

# FEBRUARY 10, 2026



## ABOUT LAST NIGHT

### COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

#### Council Strengthens Support for Fire and Emergency Services

At its meeting last evening, Council approved three agreements that enhance resources and support for the Bonfield Fire Department.

Council authorized a Fire Protection Grant agreement with the Province to fund the purchase and installation of a washer and dryer for bunker gear at Station 1. This equipment will allow gear to be cleaned in-house following fire responses, ensuring volunteers have safe, ready-to-use equipment while reducing the need to contract out cleaning services.

Council also approved an extension of the Forest Fire Management Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources. This agreement provides access to additional support in the event a wildland fire escalates beyond local capacity. As part of this arrangement, Bonfield Volunteer Firefighters must maintain Wildland Fire Response certification, which the department successfully completed in 2023.

In addition, Council adopted the Medical Tiered Response Agreement with the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board, which oversees paramedic services. The agreement outlines the circumstances under which the Fire Department responds to medical calls and requires specific training standards. Firefighters completed the required training over two weekends this past fall.

Council recognized the department's ongoing community involvement, including participation in local charity hockey tournaments, the recent community shinny game, and support for the upcoming Family Day event. The department now has 18 members, and call volumes have increased by more than 50 percent compared to last year. Council expressed appreciation for the continued dedication and service of these volunteers to the Bonfield community.

#### Council Receives Ombudsman Report

Council has received and accepted the Ombudsman's Report arising from a complaint filed in 2024. The complaint related to meeting notices, an alleged illegal meeting, and a concern regarding an improperly held closed session.

The Ombudsman's Office conducted a thorough investigation, including interviews, and the full report is available on the municipal website. The findings concluded that informal discussions held prior to a regular Council meeting did not constitute an illegal meeting. In addition, the discussion held during a closed session of the Corporate Services Committee fell within the exception for advice subject to solicitor-client privilege under the Municipal Act.

The report did identify that notice requirements for one Council meeting and two Planning Advisory Committee meetings in 2024 did not fully comply with the Municipality's Procedural By-law. While meeting dates were posted on the website, the agendas were not published as required. Notice must be posted both on the municipal website and on the front door of the municipal office.

The Ombudsman acknowledged the corrective measures implemented by staff to prevent similar oversights in the future. Council has accepted the recommendations outlined in the report, and staff are committed to ensuring that proper notice requirements are consistently met. Council and staff recognize and respect the role of the public and the Ombudsman in promoting transparency and adherence to municipal procedures.

### Looking for an Agenda or Minutes?

To see Agendas for upcoming or past meetings, please visit: [www.BonfieldTownship.com](http://www.BonfieldTownship.com)

### Want to connect with Council?

#### 1. Write an email or a letter

You can submit your comments to Council regarding municipal matters by emailing the Clerk or dropping it off at the Township Office.

**Email:** [cao.clerk@bonfieldtownship.com](mailto:cao.clerk@bonfieldtownship.com)

**Address:**  
365 Hwy 531, Bonfield ON, P0H 1E0

#### 2. Connect with a Member of Council

You can speak to a Council member directly.

Find full contact information at [www.BonfieldTownship.com](http://www.BonfieldTownship.com) in the Municipal Directory.

### More Questions?

Contact the Township Office at:  
705-776-2641

### WANT TO ATTEND A MEETING OR VIEW ONLINE?

**Council Meetings** are held the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month at the Township Office located at 365 Hwy 531, Bonfield, P0H 1E0

**Attend online** by visiting:  
[youtube.com/@townshipofbonfield6354](https://youtube.com/@townshipofbonfield6354)