

The Corporation of the Town of Kearney
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Council Chambers
Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor: Cheryl Philip
Deputy Mayor: Michael Rickward
Councillors: Keven Beaucage, Heather Pateman, Jill Sharer

Staff Present: Nicole Gourlay, CAO-Clerk (CAO/Clerk)
Jenny LeBlond, Treasurer (T)
Cindy Filmore, Deputy Clerk (DC)
Tom Young, Public Works Superintendent (PWS)
Paul Schaefer, Chief Building Official / Fire Chief (CBO/FC)
Jason Newman, Bylaw Enforcement Officer (BLEO)

The CAO/Clerk and the Treasurer were present for the entirety of the meeting. The Bylaw Enforcement Officer was present for their portion of the Public meeting. The CBO/FC, PWS and the Deputy Clerk were present for the Public portion of the meeting.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Resolution 2026-163
Moved by: Councillor Beaucage; Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Rickward
BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney adopts the Agenda of August 13, 2026, as amended:
Amended to Add:
10.6 Bylaw 2026-XX Being a Bylaw to Appoint a Committee of Adjustment
11. Closed Session
 (2)(b) *personal matters about an identifiable individual including municipal or local board employees*
 (2)(d) *employee relations or labour negotiations*

Amended to Remove:
11. Closed Session
 (2)(f) *advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose*
CARRIED
3. **Disclosure of Interest – none noted**
4. **4.1 Delegation - Zabe MacEachren / KWEF re Invasive Species**
Resolution 2026-164
Moved by: Councillor Pateman; Seconded by Councillor Beaucage
BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney thanks Zabe MacEachren for her presentation on Invasive Species Control; AND FURTHER directs Staff to work with her and KWEF on education to the public on these species.
CARRIED

4.2 Public Meeting – Gray Jay Lane

Mayor Philip invited residents of Gray Jay Lane to speak to Council with their comments and concerns

Dave Bones – 69 Gray Jay Lane spoke to his desire to not use market value assessment as a means of determining apportionment of costs,

Larry Renaud – 77 Gray Jay Lane spoke in support of the road work, but requested that the costs be evenly divided by the 6 properties.

Maureen Armstrong – 49 Gray Jay Lane spoke to also wanting the costs shared equally among the 6 properties

Gaye Lundy – 63 Gray Jay Lane requested a reduced rate as they only use the road seasonally
Jim Sublet / Manderley Manor Inc. – 95 Gray Jay Lane was appreciative of having the road work and maintenance completed

Resolution 2026-165

Moved by: Councillor Beaucage; Seconded by: Councillor Sharer

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney directs Staff to move forward with the Gray Jay Lane Road Improvement and pending financial confirmation from the Treasurer that each land owner can pay the cash gradually with zero interest over a period of 10 years or if they wish to pay up front they may do so through a Special Area Service Charges Bylaw AND FURTHER should this method not be available then Staff will move forward with a Special Fees & Charges bylaw; AND FURTHER that construction begin ASAP
CARRIED

4.3 Public Meeting – Colonization Road

Mayor Philip invited residents of this road to speak to Council with their comments or concerns

Bob Harrison – 2661B – liked the Gray Jay Lane approach with equal payments to be made by each lot along the road

Talia Gordner – representing her clients (RONDINELLI) 2581B spoke to advise that her clients do not agree with the survey provided by the Town and would like the opportunity to provide their own survey.

George Pudsey – 2581A – does not like the proposed methods of apportionment, preferring the costs be divided by the residents of the road and the Town

Resolution 2026-166

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Michael Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Beaucage

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney directs Staff to defer the Colonization Road project pending receipt of a current survey to determine where the road is located. Council agrees to allow the Rondinelli family until August 27th to provide this survey; AND FURTHER THAT work begin ASAP after the August 27th date; AND FURTHER THAT the cost of the roads be shared equally by way of a Special Service Charges Bylaw if applicable or a Special Area Fees & Charges Bylaw; AND FURTHER THAT the land owners be provided an opportunity to pay over 10 years at zero interest or pay in advance if they so wish; AND FURTHER THAT the cost to the land owners not exceed \$82,000.00
CARRIED

5. Consent List

Resolution 2026-167

Moved by: Councillor Beaucage; Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Rickward;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Consent List from the Council Meeting of Thursday, August 13, 2026, be accepted and that all recommendations or support contained therein be adopted and approved as resolutions of Council.

