



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN
COUNCIL MINUTES

MEETING NO. ONE

January 26, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Township Administration Building

318 Canborough Street, Smithville, Ontario

Council: Mayor Cheryl Ganann, Chair
Councillor Shelley Bradaric
Councillor Mike Rehner
Councillor William Reilly
Councillor Jason Trombetta
Councillor Joann Chechalk
Councillor Greg Maychak

Staff: Truper McBride, CAO
Justin Paylove, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk
Kevin Geoghegan, IT Help Desk Analyst

Absent with regrets: Albert Witteveen, Regional Councillor, notification provided

Attendees: Elisabeth Zimmerman, Executive Director

1. SINGING OF "O CANADA" - Smithville Public School

Prior to commencing with the Council meeting, Mayor Ganann will provide the following announcements:

1. The public may submit comments for matters that are on the agenda to jpayscale@westlincoln.ca before 4:30 pm. on the day of the meeting. Comments submitted will be considered as public information and read into public record.
2. This meeting is being livestreamed as well as recorded and will be available on the Township's website.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Township of West Lincoln, being part of Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Township of West Lincoln, as part of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

3. OPENING PETITION - Councillor Greg Maychak

Councillor Maychak read the opening petition.

4. CHANGE IN ORDER OF ITEMS ON AGENDA

There were no change in order of items on the agenda

5. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NOTE: Items for which conflicts were recently declared at Committee Meeting(s)

There were no pecuniary interest and/or conflict of interest

6. REQUEST TO ADDRESS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

NOTE: Requests to address items on the agenda are restricted to specific items as follows per Section 6.7 of the Procedural By-law:

6.7 Public Comment at Council

There shall be no comments from the public permitted at Council unless:

- (a) a specific appointment has been scheduled; or,
- (b) an item is included under the “Other Business” or “Communications” or “Appointments” section of the agenda and relates to a matter which would normally be dealt with at Committee.

Chair to inquire if there are any members of the public present who wish to address a specific item on the agenda as permitted by Section 6.7 of the Procedural By-law.

7. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Elisabeth Zimmermann, Executive Director

Re: Coldest Night of the Year
FOR INFORMATION

The Executive Director, Elisabeth Zimmermann provided a power point presentation attached as Schedule "A".

8. REGIONAL COUNCILLOR'S REMARKS

There were no Regional Councillor remarks. Regional Councillor Witeveen sent his regrets.

9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

9.1 Council Minutes

Re: Minutes - December 15, 2025

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Councillor Joann Chechalk joined the meeting at 6:23 pm.

Moved By Councillor Shelley Bradaric

Seconded By Councillor Joann Chechalk

1. That the minutes relating to the December 15, 2025, Council Meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted; and,
2. That the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion on December 15, 2025, Council meeting be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with exemptions provided in Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

Carried

9.2 All Committees Meeting (including Public Meeting)

Re: Minutes - January 12, 2026

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Moved By Councillor Jason Trombetta

Seconded By Councillor Shelley Bradaric

1. That the minutes relating to the January 12, 2026, All Committees (including Public Meetings) meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted; and,

2. That the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion on January 12, 2026, All Committees (including Public Meetings) be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with exemptions provided in Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

Carried

9.3 Public Meeting Under the Planning Act

Re: Minutes - January 12, 2026

Moved By Councillor Joann Chechalk

Seconded By Councillor Mike Rehner

1. That the minutes relating to the January 12, 2026, Public Meetings, be accepted.

Carried

10. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications

11. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Ganann read from a prepared statement attached as Schedule "B".

