



ARNPRIOR

**Minutes of Council Meeting  
January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6:30 PM  
Town Hall, Council Chambers – 105 Elgin St. W. Arnprior, ON.**

**Council and Staff Attendance**

**Council Members Present (In-Person):**

Mayor Lisa McGee  
County Councillor Dan Lynch  
Councillor Ted Strike  
Councillor Tom Burnette  
Councillor Lynn Cloutier  
Councillor Chris Toner  
Councillor Chris Couper

**Town Staff Present:**

Robin Paquette, CAO  
Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk  
Jennifer Morawiec, GM Client  
Services/Treasurer  
Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk  
Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community  
Services/Planner  
Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation  
Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer  
Rick Desarmia, Fire Chief  
Cory Nicholas, Deputy Fire Chief

**Council Members Present (Virtual):**

**Council Members Absent:**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Lisa McGee called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed those present.

**2. Roll Call**

The roll was called, with all Members of Council being present.

**3. Land Acknowledgement Statement**

Mayor Lisa McGee asked everyone to take a moment to acknowledge and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land we operate on, by stating:

“I would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we work, and gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishinaabe People. This Algonquin Nation have lived on this land for thousands of years, long before the arrival of the European settlers, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.”

#### 4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution Number 011-26  
Moved by Chris Couper  
Seconded by Tom Burnette

**Be It Resolved That** the amended agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council dated Monday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be adopted.

Resolution Carried

#### 5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

None

#### 6. Question Period

None

#### 7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

Resolution Number 012-26  
Moved by Lynn Cloutier  
Seconded by Dan Lynch

**That** the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council listed under Item 7(a) on the Agenda be adopted (Regular Meeting of Council – January 12, 2026).

Resolution Carried

#### 8. Awards/Delegations/Presentations

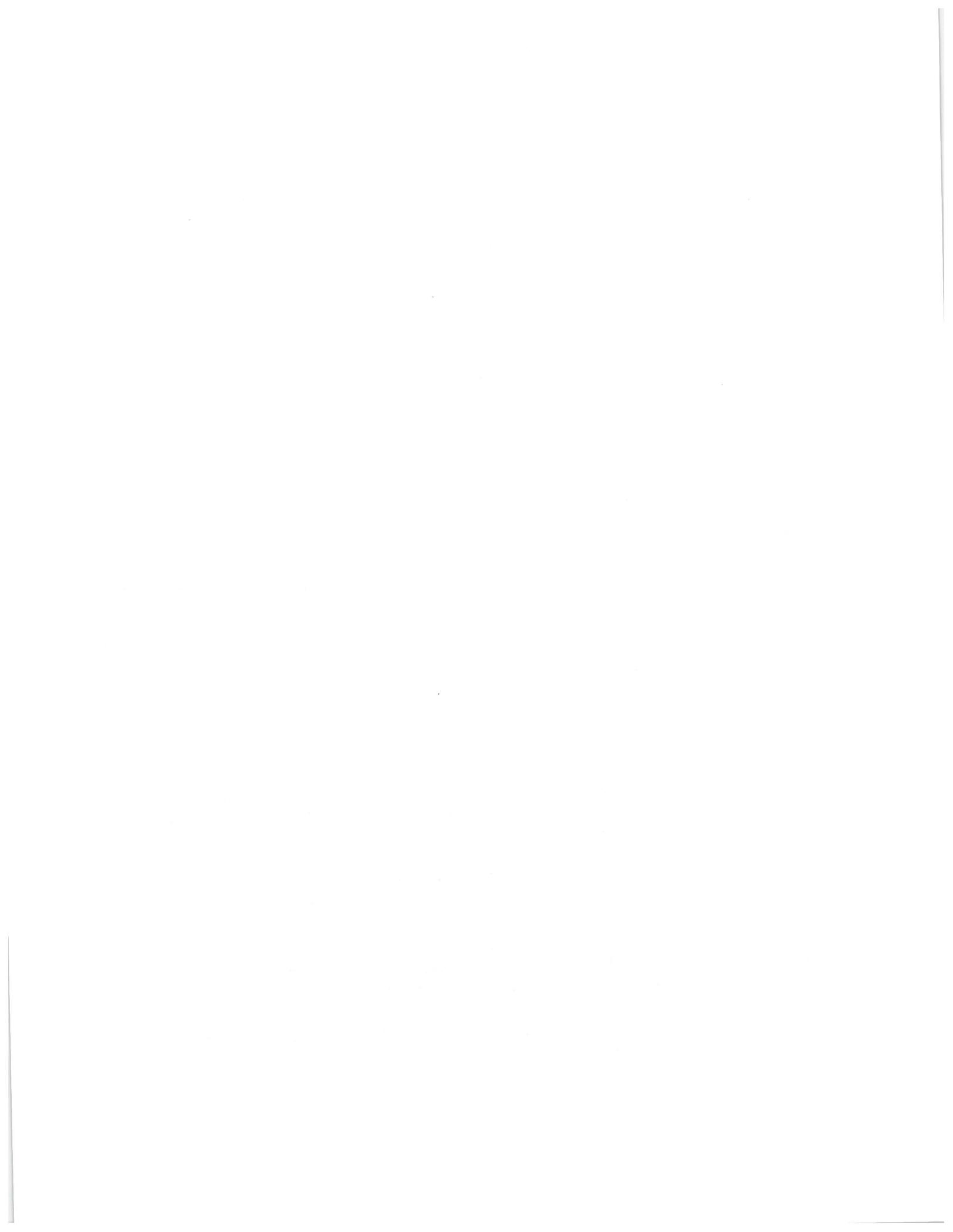
##### Delegations

##### a) Ottawa Valley Affordable Housing

Ish Theilheimer, Chair, and Alexandru Antimia, Board Member, of the Ottawa Valley Affordable Housing, provided an overview of the information included in the agenda package, and responded to questions.

Discussion ensued, with the following being a summary:

- The Ottawa Valley Affordable Housing organization has an interest in properties in Arnprior.
- The organization's objective is to have affordable housing, not social housing.
- There is a need to increase awareness about affordability overall; not just the land and rent, but overall heating and other energy efficiencies, which keep costs low overall.
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) standard for affordable rent is 30% of average income.



## **Presentations**

### **a) Retirement of Robert Phillips, Mayor Lisa McGee**

Mayor Lisa McGee, and Council, recognized the retirement of Robert Phillips from the Arnprior Fire Department after 27 years of service.

Robert Phillips had a lengthy career serving and protecting his community, first joining the fire service as a firefighter in McNab/Braeside on Jan 2, 1996. On December 1, 1998, Rob was hired by Fire Chief Tom Burnette, fulfilling a lifelong desire to become a member of the Arnprior Fire Department. Rob continued to actively serve both departments until 2003 when he chose to step away from his service to McNab/Braeside after serving for 8 years.

Rob's progression to the role of Lieutenant of the department proved to be a benefit to the younger members of the department, where he provided good leadership and shared his knowledge and experience with them.

Mayor McGee, Council, Fire Chief Rick Desarmia and members of staff and the Arnprior Fire Department thanked Robert for his many years of service to the Arnprior Fire Department and wished him and his family well in his retirement.

