

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025**

MINUTES

A Council meeting was held in person on Wednesday June 18, 2025, in the Council Chambers at the Administration Centre located at 5786 County Road 21, Utopia.

In attendance: Mayor Sandie Macdonald
Councillor Pieter Kiezebrink
Councillor Henry Sander
Councillor Liana Maltby
Deputy Mayor Michael Smith

Staff in attendance: M. Mikael, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Rankin, Manager of Parks and Recreation
J. Kolb, Manager of Public Works
L. Lehr, Manager of Automated Speed Enforcement
S. Corbett, Acting Clerk

1. OPENING OF MEETING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Macdonald opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES AND MOTIONS

Resolution No: CR079-2025 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Kiezebrink

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the motions duly passed and approved at the Committee of the Whole meeting of this date be approved; and

THAT the minutes of the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, and Regular Council meetings held on the 4th day of June, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

---Carried---

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No: CR080-2025 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Sander

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the items listed in the Consent Agenda dated June 18, 2025, be received for information.

---Carried---

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Minutes of the Essa Public Library Board.

Resolution No: CR081-2025 Moved by: Smith

Seconded by: Kiezebrink

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Essa Public Library Board from their meeting held on 24th day of March, 2025, be received.

---Carried---

6. PETITIONS

7. MOTIONS AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

a. Notice of Motion – Opposition to Bill 5

Resolution No: CR082-2025 Moved by: Kiezebrink Seconded by: Maltby

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority; and

WHEREAS the Township of Essa supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and

WHEREAS Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Township of Essa:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources; and

FURTHER, directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
- Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
- All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration,
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario,
- Conservation Ontario

---Carried---

**b. Notice of Motion – Nottawasaga Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
2025 - 2029**

Resolution No: CR083-2025 Moved by: Maltby Seconded by: Smith

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario made Community Safety and Well-Being Plan a legislative requirement under Bill 175 Safer Ontario Act (2018); and

WHEREAS the Nottawasaga Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was developed collaboratively with local governments, police and community partners in the health, community and social services sectors working together towards addressing local needs based on local risk factors; and

WHEREAS to complete the Nottawasaga Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, the County of Simcoe has been subdivided into Geographical Municipal Groupings. The Township of Essa was grouped with the Township Adjala-Tosorontio and Town of New Tecumseth to form the Nottawasaga Grouping; and

WHEREAS the Nottawasaga Community Safety and Well-Being Plan has prioritized three areas of focus—mental health and addictions, housing and homelessness, and access to services and support..

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Township of Essa support the adoption of the 2025-2029 Nottawasaga Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.

---Carried---

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9. BY-LAWS

a. By-law 2025-34 – A By-law amend By-law 2005-96 (Parking By-law)

Resolution No: CR084-2025 Moved by: Maltby Seconded by: Kiezebrink

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law 2025-34 be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

---Carried---

10. QUESTIONS

11. CLOSED SESSION

12. CONFIRMATION BY-LAW

By-law 2025-35

Resolution No: CR085-2025 Moved by: Sander Seconded by: Smith

BE IT RESOLVED THAT leave be granted to introduce By-law 2025-35, that being a By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole, and Council meetings held on this 18th day of June, 2025; and, that said By-law be read a first, and taken as read a second and third time and finally passed.

---Carried---

13. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No: CR086-2025 Moved by: Smith Seconded by: Maltby

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this meeting of Council of the Township of Essa adjourn at 7:19 p.m. to meet again on the 2nd day of July, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

---Carried---



Sandie Macdonald
Mayor



for Sarah Corbett
Acting Clerk