12. RECONSIDERATION

("Definition") This section is for a Member of Council to introduce a motion to reconsider action taken at this Council Meeting or the previous regular Council meeting. A motion to reconsider must be made by a Council Member who voted in the majority on the matter to be reconsidered. The Chair may rule that a motion to reconsider will be dealt with at the next following Council Meeting if for some reason it cannot be dealt with at this meeting.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION TO RESCIND

("Definition") This section is for Council Members to serve notice of intent to introduce a motion to rescind action taken previously by Council. Notice served at this meeting will be for a motion to rescind at the next regular meeting.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Members of Council

Re: Council Remarks

Councillor Trombetta

Re: Recognition of Public Works staff

Councillor Maychak

Re: Recognition of Public Works staff

Councillor Rehner

Re: Regional Police Budget

Councillor Chechalk

Re: Recognition of Public Works staff

Kiwanis Event – February 28th at 6:30 pm, Legion - Trivia Night

Mayor Ganann

Re: Family Day Activities February 16, 2026

15. NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS

NOTE: Only for items that require immediate attention/direction from Council and must first approve a motion to introduce a new item of business.

16. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

There were no confidential matters

17. BY-LAWS

Moved By Councillor William Reilly

Seconded By Councillor Greg Maychak

1. That leave be granted to introduce By-Laws 2026-01, 2026-02, 2026-03, and 2026-04, and that the same shall be considered to have been read a first, second, and third time with one reading, and are hereby adopted; and,
2. That the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized to sign and affix the Corporate Seal thereto, any rule of this Council to the contrary notwithstanding.

Carried

17.1 BY-LAW 2026-01

A By-law to authorize the conveyance of a portion of the Municipal Road Allowance formerly know as South Grimsby Road 10, being part of the

road allowance between Lots 19 and 20, Concession 9, describes as Part 8 on Plan 30R-15936, Township of West Lincoln (Geographic Township of South Grimsby), Regional Municipality of Niagara

17.2 BY-LAW 2026-02

A By-law to permanently close and declare a surplus that part of South Grimsby Road 3, being Part of the Road Allowance between Lots J and Q, East Gore, describes as Part 2 on Plan 30R-16493, Township of West Lincoln (Geographic Township of South Grimsby) Regional Municipality of Niagara.

17.3 BY-LAW 2026-03

A By-law to authorize the conveyance of a portion of the Municipal Road Allowance formerly known as South Grimsby Road 3, being Part of the Road Allowance between Lots J and Q, East Gore, describes as Part 2 on Plan 30R-16493, Township of West Lincoln (Geographic Township of South Grimsby) Regional Municipality of Niagara.

17.4 BY-LAW 2026-04

A By-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by Council resolution.

18. ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor to declare this meeting adjourned at the hour of 7:16 p.m.

JUSTIN PAYLOVE, MANAGER OF
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES/CLERK

MAYOR CHERYL GANANN

January 26/26 Council - Mayor's Remarks

January started off well with West Lincoln's Mayor and Council Levee taking place on January 3rd. Although we don't have an exact number of residents, there were certainly a lot more families taking part in the 2 hour free skate than in the past couple of years. Additionally, we went through well over 300 cups of coffee and hot chocolate, hundreds and hundreds of oliebollen, greek pastries and Timbits! I would like to thank Liz and Albert Witteveen for their generous contribution of pre-made oliebollen batter to help kick off the cooking, Ken, Lynne and Nick Brunacionni for keeping the warm oliebollen coming out of their community centre kitchen in a timely manner, the youth of the MYAC committee for serving all food and hot drinks, John Ganann and our Clerk, Justin Paylove for setting up, decorating and getting the hot drinks ready and additionally the Community Centre staff for their help as well. Those who did not take part in the free skate, certainly enjoyed visiting with each other and listening to the beautiful voice of local musician, Stephanie DeShane!

I have heard since from many of our residents from all 3 wards, that they very much appreciated that our CAO and most members of council were in attendance to wish them all the best for 2026.

As in past years, one of the benefits of holding the levee in the lobby of the Community Centre is that by drawing in residents for this social opportunity, many have come to realize all that the Community Centre has to offer including such things as the walking track, various gym programmes and many new general recreational programmes. They have additionally become familiar with our newest Library and the wonderful programmes that it offers residents of all ages.

