



The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills
Resolutions
Regular Council - 29 May 2025

Page 1 of 2
Item

Date: May 29, 2025

#: 2025- 213

Moved by: Bob Lemaire

Seconded by: Mayor McKeown

That Council receives correspondence item 11.2 from the Town of Mattawa regarding Strong Mayor Powers as information; and

That Council supports the Town of Mattawa resolution 25-95 and also states the following:

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario announced an expansion of strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities that took effect May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills was included in the additional 169 municipalities that gained such powers;

AND WHEREAS these powers allow mayors to unilaterally override council decisions, appoint senior municipal staff, and set budgets without majority council approval, undermining the principles of democratic governance;

AND WHEREAS municipal governance functions best through a collaborative decision-making process where elected councils, representing the collective voice of their communities, work alongside experienced municipal staff and the proposed powers has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence to suggest that strong mayor powers have increased housing starts, contrary to the provincial government's stated justification for their implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has raised concerns that strong mayor powers blur the lines between political leadership and administration expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has a long history of collaborative, transparent and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council debated and shared decision-making;

AND WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the strong mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or appeal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills opposes the expansion of strong mayor powers and formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Township of Minden Hills from the list of municipalities that was granted strong mayor powers under the designated legislation.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☒ Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	For	Against	Absent
Mayor Bob Carter		✓	
Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell	✓		
Councillor Tammy McKelvey	✓		
Councillor Ivan Ingram	✓		
Councillor Shirley Johannessen	✓		
Councillor Pam Sayne	✓		
Councillor Bob Sisson	✓		

Mayor Bob Carter