### **9. Public Meetings**

None

### **10. Matter Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business**

None

### **11. Notice of Motion(s)**

None

### **12. Staff Reports**

#### **a) 2025 Community Services Department Update, Alix Jolicoeur, Manager of Community Services/Planner**

Resolution Number 013-26

Moved by Chris Toner

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

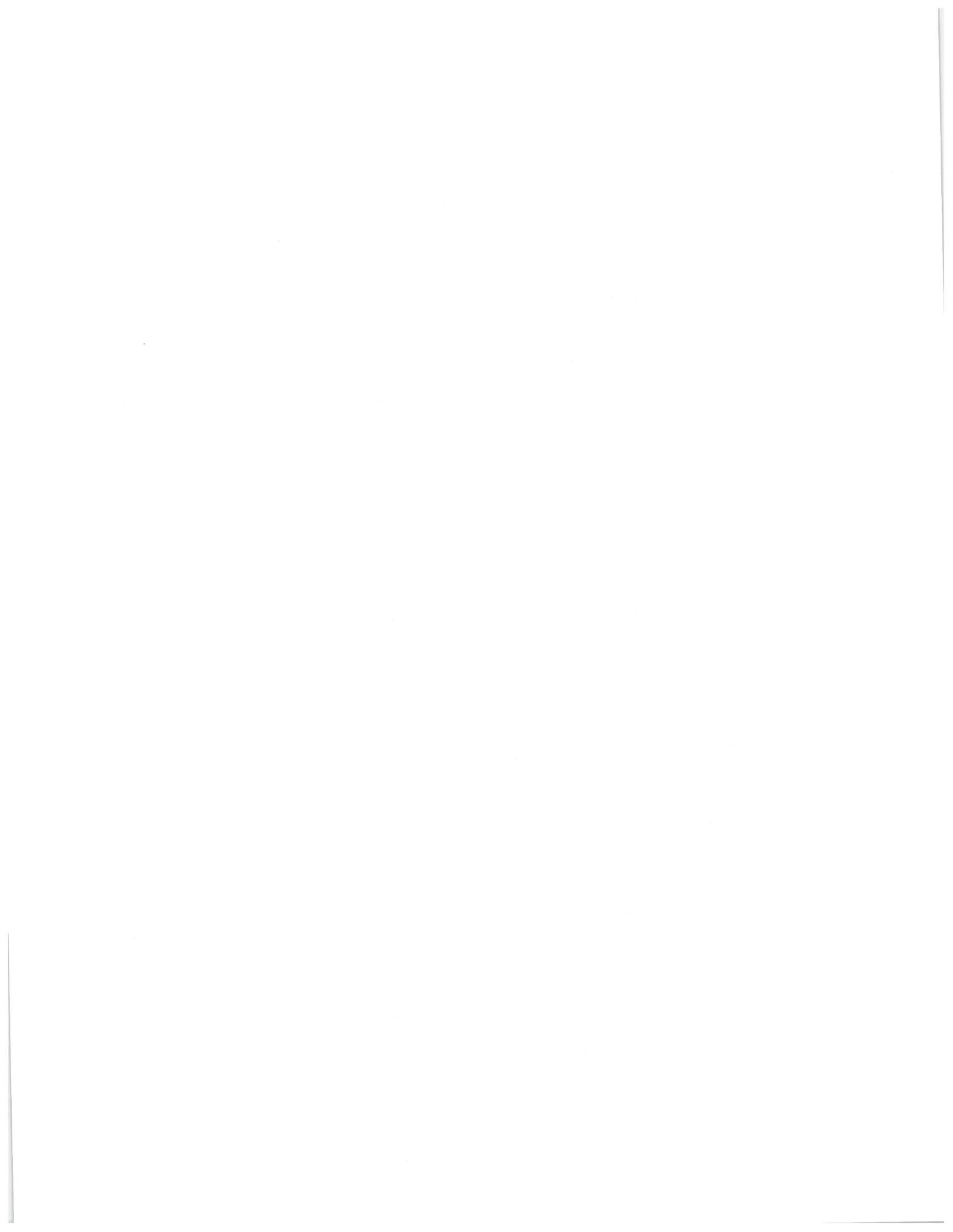
**That** Council receives Report Number 26-01-26-01 for information.

Resolution Carried

#### **b) Implementation Plan for Robert Simpson Park Refresh, Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation, Patrick Foley, Engineering Officer**

Resolution Number 014-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier



Seconded by Chris Couper

**That** Council direct staff to include a newly constructed four-season structure containing multiple single-user washrooms in the Robert Simpson Park Refresh Phase 1B design in the location of the current canteen at a net budget increase of \$575,000 and update the Long-Range Capital Forecast accordingly; and

**That** Council direct staff to include for vendor stations to replace the existing canteen within the Robert Simpson Park Refresh Phase 1B design; and

**That** Council direct staff to consult with an appropriate Indigenous organization to implement a gathering space feature into the design for the Robert Simpson Park Refresh project in Phase 1B.

Resolution Deferred

Resolution Number 015-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Chris Toner

**That** Council defer paragraphs one (1) and two (2) of Resolution Number 014-26 until such a time that staff can bring forward further information to Council; and

**Further That** Council direct staff to continue with the Indigenous consultation part of the process included in paragraph three (3) of Resolution Number 014-26 regarding the gathering space feature.

Resolution Carried

**c) User Fees and Charges – Annual Review**, Jennifer Morawiec, GM Client  
Services/Treasurer

Resolution Number 016-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Dan Lynch

**That** Council pass a by-law at the February 9, 2026 Council meeting to implement the proposed changes to the User Fees and Charges By-law.

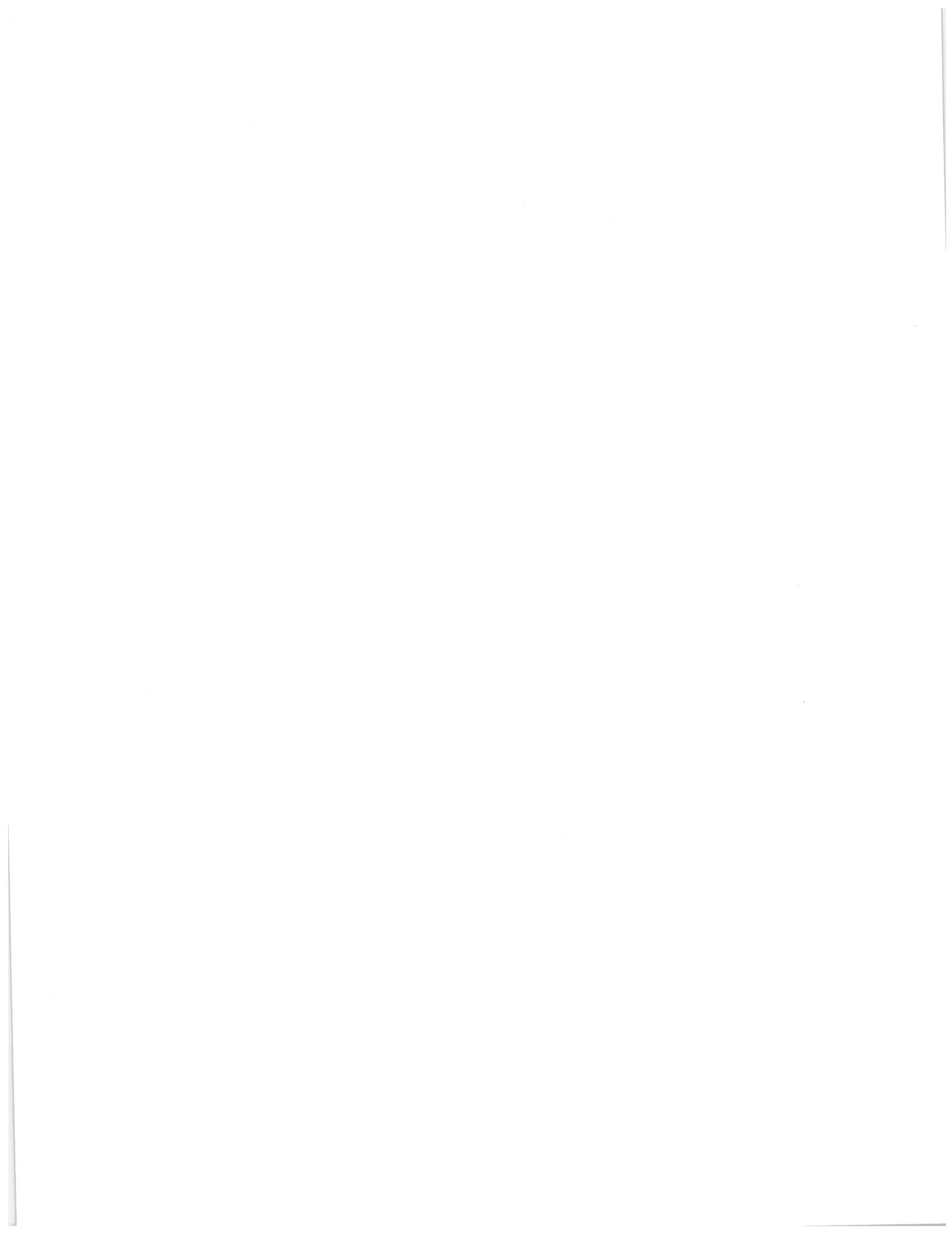
Resolution Carried

**d) 2026-2030 Draft Multi-Year Accessibility Plan**, Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk,  
Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk

Resolution Number 017-26

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier



**That** Council approve the Town of Arnprior 2026-2030 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan as a planning tool to be used to inform the annual budget process as well as other financial planning processes and documents; and

**Further That** the 2026-2030 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan be posted on the Town website.

Resolution Carried

**e) Proclamation for Black History Month (February 2026)**, Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk

Resolution Number 018-26

Moved by Lynn Cloutier

Seconded by Chris Couper

**That** Council proclaim February 2026 as Black History Month in the Town of Arnprior.

Resolution Carried

The Town Clerk read the proclamation:

**Whereas** the Government of Canada celebrates Black History Month in the month of February each year; and

**Whereas** the Province of Ontario and many municipalities across the nation also recognize Black History Month and its significance in the month of February each year; and

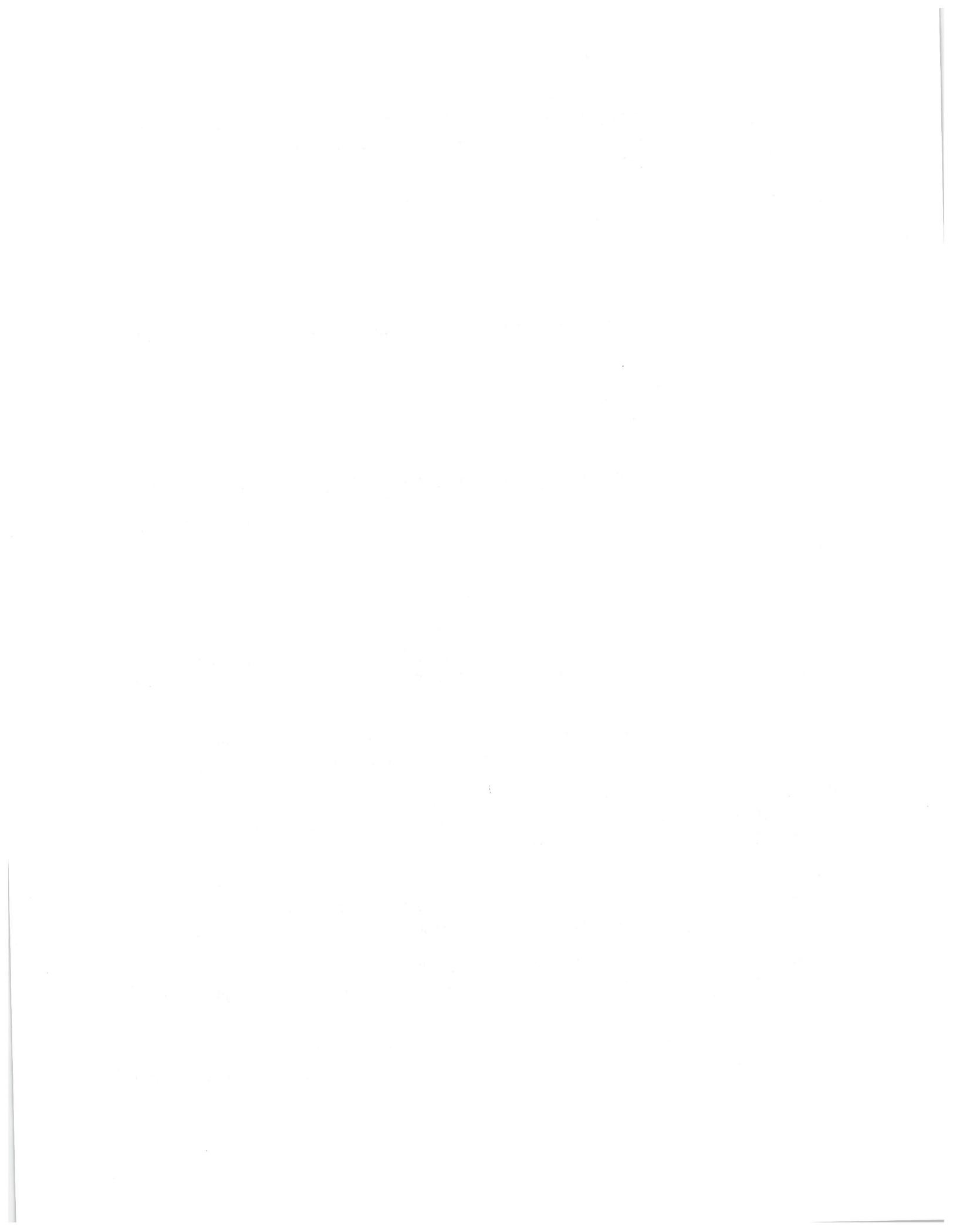
**Whereas** the Town of Arnprior understands the importance of recognizing individuals in Arnprior, both past and present, who are members of the Black community; and

**Whereas** the Government of Canada has announced that the theme for 2026 Black History Month is “30 Years of Black History Month: Honouring Black Brilliance Across Generations – From Nation Builders to Tomorrow’s Visionaries”; and

**Whereas** during Black History Month, we commemorate and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by Black Canadians who throughout our history have shaped our country’s heritage and identity; and

**Whereas** as the Town of Arnprior’s population becomes increasingly more diverse, Black History Month is an opportunity to embrace diversity and foster belonging and inclusion across the Town; and

**Whereas** Black History Month is a month in which we learn of both great accomplishment and trauma, both of which are important for all of us to understand and



where that understanding and a commitment to act make us stronger and better as a community; and

**Whereas** through the month of February, the Town of Arnprior will share various information and resources pertaining to Black History Month via social media and the Town's website, and encourages residents to participate in available programming from organizations across the region; and

**Therefore** I, Lisa McGee, Mayor of the Town of Arnprior, do hereby proclaim February 2026 as Black History Month in the Town of Arnprior and encourage all residents, staff, and Members of Council to take the time to participate and to learn more and understand how these communities continue to help shape the story of Canada.

Councillor Tom Burnette vacated his seat at the Council table at 9:08 pm and resumed his seat at 9:10 pm.

### **13. Committee Reports and Minutes**

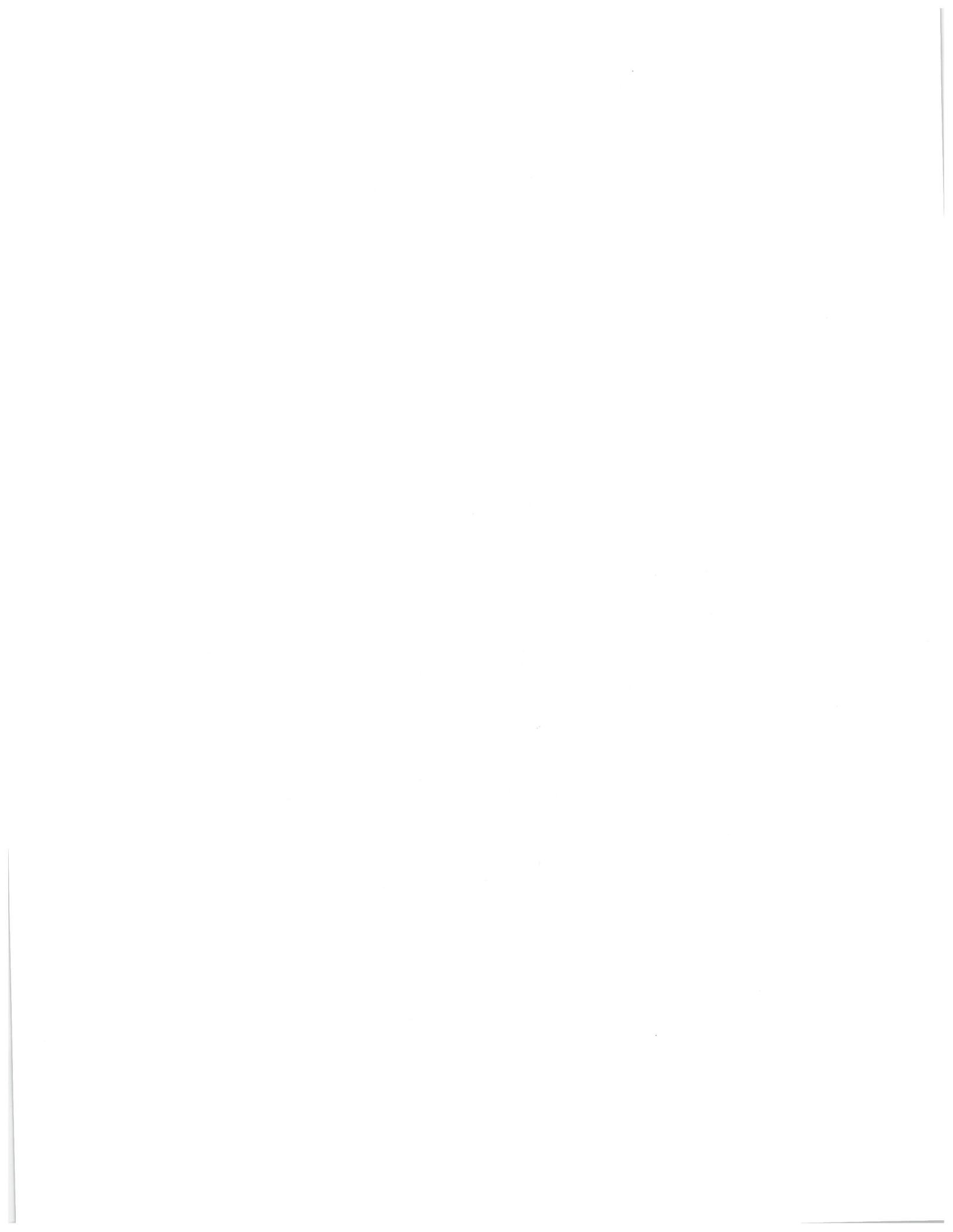
#### **a. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Lisa McGee reported the following:

- Mayor McGee connected with Carmen Goold, Development Review Officer, Government of Ontario, to catch up, discuss opportunities for funding in Arnprior, and to understand what she is hearing and seeing in the community. They had the opportunity to discuss the Museum and potential funding opportunities.
- Mayor McGee attended the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association Conference (ROMA) with Councillor Couper and County Councillor Lynch, where they joined municipal colleagues, Members of Provincial Parliament, and staff from across the province. There were some great sessions and learning opportunities, including some great innovations and technology from the trades floor.
- Mayor McGee made several delegations, including one with six municipal colleagues who make up the Police Detachment Board advocating for sustainable policing costs to the Solicitor General. Councillor Couper, County Councillor Lynch and Mayor McGee, along with MPP Denault, attended two other delegations. One was seeking support for the Revitalization in Robert Simpson Park and the other for the Skateboard Park. Both delegations were well received, and they will continue to keep their eyes open for funding opportunities and future delegations.
- She thanked MPP Denault for his ongoing dedication to the municipalities he serves. Mayor McGee noted that at ROMA, MPP Denault attended every delegation for municipalities in his riding.
- She thanked staff for their support and preparation for these delegations.