On January 12th, we were able to pass the 2026 budget related to West Lincoln's portion of the tax bill at a very low 1.26%. Keeping in mind the unpredictability of the economic circumstances that currently exist and the financial difficulties being faced by many of our residents, we were determined to keep this increase as low as possible while still providing the services to our residents that they expect and deserve from their municipality. At this time, we still do not know what the Regional impact will be on our overall tax bills, but currently it appears to be under 7%, with the Police Budget making up approximately 4.5% of that. That is most definitely better than the past few years. The next Regional Budget meeting will take place on Thursday, February 12th.

Earlier in the day on January 12th, we were pleased to raise the Crime-Stoppers Flag to show West Lincoln's support for the efforts put forth by this group to benefit the entire Niagara Region.

CAO McBride, Councillors Bradaric, Chechalk and Reilly and I attended the annual Rural Ontario Municipalities Association Conference in Toronto from Sunday, January 18 to Tuesday, January 20th. We attended a great many valuable information/learning sessions, but the highlight of ROMA was being able to meet with Parliamentary Assistant Sandhu from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Parliamentary Assistant Rae, from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to discuss the needs of West Lincoln directly with ministry officials and their staff members. We had great, positive and informative dialogue during both of our delegation sessions.

Another highlight for West Lincoln this year timed with, but not actually part of the conference, was being invited to attend a ceremony on Sunday evening to be awarded a certificate from the Province, recognizing West Lincoln as an "Age-Friendly Municipality" by the Ontario government. This invitation came from the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, the Honorable Raymond Cho.

On another topic, when the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital new build became official, the original Hospital Committee on which I began to sit in 2018, transitioned to a Hospital Community Council. We

have continued to meet 4 times per year throughout the build. The second last meeting of that Community Council took place on Wednesday, January 21st.

I have a few up-dates from that meeting as follows:

1. At the Public session, held last week regarding the outdoor artwork that has already been included in the cost of the hospital, the community members who attended that public meeting, favoured the "bird" concept that was presented by the artist, likely in acknowledgement of the large presence of hawks in the area.
2. Redevelopment up-date from hospital staff:
 - final interior touch-ups are being done
 - preparations are being made for the demolition of the old hospital
 - The portion of the old hospital referred to as the Globe building is expected to be down by the month's end
 - Completion of the demolition, Parking lot, Main Entrance and Landscaping to be completed by December of 2026.
 - In the meantime the Emergency Department will be the Main Entrance for many months to come
 - Although parking is still a challenge, temporary additional parking is being added as space becomes available
3. Since the official opening of the hospital, they have averaged approximately 75 ER visits per day.
4. Staff teams are settling into the space well, however it is still all quite new and they have all been extremely busy with patients who began arriving day 1 of their opening, so there have been a few glitches, although nothing serious.

This past Saturday, I represented West Lincoln at the Grand Opening of Grimsby's Major Refrigeration Peach King Centre. In attendance were MP Dean Allison, MPP Sam Oosterhoff, Regional Chair Bob Gale and Lincoln's Mayor Sandra Easton along with, of course, many local business leaders and hundreds of residents excited to see their beautiful new facility.

Finally three pieces of good news in West Lincoln:

1. Thanks to the dedicated work of our Clerk and our Director of Growth and Sustainability, we were notified in the past week of being the recipients of a \$40,000 Rural Ontario Development or ROD grant to allow for building on the previous work done in 2025 with our local businesses.
2. Again thanks to these same two staff members, we are now aware that a considerable amount of Rural Broadband funding will be put into our municipality in 2026/27. An official announcement to the public will be released shortly.
3. The Region is moving forward on Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study (EA) for the Smithville Downtown By-pass (Highway 20).
The main objective of the study is to identify and evaluate alignment options for a Highway 20 bypass around downtown Smithville. In addition, a critical goal of the project is to improve safety for both pedestrians and drivers.

