



Georgian Bluffs

DEEPLY ROOTED. SUSTAINABLY GROWING.

Township of Georgian Bluffs

Council Minutes

February 12, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Township Administration Offices

177964 Grey Road 18, RR#3, Owen Sound ON N4K 5N5

Members Present: Mayor Sue Carleton
Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn
Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle
Councillor Ryan Thompson
Councillor Rick Winters
Councillor Tobin Day
Councillor Isaac Shouldice

Staff Present: Brittany Drury, Deputy CAO/Director of Corporate Services
Brian Anderson, Asset Management Coordinator
Carly Craig, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk
Samantha Buchanan, Treasurer
Niall Lobley, Chief Administrative Officer
Michael Benner, Director of Development and Infrastructure
Jodi Ward, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Mayor Sue Carleton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn opened the meeting with the land acknowledgment statement and shared a reflection.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

5.1 Special Council - January 13, 2025

RES2025-026

Moved By: Councillor Rick Winters

Seconded By: Councillor Ryan Thompson

That the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on January 13, 2025, be adopted.

Carried

5.2 Council - January 15, 2025

RES2025-027

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on January 15, 2025, be adopted.

Carried

6. Announcements

Council provided the following announcements:

- The Coldest Night of the Year Walk is happening in February, with local proceeds going to Safe N' Sound Grey Bruce. Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn is participating in the walk and collecting donations.

- A Polar Plunge is taking place at the Shallow Lake and District Community Centre on Sunday February 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Proceeds raised are going towards Special Olympics.
- Georgian Bluffs launched 'My GB', an online citizen portal designed to simplify access to key municipal services and provide a personalized experience. Property owners can access and manage property tax data, pay online, customize dashboards to highlight key services such as tax information, waste collection schedules, and upcoming council meetings. Residents may also receive direct notifications on service impacts and important updates by subscribing.

7. Public Hearings

None.

8. Public Participation

8.1 Delegations on Agenda Items

Any person who wishes to appear before Council regarding an item on the agenda must register with the Clerk's Office. To register you can:

1. Complete the online delegation form:
www.georgianbluffs.ca/delegations.
2. Call the Clerk's Office at 519-376-2729 ext. 603; or
3. Register in Council Chambers with the Clerk prior to the meeting start time (5:00 p.m.)

8.1.1 Delegation regarding Item 14.1 - Shore Road Allowance Background Study Update.

Greg Palmer and Sandy Palmer registered to provide comment on Item 14.1 - Shore Road Allowance Background Study Update. They each described issues they have encountered at their waterfront property on Balmy Beach Road along the shore road allowance and requested that signage be put up to deter people from walking along it as though it were a trail.

9. Consent Agenda

RES2025-028

Moved By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

Seconded By: Councillor Rick Winters

That Council of the Township of Georgian Bluffs adopt the Consent Agenda for information, as circulated, less item 9.3.9.

Carried

9.1 Correspondence

9.1.1 Grey Bruce Federation of Agriculture - Invitation to Annual Politicians Meeting

9.2 Minutes

9.2.1 Inter Township Joint Board of Management - November 13, 2024

9.3 Resolutions From Other Municipalities

9.3.1 Municipality of South Huron - Support for the Township of Puslinch - TAPMO Letter Regarding Pre-Budget Announcement Township of Puslinch - TAPMO Letter Regarding Pre-Budget Announcement

9.3.2 Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan Township - Letter of Support - Child Welfare Funding

9.3.3 Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan Township - Letter of Support - Provincial Land Transfer Tax

9.3.4 Nuclear Innovation Institute - Note to Councils - Clean Energy Frontier Awards

9.3.5 Municipality of South Huron - Resolution - Heritage Preservation

9.3.6 City of Woodstock - Ontario's Child Welfare Services Sector Need for Child Welfare Services Funding

9.3.7 Prince Edward County - Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

9.3.8 Town of Cobourg - Support for Northumberland County - Municipal Restructuring Study

9.3.9 Town of Halton Hills - Resolution - Sovereignty of Canada

9.3.10 Town of Halton Hills - Resolution - Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

9.3.11 Municipality of St.-Charles - Support for the Town of the Blue Mountains - Establishment of an Ontario Rural Road Safety Program

9.4 Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) Monthly Reports - January to December 2024

9.4.1 Shallow Lake Drinking Water System

9.4.2 Pottawatomi Drinking Water System

9.4.3 East Linton Drinking Water System

9.4.4 Oxenden Drinking Water System

10. Consideration of Items Separated from Consent Agenda

10.1 9.3.9 Town of Halton Hills - Resolution - Sovereignty of Canada

RES2025-029

Moved By: Councillor Rick Winters

Seconded By: Councillor Ryan Thompson

That staff be directed to prepare and forward a letter of Support for the Town of Halton Hills Resolution regarding the Sovereignty of Canada.