CARRIED

6. Items Referred from the Consent List

7. Items for Discussion

7.1 SR 2026-46 Community Improvement Kearney

Resolution 2026-168

Moved by: Councillor Beaucage; Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Rickward

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney hereby receives and accepts the Staff Report SR2026-46 regarding the Community Improvement project; AND FURTHER THAT Council thanks the Bylaw Department for their efforts on this project and working with the property owners to seek resolution.

CARRIED

7.2 RFT-PW-02-2026 Gravel Application to Island Lake

Resolution 2026-169

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Pateman

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney hereby receives and accepts the Staff Report regarding RFT – PW-02-2026 for Gravel Application to Island Lake; AND FURTHER THAT Council awards the tender for Gravel Application to Island Lake Road to Muskoka Truck and Equipment Sales o/a Greens Haulage in the amount of \$187,778.88 HST Included
CARRIED

7.3 RFT-PW-03-2026 Hard Surface Treatment
Resolution 2026-170

Moved by: Councillor Beaucage; Seconded by: Councillor Sharer

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives and accepts the Staff Report regarding RFT-PW-03-2026 Hard Surface Treatment; AND FURTHER THAT Council awards the tender for the Hard Surface Treatment tender to: Fowler Construction in the amount of: \$242,212.11 HST Included
CARRIED

7.4. RFT-PW-05-2026 Winter Sand
Resolution 2026-171

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Pateman

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives and accepts the Staff Report regarding RFT-PW-05-2026 Winter Sand; AND FURTHER THAT Council authorize staff to purchase salt using sole sourcing method of procurement and further issue a Request for Quote to purchase sand and have the successful proponent mix the salt and sand together and pile at the Public Works Yard; AND FURTHER THAT Staff be authorized to award the quotation to the lowest bidder for winter sand should it come under budget
CARRIED

7.5 RFT-PW-06-2026 Multiple Roads Improvement Project
Resolution 2026-172

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Jill Sharer

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives and accepts the Staff Report regarding RFT-PW-06-2026 Multiple Roads Improvement Project; AND FURTHER THAT Council directs Staff to return with a financial breakdown of the remaining roads for a special public Council meeting to receive public input on moving forward.
CARRIED

7.6 RFT-PW-07-2026 Shouldering/Berm Removal Hwy 518
Resolution 2026-173

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Pateman

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives and accepts the Staff Report regarding RFT-PW-07-2026 Shouldering/Bern Removal Hwy 518; AND FURTHER THAT Council awards the tender for the Shouldering/Berm Removal of Hwy 518 to Gradall Muskoka Inc. in the amount of \$212,553.00 HST included.
CARRIED

7.7 DRAFT Fire Dispatch Agreement with WPSHC
Resolution 2026-174

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by Councillor Beaucage

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney has received and reviewed the DRAFT Fire Dispatch Agreement with the West Parry Sound Health Centre regarding the provision of communication services to Kearney Fire Services; BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the passing of this bylaw, which will take place later in this meeting.
CARRIED

7.8 Ontario Regulation 284/09 Budget Matters – Expenses
Resolution 2026-175

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Sharer

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives and adopts SR2026-45 regarding O. Reg. 284/09 and the estimated impact of excluded expenses on the budgeted operating surplus (deficit)
CARRIED

7.9 Staff Memo re: TAB Shore Road Allowance
Resolution 2026-176

Moved by: Councillor Beaucage; Seconded by: Councillor Sharer

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives and accepts the Staff Memo regarding the TAB Shore Road Allowance purchase; AND FURTHER THAT Council supports the passing of a bylaw to this effect, which will take place later in the meeting.
CARRIED

7.10 Memo re: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day
Resolution 2026-177

Moved by: Councillor Sharer; Seconded by: Councillor Pateman

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives and accepts the Staff Memo regarding the Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness; AND FURTHER THAT Council recognizes October 15, 2026 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day and that notice be posted on the appropriate Social Media sites.
CARRIED

7.11 Staff Memo re: Road Closure (Labour Day Weekend)
Resolution 2026-178

Moved by: Councillor Pateman; Seconded by: Councillor Beaucage

WHEREAS the Fireworks from the Annual Kearney Regatta had to be postponed due to inclement weather; AND WHEREAS this has resulted in an alternative date of Saturday, September 5 being chosen for the Fireworks Display; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney supports the closing of Main Street on September 5th or 6th between 6 pm and 11 pm; AND FURTHER that Council temporarily suspend the enforcement of all applicable municipal by-laws, including By-Law No. 2025-72 and By-Law No. 2018-24, solely for the purpose of facilitating the postponed Regatta fireworks event on Labour Day Weekend, 2026, including but not limited to: Live music performances; The approved fireworks display; and Other approved Regatta activities that may otherwise be in contravention of municipal by-laws AND FURTHER THAT each suspension shall apply only to officially sanctioned event activities on Labour Day Weekend, 2026, and shall expire immediately following the conclusion of the event.

CARRIED

7.12 Support for NOHFC funding Ontario Graphite
Resolution 2026-179

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Beaucage

WHEREAS Global Battery Materials (GBM) is an Ontario-based critical minerals and advanced battery materials company focused on developing a secure, non-Chinese supply chain for natural graphite and downstream battery materials utilizing their mine site in Kearney; AND WHEREAS Global Battery Materials has applications for funding submitted to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHFC) to support the renovation of an office site in Kearney as well as for hiring of local interns at the mine site; AND WHEREAS GBM's proposed restart of a permitted graphite mine located in Kearney, Ontario represents a near-term opportunity to support local employment and sustained economic activity in the region; AND WHEREAS that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney recognizes the role that NOHFC funding programs play in enabling projects that advance both regional development and national economic priorities; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney hereby offers their support of OGL (GBM)'s applications to NOHFC and encourage their consideration.

CARRIED

7.13 Report From the Office of the Integrity Commissioner

Councillor Beaucage shared her comments (attached) regarding the Integrity Commissioner's Report: *Regular Council Meeting Thursday, August 13, 2026*

Agenda Item 7.13 IC Report

Regarding the Town of Kearney's Integrity Commissioner's Report IC-35851-0226 Code of Conduct Complaint (Clerk/CAO re: Beaucage)

I want to address the Integrity Commissioner's Report IC-35851-0226 regarding the Code of Conduct complaint.

Over the past year, I have participated in two investigations. These processes have cost taxpayers thousands and thousands of dollars, and despite my full cooperation, I have lost confidence in how these matters have been handled. I acknowledge that there are areas where I can make improvements, and I am committed to doing so. Many of these issues could have been resolved internally through open communication and a willingness from all parties to work collaboratively. I asked each of the interviewers "What is the outcome, the Clerk/CAO is looking for?" Both responses were that they did not know. However, I will not accept poor treatment, nor will I accept accusations that mischaracterize my intentions or my work on behalf of the community.

The Integrity Commissioner recommended voluntary mediation to help repair the working relationship between Council and administration. I agreed to participate. The Clerk/CAO declined. This decision affects our municipality, because a functional relationship between Council and administration is essential for effective governance.

Council must ensure that the Code of Conduct remains a tool for addressing genuine misconduct - not a mechanism for turning administrative disagreements, procedural misunderstandings, or legitimate political scrutiny into public allegations against an elected representative. The Code of Conduct should be a fair and disciplined accountability process, not a shield that prevents scrutiny of administrative actions or a vehicle to publicly discredit members of Council.

I do not wish to continue down a path of negativity, accusations, or division. My goal is to represent the public with transparency, accountability, and professionalism. I expect to be treated equally, and I expect my inquiries to be addressed respectfully and professionally. That is the standard our residents deserve, and it is the standard I will continue to uphold.

Resolution 2026-180

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Sharer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney hereby receives the Integrity Commissioners Report IC-35851-0226 Code of Conduct Complaint (Clerk/CAO re Beaucage); AND FURTHER THAT Council accepts the Integrity Commissioners recommendation to impose (c) a suspension of remuneration for a period not exceeding 15 days.