#### **b. County Councillor's Report**

County Councillor Lynch reported the following from the County of Renfrew:

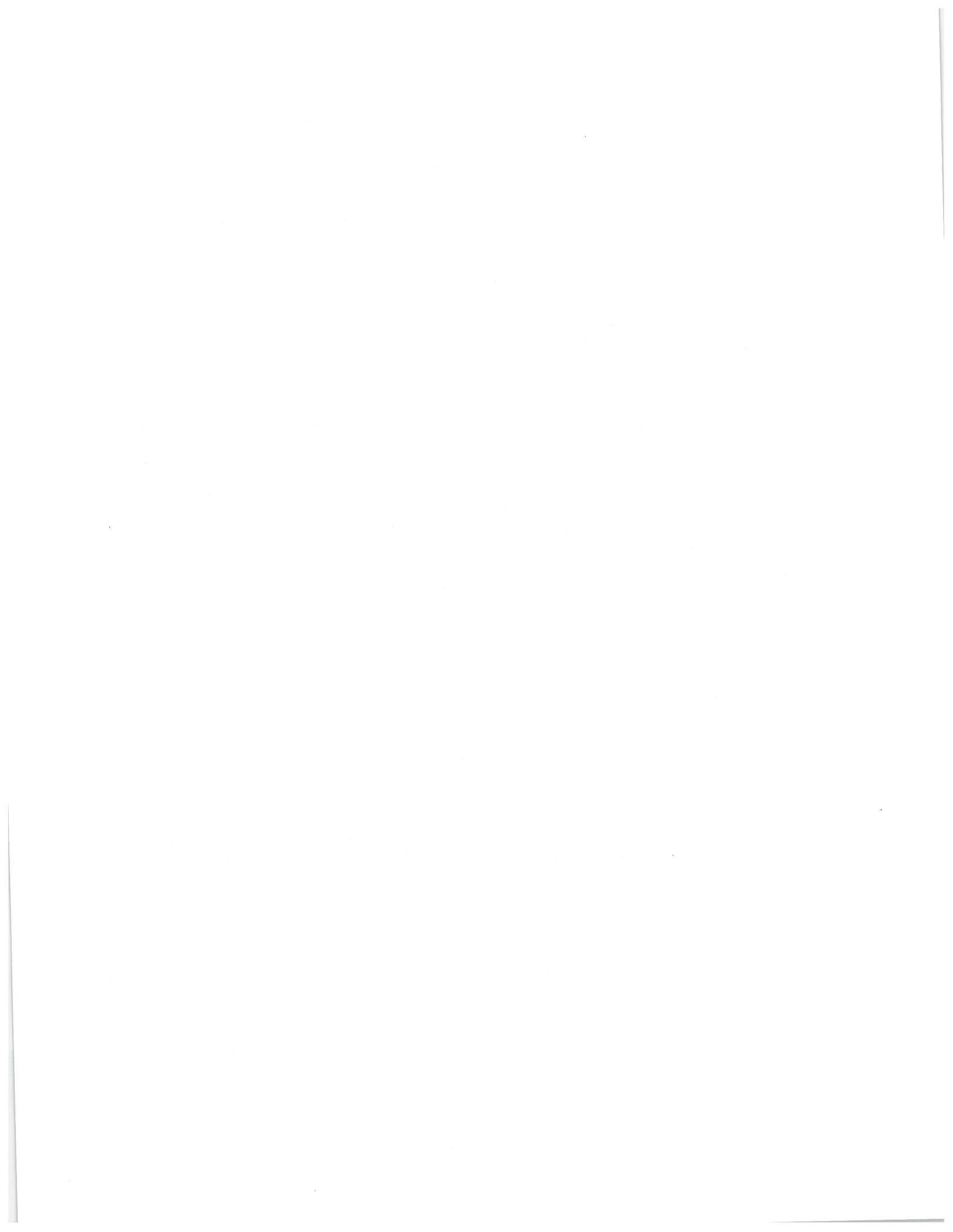


- At the last County Council meeting the Manager, Jodi Bushotz, from the Pembroke Algonquin College, informed Council of what new courses are being held, and that due to enrolment, some courses will be offered throughout the year, for example nursing.
- Eastern Ontario Regional Network stats for end of December are:
  - Upgrades to existing towers: planned 25, completed 25
  - New towers in service: planned 47, completed 36
  - New co-locations: planned 11, completed 10
  - Land use authority: planned 47, completed 46
- Renfrew County Health Unit has announced that drug overdose is on the rise. Reminding users to: not use alone; don't mix drugs, go slow with experimentation; and know your limit. And if you need help there is 24/7 drug hotline to call 1-888-688-6677.
- County Councillor Lynch attended this year's ROMA Conference and participated in two town delegations with Mayor McGee and Councillor Couper that dealt with the new Skateboard Park and upgrades to Robert Simpson Park. MPP Billy Denault was present at both delegations. The Ministers hosting the delegations spoke very highly of MPP Denault.
- County Councillor Lynch provided the Town Clerk with information about two sessions that he thought were important. These were Municipal Sponsorship Revenue and Problem with Rural Roads.
- The Draft 2026 Renfrew County Budget, which will be discussed at a workshop on January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, indicated that the County Levy could be 6.68%.

**c. Committee Reports and Minutes**

Councillor Toner reported the following from the Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) Committee:

- The SALC welcomed Natalie Verberk as the new program assistant. Michaela McClymont is the Arnprior Regional Health Programs and Life Enrichment Manager and will be overseeing the SALC in the interim.
- New programs and classes update:
  - New Pilates class now offered on Friday mornings and Saturdays from 2:30 – 3:30 PM.
  - Somatic Yoga is offered Thursdays at 10 AM.
  - Nourish Yoga & Breath is offered Saturdays at 4 PM.
  - The Knot Club is a new knitting and crochet class starting on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.
- Capacity issues are still causing registration constraints for popular programming like Chair Yoga, Pilates, and Functional Fitness. SALC redirects people to the Older Adults Club offered at the Nick Smith Centre



when possible. There might also be an opportunity to offer larger classes at another space for no cost.

- Investigating a collaboration opportunity with Steelheads & Strikes for a daytime, weekday bowling session for members.
- The SALC committee will also be updating and revising the Advisory Committee Onboarding Manual and Action Plan.
- Shout out to the SALC Program Coordinator Amber Titterton for a tremendous job on increasing SALC programming on Saturdays and weekdays after 3 PM.
- SALC Membership is currently at 318 members

Councillor Couper reported the following from the Arnprior Public Library Board:

- The Arnprior Public Library Board met in November and again on January 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Focused very heavily on strategic planning and the board has approved their strategic plan.
- Created a working group to break some of the goals into short-, medium- and long-term. The working group is composed of Josie Scott, Chair, Shane Kramer, McNab/Braeside, and Councillor Couper. The group will continue to refine the plan and present it to the board.
- The CEO presented the year-to-date financials and the 2026 budget as drafted.
- Strategic Plan with the action plans will be presented to Council in the spring.
- The Librarian went over the end of year statistics which are as follows:
  - Adult circulation was 84,000 books.
  - Children's circulation was 63,000 books.
  - Interlibrary loan saw a 40% drop, which is consistent with others across the province. Evaluating local alternatives to the mail-based interlibrary loan program.
  - Issued 1,121 new cards in 2025, of those 749 in Arnprior, 264 in McNab/Braeside, 108 elsewhere.