Carried

11. Reports

11.1 Committee Reports

11.1.1 Committee of the Whole

RES2025-030

Moved By: Councillor Tobin Day

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle

That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 5, 2025, be adopted, including recommendations COW2025-001 to COW2025-008; and

That all actions contained therein be approved.

Carried

11.1.1.1 CAO2025-04 - Updates to the Clean Yards Bylaw

COW2025-001

Moved By: Councillor Tobin Day

Seconded By: Councillor Ryan Thompson

That Council approve the proposed updates to the By-Law 2017-036 - Clean Yards By-Law; and

That staff be directed to present an amending By-Law at a future meeting of Council.

Approved

11.1.1.2 DEV2025-005 - Shared Building Services Agreement

COW2025-002

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That staff report DEV2025-005 a “Shared Building Services Agreement” be received for information, and;

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the Shared Building Services Agreement between the City of Owen Sound and the Township of Georgian Bluffs as substantially included in report DEV2025-005.

Approved

11.1.1.3 DEV2025-006 - Report for The Dell (Draft Plan of Subdivision Application 42T-2022-10) for Georgian Villas Inc.

COW2025-003

Moved By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

Seconded By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

That Report DEV2025-006, being the Informational Report for The Dell Draft Plan of Subdivision (Application 42T-2022-10) for Georgian Villas Inc. be received for information, and;

That Township staff be authorized to provide a formal commenting letter to the County of Grey which includes proposed conditions for the draft plan of subdivision with respect to Application 42T-2022-10 as attached as Appendix B to this report.

Approved

11.1.1.4 DEV2025-007 - Cobble Beach, The Grove, Part Lot Control and Tied Land Exemption

COW2025-004

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That Council receive staff report DEV2025-007 Cobble Beach, The Grove, Part Lot Control and Tied Land Exemption for information, and;

That Council enact a By-law so as to remove Block 74, Registered Plan 16M15 from Part-Lot Control for a temporary period of three (3) years, and;

That the Township supports an exemption from Section 51 of the Planning Act for the lands legally described as PLAN 16M15 BLK 74 PARTS 13, 17, AND 20.

Approved

11.1.1.5 COR2025-04 - Draft User Fee Policy and 2025 User Fees

COW2025-005

Moved By: Councillor Rick Winters

Seconded By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

That staff be directed to present a User Fee Policy and approving by-law for Council's consideration at an upcoming Council meeting; and

That staff be directed to present the 2025 User Fees By-law for Council's consideration at an upcoming Council meeting.

Approved

11.1.1.6 COR2025-06 - 2026-2030 Council Remuneration Committee

COW2025-006

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

That establishment of the 2026-2030 Council Remuneration Committee; and

That the 2026-2030 Council Remuneration Committee Terms of Reference, attached hereto as Appendix "A" be approved; and

That staff be directed to prepare an advertisement to invite applications for Committee Membership for review of Council.

Approved

11.1.1.7 COR2025-05 - Alternative Voting Methods - VoteTheBluffs2026

COW2025-007

Moved By: Councillor Tobin Day

Seconded By: Councillor Rick Winters

That Council hereby approves both internet and telephone voting methods for implementation in the 2026 Municipal Election with in-person voter help centers; and

That staff be hereby directed to draft a request for proposal for voting services.

Approved

11.1.1.8 Closed Session

COW2025-008

Moved By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

Seconded By: Councillor Rick Winters

That Council of the Township of Georgian Bluffs move into closed session at 7:08 p.m. in the Sarawak Room with the CAO, Director of Development and Infrastructure and Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk remaining in the room to discuss:

12.1 a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board (exemption k of section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001) - Water Service Extension.

Approved

11.2 Information Reports

11.2.1 COR2025-05 - Territorial Acknowledgment Policy

Council noted a grammatical error to be corrected contained within the Territorial Acknowledgement Policy. Staff confirmed the error would be corrected.

RES2025-031

Moved By: Councillor Rick Winters

Seconded By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

That all information reports contained herein be received.

Carried

11.3 Recommendation Reports

None.

12. By-laws

12.1 Zoning By-laws

None.

12.2 Other By-laws

12.2.1 By-law 2025-009 - User Fee and Charges By-Law

Being a By-law for the imposition and collection of fees and charges for certain municipal services and activities.

