

Rural Municipality of Lipton, No. 217

Meeting Minutes

Regular Council Meeting July 21, 2026 - 8:00 AM

Present:

Reeve	Garnet Harman
Division 1 Council Member	William Huber
Division 2 Council Member	Darwin Huber
Division 4 Council Member	Christopher Catto
Division 6 Council Member	Tomas Arthur

Staff Attendees:

Administrator	Charmain Wowk
Foreman	Nick Petrar

Absent:

Division 3 Council Member	Barry Senft
Division 5 Council Member	Twila Miller

Call To Order

Reeve Harman called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Councillor Darwin Huber joined the meeting via Zoom at 8:02 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda

2026/160 **Moved By:** Councillor T. Arthur
THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

Foreman Report

2026/161 **Moved By:** Councillor C. Catto
THAT Council accepts the written Foreman's report as presented.

CARRIED

Council Reports

2026/162 **Moved By:** Councillor C. Catto
THAT the verbal Council reports be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

Administration Report

2026/163 **Moved By:** Councillor C. Catto
THAT Council accept the written Administration Report and further that the report be attached to and form part of the official minutes.

CARRIED

Approval of Minutes

2026/164 **Moved By:** Councillor C. Catto
THAT the June 16, 2026, Regular Council Meeting minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

- 2026/165 **June 2026 Bank Reconciliations**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT the RCU and RBC Bank Reconciliations for the months of June 2026 be accepted as presented.
CARRIED
- 2026/166 **Financial Statement June 2026**
Moved By: Councillor B. Huber
THAT the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of June 2026 be accepted as presented.
CARRIED
- 2026/167 **List of Accounts for Approval**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT Council approve the payment of accounts as presented, including Cheques No. 5870 to 5882 and Online Payments No. 2026-112 to 2026-136, in the total amount of \$131,648.92 including payroll and pre-authorized payments, attached hereto and forming part of these minutes.
CARRIED
- 2026/168 **Physician Recruitment and Retention Fund**
Moved By: Councillor B. Huber
THAT Council defer a decision to a later date to determine the effectiveness of the proposal.
CARRIED
- 2026/169 **Dust Control Quote**
Moved By: Councillor B. Huber
THAT Council accept the quote from Read on Roads for the 2026 Dust Control services.
CARRIED
- 2026/170 **Home-Based Business Permit Application**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT Council authorize Administration to proceed with the discretionary use application for a home-based business located at SE-31-23-14-W2M in accordance with the Zoning Bylaw, including the required public notice and scheduling of a public hearing for August 18, 2026.
CARRIED
- 2026/171 **RMAA Administrative Assistant Membership and Fall Meeting**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT Council approve Associate Membership with the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association (RMAA) for K. Klisowsky at the prorated 2026 cost of \$112.50 and approve attendance at the RMAA Fall Meeting on September 18, 2026, at a registration cost of \$60.00.
AND FURTHER, mileage and expenses for attendance be reimbursed to the employee."
CARRIED

- 2026/172 **List of Lands in Arrears**
Moved By: Councillor C. Catto
THAT Council accept the List of Lands in Arrears as presented and exclude properties where the amount of taxes in arrears does not exceed one-half of the immediately preceding year's tax levy;
AND FURTHER THAT TAXervice be authorized to conduct the tax enforcement proceedings on behalf of the RM of Lipton No. 217.
CARRIED
- 2026/173 **Special Maintenance Projects**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT the RM of Lipton No. 217 approve the special maintenance projects as presented and authorize the Public Works Foreman to engage contractors as required to complete repairs to identified low spots and culvert replacements throughout the RM, including additional locations determined by the Foreman to require work, provided all expenditures remain within the amounts approved by Council in the 2026 budget.
CARRIED
- 2026/174 **Council Expense Claim**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
That Council adopt the practice of monthly submission of all Council indemnity and expense claims, recognizing that timely submission supports transparent governance, accurate financial reporting, budget monitoring, and accountability to Council and the ratepayers of the RM of Lipton No. 217.
CARRIED
- 2026/175 **2026 Uniform Mill Rate**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT Council establish the 2026 Uniform Mill Rate at 8.143 mills for the 2026 taxation year.
CARRIED
- 2026/176 **Returning Officer Appointment**
Moved By: Councillor B. Huber
THAT Council appoint Charmain Wowk, Administrator, as the Returning Officer for the 2026 Municipal Election.
CARRIED
- 2026/177 **Bylaw No. 2026-05 – A Bylaw to Establish Mill Rate Factors**
Moved By: Councillor B. Huber
THAT Bylaw No. 2026-05, A Bylaw to Establish Mill Rate Factors, be introduced and read for the first time.
CARRIED
- 2026/178 **Bylaw No. 2026-05 – A Bylaw to Establish Mill Rate Factors**
Moved By: Councillor C. Catto
THAT Bylaw No. 2026-05, A Bylaw to Establish Mill Rate Factors, be read for the SECOND time.
CARRIED

- 2026/179 **Bylaw No. 2026-05 – A Bylaw to Establish Mill Rate Factors**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT Bylaw No. 2026-05, A Bylaw to Establish Mill Rate Factors, be authorized to receive three readings at this meeting.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- 2026/180 **Bylaw No. 2026-05 – A Bylaw to Establish Mill Rate Factors**
Moved By: Councillor D. Huber
THAT Bylaw No. 2026-05, A Bylaw to Establish Mill Rate Factors, be read for the THIRD time and adopted.
CARRIED
- 2026/181 **Recess**
Moved By: Reeve G. Harman
That Council breaks for a 7-minute recess at 11:34 a.m.
CARRIED
Reeve G. Harman called the meeting back in session at 11:41 a.m.
- 2026/182 **In Camera**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT this meeting move to closed session at 11:42 a.m. as per *The Municipalities Act* and *The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to discuss the following matters:
 - Agreed Statement of Facts – Legal – Next Steps
 - Proposal for year-round operator
 - 2026 Budget**CARRIED**
Councillor B. Huber declared a conflict of interest at 12:05 p.m. on Agenda item – “Proposal for year-round operator” due to close family relation and returned to chambers at 12:31 p.m.
- 2026/183 **Exit In Camera**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT this meeting revert to an open meeting at 12:52 p.m.
CARRIED
- 2026/184 **Agreed Statement of Facts – Legal – Next Steps**
Moved By: Councillor B. Huber
That Council direct SARM Legal to continue representing the RM in the current litigation matter and proceed with preparation for the hearing."
CARRIED
- 2026/185 **Year-Round Grader Operator Proposal**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT the RM of Lipton No. 217 instructs the Administrator to develop a job description in consultation with Council and Public Works crew for a full-time year-round operator.
CARRIED

- 2026/186 **2026 Budget**
Moved By: Councillor C. Catto
THAT the RM of Lipton No. 217 approves the 2026 Budget as presented and instructs the Administrator to post the 2026 Accrual Budget and 2026 Cash Synopsis on the RM's Website
CARRIED
- 2026/187 **Correspondence**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT the following correspondence be accepted as presented and filed:
 a. CCBF Municipal Summary
CARRIED
- 2026/188 **Adjournment**
Moved By: Councillor T. Arthur
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 12:45 p.m.
CARRIED

Approved this 18th day of August 2026.

Reeve

Administrator

Next regular meeting of Council: August 18, 2026, at 8:00 a.m.