



## Ward Meeting Minutes

**Monday, October 20, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Vickers Heights Community Centre**  
**1695 Broadway Avenue**

**1. Neebing Ward Meeting 03-2025**

Chair: Councillor Greg Johnsen

**2. Resource Persons**

Aaron Ward, Manager - Engineering

Gordon Stover, Committee & Meeting Management System Coordinator

**3. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair provided a land acknowledgement and introductory comments.

There were 11 people in attendance.

**4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the Neebing Ward meeting held on June 17, 2025, for information.

**5. Ditching and Ditch Maintenance**

Aaron Ward, Manager - Engineering provided an overview of the City of Thunder Bay's ditching and ditch maintenance procedures including trunk and local/rural ditching.

Ditches are channelled along the sides of the roads to carry water/drainage and should be at least 1-2 feet in depth. Sitting water is acceptable in a ditch as continuous flow drainage cannot always be possible with all water levels. Digging deeper ditches does not always fix the problem and may result in increasing the

excess sitting water. It is against City by-laws to allow sump pump drainage into a ditch.

There are currently 486 kilometres of linear ditching in Thunder Bay with an annual maintenance operating budget of \$400,000. New projects and developments for ditching are included the Engineering Division's capital budget for \$300,000.

The Roads Division's maintenance inspectors make note of any repairs required to current ditches. The public is also encouraged to submit concerns to the City of Thunder Bay through the City's Dispatch phone number at 807-625-2195.

A concern was raised regarding public education for water usage. More education may be needed from the City to help reduce water usage in semi-rural areas with septic fields. This may prevent a further increase to the ground water table.

A concern was raised with the overflowing ditches on Garden Avenue. The issue has been reported multiple times to the City.

It was mentioned by a citizen that culverts underneath driveways need to be cleared of debris or the ditches will back-up and water will over-flow. Culverts are installed 10% below grade to allow sufficient water flow. Concerns with clogged culverts can be reported to dispatch as well.

The Chair advised residents that he is requesting Council approve an additional \$30,000 to the ditch and ditch maintenance budget for 2026.

## **6. Ward and City Issues**

The Chair provided the following updates for information:

A question was received prior to the Ward meeting with a concern for the Rockcliff Reservoir emergency power generators near Mount Forest Boulevard, being fuelled with diesel and emitting strong fumes. It was confirmed by Administration that the generators do not run on diesel and are powered with natural gas.

A question was received prior to the Ward meeting asking when the playground structure in Parkdale will be updated. Administration has confirmed that the equipment was installed in 2003 and have a normal service life of 25-30 years. The Parks & Open Spaces Section follows an Asset Management plan and usually replaces play structures when it has come to the end of its use-able life. At that time, the greater park area also gets looked at critically as to how to serve the community around it through a public consultation and engagement process. The Parkdale playground is listed as being in fair to good condition and not expected to be renewed in the next 5 years.

The Chair provided a brief overview of the new City Council governance structure that includes replacing the Committee of the Whole System with the use of Standing Committees. This has allowed for shorter and more efficient meetings.

The Chair advised that approximately 9000 new residential waste containers have been distributed in Thunder Bay for garbage collection. Jason Sherband, Manager - Solid Waste & Recycling Services has been invited to attend the March Neebing Ward Meeting at City Hall to provide an overview of the new initiative and the next steps.

Discussion was held relative to highway and traffic safety especially at the Highway 61 and Broadway intersection.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.