A recorded vote was called by Deputy Mayor, Michael Rickward on the item. The CAO/Clerk read allowed the names of the members of Council voting in alphabetical order:

Beaucage, Keven	
Pateman, Heather	FOR
Philip, Cheryl -Mayor	OPPOSED
Rickward, Michael - Deputy Mayor	FOR
Sharer, Jill	FOR

Resolution 2026-181

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Sharer

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney review & revise the current performance appraisal policy practices to provide a clearer direction for Council going forward.

CARRIED

7.14 Staff Memo re: Echo Ridge Road Subdivision Roads DRAFT

Resolution 2026-182

Moved by: Councillor Sharer; Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Rickward

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives and accepts the Staff Memo regarding Echo Ridge Subdivision Road –Property Owner Feedback Regarding Proposed Upgrades; AND WHEREAS Council determines their desire to ensure this subdivision of 80 lots be opened for development; NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council directs Staff to contact the Engineer of Record to provide a report on the Echo Ridge Subdivision Road with the idea of having a hard surface in the future.

CARRIED

8. Notice of Motion – nil

9. Correspondence for Information

Resolution 2026-183

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Beaucage

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney receives correspondence list from August 13, 2026 for information; AND FURTHER THAT Council directs staff to write letters of support for the following items:

- 9.1 Prepare a letter to the Burk's Falls Food Bank regarding requests for funding
- 9.2 (information – Camp Molly)
- 9.3 Write a letter of Support regarding the MFOA Letter to the Ministry
- 9.4 (information – Town of Huntsville Staff Report)

9.5 Write a letter of Support regarding the Town of Bracebridge resolution re: flooding
CARRIED

10. By-laws

Resolution 2026-184

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Pateman

BE IT RESOLVED that the following by-laws be read a first, second and third time, be passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the by-law book:

10.1 By-law 2026- 38 – Stop Up, Close and Sell Shore Road Allowance (TAB)

10.2 By-law 2026- 39 Enter into Agreement with WPSHC for Fire Dispatch

10.3 By-law 2026- 40 - Delegation of Authority during Lane Duck

10.4 Bylaw 2026- 41 - Amend Fees & Charges Bylaw

10.5 By-law 2026- 42 Being a By-law regarding the Assumption and Name Change of a portion of Patton Road

10.6 By-law 2026-43 – Being a bylaw to appoint a Committee of Adjustment

CARRIED

11. Closed Session

Resolution 2026-185

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Beaucage

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney moves into closed session, at 9:32 p.m., under Section 239 of the Municipal Act, under the following subsections:

2(b) Personal Matters about an Identifiable Individual, including municipal or local board employees;

2(d) Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations

CARRIED

Resolution 2026-186

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Pateman

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney reconvenes in Open Session at 10:10 pm

Resolution 2026-187

Moved by: Councillor Beaucage; Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Rickward

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney approves going passed the curfew of 4 hours in their procedural bylaw

CARRIED

12. Confirming By-law

Resolution 2026-188

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Rickward; Seconded by: Councillor Pateman

BE IT RESOLVED that By-law 2026-44 being a by-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2026, be read a first, second and a third time, passed, signed by the Mayor and the Clerk, sealed with the seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the by-law book.

CARRIED

13. Adjournment

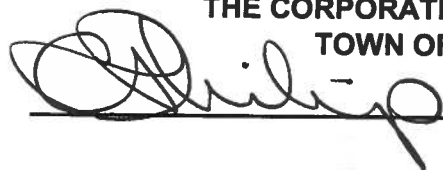
Resolution 2026-189

Moved by: Councillor Beaucage; Seconded by: Councillor Sharer

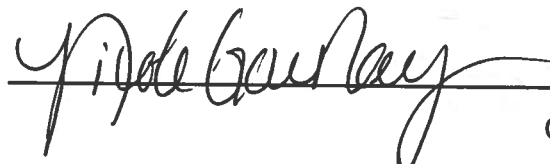
BE IT RESOLVED that the Regular Council Meeting of the Corporation of the Town of Kearney adjourn at 10:14 pm

CARRIED

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF KEARNEY



Mayor



Clerk