



Township of Tehkummah

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Council Meeting Summary – March 9, 2026

Council held its regular meeting on March 9, 2026. Due to high public attendance, the meeting was relocated from Council Chambers to the Fire Hall so everyone present could be accommodated safely. Council returned to Chambers for the closed portion of the meeting.

Community Delegations

Council first heard from Brian McCarthy, who raised concerns about possible unregistered construction (referring to properties he believes may have structures built without required building permits) and the fairness of property taxation. During his remarks, Mr. McCarthy referenced individual properties and suggested that a government audit be conducted on properties he believed may not have been assessed appropriately. The Mayor asked that individual property owners not be identified.

The Interim Clerk explained that concerns regarding property assessments or construction without permits should be submitted through the municipal office so they can be properly reviewed and addressed. She also advised that MPAC had been invited to attend the April 7, 2026, Council meeting to provide information and answer questions regarding property assessment.

Council also heard from Mr. Greenway, presenting on behalf of the South Baymouth Community Development Association (SBCDA), regarding the history and current condition of the South Baymouth/Bowerman Trail system. Mr. Greenway spoke about efforts by the SBCDA to work with the Township on the Trail project, noting that the organization had previously requested involvement.

Mr. Greenway also expressed concern that questions about the cost and status of the trail project had not been answered at the public information session where he raised them, or during the Council meeting.

Council invited Mr. Greenway to provide additional comments during their working group discussion on John Budd Park and the Bowerman Trail and asked him to provide the SBCDA's original 2024 request to the Interim Clerk to assist Council in reviewing the matter going forward. Following this discussion, the Interim Clerk shared two documents from fall 2024 and early 2025 related to the Bowerman Trail project with Council and advised that additional financial information regarding the project would likely become available as part of the 2024 audit preparation, which is now beginning.

Financial Update

Council received an update on the Township's current financial position. The 2023 and 2024 audits remain in progress, and some 2025 financial entries and bank reconciliations are still outstanding. Until this work is completed, the Township cannot yet determine its full financial position or overall financial health.

The current combined balance across municipal bank accounts is \$771,433. This amount represents the Township's operating cash and includes the balances of two obligatory reserve funds. The Township does not currently maintain separate reserve accounts for most purposes. The most recent audited reserve balance (2022) was \$529,015, which may change once the outstanding audits are completed. Staff noted that the Township does not currently have sufficient confirmed reserves to support major infrastructure replacement projects. Certain provincial funds are also being withheld until financial reporting requirements are brought up to date.

Council will hold a preliminary 2026 Budget Meeting on March 26 at 6:00 p.m.
Infrastructure Update – Concession 2 Bridge

Council received an update on the Concession 2 Bridge, which remains load restricted. Full replacement is currently estimated at approximately \$750,000, which is not feasible currently. Staff continue to explore more affordable options related to the structure. The Township is also unable to pursue borrowing for the project until updated audited financial statements are completed, as lenders require current financial reporting before extending credit.

Other Community Updates

Council also confirmed several community initiatives, including:

- Expanded public Wi-Fi access at the library
- Permission for the April 4 Easter Egg Hunt at the municipal park
- Continued use of electronic voting for the 2026 municipal and school board elections through Intelivote Systems
- Two Public Information Sessions at the Triangle Seniors' Hall on April 28 and June 30, 2026

Staying Involved

Council encourages residents to stay informed and engaged by attending Council meetings, participating in public information sessions, and sharing their perspectives with the municipal office. Resident input is particularly important as the Township navigates financial challenges and upcoming decisions about infrastructure and services, helping ensure community priorities are reflected in the choices that affect local taxes and programs.