#### **14. Correspondence & Petitions**

##### **a) Correspondence**

##### **i. Correspondence Package No. I-26-JAN-02**

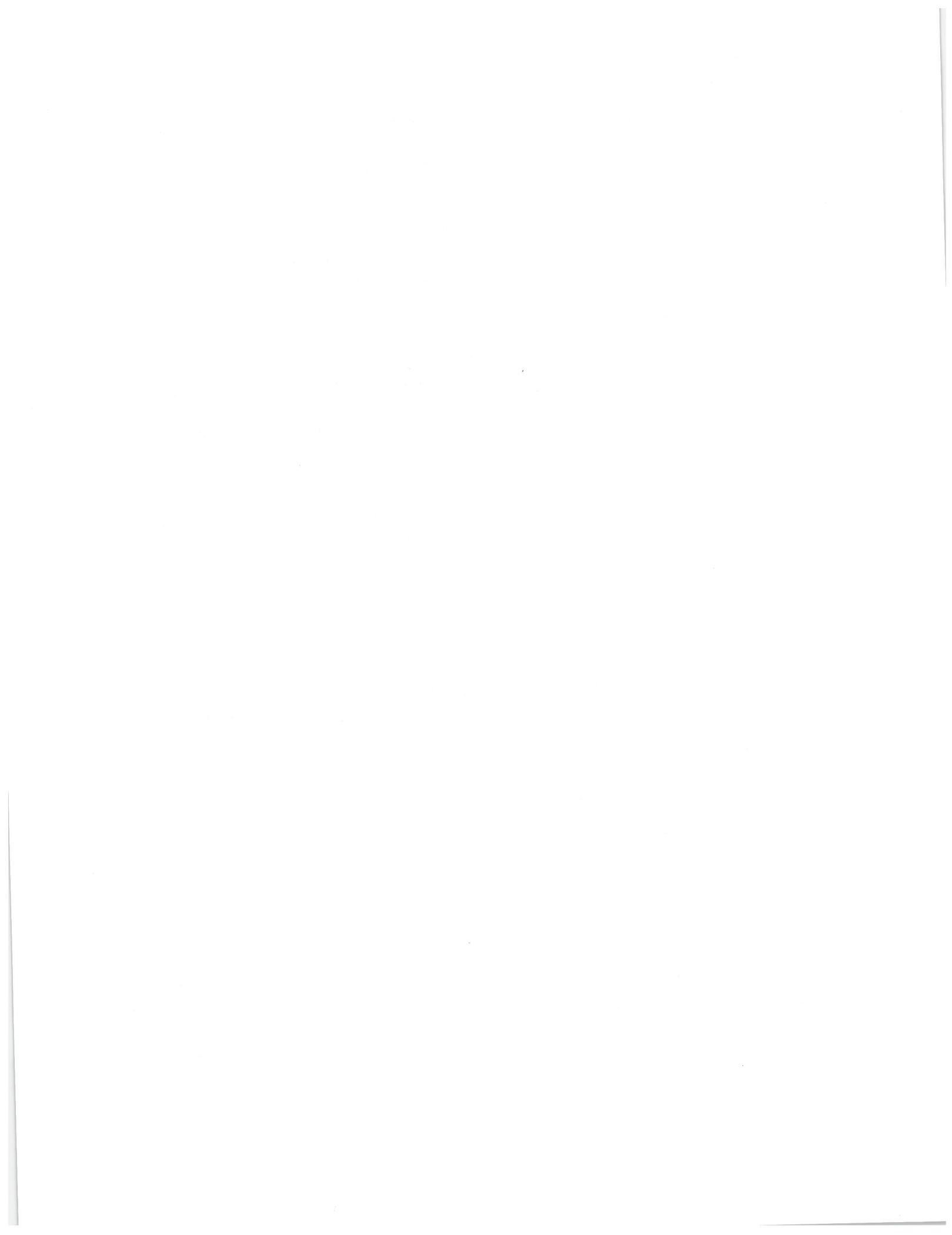
Resolution Number 019-26

Moved by Dan Lynch

Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

**That** Correspondence Package Number I-26-JAN-02 be received as information and filed accordingly.

Resolution Carried

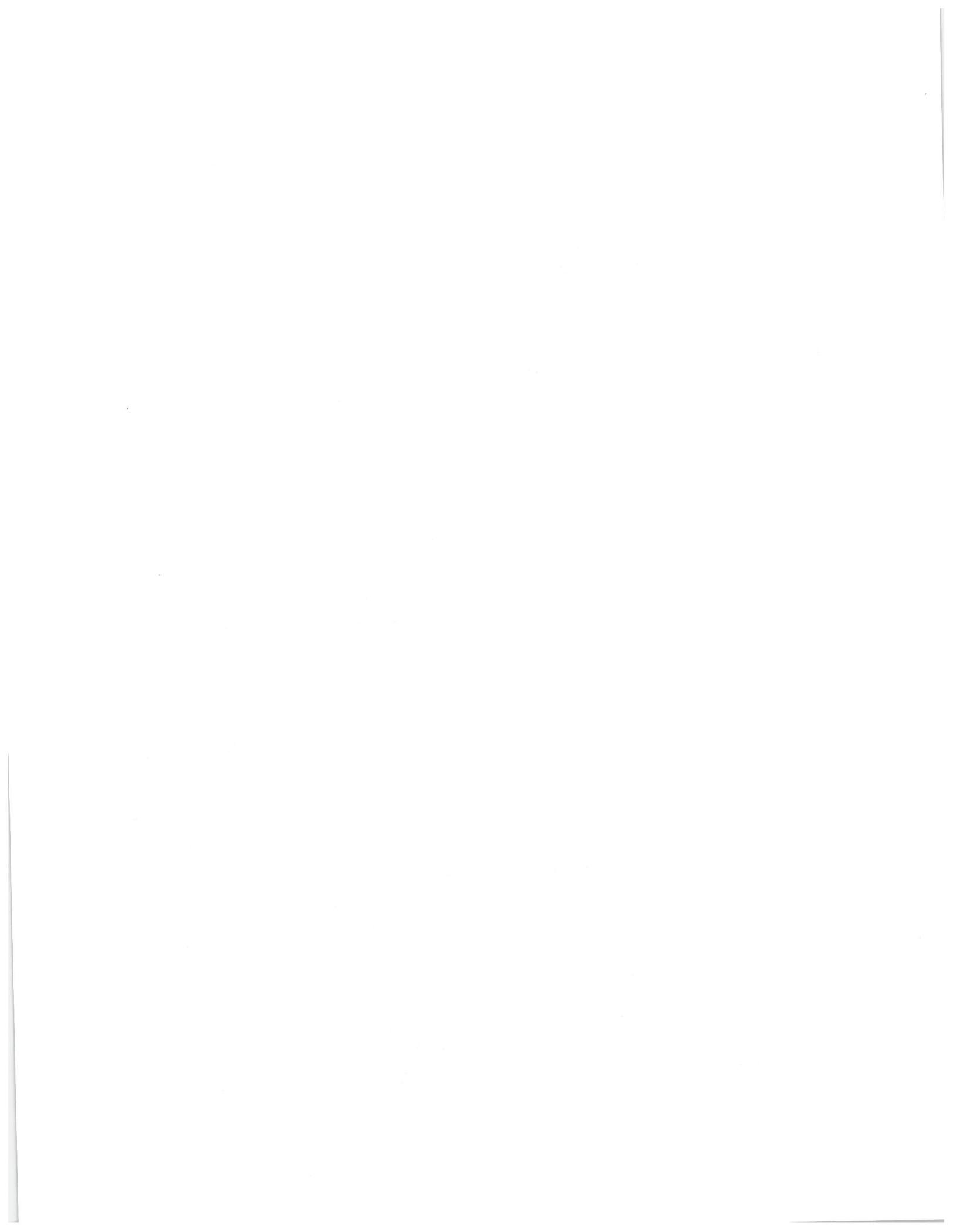


County Councillor Lynch made the following comments:

- Page 7: Good news for students thinking of continuing their education at Ontario universities or colleges. The Ontario Government is investing \$243 million to upgrade learning facilities that include obtaining the latest equipment and state of the art learning spaces.
- Page 11: Ontario investing \$700 million in Critical Water Infrastructure through four funding streams: Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, Housing-Enabling Core Servicing Stream, Health and Safety Water Stream, and Agriculture and Irrigation Stream. Asked staff if the Town has applied for any of these funding streams.
  - The Treasurer noted that the additional \$700 million will just flow through the Health and Safety Water Stream (HSWS), not the other funding streams. The Town applied for the Reconstruction of Victoria Street Sanitary Sewer and Water main under the HSWS stream and was received notice in November 2025 that the application was not successful. If another round of applications opens in the future, then the Town could reapply.
- Page 12: The Housing-Enabling Water Infrastructure has a lending stream named Infrastructure Ontario's Loan Program that provides up to \$1 billion in loans to help municipalities. Asked staff if the Town has considered taking advantage of this lending stream.
  - The Treasurer noted that debt financing was not recommended as the funding source for the Daniel/Albert St reconstruction project. In 2025, Council authorized the remaining portion of the project be funded through development charges, capital expenditure reserve fund and water / wastewater reserve funds.
- Page 17: At ROMA this year, the Government of Ontario announced the second intake of the Rural Ontario Development Program in the amount of \$20 million. Applications were going to open immediately. Asked staff is the Town has received the application and if they have a project in mind for it.
  - The Treasurer noted that when the second intake opens, the Town can apply for funding to help cover the Retail Demand Study currently included in the 2026 proposed budget.

Councillor Chris Couper made the following comments:

- Page 127: This is the library's new public newsletter. Of note, there is an upcoming Mardi Gras event, tickets are \$60 and the event is on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Doors open at 7:30 PM. It was very popular and sold-out last year. This fundraising event features Ball and Chain, a premiere Mardi Gras dance band, a New Orleans inspired menu by Riley's Catering, a signature ice cream by Mallards Milk Bar, and a cash bar.
- Page 127: The Arnprior Public Library also has a new website with a new calendar. There are a ton of programs outlined in the newsletter but encourage people to visit the website and calendar to register for programs and events.



ii. **Correspondence Package No. A-26-JAN-02**

Resolution Number 020-26  
Moved by Lynn Cloutier  
Seconded by Tom Burnette

**That** Correspondence Package Number A-26-JAN-02 be received and the recommendations be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Resolution Carried

**15. By-laws & Resolutions**

a) **By-laws**

Resolution Number 021-26  
Moved by Chris Couper  
Seconded by Ted Strike

**That** the following by-law be and are hereby passed:

- i. By-law No. 7648-26 – Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) Pot Hole Repair Funding Grant

Resolution Carried

b) **Resolutions**

i. **Municipal Grant Request (In Kind) – Arnprior Regional Health Auxiliary (Annual General Meeting)**

Resolution Number 022-26  
Moved by Tom Burnette  
Seconded by Ted Strike

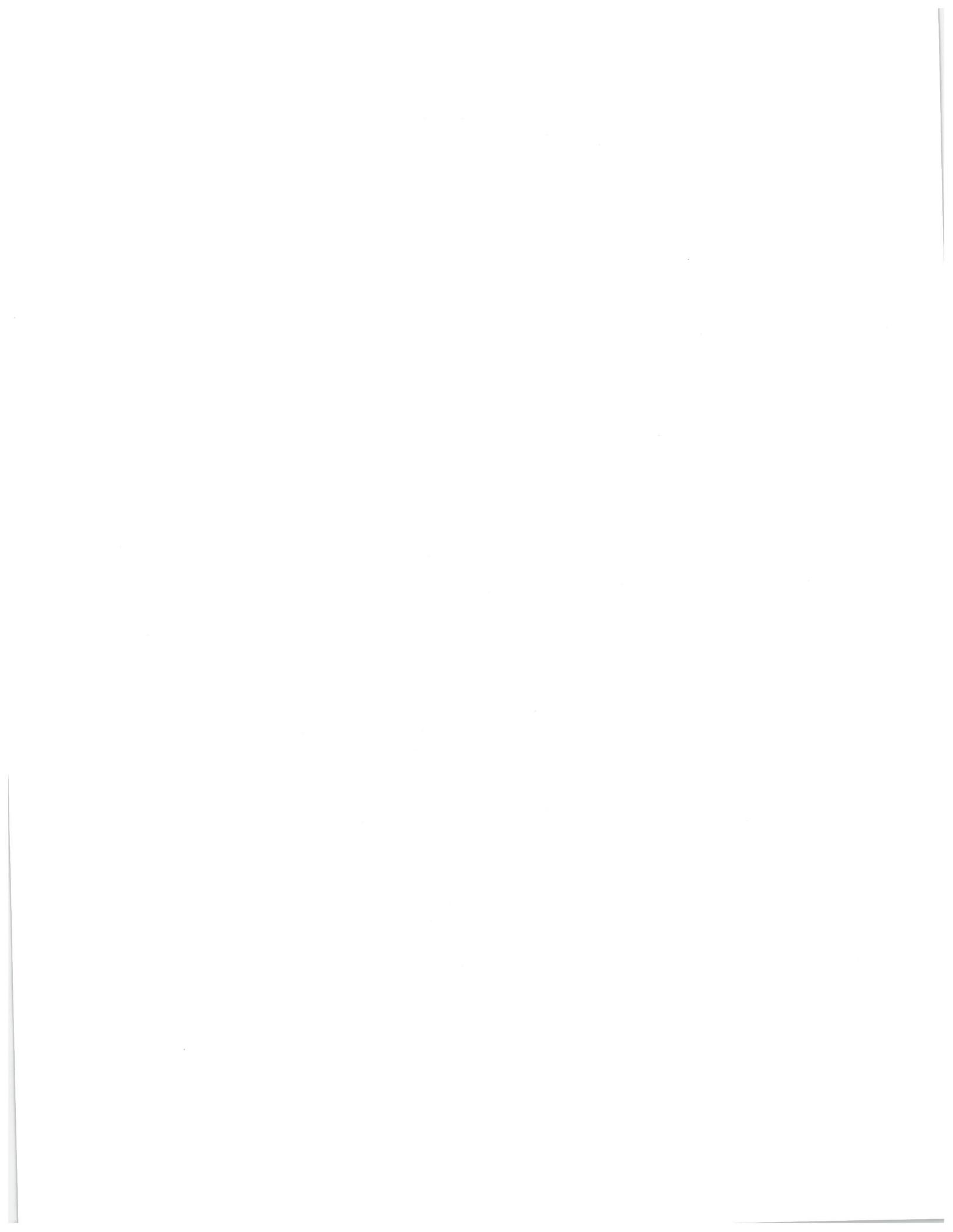
**That** Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the Municipal Grant request from the Arnprior Regional Health Auxiliary; and

**Whereas** the Arnprior Regional Health Auxiliary is an eligible organization under the Municipal Grants Policy as they support the community through raising funds to purchase medical equipment and supporting residents and patients at the Grove.

