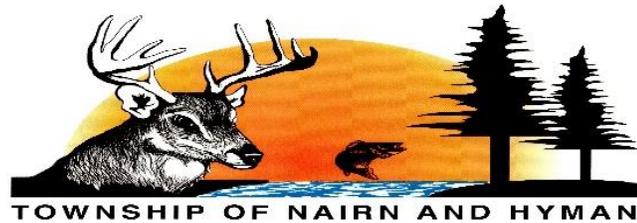


MINUTES

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NAIRN AND HYMAN



Monday July 14, 2025

The Special Council Meeting was held at the Nairn Community Centre on Monday July 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. (The meeting was open to the public and recorded to allow for viewing on our website)

PRESENT:	Amy Mazey	Mayor
	Trevor McVey	Deputy Mayor
	Wayne Austin	Councillor
	Rod MacDonald	Councillor
	Karen Richter	Councillor
	Belinda Ketchabaw	CAO, Clerk Treasurer

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

NIL

OPEN MEETING

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-PM2-1

MOVED BY: Trevor McVey

SECONDED BY: Rod MacDonald

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Special Council meeting of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman of July 14, 2025, is now open at 6:04 p.m.

CARRIED

MOVE TO A PUBLIC MEETING

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-PM2-2

MOVED BY: Wayne Austin

SECONDED BY: Rod MacDonald

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the meeting is now at 7:09 p.m. for the purpose of a public meeting

CARRIED

PUBLIC MEETING

The following presentations were given:

- Mayor Mazey – Background information regarding the Proposed Transportation and Disposal of Niobium Tailings at Agnew Lake.
- Mayor Mazey – Review of the Ministry of Energy and Mines Responses to September 11, 2024, Town Hall Questions from the Public.
- Holly Zahorodnyv - Clerk Administrator (Township of Baldwin) – Summary of Responses to the Freedom of Information Requests.
- Belinda Ketchabaw – CAO (Township of Nairn and Hyman) – Summary of findings and recommendations from the Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. report: Agnew Lake Niobium Transportation Risk assessment and Technical Review.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations gave presentations:

- MP Jim Belanger
- MPP France Gelin
- MPP Bill Rosenberg

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

The Chair entertained comments and questions from the floor (**please note that the questions and responses noted below are summarized, the full recording of the meeting is available on our website**).

NAME	COMMENTS
Jan Robitai Brohart:	Spoke about how she studied heavy metals and talked about a specific study that was done called Mercury on the Mind. Spoke about how concerned she was that the radioactive materials will be deposited near the Creeks and right on a watershed, which means all the radioactive materials will go right into the water.
Mayor Mazezy:	Replied saying the radioactive site is about 27 kilometres away from our drinking water site and 130 kilometres through John Creek to Agnew Lake, and that yes, 27 kilometres is too close.
Member of the Public:	Asked what is the problem with where the material is now? What health concerns do they have as to why its being moved?
Mayor Mazezy:	“That's a great question. It's in Nipissing First Nations, but it is right in their residential area. It wasn't their mine, they didn't make anything off it, but someone dumped tailings near their shore. It became toxic to their area because it was left open, uncovered. As much as they didn't want it in their area, they didn't want to push it on someone else either, but it does need to leave that area as well.”
Member of the Public:	Spoke about how concerned he was about the niobium tailings being brought and disposed of in our township. Questioned what it will do to our water in the future.
Mayor Mazezy:	Told the resident that the Township is 100% concerned about our drinking water.
Member of the Public:	Inquired if members of the community received a questionnaire on how they felt about the tailings being transported and deposited in the Township and inquired about letters going out to every resident.
Mayor Mazezy:	Explained how the municipality didn't know about this proposed project right from the start, and that other communities knew about it before ours did.
Megan H:	Inquired if the Municipality knew about the status existing at Agnew Lake mine and tailing site?
Mayor Mazezy:	It wasn't monitored as much as in the past as it is now. This is an issue that will be monitored for many years to come, now that this has been brought forward to council and the community.
Megan H:	Inquired what is going to happen with the existing site? Why has the Ministry of Mines not continued taking care of the site properly? Why did it go unchecked for so long? What is the course of action from here on?

