

Councillor Brazeau requested clarity regarding non-compliance of the Property Standards By-law.

5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest- Pecuniary Interest Thereof

None for this session.

6. Announcements and Updates from Council Members

Mayor Champagne announced the remaining winners of the snow sculpture competition.

Mayor Champagne advised that the Astorville parish has not been deemed surplus, but that it likely will not operate as a parish in the future.

Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers noted 2 upcoming community events: Trivia Night hosted by the East Ferris Public Library is being held on March 10th, and a Moonlight Snowshoe hosted by the Wasi Ski Club is being held on February 28th.

Councillor Trahan advised that he attended the 4th Annual Ride for Jack. Councillor Trahan noted that the event was well attended and well organized. He thanked the East Ferris Emergency Services for being on site.

7. Delegations to Council:

None for this session.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

None for this session.

b. Emergency Management Program Committee

Minutes of February 12th, 2026.

c. Fire and Emergency Services Committee

None for this session.

d. Planning Advisory Committee

None for this session. Next Meeting February 25th, 2026.

e. Committee of Adjustment

None for this session. Next Meeting February 25th, 2026.

f. Recreation, Parks and Culture Committee

None for this session.

g. Striking Committee

None for this session.

9. Board Reports:

a. Library Board

None for this session. Next Meeting March 2nd, 2026.

b. OPP Detachment Board

None for this session. Next Meeting March 3rd, 2026.

c. Cassellholme, DNSSAB, Health Unit and NBMCA

1. Cassellholme

Minutes of December 4th, 2025.

2. North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority

Minutes of December 17th, 2025 and January 14th, 2026.

10. Departmental Reports & Resolutions:

- a. Report No. COMM-2026-04: Road Allowance Purchase Request – Cherry Lane Surplus Land

2026-48

Moved by Councillor Trahan

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris approve the sale of the road allowance shown on **Schedule A**, generally in accordance with the layout shown on **Schedule B**, subject to minor changes where one abutting owner does not wish to purchase, and the other abutting owner wishes to purchase the entire width of road allowance;

AND FURTHER THAT the lands be transferred to adjacent owners as per the provisions of the municipal Disposition of Land By-law 2218.

Carried Mayor Champagne

- b. Report No. COMM-2026-05: Road Allowance Purchase Request – Sunrise Lane Surplus Land

2026-49

Moved by Councillor Brazeau

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris approve the sale of the road allowance shown on **Schedule A** to Mackenzie Whyte, the owner of 19 Sunrise Lane.

Carried Mayor Champagne

- c. Report No: BL-2026-01: Freight Container Policy Update

2026-50

Moved by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

That the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris directs staff to amend section 3.2.8 of Zoning By-Law 2021-60 to permit the placement and use of freight containers within Rural, Commercial, Institutional and Industrial Zones subject to the conditions outlined in Report No. BL-2026-01.

Carried Mayor Champagne

- d. Report No. COMM-2026-06: Filming Handbook Update

2026-51

Moved by Councillor Trahan

Seconded by Councillor Brazeau

THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris direct staff to draft a By-law to formalize filming regulations in East Ferris, based on the Filming Handbook, attached as Appendix One to Report No. COMM-2026-06.

Carried Mayor Champagne

11. Notice of Motions

None for this session.

12. By-laws:

None for this session.

13. Correspondence and Information Items:

- a. AMO Communications
re: Watchfile of February 12th and 19th, 2026
- b. Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario
re: 2026 Conference
- c. Cassellholme
re: 2026 Capital Levy
- d. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit

2026-52

Moved by Councillor Trahan

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

WHEREAS improved financial stability allows municipal residents to participate, contribute, and invest in their local economies and communities;

AND WHEREAS poverty puts additional pressure on municipalities, who are responsible for delivering necessary public and social services to support residents who are struggling with the consequences of inadequate income;

AND WHEREAS poverty, homelessness and food insecurity have detrimental impacts on physical and mental health;

