

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
  
**Thursday, September 19, 2024**  
**8:00 AM**  
**Council Chambers and by Zoom**  
**18 Centre Street, Spencerville ON**  
**Contact the Township Office to Register**  
**(613)658-3055**

PRESENT: Mayor Tory Deschamps  
Deputy Mayor Stephen Dillabough  
Councillor Joe Martelle  
Councillor Chris Ward

REGRETS: Councillor Waddy Smail

STAFF: Sean Nicholson, CAO  
Rebecca Crich, Clerk  
Candise Newcombe, Deputy Clerk

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Deschamps called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Decision:** 2024-235

**Moved by:** S. Dillabough

**Seconded by:** J. Martelle

THAT Municipal Council approves the agenda as presented.

Carried

**3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest & the General Nature Thereof**

None.

**4. Action and Information Items from Committees**

- a. New School Proposal in South Grenville - Support Existing Schools within Township

Clarity was provided following discussions with neighbouring municipal Mayors and Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) representatives on the Provincial school closure moratorium, noting that there is no imminent threat of school closures in the Township.

Members noted the proactive stance of Council by passing the proposed motion and ensuring that the Township's position on any future closure of local schools is clear.

Council discussed the following: the value of local schools, the viability of existing Township schools, ensuring a transparent process, prospective areas for the proposed development of a new school, implications of boundary lines and the general powers granted to the school boards versus the province regarding school closure decisions.

An upcoming meeting involving local mayors, CAOs, UCDSB representatives, and school board trustees was noted, with the

expectation of further reassurances regarding the security of Township schools.

**Decision:** 2024-236

**Moved by:** S. Dillabough

**Seconded by:** J. Martelle

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal Municipal Council is aware of the proposed development of a new school in Augusta; and

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal is home to two Public Schools; Centennial 67' Public School located in Spencerville and South Edwardsburgh Public School located in Johnstown; and

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal shares border boundaries with both Augusta Township and the Town of Prescott; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal supports the continued operation of both Centennial 67' Public School and South Edwardsburgh Public School in the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal supports students and families in the area to have access to local schools that do not add additional transportation time to young children and youth; and

WHEREAS there has been a recent 11.9% growth rate within the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal and projected future growth rates that are exceeding expectations, families are choosing the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, as access to local schools with minimal busing times is an important reason for selecting Edwardsburgh Cardinal to call home; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal supports the continued operation of Centennial 67' Public School and South Edwardsburgh Public School.

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal urges the Upper Canada District School Board to maintain status quo for the current school boundaries impacting Edwardsburgh Cardinal to ensure there is no impact on enrolment at Centennial 67' Public School or South Edwardsburgh Public School.

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal supports the Augusta Township in the pursuit of a new school.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated and brought to the attention of August Township; Town of Prescott; Steve Clark, Member of Provincial Parliament, Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education; Ron Ferguson, President/Director of Education for Upper Canada District School Board; Jeremy Hobbs, Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer of Upper Canada District School Board; Jamie Schouler, Director/Chair – Board of Trustees of Upper Canada District School Board; Brian Elliott, Director Community Representative of Upper Canada District School Board; Emily McFadden, Director Community Representative of Upper Canada District School Board; and Lisa Swan, School Board Trustee.

Carried

## 5. Question Period

None.

**6. Confirmation By-law**

**Decision:** 2024-237

**Moved by:** J. Martelle

**Seconded by:** S. Dillabough

THAT a by-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by resolution be now passed, signed, sealed and numbered 2024-49.

Carried

**7. Adjournment**

**Decision:** 2024-238

**Moved by:** J. Martelle

**Seconded by:** S. Dillabough

That Municipal Council does now adjourn at 8:27 a.m.

Carried

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Mayor

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Deputy Clerk