Mayor Mazey:	“The reality is, I think there's limited funding for a mine rehabilitation. They're going to where they think it is most essential and the least risk, I'm not trying to defend them. I don't know enough details about their job. We would lobby for clean fill to be put on top, and then we would watch the site. We've already consulted with Hutchinson Environmental twice, and we will do it again. The CNSC does make their results public, and we need to watch them. There might be some kind of cost.”
Bob Leeson	“We have a cottage on John Creek, which is about one mile from that site and we've had it there for 72 years.” Spoke about getting someone to help fight the government in getting the niobium stopped from being transported and disposed of at the site at Agnew Lake.
Mayor Mazey	“I think there is a chance when we see this public interest uproar, I think there is a chance that they may listen to us. I think, if the more people are concerned, the more letters that get written, that's the best chance we have.”
Member of the Public:	Asked what the government had to say about the mines and transportation of the tailings.
MP Bill Rosenberg:	Replied saying he is there to take note of all the comments and concerns and report them back to Minister of Energy and Mines, Steven Lecce. From there he will respond to those concerns.
MPP France Gelinias:	Discusses the situation of abandoned mines in the north, specifically the waters of Long Lake and the arsenic that was leaching there. She spoke how nothing has been taken care of properly to date. She also spoke of the Agnew Lake radiation being too high.
Megan H:	She inquired whose responsibility is it to monitor the abandoned mines?
MPP France Gelinias:	“We have laws in Ontario, and it is the responsibility of the Minister of Mines for all of the old mines. In the 1990's new laws were passed, so that new mines that open now have responsibility for ongoing, monitoring with the closing plans. For all of the old, abandoned mines the law says that it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Mines, if I was to grade them on a scale of 0 to 10 of how good a job they are doing, I would give a minus 100.”
Member of the Public:	“Why are they trucking all this stuff where there's train tracks all the way to here.”
Mayor Mazey:	“Well, that's a good question. They do have a lot of trucking policies in place. But you're right. Why not put it on rail if that is an option.”
Member of the Public:	“I'd just like to point out those tracks. The train fell off a few years back. So, I don't think you want to put the radioactive material on that.”
Member of the Public:	“We just need to hire a lawyer.”
Mayor Mazey:	“This will go to Council, they make a decision of which direction that we go. I think demonstration is key. This meeting and coming and voicing concerns are a first step. We can talk about other options. The other issue is, they know we are a small municipality with limited resources. No municipalities have money lying around just wondering what to do with it. So, it's we're limited to what we can do.”
Member of the Public	Asked if the Council and other members of Government can propose to send it all to Sarnia.

Mayor Mazey	“I think that’s a great idea!”
Jessica:	Asked what will be done if there is a spill or contamination? What about all the dust? She wants to know what plan is in place. Said she is up the creek from Agnew Lake mine site.
Mayor Mazey:	Talks about bringing it to Council of the City of Greater Sudbury. Mentions a transportation policy and brings up safety issues.
Patricia P:	From Azilda – Concerned about the transportation from Nipissing to the area it is being disposed in. Says this problem is bigger than just the area of Greater Sudbury, it should be provincial wide issue.
Member of the Public:	“Modeling is not science, its not accurate data.”
Mayor Mazey:	“Well, I will say that Hutchinson Environmental is great, we pay them money, and they interpret for us. They did say, Eco-metrics, the study that was done, that they do good work, that was their general review, that the original work that was done was done by a reputable company. It was just that 8 studies were missing and there were a lot of unanswered questions. CAO Ketchabaw would you like to add anything?”
CAO Ketchabaw:	“Yes, through you, madam. Chair. The problem is when they have studies done and there's recommendations. If they don't complete the recommendations. Your study is just a piece of paper.”
Member of the Public:	“Another thing that I haven't even heard from anybody, is there concerns about our land value. When people are afraid that something's going to be leaking and affecting the groundwater. Everybody's property is going to be devalued. Who's going to compensate the homeowners, the property owners. I just want to bring that perspective to the table. There's a lot of different ways of looking at it environmentally.”
Ed Mazey:	Spoke about the Clean Harbours facility and how toxic it is. He would like more information about why the Ministry would send it there?
Member of the Public:	Talked about the conversation she had with Artificial Intelligence online about Niobium tailings. (she brought a handout for anyone who wanted to see it)
Member of the Public:	Suggests getting a lawyer for a class action suit.
Tiffany Recollet	“I am from M’Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island. I am the CEO of United Chiefs and Council of Mnidoo Mnising. Our view has not changed for UCCMM First Nations, there is a lack of transparency and accountability. We have never consented to any of this. Ontario has not shared all information. There was no deal with our UCCMM First Nations after all our treatment center Gwekwaadziwin currently uses land here. Thank you.”
Mayor Mazey:	“We just can't thank you enough for standing with us. Thank you so much.”
Brennain Lloyd:	“I am very grateful and very impressed with the work that the councils of Nairn and Hyman and Baldwin have been doing. It's just been absolutely great work. It's very unusual for municipal councils, small municipal councils to take this kind of effort on. I'm very grateful for that.” She also spoke about how the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission had failed us just as much as the Ministry of Mines over the last 10 years.

