046 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby acknowledge receipt of three proposed levy options with corresponding budget for the fiscal year 2026 as prepared by the Clerk-Treasurer; and
- That council direct the Clerk-Treasurer to prepare a by-law given Levy Option # 3 to be presented for Council's consideration at the Regular Meeting of April 7th, 2026.
"CARRIED"

b. Memo 26-004 – Official Results Township of Hudson RFQ-2026-01 – Joint Gravel Crushing Quote

- 2026-047 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of the Township of Hudson's official results for FQ-2026-01 – Gravel Crushing Tender which is to be filed along with the minutes of the regular meeting; and
- Direct the Clerk-Treasurer to recommend Bernt Gilbertson, the lowest submission, for the Council of the Township of Hudson's consideration.
"CARRIED"

The Road superintendent and Clerk-Treasurer advised Council that if the contract was awarded to Bernt Gilbertson as recommended, they would request an increase to Granular M quantities based on total amount budgeted for this project.

c. Memo 26-005 – Telephone – Community Hall

- 2026-048 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby, acknowledge receipt of *Memo 26-005 Telephone – Community Hall*; and
- Direct municipal staff to cancel the existing telephone contract and coordinate the installation of a more cost-effective service.
"CARRIED"

10. By-Laws:

- a. By-Law 2026-08** Being a by-law to enter into an agreement with MEPS Advisory Services Inc. (Municipal Enforcement and Property Standards Management) for by-law and property standards enforcement services for the Corporation of the Township of Kerns
[three readings]
- 2026-049 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Loren Runnalls**
That **By-Law No. 2026-08**, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with MEPS Advisory Services Inc. (Municipal Enforcement and Property Standards Management) for by-law and property standards enforcement services for the Corporation of the Township of Kerns be received and read a first and second time.
"CARRIED"

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2026-050 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That **By-Law No. 2026-08**, being a by-law to enter into an agreement with MEPS Advisory Services Inc. (Municipal Enforcement and Property Standards Management) for by-law and property standards enforcement services for the Corporation of the Township of Kerns be read a third time and that the same be engrossed in the by-law book.
“CARRIED”

b. By-Law 2026-09 Being a by-law to appoint municipal by-law enforcement officers
[three readings]

2026-051 **Moved: Carter Seymour** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That **By-Law No. 2026-09**, being a by-law to appoint municipal by-law enforcement officers be received and read a first and second time.
“CARRIED”

2026-052 **Moved: Loren Runnalls** **Seconded: Dennis Jibb**
That **By-Law No. 2026-09**, being a by-law to appoint municipal by-law enforcement officers be read a third time and that the same be engrossed in the by-law book.
“CARRIED”

c. By-Law 2026-10 Being a by-law to appoint a livestock evaluator
[tree readings]

2026-053 **Moved: Mark Lenover** **Seconded: Loren Runnalls**
That **By-Law No. 2026-10**, being a by-law to appoint a livestock evaluator be received and read a first and second time.
“CARRIED”

2026-054 **Moved: Dennis Jibb** **Seconded: Carter Seymour**
That **By-Law No. 2026-10**, being a by-law to appoint a livestock evaluator be read a third time and that the same be engrossed in the by-law book.
“CARRIED”

11. Resolution to Move to Closed Session:


None

12. Adjournment:

2026-055 **Moved: Carter Seymour** **Seconded: Mark Lenover**
That we, the Council of the Township of Kerns do hereby adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:42 p.m. and will meet again at 7:00 p.m. on April 7th, 2026 or at the call of the Reeve.
“CARRIED”



Terry Phillips, Reeve



Krystle Seymour, Clerk-Treasurer