*A Public Information Centre will take place on February 12, 2026 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the West Lincoln Community Centre where members of the public will be able to hear the details of the EA, learn about the process and participate in discussions related to this study.



YWCA NIAGARA REGION
Hope for Homeless Women and their Families since 1927



Supporting Women, Families, and the Niagara Community.

YWCA Niagara Region &
Coldest Night of the Year





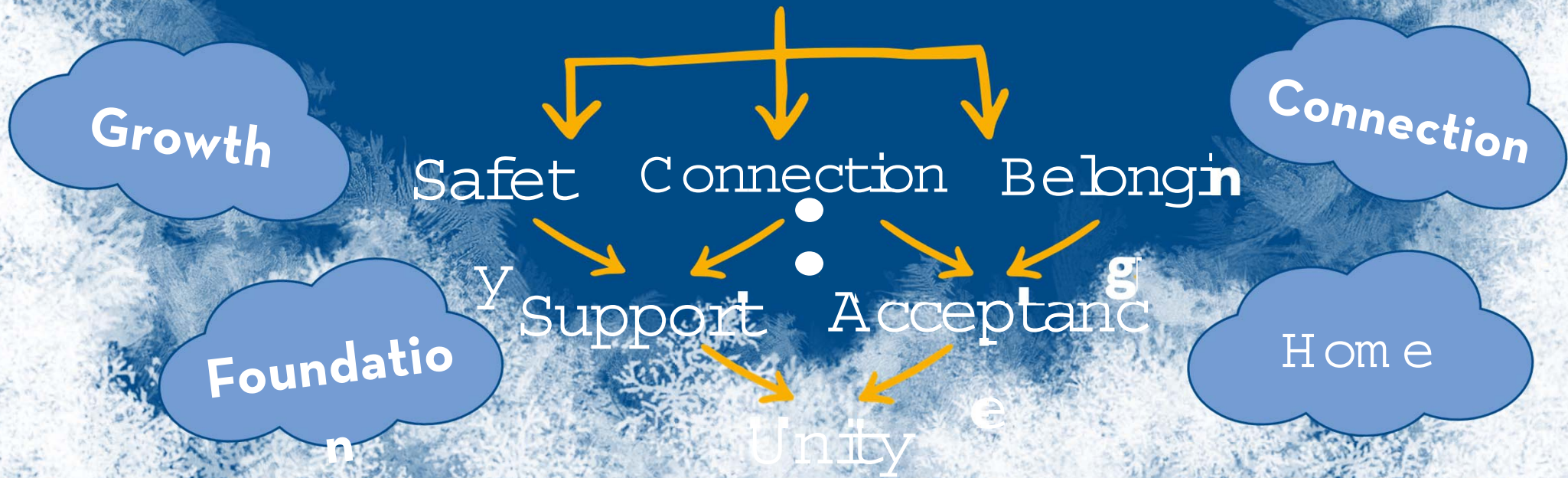
Q ?

What does **community**
mean to you?

WW

BRAINSTORM!

COMMUNITY



According to Niagara Counts
Point-In Time Results...

1,13

people in Niagara
are experiencing
homelessness.



10

Children
Aged: 0-15.

63

Youth
Aged: 16-24.

They need
someone they
can turn to.



Who are We?

At YWCA Niagara Region, we provide shelter, support, and advocacy for women, children, gender-diverse individuals, and families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their housing. Through emergency shelters, transitional housing, youth empowerment programs, and community advocacy, we work to create a Niagara where everyone has a safe place to call home.



What Drives Us?

Mission:

To be the change agent for community transformation ending gender inequity and social injustice.

Our Vision:

An equitable society where women and families thrive.