Member of the Public:	Spoke about how a second set of water testing should be done now while the waters are low and possibly get them from another area as well, just so different places are being tested.
Emily:	From Manitoulin Island. Inquiring about legal action being taken to put an immediate hold on the transportation. Was suggesting the Municipality speaks with different levels of government and other municipalities.
Mayor Mazey:	“I don't want to give you the impression, that we've been sitting around not doing anything. We did meet with MP George Pirie in January at the ROMA conference. He did agree to get our Mine cleaned up and to rehabilitate it, as well as to get answers to our questions as of January to the questions we asked the Ministry September. We did not have answers for a very long time, but he did not agree to stop the niobium from coming in.”
Eric:	Has farms across the North and in the community. He questioned the safety of the children, families and properties within the community. Suggests starting an injunction in court. Suggests the transportation method is not a good one and that other safer trucks should be used if the transportation starts. Asks who is responsible for everyone who gets sick with Cancer or anything else.
Chris A:	Spoke about how dangerous the transportation and depositing of the niobium tailings will be.
Lynn:	“I just wondered. Do we have that definite date, have they said if everything is still put on hold?”
Mayor Mazey:	“Last that we knew it was mid August, but they are waiting for a final approval for a certain water plan from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. The CNSC has said they will let us know when trucking will start. That's all we know.”
Lynn:	“The other question I have is at the first meeting it was mentioned about possibly trying to contact the Georgian Bay Association, seeing as the Spanish River runs into Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, and to try to get those cottage associations and so forth on board as well, because it could affect them in the future. I just wondered if it had been done, because if all the communities banded together, they could afford a lawyer for the class action.”
Mayor Mazey	“So, I don't believe we've officially reached out to any Georgian Bay Groups. As you know, we're jumping into this. But remember, we asked the questions in September, and we only just got the answers in April. We went to council to ask what they want to do with it. They approved the budget to go to Hutchinson Environmental. Everything takes a long time, as you know. So that's just the way it is.”
Member of the Public:	Talked about how he went for a ride in the bush and noticed “No Access” and “Radioactive Material” signs. Questions just how safe all this really is.
Mayor Mazey	“So, the signs are there because there are elevated levels of radioactivity, which is when they bring the cover in, that should lower. So, we want the clean fill on it. Well, I don't know all the science behind it, but that's why. Now, here's the interesting fact. The cover does get stirred up quite a bit by ATVs, and the signs are often stolen or vandalized. And when we bring this up to them, they are constantly saying it is due to vandalism.

Lynn O'Farrell:	From McKerrow. Talked about reading about a proposal about Georgian Bay to include Manitoulin Island as a strategic planning body.
Mayor Mazey:	Suggested community members sign up if they would like to volunteer to help where needed in this fight with keeping the niobium tailings out of our community.
Philomena:	<p>“So, we have this whole understanding that when we throw something away it goes away, but it doesn't go away. It just goes in the ground, or it goes somewhere else, and then it becomes this problem much later.</p> <p>So, the first thing I'm going to do is, I'm going to take responsibility for my own. We need to take responsibility for that and to make sure our voice is heard. We need to be grateful for the people that are working on this to this point where they're saying, okay, this is what the situation is. Thank you again.” She also speaks about sending out emails to the proper officials.</p>
Mayor Mazey:	“I just wanted to wrap up here. If we could hear some final words from France who has been with us from the very beginning and has been a great support.”
MPP France Gelinias:	<p>“We all heard a lot of important information that was hard to listen to. To watch the screen and see that basic questions were not answered clearly and that basic reassurance was not given. The Government has to do this. The Government owns these tailings. The Government of Ontario is responsible for those tailings, and they are failing at their jobs right now with consequences that are 8 times what they should be” ... “The job is not done. The idea to go to a lawyer. I'm not a lawyer, but it seems to make sense to me. Also, I will do some research and get back to council on that one to see what we can do and how we can help. But I don't make promises that I can't keep right now. We need everybody's shoulders to the wheel to make sure that it moves in the right direction, and that direction is, to keep everybody safe, keep our environment safe, and make sure that the radioactive tailings that exist are covered and safe.”</p>
MP Jim Belanger	“Hi, everyone this is the first I hear of all your concerns and issues at the Federal level. I will find out what the Nuclear Association's role is in all this and all I have to say is all the levels of government should work together to find a solution, whether it's municipal, provincial, or federal, politics shouldn't matter. We should all work together, and I will endeavor to do that. Thank you.”
Mayor Mazey:	“Well, let's wrap this up, and you know my punchline. If some of it had to go to Clean Harbors in Sarnia, then why not send all of it! If you really listen to the words that the MTO and the Ministry of Mines have used with us, they often will contradict each other, and it just it raises a lot of red flags. Thank you so much for your attendance. Thank you so much for our political leaders and for the surrounding council and First Nations support. We're grateful for everyone. Thank you so much for coming out.”

Mayor

Clerk

These minutes shall not be considered as official minutes until they have been approved by council at their next meeting.