RES2025-032

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Ryan Thompson

That By-law 2025-009, being a By-law for the imposition and collection of fees and charges for certain municipal services and activities, be read a first, second and third time, and finally passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

Carried

12.2.2 By-law 2025-010 - Territorial Acknowledgement Policy

Being a By-law to adopt a Territorial Acknowledgement Policy.

RES2025-033

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Rick Winters

That By-law 2025-010, being a By-law to adopt a Territorial Acknowledgement Policy, be read a first, second and third time, and finally passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

Carried

12.2.3 By-law 2025-011 - Cobble Beach, The Grove, Part Lot Control By-law

Being a By-law to remove certain lands from Part Lot Control in the Township of Georgian Bluffs.

RES2025-034

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That By-law 2025-011, being a By-law to remove certain lands from Part Lot Control in the Township of Georgian Bluffs, be read a first, second and third time, and finally passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, and engrossed in the By-law Book.

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

None.

14. New Business

14.1 Shore Road Allowance Background Study Update

Further to Notice of Discussion provided by Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn at the January 15, 2025, Council meeting.

Staff provided a verbal update on the background study, noting that the Township engaged a law firm in April of 2024 to assist with understanding the nature and scope of shore road allowances across the Township. The CAO noted that the study is still ongoing, and that an update would be brought forward at a future meeting.

The CAO noted that further to the delegation provided by Mr. and Mrs. Palmer under Item 8.1, the shore road allowance in this particular location is owned by the Township. In response to the request, it was noted that signage has not yet been established because people have an inherent public right to cross over shore road allowances.

Council inquired about STRA Operators advertising a shore road trail referencing shore road allowances. Staff clarified this is not an area where public access is being encouraged by the Township, and it is not part of our trail system.

Council further inquired about the risks of proceeding with signage. Staff advised that in respect to the trail, signage could be erected, however the signage would have no legal standing for reinforcement and may be seen, by some, as limiting their inherent right to pass over the shore road allowance.

Council had a brief discussion on the origin of shore road allowances and asked staff what approaches other municipalities are taking to deal with shore road allowances, including regarding limiting their usage. Staff advised that shore road allowances originated in order to provide for economic prosperity and support economic growth along the shoreline. Staff further noted that many other municipalities face similar issues regarding shore road allowances, including stopping up and closing unopened ones.

Staff advised that the future report will speak to options and provide a full picture of considerations to inform Council decision making.

14.2 Short Term Rental Accommodation Licencing Program Update

Further to Notice of Discussion provided by Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn at the January 15, 2025, Council meeting.

Staff provided the following updates regarding the Short-Term Accommodation Licensing (STRA) Program, including:

- The Township's Beta Test Program launched in December 2024 and six applications have been received to-date.
- Hard copy notice was sent to all 118 STRA Operators advising them of a March 1st, 2025, license compliance deadline.
- 2025 focus will be working to proactively seek out compliance prior to pursuing active enforcement measures and leading with education about the program.

RES2025-035

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

To direct Staff to bring back a report in March 2025 on the effects and challenges on acceptance of non-compliance regarding the STRA licencing program, with Council being fully informed of all legal ramifications.

14.3 Flag Raising Event

Staff advised that there will be a joint flag-raising event with the City of Owen Sound, held on 8th Street West at 4:00 p.m. on Friday February 14, 2025. The gathering is in response to National Flag Day on Saturday February 15, 2025, to show Canadian solidarity as a unified community approach in celebration of the 60th iteration of the Canadian Flag and to encourage supporting and buying local.

Moved By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle

That Council endorse and authorize members to partake in the jointly hosted celebration of the Canadian Flag on Friday February 14, 2025, at 4:00 p.ms for the purposes of the Council Remuneration Policy.

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Conflict</i>
<i>Mayor Sue Carleton</i>	X		
<i>Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn</i>		X	
<i>Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle</i>	X		
<i>Councillor Ryan Thompson</i>		X	
<i>Councillor Rick Winters</i>		X	
<i>Councillor Tobin Day</i>		X	
<i>Councillor Isaac Shouldice</i>	X		
<i>Results</i>	3	4	0

Lost (3 to 4)

15. Notice of Motion/Notice of Discussion

None.

16. Closed Session

None.

17. Confirming By-law

RES2025-036

Moved By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Grant Pringle

That By-law No. 2025-012, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council on February 12, 2025 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, sealed with the Seal of the Corporation and engrossed in the By-law Book.

Carried

18. Adjournment

Mayor Sue Carleton noted that Committee of the Whole will meet as regularly scheduled on February 19, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Moved By: Councillor Rick Winters

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Carried

Mayor, Sue Carleton

Clerk, Carly Craig