

DUFFERIN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 9, 2026, 7:00 pm

Dufferin County Administration Office, Sutton Room

55 Zina Street, 2nd Floor

Orangeville ON L9W 1E5

Councillors Present: Warden Lisa Post (Orangeville)
 Councillor John Creelman (Mono)
 Councillor Guy Gardhouse (East Garafraxa)
 Councillor Chris Gerrits (Amaranth)
 Councillor Earl Hawkins (Mulmur)
 Councillor Janet Horner (Mulmur)
 Councillor Gail Little (Amaranth)
 Councillor James McLean (Melancthon)
 Councillor Wade Mills (Shelburne)
 Councillor Fred Nix (Mono)
 Councillor Philip Rentsch (Grand Valley)
 Councillor Steve Soloman (Grand Valley)
 Councillor Todd Taylor (Orangeville)
 Councillor Darren White (Melancthon)

Councillors Absent: Councillor Shane Hall (Shelburne)

Staff Present: Michelle Dunne, Clerk
 Rebecca Whelan, Deputy Clerk
 Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer
 Aimee Raves, Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer
 Rajbir Sian, Director of Development and Tourism
 Gary Staples, Chief Paramedic
 Rohan Thompson, Director of People & Equity
 Brenda Wagner, Director of Health and Human Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Post called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Warden Post announced that the meeting is being live streamed and publicly broadcast. The recording of this meeting will also be available on our website in the future.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Warden Post shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. ROLL CALL

The Clerk verbally took a roll call of the Councillors in attendance.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by: Councillor Horner

Seconded by: Councillor Mills

THAT the agenda and any addendum distributed for the April 9, 2026 meeting of Council, be approved.

CARRIED

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

5.1 Councillor Taylor - Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Benefit Update 7

Councillor Taylor declared a conflict of interest in regard to agenda item #10.4 - Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Benefit Update 7, as a family member is employed at Dufferin County in that area.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved by: Councillor Gardhouse

Seconded by: Councillor Gerrits

THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of Council on March 26, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED

7. PROCLAMATIONS, DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Dentons Canada LLP

Doug Pateman, Associate, Dentons Canada LLP, delegated regarding agenda item #10.7 COPA 1-25 514504 2nd Line Amaranth staff recommendation report. He requested Council defer the report, as they would like additional time to address comments received, notably water and sewage comments. The applicant would like to possibly refine studies to make further submissions for consideration.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions from the public.

9. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

The following agenda items were requested to be moved to Section 11 for discussion:

- Item 10.3 - 2025 Dufferin Oaks Annual Quality Report
- Item 10.4 - Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Benefit Update 7
- Item 10.7 - COPA 1-25 - 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth - Recommendation

10. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Moved by: Councillor Mills

Seconded by: Councillor Creelman

THAT Items 10.1 to 10.4 be received, and any recommendations set out below, be approved.

CARRIED

10.1 Access Dufferin Minutes - March 18, 2026

Minutes from the March 18, 2026 meeting of Access Dufferin.

THAT the minutes from the March 18, 2026 meeting of Access Dufferin, be adopted.

CARRIED BY CONSENT

10.2 Homelessness Task Force Minutes - March 26, 2026

Minutes from the March 26, 2026 meeting of the Homelessness Task Force.

THAT the minutes from the March 26, 2026 meeting of the Homelessness Task Force, be adopted.

CARRIED BY CONSENT

10.3 Homelessness Task Force Implementation Plan Update

A report from the Director of Health and Human Services, dated April 9, 2026, to provide an update on the implementation of the Homelessness Task Force recommendations.

THAT the report from the Director of Health and Human Services, Report No. HHS-2026-009, Homelessness Task Force Implementation Plan Update, dated April 9, 2026, be received;

AND THAT Council direct staff to continue implementation of approved recommendations and report back on items requiring budget consideration.

CARRIED BY CONSENT

10.4 Basic Income Information Report

A report from the Director of Health and Human Services, dated April 9, 2026, to recommend advocacy for a Universal Basic Income Pilot Program.

THAT the report from Director of Health and Human Services, Report No. HHS-2026-010, Basic Income Report, dated April 9, 2026, be received;

AND THAT Council direct staff to prepare and submit a letter of advocacy to the Federal Government advocating support for a Universal Basic Income (UBI) pilot program.

CARRIED BY CONSENT

11. DISCUSSION OF REPORTS SEPARATED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

11.1 2025 Dufferin Oaks Annual Quality Report

A report from the Director of health and Human Services, dated April 9, 2026, to provide the 2025 Dufferin Oaks Annual Quality Report.

Moved by: Councillor Gerrits

Seconded by: Councillor Gardhouse

THAT the report from the Director of Health and Human Services, Report No. HHS-2026-018, 2025 Dufferin Oaks Annual Quality Report, dated April 9, 2026, be received.

CARRIED

11.2 Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Benefit Update 7

Councillor Taylor declared a conflict on this item. (Councillor Taylor declared a conflict of interest in regard to agenda item #10.4 - Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Benefit Update 7, as a family member is employed at Dufferin County in that area.)

A report from the Director of Health and Human Services and the Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, dated April 9, 2026, to seek approval to work with Dufferin County child care operators on a repayment plan for outstanding amounts arising from the 2025 Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Benefit reconciliation.

Councillor Taylor (Orangeville) left the meeting at 7:18 pm prior to the discussion, returning at 7:30 pm.

Moved by: Councillor Gerrits

Seconded by: Councillor Horner

THAT the report from the Director of Health and Human Services and Manager of Corporate Finance, Treasurer, Report No. HHS-2026-016, Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care Update 7, dated April 9, 2026, be received;

AND THAT Council approve the Early Years and Child Care and Finance Divisions to work with child care operators on a two year repayment plan for outstanding amounts arising from the 2025 reconciliation process;

AND THAT staff be authorized to enter into repayment agreements with operators in alignment with this two year timeframe;

AND THAT staff advocate to the Provincial and Federal governments, including requesting a delegation at the upcoming Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference, for program improvements that reflect alternate capacity licensing approaches, geographic considerations within the funding formula, and the long-term sustainability of the program.

CARRIED

11.3 COPA 1-25 – 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth – Recommendation

A report from the Director of Community Development and Tourism, dated April 9, 2026, to recommend Council refuse the County Official Plan Amendment proposed as part of COPA 1-25 for the lands located at 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth to redesignate the lands from Prime Agricultural to Community Settlement Area.

Moved by: Councillor Little

Seconded by: Councillor Mills

THAT the report from the Director of Community Development and Tourism, Report No. PD-2026-016, COPA 1-25 – 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth – Recommendation, dated April 9, 2026, be received;

AND THAT Council refuse the County Official Plan Amendment proposed as part of COPA 1-25 for the lands located at 514504 2nd Line, Amaranth to redesignate the lands from Prime Agricultural to Community Settlement Area.

For (32): Warden Post, Councillor Creelman, Councillor Gardhouse, Councillor Gerrits, Councillor Hawkins, Councillor Horner, Councillor Little, Councillor McLean, Councillor Mills, Councillor Nix, Councillor Rentsch, Councillor Soloman, Councillor Taylor, and Councillor White

Absent (1): Councillor Hall

CARRIED (32 to 0)

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by: Councillor Horner

Seconded by: Councillor Nix

THAT item #12.1 be received.

CARRIED

12.1 CTC Source Protection Region Committee

Correspondence from the CTC Source Protection Region Committee, dated March 25, 2026, regarding the potential implications of the decision on proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities.

13. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

13.1 Operational Performance Review of Highway 10

Moved by: Councillor Gerrits

Seconded by: Councillor Creelman

THAT the Procedural By-Law be suspended to consider the notice of motion.

CARRIED

Moved by: Councillor Creelman

Seconded by: Councillor Nix

WHEREAS the Ministry of Transportation has conducted an Operational Performance Review of Highway 10 between the intersection of Highways 9 and 10 and Highway 10 and Southgate Road 24/Melancthon Artemisia Townline, such study was expected to have been completed last July;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry has only shared with us an Executive Summary of the Operational Performance Review for purposes of a meeting last May;

AND WHEREAS serious accidents, some fatal, continue to occur on Highway 10 in Dufferin County;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dufferin County Council requests the Ministry of Transportation to immediately release the completed Operational Performance Review for Highway 10 along with a prioritization and implementation time line for identified upgrades and safety improvements.

CARRIED

13.2 Council Reporting Structure

Moved by: Councillor Rentsch

WHEREAS Council has implemented a consent agenda and direct-to-Council meeting structure;

AND WHEREAS some members of Council have identified that the current format is not effectively supporting discussion and decision-making;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to bring forward a report, no later than the June 28, 2026 Council meeting, to explore alternative approaches, including but not limited to:

- **replacing one regular Council meeting per month with one or more standing committee meetings;**
- **establishing a reduced number of standing committees;**
- **alternative approaches to identifying items requiring more in-depth review;**

AND THAT the report provide options for Council’s consideration.

14. MOTIONS

15. CLOSED SESSION

16. BY-LAWS

Moved by: Councillor Mills

Seconded by: Councillor Gerrits

THAT By-Law 2026-29 through to By-Law 2026-35, inclusive, be read a first, second and third time and enacted.

CARRIED

16.1 2026-29 Orwill Allergy Products Limited (Lease - Mel Lloyd Centre)

A by-law to ratify the actions of the Warden and the Clerk for executing an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Dufferin and Orwill Allergy Products Limited.

Authorization: Council - April 9, 2026

16.2 2026-30 Township of East Garafraxa (Building Services Agreement)

A by-law to authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Dufferin and the Corporation of the Township of East Garafraxa.

Authorization: Council - March 26, 2026

16.3 2026-31 Town of Grand Valley (Building Services Agreement)

A by-law to authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Dufferin and the Corporation of the Town of Grand Valley.

Authorization: Council - March 26, 2026

16.4 2026-32 Township of Melancthon (Building Services Agreement)

A by-law to authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Dufferin and the Corporation of the Township of Melancthon.

Authorization: Council - March 26, 2026

16.5 2026-33 Town of Mono (Building Services Agreement)

A by-law to authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Dufferin and the Corporation of the Town of Mono.

Authorization: Council - March 26, 2026

16.6 2026-34 Township of Mulmur (Building Services Agreement)

A by-law to authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Dufferin and the Corporation of the Township of Mulmur.

Authorization: Council - March 26, 2026

16.7 2026-35 Town of Shelburne (Building Services Agreement)

A by-law to authorize the Warden and the Clerk to execute an agreement between the Corporation of the County of Dufferin and the Corporation of the Town of Shelburne.

Authorization: Council - March 26, 2026

17. OTHER BUSINESS

Warden Post announced that there will be a Sikh flag raising ceremony on April 15, 2026 at 12:15 pm at 55 Zina St, Orangeville in honour of Sikh Heritage Month. All members of Council are welcome to attend.

The Warden also noted there will be an open house to introduce Dufferin County's Official Plan Amendment No. 5 on April 23, 2025 at 6 pm in the Atrium at 55 Zina Street, Orangeville.

Councillor Nix encouraged members of Council to attend the upcoming candidate information sessions to answer questions and provide first hand experience to those considering running for municipal council.

Councillor Horner noted there has been a noticeable positive difference in the traffic volume on Prince of Wales Road in response to the speed limit increase on County Road 11 and County Road 124 in Shelburne.

18. CONFIRMATORY BY-LAW

2026-36 Confirmatory By-Law - April 9, 2026

A by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Dufferin at its meeting held on April 9, 2026.

Moved by: Councillor Taylor

Seconded by: Councillor White

THAT By-Law 2026-36 be read a first, second and third time and enacted.

CARRIED

19. NEXT MEETING

There will be a Statutory Public Meeting on April 15, 2026 at 6 pm in the New Horizons Room at the Mel Lloyd Centre, 167 Centre St, Entrance F, Shelburne.

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 9 am in the Sutton Room at 55 Zina St, Orangeville.

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Moved by: Councillor Gardhouse

Seconded by: Councillor Creelman

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

Warden

Clerk