Our Programs:

Transitional Housing:

- On-Site
- Stage 1 Supported Transitional Housing
- Stage 2 Supported Transitional Housing

Emergency Homeless Shelter:

- King Street, St. Catharines
- Culp Street, Niagara Falls

Anti-Human Trafficking:

- The YW Safe House

Youth Programs:

- STEPS
- TEEN TALK
- FACES
- Boys Lounge

Skills Development:

- Brighter Hours Brighter Days
- Solutions to Anger
- Employment & Financial Management
- Budgeting
- Enriching Relationships
- Balance of Wellbeing

Programs for Adults:

- Sex Trade on my Terms (STOMT)
- Women's Addiction Recovery Meditation

Advocacy:

- Be the voice for women, children, and gender-diverse people facing inequity, housing insecurity, and poverty

The YW Safe House:

We are the only organization in Niagara directly dedicated to serving victims of human trafficking servicing the entire region.





Housing

562 Women, 97 Men, 14 Gender-diverse people, & 183 Children

Were supported through our numerous emergency shelters, 3 stages of transitional housing, home for good program, and safe house for survivors of human trafficking.



Skills Development

138 Women & 180 Youth

access our Skills Development workshops to help break the cycle of poverty for good.

YWCA in West Niagara.

We are the largest provider of shelter for women & families experiencing homelessness in West Niagara.

The Problem : If people can't access our programs where they are, they could be uprooted from their community and relocated outside of the region.

- all other services must be accessed outside of Niagara if moved, making it difficult to find support.

Help keep our community together.



West Niagara Needs YOU!

Homelessness isn't just a big city problem.

- Families from Grimsby, Lincoln, Beamsville, Smithville, and nearby towns turn to us for help every week.
 - These could be your friends, your family, or just someone you pass by at the store.

Local families deserve local support.

- When there's no shelter in West Niagara, people must leave their community.
- Getting support shouldn't have to mean uprooting and starting over.

YOU can help change that.

- By participating in community events and raising funds, you're helping to keep people close to home and connected to support systems.

February

28

2026

Together, we
bring the warmth.

colddest
*night
OF THE YEAR



YW CA Niagara Region
has raised ...

\$640,27

YWCA

1
years
of impact

200+

People housed in West Niagara
because of the funds raised

YWCA

coldest
*night
OF THE YEAR

What is it?

- A National Walk to Support People Facing Homelessness
 - Held every February across Canada
 - Fun, family-friendly, and meaningful
- Why We Walk:
 - To raise money for organizations all across Canada like the YWCA, helping women, children, and vulnerable populations who don't have a safe space to call home.
- What It Looks Like:
 - Walk in your community with your school, friends, or a club!
 - Raise funds, wear cool touques, and take action together!



The background features a blue and white snowflake pattern. On the right side, there is a collection of colorful confetti including circles, squares, and triangles in shades of pink, blue, and yellow. A yellow wavy line and a portion of a pink and blue striped party hat are also visible on the right.

Last year...

\$103,170

We reached new heights!

This past year ...

44 People had a home in the transitional housing program in West Niagara

33 Youth were supported in our skills development programs in West Niagara

as of today...

38 People woke up under a YW roof in West Niagara

You ARE the community.

Our local politicians are the core of our Niagara culture.

Make giving part of your club schedule!

How can we get involved?

1. Register a Team :

- Designate a team captain and register on the official CNOY website.
- Choose a team name that reflects your group or mission.
- Set a fundraising goal together.

2. Recruit Team Members:

- Invite friends, family, coworkers, or club members.
- Use provided social media, posters, and word-of-mouth to grow your team!

3. Fundraise Together:

- Designate a team captain and register on the official CNOY website.
- Choose a team name that reflects your group or mission.
- Set a fundraising goal together.

4. Stay Connected:

- tttt



YW X

coldest
*night
OF THE YEAR

Thank You!

For more information or opportunities to get involved, visit:

<https://ywcანიagარაregion.ca>

cnoy.org/location/westniagara