AND WHEREAS income is an important social determinant of health that greatly impacts a household's ability to pay for the basic costs of living, including housing and food;

AND WHEREAS the 2025 North Bay Parry Sound food affordability results show that households reliant on social assistance do not have enough money for the costs of living;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of East Ferris supports the efforts to raise awareness about, and the works to reduce poverty, homelessness and food insecurity;

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality endorses the recommendations from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit and calls on the Province of Ontario to increase the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates to reflect the costs of living, and index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward;

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of East Ferris provides copies of this resolution to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Victor Fedeli, MPP (Nipissing), Graydon Smith, MPP (Parry Sound-Muskoka), John Vanthof, MPP (Timiskaming-Cochrane), the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community and Social Services), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), Pauline Rochefort, MP (Nipissing-Timiskaming), District of Parry Sound Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB), District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH).

Carried Mayor Champagne

- e. Municipality of Magnetawan
2026-53
Moved by Councillor Brazeau
Seconded by Councillor Kelly

THAT the Council of the Municipality of East Ferris supports the Municipality of Magnetawan calling upon the Government of Canada, including ISED, to strengthen affordability requirements tied to federal broadband funding and universal access programs;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney, the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Bell Canada, and the CRTC.

Carried Mayor Champagne

f. Township of Perry

re: Request for Support - Reduced Rate Distribution of Public Libraries

Council deferred this item to the March 10th meeting.

14. Action Items:

a. Approval of Correspondence and Information Circulated with the Agenda

2026-54

Moved by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

Seconded by Councillor Brazeau

THAT Council approve the Correspondence and Information as circulated with the agenda of February 24th, 2026.

Carried Mayor Champagne

15. Approval of Accounts Payable

2026-55

Moved by Councillor Brazeau

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

THAT Council approve the general accounts for the Municipality of East Ferris as indicated in the cheque register(s) dated February 24th, 2026 in the amount of \$150,790.46.

Carried Mayor Champagne

16. Other Business

a. Deputy Mayor, Lauren Rooyakkers

re: Broadband Services in East Ferris

2026-56

Moved by Councillor Brazeau

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rooyakkers

WHEREAS In 2021, a Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) and ICON-supported project for Bell Canada was announced for East Ferris, with funding committed by the federal and provincial governments to improve broadband connectivity in the community;

AND WHEREAS to the best of our knowledge, this project has not yet started, and there has been no visible progress on deployment. As a result, many residents in East Ferris remain without access to the standard broadband service level of 50/10 Mbps;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris forwards a letter to the appropriate ministries requesting that they:

- Review the status of the UBF/ICON-funded Bell project in the Municipality of East Ferris.
- Clarify whether the project is still proceeding, and if so, the expected timelines for design, construction, and service availability.
- Identify any barriers that are preventing this project from moving forward and outline what steps the federal and provincial governments will take to address them.
- Provide a clear update that can be shared with East Ferris residents and municipal leaders, so that expectations and timelines are transparent

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a social media campaign be created requesting residents to participate in a Speed Test, hosted by Connected North and Blue Sky Net to determine areas with poor service in the municipality.

Carried Mayor Champagne

17. In Camera (if required)

None for this session.

18. Confirmatory By-law

- a. By-law No. 2025-12: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Reading

2026-57

Moved by Councillor Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Trahan

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of East Ferris deems it expedient to pass three readings of the following by-law at this session;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT a By-law to confirm the proceedings of Council from February 11th, 2026 to February 24th, 2026, BE READ a first, second and third time, passed and numbered 2026-12;

AND THAT said by-law be signed by the Mayor and Clerk and sealed with the Seal of the Corporation.

Carried Mayor Champagne

19. Adjournment

2026-58

Moved by Councillor Trahan

Seconded by Councillor Kelly

THAT we do now adjourn at 6:14 p.m. and meet again on March 10th, 2026.

Carried Mayor Champagne

Mayor

Rick Champagne

Clerk

Kim Rose