

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
JOINT BOARD OF MANAGEMENT - NIAGARA COURTS
MINUTES**

JBM 1-2026

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Meeting held by electronic participation

Committee: H. Boese (Grimsby), D. Gibbs (Niagara Region), J. McQuay (Niagara Falls), M. Montague (St. Catharines), G. Spencer (Niagara-on-the-Lake)

Absent/Regrets: M. Richardson (Welland), M. Barkway (Lincoln)

Staff: S. Crocco, Senior Legal Counsel, Litigation, S. Fraser, Associate Director, Transportation Planning, K. Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, R. Muzzell, Associate Director, Program Financial Support, A. Niece, Program Financial Specialist, M. Vink, Associate Director, Court Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. SELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

3.1 Call for Nominations for Board Chair

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts for 2026.

Moved by D. Gibbs
Seconded by H. Boese

That Melissa Montague **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts for 2026.

Carried

3.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Board Chair

Ms. Lotimer called a final time for nominations for the position of Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts. There being no further nominations, it was:

Moved by D. Gibbs
Seconded by H. Boese

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.3 Voting for the Position of Board Chair

There being only one nominee for the position, Ms. Lotimer announced that Melissa Montague would be the Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts for 2026.

3.4 Call for Nominations for Board Vice-Chair

Kelly Lotimer, Deputy Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts for 2026.

Moved by G. Spencer
Seconded by H. Boese

That Nidhi Punyarthi **BE NOMINATED** for the position of Vice-Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts for 2026.

Carried

3.5 Motion to Close Nominations for Board Vice-Chair

Ms. Lotimer called a final time for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts. There being no further nominations, it was:

Moved by D. Gibbs
Seconded by H. Boese

That nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.6 Voting for the Position of Board Vice-Chair

There being only one nominee for the position, Ms. Lotimer announced that Nidhi Punyarthi would be the Vice-Chair of the Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts for 2026.

At this point in the meeting, Melissa Montague assumed the chair.

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 JBM-C 1-2026

2026 Budget Adjustment - Court Services

Miranda Vink, Associate Director, Court Services, provided information respecting 2026 Budget Adjustment - Court Services. Topics of the presentation included:

- Budget Adjustment Background
- 2026 Budget Adjustment Summary

Moved by H. Boese

Seconded by D. Gibbs

That Report JBM-C 1-2026, dated February 19, 2026, respecting 2026 Budget Adjustment – Court Services, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That an operating budget adjustment to the previously adopted 2026 Court Services operating budget in the amount of \$0 net, reflecting the operational impacts following the elimination of the Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) program as outlined in this report, **BE APPROVED** and **BE RECOMMENDED** to Regional Council for its meeting of March 26, 2026.

Carried

4.2 JBM-C 2-2026

Court Services Write-Off Recommendations for the Period Ending December 31, 2025

Moved by D. Gibbs

Seconded by H. Boese

That Report JBM-C 2-2026, dated February 19, 2026, respecting Court Services Write-Off Recommendations for the Period Ending December 31, 2025, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the delinquent cases summarized in the Analysis Section of the Report, **BE APPROVED** for write-off and removal from the Integrated Court Offences Network (ICON) system in accordance with the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG) *Provincial Offences Act* Write-off Directive and Operating Guideline and the Niagara Region Courts approved write off criteria.

Carried

5. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 JBM 5-2025

Joint Board of Management - Niagara Courts Meeting Minutes -
November 27, 2025

Moved by H. Boese
Seconded by D. Gibbs

That Minutes JBM 5-2025, being the minutes of the Joint Board of
Management - Niagara Courts meeting held on Thursday, November 27,
2025, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Melissa Montague
Board Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Deputy Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk