



The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills Mayoral Decision

Decision: 2026-MDE-01

Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: **Veto Resolution 26-14 – Council Amendment to remove \$120,000.00 from Capital Budget – Pickup Truck Public Works – Roads passed at the January 6, 2026 Special Meeting.**

Pursuant to the powers extended to the Head of Council under Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 (the “ACT”), I, Mayor Carter of the Township of Minden Hills, hereby veto the following Council amended resolution to the proposed 2026 Mayoral Budget, passed by Council at its January 6, 2026 Special Meeting, in accordance with subsection 284.16(4) of the Act:

“That Council amends the 2026 Mayoral Budget to remove \$120,000 from the Capital Budget for the Pickup truck in the Public Works – Roads.”

The reason for this veto is;

- The population of Minden Hills continues to increase, rising from 6,088 in 2016 to 6,971 in 2021 (Statistics Canada). The 2026 population has no doubt increased significantly from this 2021 data. This includes an increase in the seasonal population who now have 3 or 4 season cottages therefore staying longer throughout the year. The tourism industry has also increased significantly over the years. All of these key factors have put increased demands and pressures on staff and resources.
- Consolidating winter maintenance functions in Public Works Roads allows for better use of resources and ability to adapt service to the changing weather condition, equipment maintenance and absences (i.e. routes can be adjusted, resource can be deployed/re-deployed as needed)
- It takes approximately 1 hour to plow and sand the Fire Hall.
- It takes approximately 5 hours to plow/sand four waste disposal sites and it is not feasible to put the Waste Management Lead Hand in a mobile snowplowing role and perform the other responsibilities of the position.
- It is approximately 84 kms of drive time between the 4 waste disposal sites. Elapsed time is weather dependent.
- Estimate for contracted snow plowing/sanding services for waste disposal sites and the fire hall would cost approximately \$75,000 a year. This amount is not in the proposed budget or added to the budget in the amendment.
- The enhanced service reduces liability risks and improves safety for pedestrians during winter conditions on our public walkways and gathering spaces.

- Improved safety by using a smaller truck to clear the ends of Township Roads that intersect along King's Highways or County Roads. A 1-ton pickup truck has better visibility and maneuverability, fewer blind spots, and is better suited for this task than tandem axle plow trucks.

There are increased safety risks clearing intersections on these main roads due to vehicle speed and high traffic volumes. Below identifies the number of approximate intersections that our tandem trucks currently clear:

- 47 intersections off Highway 35
- 6 intersections off Highway 118
- 8 intersections off County Road 121
- 8 intersections off County Road 503
- 13 intersections off County Road 21
- More support for MMS related maintenance while also allowing for other Municipal properties to be serviced.

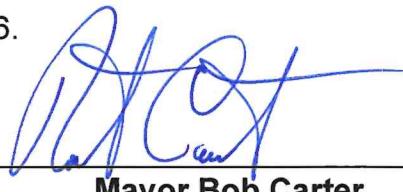
Winter Maintained Roads Overview

- Our neighbouring municipality has a similar network of roads and maintains them with 3 more vehicles and staffing resources.
- **Minden:** 250km of winter maintenance
- **Dysart et al:** 270km of winter maintenance

| Vehicles | Dysart | Minden |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Tandem | 8 | 7 |
| 1 ton w/ plow and sander | 3 | 1 |
| 3/4-ton w/plow | 1 | 0 |
| Sidewalk machine | 1 | 1 |
| Grader/loader | 1 | 2 |

In addition to the winter functions outlined above, the additional staff person and vehicle resource will also support summer road maintenance activities, pothole repair and patching, clearing culverts and beaver dams, sidewalk maintenance, sign installation, etc.

This Mayoral Decision comes into effect on January 16, 2026.



Mayor Bob Carter