



## **Westfort Ward Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 7:02 p.m.**  
**West Thunder Community Centre**

**1. Westfort Ward Meeting 01-2025**

Chair: Councillor Kristen Oliver

**2. Resource Persons**

Darcy Fleury, Chief of Police  
John Collin, City Manager  
Acting Detective Inspector Rob Gombola  
Katie Piché, Council & Committee Clerk

**3. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair provided introductory comments to those present. There were approximately 7 people in attendance.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of Meeting 02-2024 of the Westfort Ward, held on October 16, 2024, for information.

**5. Thunder Bay Police Service Discussion with Chief of Police**

A discussion was held with Chief of Police Darcy Fleury relative to concerns in the Westfort Ward. The following items were discussed:

A question was asked relating to speeding in the Westfort area and if radar is still used. The Chief advised that there has been a recent traffic blitz to address excessive speeding in certain areas. It was noted that the Thunder Bay Police Service is taking a more targeted approach based on complaints. Mobile signs

(with speedometer), focus on key areas and foot patrols are being looked into to address the concerns.

A concern was raised relative to 40 km/hr school zones. It was noted that the school zone limits are part of the Education Safety Act, however, speed zones are not consistent in all municipalities. Speed enforcement cameras and light synchronization were discussed.

A question was asked relative to crime and drug houses in the area and it was noted that there is a lot of fear in the community. The Chief of Police discussed the justice system, accountability, lack of treatment facilities and noted that the Thunder Bay Police Service (TBPS) recently hired a social navigator, who has been a great addition to the TBPS team.

Chief of Police Darcy Fleury and Acting Detective Inspector Rob Gombola left the meeting.

## **6. Ward & City Issues**

A question was asked relative to the location of the Temporary Village. The Chair clarified where the proposed temporary village would be located (Kam River Heritage Park ratified by Council on May 5, 2025) and provided an overview of how the temporary village will be managed.

It was also noted that Alpha Court's transitional housing (tiny homes) project will be located on Miles Street, which will be funded through the province's Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP).

City Manager John Collin entered the meeting.

Discussion with the City Manager was held. The following items were discussed:

- City of Thunder Bay has renewed emphasis on growth, focused on housing
- City is not currently generating enough revenue
- In last 10 years, revenue base has grown 7.8%, CPI (Consumer Price Index) has grown by 32%
- Average growth rate in Ontario is 5.5%
- Additional funding received for a vacant and dilapidated buildings program, to rejuvenate properties and demolish if required.
- Refinery Plant - Frontier Lithium interested in coming to Thunder Bay,

purchased lands on FWFN

- large retail warehouse coming to Thunder Bay
- Pool 6 lands ready for development
- City launching One Stop Development Shop, which will assist builders/homeowners through development process
- Multi-Use Turf Facility - Request for Proposal - bid came in under budget. Coming to Council on May 26, 2025 for Council's consideration.

A question was asked relative to staffing in the Licensing & Enforcement division. The City Manager advised that currently, Licensing & Enforcement is experiencing staffing challenges and are hoping to have more staff hired in the coming months.

Concerns were raised regarding drug houses around the city and the approach currently taken by law enforcement to deal with them. The constituent noted that those running the drug houses should be fined. The City Manager encouraged the constituent to attend the monthly Thunder Bay Police Service's "Chat with the Chief" to express concerns.

A question was asked relative to the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association's Folklore Fest being cancelled this year. It was noted that costs for security, rental/user fees and insurance have all increased, making it unfeasible to hold the event.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.