

JOHNSON TARBUTT JOINT LANDFILL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026
Johnson Township Council Chambers
6:00 pm

PRESENT: Mayor R. McKinnon, Chair
Councillor K. Stobie
Councillor J. Nagel
Councillor D. McClelland

STAFF: J. Maguire, Johnson Township
J. Boucher, Johnson Township
C. Goertzen, Johnson Township
M. Pigeon, Tarbutt Township
C. Trainor, Tarbutt Township
Chris Hall, Landfill Attendant

1. Call to Order

Mayor McKinnon called the Joint Landfill Committee meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

3. Proposed work for 2026:

- Annual Operations Report, due March 31
Quotation received from Tulloch Engineering in the amount of \$6,750 plus HST
- Water/groundwater sampling and testing, due March 31
Quotation received from Tulloch Engineering, subcontracted to Cambium Inc.,
in the amount of \$9,900 plus HST (Tulloch sought and reviewed quotes)
- Groundwater and surface water sampling and testing
Quotation received from Tulloch Engineering in the amount of \$5,900 plus HST
- Additional site work required in 2026
Suggestion of a second non household bin to remove excess materials

The landfill attendants have presented a proposal to add a second non household bin where the scrap metal bin is now, to extend the life and capacity of the landfill, and move the scrap metal bin into the bunker. Users could throw scrap into the bin inside the bunker, which is emptied every few months. The non household bin fills quickly and is emptied every week, resulting in large amounts of material going into the back cell. The idea of shipping waste out was intended to prevent filling the back cell,

reducing the capacity and the life of the landfill, yet the bin fills quickly and the back cell is filling up at an enormous rate.

M. Pigeon advised that the scrap bin could not be collected if it were in the bunker as it is now, and suggested instead extending the ramp so that all three bins would be in the same area. Alternatively, the bunker could be cut and adjusted to allow the scrap bin in, and provide better access for people to dump into it

The addition of another non household bin would impact the operating budget for bin rental and additional collections, but would save the cell from filling so quickly.

Staff were requested to enquire about the cost of a concrete pad under the bins, measuring roughly 60' x 14' x 6" deep to allow water to run off and prevent pooling. The following motion will be presented to both councils for approval:

Moved by: K. Stobie Seconded by: J. Nagel

Be it resolved that the quotations from Tulloch for the annual operations report, Hydrogeological Report and Annual Groundwater and Surface Water Sampling and Testing, in 2026 in the total amount of \$22,550 plus HST be approved; and

That proposals for any additional site work be provided to each of the Councils prior to the work being performed.

Carried

4. Current Business

a. Exit Agreement Status Update

Mayor McKinnon stated that he was glad to see the reunion of the Committee, as is Tarbutt. Johnson has decided to let the current GFL contract run its course, and so any further exit negotiations can focus on cost sharing, future liability and expansion of the site. Tarbutt is also hoping that the bulk of these negotiations can take place at the committee table rather than through lawyers, with Johnson's agreement.

Johnson has completed surveys and a feasibility study which shows that there is room for one additional cell in the existing footprint, and the potential for two or more cells between the existing and the road. The footprint of the site would have to be enlarged toward the road, and is expected to add 50 to 75 years to the life of the site. The Feasibility Study will be forwarded to Tarbutt.

b. 2017 Joint Landfill By-law (attached) update

The Tarbutt Clerk advised that there are a number of inaccuracies in terms of how the work is carried out, who does what, and the provisions in the by-law are not followed. Many of the items listed as permitted waste are no longer accepted, the site logistics have changed, and the by-law is sorely outdated.

The by-law states that one township will perform winter maintenance in the landfill, and the other will do summer. The two road superintendents agreed that one year on and one year off would be better for them, with the Committee's support.

The Committee agreed that the by-law should be updated to reflect the current, actual situation of processes, work flow, and how each function is performed, along with the new fee schedule. The Tarbutt Clerk will initiate changes and work with Johnson staff to bring the by-law up to date.

c. Recycling: Changes to the residential collection system

As of January 1, all communities in Ontario have transitioned to the new Producer Responsibility system, and with that, more changes to residential recycling including the acceptance of more products into the blue box system. Municipalities are responsible to ensure that their residents are aware of these changes, and will be penalized if this is not done.

Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICI) recycling is not permitted to be blended with residential recycling, and is to be segregated at the site or the townships will pay a penalty. Both Johnson and Tarbutt have very few ICI properties, but Circular Materials does not recognize the number of businesses or facilities as part of the equation. The Johnson Arena, churches, and community halls are included in this category.

Options are to pay the penalty, which is unknown at this time; to require all businesses to have their own recycling bins, and enter into contracts with a hauler and collector; or to have a second set of recycling bins at the landfill which would ONLY be for commercial, institutional and industrial recycling. Committee agreed that the latter is neither feasible, nor can it be managed by the attendants. The best option, at this time, appears to be paying the penalty, as the amount of recycling that will be generated from the few businesses, along with institutional sites, will be minimal. This will be part of an amended contract with Circular Materials, and staff will advise the committee of the budget impact once that amount is determined.

d. Share Shed Access

The Clerk in Tarbutt has received correspondence from a resident of Laird who collects household goods, clothing and footwear for homeless people in SSM. He gathers share shed items from Tri Partners, Laird, St. Joseph and Desbarats, filling a trailer each visit taking most of the stock, and has recently been told by the share shed attendant to limit his visits to ensure that there are goods left for our own residents. He has taken issue with this direction and makes accusations of preventing him from helping others. While this type of cleansing helps to keep materials out of the landfill, many of our own residents rely on the share shed as well.

Committee members agreed that he could attend the share shed once a month. He will be so advised.

5. Other Business – none.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00 pm in the Johnson council chambers.

7. Adjourn

The first meeting of the 2026 Joint Landfill Committee adjourned at 7:45 pm.