

COUNCIL MINUTES

TOWNSHIP OF COCKBURN ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING

5:00 PM WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Meeting On-line by ZOOM

ZOOM LINK <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84944196668>

(link is the same for every regular meeting)

PRESENT

Mayor: Brenda Jones  
Councillors: Lee Chappell  
Jeff House  
Simon Lacombe  
Scott Stewart  
Clerk: Brent St. Denis  
Lynn Jackes: Observer (CT orientation)  
(A number of ratepayers observed the meeting.)

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Time – 5:00 PM

**Call to Order**

**Declarations** of any pecuniary interest

**Delegations** – if any

**New Business** – if any

Resolution # 26-01-01

Moved: S Lacombe

Seconded: J House

That the January 14<sup>th</sup>, 20256 Council meeting agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

Resolution # 26-01-02

Moved: S Stewart

Seconded: L Chappell

That the minutes of the December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 regular meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

**Informal Public Works Committee meeting** – these meetings will start again with the first meeting of the 2026 Public Works season.

**Action Items**

**FIRST DRAFT 2026 BUDGET** – the attached preliminary draft includes a 2% tax increase for inflation. Some of the significant considerations are

- 4X4 Truck?
- Increase screened A gravel stockpile? 10-year supply?

- more dock investment?
- Finalizing CEGEP fire grant expenditures (already 100% funded)
- Most other items are somewhat routine with the exception of an allocation for annual road-surfacing by CIL arranging financial affairs with Lynn for her May official start and other items raised by Council members

### NOTES FROM DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> COUNCIL MEETING

That the Clerk-Treasurer be charged with preparing an early draft of a 2026 Budget for initial review at the January or February regular meeting. And that the draft should include plans to utilize a grant under the new Ontario PotHoles program, some transition costs to accommodate a new Clerk-Treasurer likely in May and capital items left over from 2025. And that a **2% inflation increase** be used for the draft.

That Council authorizes the Clerk-Treasurer to submit an application for a grant to the new Ontario Pothole Prevention and Repair Program (PPRP) and that he confirm that some possible projects including whether screening a **long-term inventory of “A” gravel for road resurfacing** would be a permitted expenditure.

Resolution # 2026-01-03  
 Moved: S Stewart  
 Seconded: J House

That the following considerations be included in our budget discussions:

- 2% increase in the tax rate, wages, contracts, fees, charges
- Increase dock capital to \$20,000 - it was noted that the lake level is significantly lower than 2025
- Increase streetlights improvement to \$35,000
- Add brush-hog to future discussion considering the condition of the present machine

CARRIED

**Table-Top Emergency Exercise?** – consider simulating one of the following scenarios at this or February meeting – this is an annual requirement of the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Preparedness;

- Hydro outage for an extended period (water wells, generators?)
- Super Low lake level causing access issues (marina, barge etc)
- Super High lake levels
- Large island forest fire
- Other ideas?

Resolution # 2026-01-04  
 Moved: S Lacombe  
 Seconded: L Chappell

That as it concerns the annual Fire and Emergency preparedness Table-Top exercise

- Proceed with the Table Top exercise at the February meeting with the subject to be determined.

RRIED

**Financial Report**

Receive report on disbursements by cheque, transfer, auto-debit, NCU “pay bills” and VISA.

**Northern Credit Union Bank balances as of January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Dock Account 101	\$16,005.50
Heritage Account 102	\$75,298.39
Operating Account 100	\$76,053.49
1 YEAR 3 PT 1 LANDFILL GIC 403	\$10,000.00
1 YEAR 3 PT 1 OPERATING GIC 404	\$150,000.00

**TOTAL \$327,357.38**

Current Interest Rate earned on Operating account .....2.45 %  
 Current Interest Rate earned on Twp Heritage Account .... 1.95 %  
 Current Interest Rate earned on Dock Account.....1.95 %  
 Both GICs .....3.1%, one-year from Sept/25

Resolution # 2026-01-05

Moved: S Lacombe

Seconded: S Stewart

That the Treasurer’s report on bank balances, cheques, auto-debit payments, EFTs, e-transfers and the VISA card statement(s) be hereby received.
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CARRIED

**Council Members’ Concerns –**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council member House had circulated photographs and information on a 2018 John Deere 120 HP boom mower that he suggested Council consider purchasing to replace the old brush-hog tractor the township now owns. The need for repairs is frequent. The tires are good, the boom has a 24 ft reach, arm is easily removable and it’s been fully serviced. He offered to get a closer look and to check it out. Current asking price is \$110,000 which he would try to have reduced. (Note- the township has a GIC of \$150,000 with NCU). And he will keep looking for a good used pickup truck for PW</li> <li>• Council member Stewart said the roads need gravel and grading due to the heavy early winter rainfall. The 20<sup>th</sup> ditch from the :swamp” to the 12<sup>th</sup> to help with drainage.</li> <li>• Council member Lacombe will be unavailable during the second two weeks of February.</li> <li>• Mayor Jones asked about creating a room inside the OP garage so that the old document totes in her garage can be stored for the long-term. What other locations are possible? Let’s plan early for our 2026 tenders.</li> </ul> |
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Resolution # 2026-01-06

Moved: S Lacombe

Seconded: S Stewart

That we authorize Council Member Jeff House to investigate and possibly proceed on Council’s behalf with the purchase of the 2018 John Deere boom mower located at a dealership near his Simcoe residence. This would be subject to finances and resolving any issues with the machine
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including conducting a test run. If purchased then extra materials such as service kits, flail knives etc. will also be purchased

CARRIED

### **Clerk's Report**

- a) COCKBURN ISLAND PARK PROPOSAL UPDATE – nil
- b) ONTARIO POTHOLE PROGRAM – nil
- c) If there are no objections the 2026 new landfill GIC for \$10,000 will be purchased once OMPF grant is in. This will amount to \$20K for the eventual closure, rehabilitation of the site or relocation. Identify new site sooner rather than later? – no objections but the Clerk-Treasurer will wait until the new Boom Mower purchase is settled.

### **Adjournment**

Resolution # 2026-01-07

Moved: S Lacombe

Seconded: J House

That this meeting be now adjourned and that Council to meet again by Zoom at 5 PM  
Wednesday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 or at the call of the Mayor.

CARRIED

Time – 6:11 PM