**Therefore Be It Resolved That** Council approve the request for waiving the Nick Smith Centre Community Hall rental fees on June 15, 2026, (value of approximately \$470 plus HST) for their Annual General Meeting; and

**Further That** the Arnprior Regional Health Auxiliary be advised that it is mandatory to carry sufficient liability insurance and have the Town of Arnprior added as an additional insured for the event.

Resolution Carried



## 16. Announcements

County Councillor Dan Lynch made the following announcement:

- The Arnprior Regional Health Foundation's Sequins and Sneakers Fundraising Event is sold out.

## 17. Closed Session

Resolution Number 023-26  
Moved by Chris Couper  
Seconded by Tom Burnette

**That** Council agree to extend curfew past 10:00 pm if required.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 024-26 (9:25 pm)  
Moved by Dan Lynch  
Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

**That** Council move into Closed Session to discuss One (1) matter pursuant to Section 239 (2)(c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board (Land Acquisition).

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 025-26 (10:32 pm)  
Moved by Tom Burnette  
Seconded by Ted Strike

**That** Council resume to Open Session.

Resolution Carried

Resolution Number 026-26  
Moved by Dan Lynch  
Seconded by Lynn Cloutier

**That** Council direct staff to proceed as directed in Closed Session.

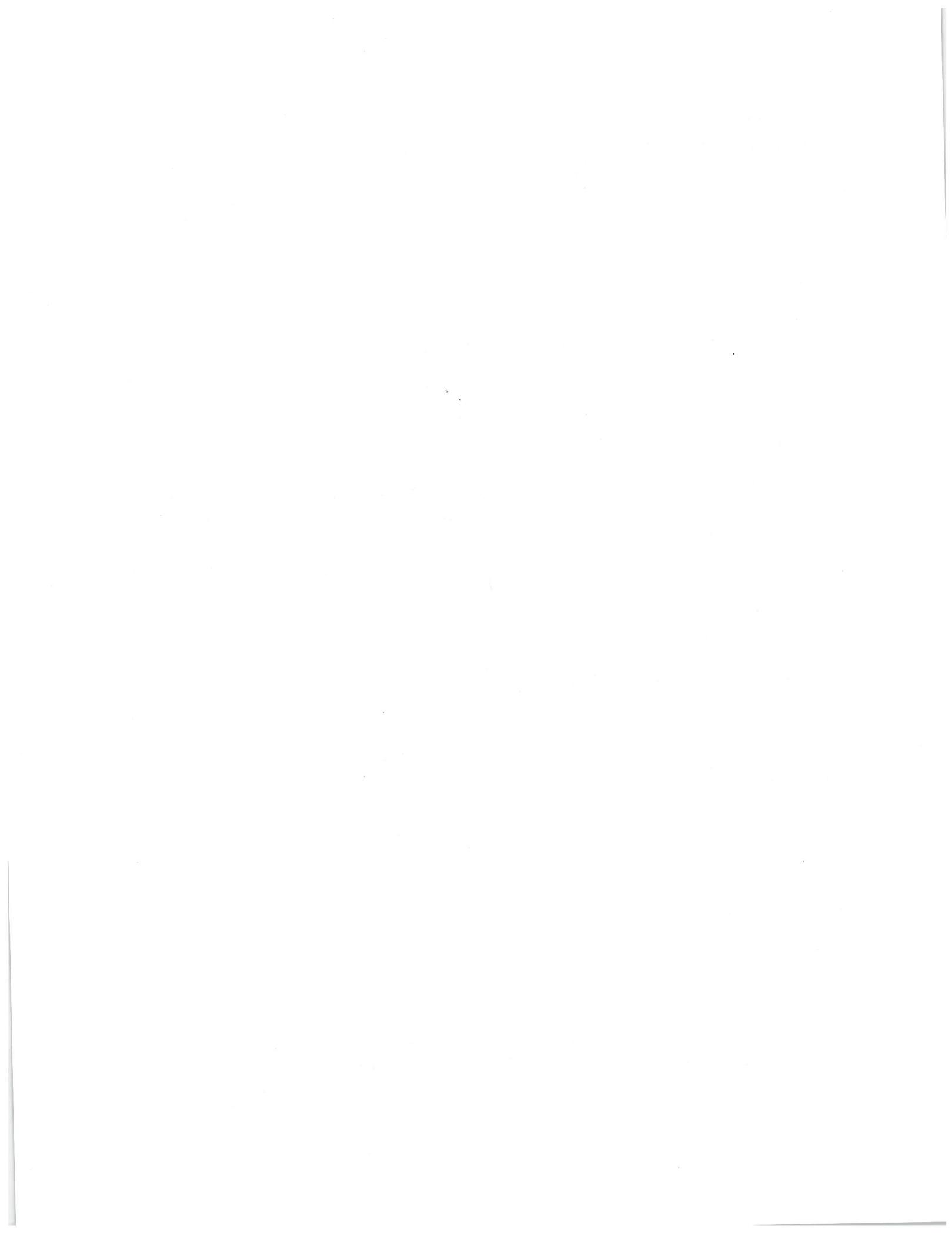
Resolution Carried

## 18. Confirmatory By-Law

Resolution Number 027-26  
Moved by Chris Couper  
Seconded by Tom Burnette

**That** By-law No. 7649-26, being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of Council held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution Carried



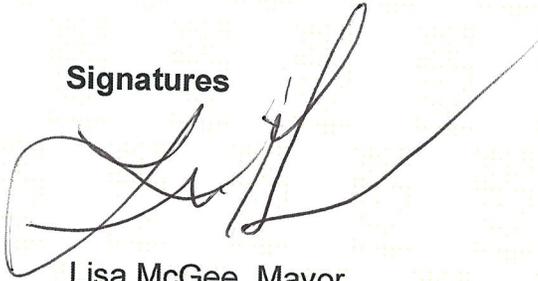
**19. Adjournment**

Resolution Number 028-26  
Moved by Lynn Cloutier  
Seconded by Dan Lynch

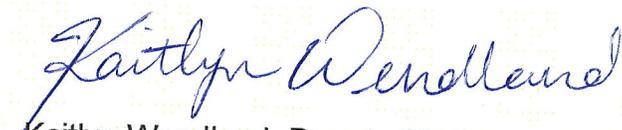
That this meeting of Council be adjourned at 10:33 PM.

Resolution Carried

**Signatures**



Lisa McGee, Mayor



Kaitlyn Wendland, Deputy Clerk

