



February 19, 2026 Council Highlights

Planning

Bayham's Committee of Adjustment convened to discuss two minor variances:

- A variance was passed to allow the floor area of an accessory building to be 90 metres instead of the prescribed 75, as well as a height adjustment to 5.2 metres from the standard 4.7 at 6540 Richmond Road.
- A variance was approved for an accessory buildings floor area to be 93 metres instead of the prescribed 75, as well as a height of 5.8 metres from the standard 4.5 at a 56748 Eden Line.

A notice was circulated, reminding the public that the final public meeting for the Draft Official Plan for the Official Plan Review will be held on March 5th at 6:00p.m.

Council also passed three zoning by-law amendments:

- 54304 Eden Line was rezoned with site specific regulations allowing an addition to the existing residential building.
- 23 Oak Street was rezoned with site specific regulations to allow a accessory building.
- 53900 Heritage Line was rezoned with site specific regulations to allow a new single detached dwelling.

Financial Reports

The Treasurer provided a comprehensive update to Council for information. Reports covered:

- 2025 Development charges
- 2025 Investments
- 2025 Q4 Variance Report
- 2026 Fiscal Outlook
- 2025 Surplus allocations
- 2026 Budget Amendments

A clarification was provided that although the Municipality is in a strong position and making a concerted effort to control tax rates, there is some information circulating on social media as well as in the newspapers that is inaccurate and exaggerating the current reserves.

Council provided direction regarding surplus allocations. An Information Technology Reserve was created to smooth costs over time, and the Treasurer was directed to bring back further Surplus Asset reports for all departments.

After the comprehensive and detailed review, Council approved the municipal budget with amendments to the Capital program.

Municipal Assistance Program

Bayham community groups apply to Council annually to request use of municipal property, road closures, materials, facility rental relief, and funding to host community events. The Clerk presented a detailed report inclusive of the requests received for the first intake of the year. Financial requests were approved at 80% of their amount to allow for funds to be allocated for the second application intake.

The following events received approval for general support in preparation for their events, such as road closures and facility preparations:

- Weekly Playgroup, Port Burwell
- Parkette Lightning
- Straffordville Santa Clause Parade

The following organizations were approved for various forms of support as listed above, as well as an approval of funding at 80% their financial request:

- Writers' Festival
- Edisonfest
- Canada Day Celebrations
- Vienna Lions Kidsfest
- Bayham Beachfest

OPP Support for By-law Enforcement Complaints

At the request of Council, the CAO presented an in-depth analysis of the OPP policing contract and how it interlaces with the by-law enforcement. It was staff's position that the current utilization rates are not significant enough to drive the overall OPP Service Contract budget line. Council and staff discussed concerns with the way policing services are billed province-wide, and that the issue has been brought forward at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) meetings with Provincial officials.

Ontario Trillium – Capital Grant Application

The CAO presented a report on grant opportunities for Bayham's baseball diamonds. Council discussed concerns with the Trillium Grant, noting that Port Burwell's application is less favourable due to low usage, limited facility data, a short application window, and an existing project funding. As only one major project could proceed, Council directed staff to apply for funding for the Straffordville Ball Diamond.

Appointment By-laws

An interim Clerk was appointed. As part of the Clerk appointment the Municipality reviewed the appointment by-laws process, finding a more effective way to administer staff delegated duties while also reducing bureaucracy. The meeting included many one-time by-laws to appoint duties to achieve this goal.

**For further details, view the meeting agenda and minutes [HERE](#)
and watch the YouTube live-stream [HERE](#)**

DATED at the Municipality of Bayham this 20th day of February, 2026.

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