

MINUTES
COMMITTEE of the WHOLE
(Infrastructure & Development Services/Public Health Services – Emergency Medical Services/Cultural Services/Long-Term Care/Corporate Services/Finance, Facilities and Court Services/Social Services)

January 17, 2024

A meeting was held at the County Building at 9:00 a.m. on the above date.

Present

Warden Kevin Marriott. Members: J. Agar, G. Atkinson, D. Boushy, M. Bradley, A. Broad, T. Case, D Cook, D. Ferguson, B Hand, B. Loosley, C. McRoberts, S. Miller, D. Sageman, I. Veen, B. White. Various staff were present including the following General Managers: Mr. J. Cole, General Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services, Mr. A. Taylor, General Manager, Public Health Services, Mr. A. Meyer, General Manager, Cultural Services, Ms. Jane Joris, General Manager, Long-Term Care, Mr. L. Palarchio, General Manager, Finance, Facilities and Court Services, Ms. Valerie Colasanti, General Manager, Social Services, Ms. O. Leger, Solicitor/Clerk and Mr. S. Thiffeault, Chief Administrative Officer.

Absent

Councillor Dennis.

Councillor Bradley joined the meeting at 9:25 am.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Loosley declared a pecuniary interest on Motion #6 regarding appointments to the Emergency Services Committee as well as Motion #13 of Information Reports pertaining to the Emergency Medical Services Department, as his son is employed as a paramedic for Emergency Medical Services for The Corporation of the County of Lambton.

APPOINTMENTS

Nominations

Nominate a Chair of the Committee of the Whole

#1: Case/Boushy: That Warden Marriott be nominated as the Chair of the Committee of the Whole for a one-year term.

Carried.

Nominate a Vice Chair of the Committee of the Whole

#2: Agar/Boushy: That Councillor Atkinson be nominated for Vice Chair of the Committee of the Whole for a one-year term.

Carried.

Audit Committee

#3: Loosley/Ferguson: That Warden Marriott, Deputy Warden White as well as Councillors Atkinson, Cook, Miller and Loosley be appointed to the Audit Committee for a one-year term.

Carried.

County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee

#4: Case/Atkinson: That Councillor Broad be appointed to the County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

Carried.

Woodlands Hearings Board

#5: Hand/McRoberts: That Councillor Ferguson along with the Warden and Deputy Warden be appointed to the Woodlands Hearings Board for a one-year term.

Carried.

Emergency Services Committee

#6: Case/Veen: That the following Councillors be appointed to the Emergency Services Committee:

Jeff Agar
Dan Sageman
Steve Miller
Brian White

Todd Case
Bev Hand
Chrissy McRoberts
Kevin Marriott

Carried.

County of Lambton Accessibility Advisory Committee

#7: Case/Hand: That Councillor Cook be appointed to the County of Lambton Accessibility Advisory Committee for a one-year term.

Carried.

INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Information Report

Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Emergency Management Coordinator Activities

#8: Veen/Miller: That the Information Report dated January 17, 2024 regarding Emergency Management Coordinator Activities be received and filed.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee Revitalization

#9: Ferguson/Case:

a) That a Sub-Committee be struck to review the CLAAC draft Terms of Reference together with the member composition of CLAAC, and report back to the April 17, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting with its recommendations thereon.

b) That the following Councillors be appointed to the Sub-Committee:

Al Broad
Gary Atkinson
Doug Cook
Dave Ferguson

Carried.

#10: Case/Ferguson: That Warden Marriott be appointed to the Sub-Committee.

Carried.

#11: Ferguson/Cook: That the report dated January 17, 2024 regarding County of Lambton Agricultural Advisory Committee (CLAAC) Revitalization be tabled until the April 17, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Carried.

Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Updates to Emergency Response Plan and Program By-Laws

#12: Veen/Ferguson: That a By-Law to adopt the County of Lambton's Emergency Management Program, along with Schedule "A" (the revised Emergency Response Plan), be presented to County Council for its consideration and approval.

Carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION – Emergency Medical Services

Information Reports

#13: Miller/SageMan: That the following Information Reports from the Public Health Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Emergency Medical Services Master Plan Consultation Follow Up.
- b) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Emergency Medical Services Operational Update – Q4 2023.

Carried.

CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

LHM 02-07-24 A letter dated December 5, 2023 from The Honourable Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport to the Lambton Heritage Museum, announcing approval of grant funds under the Community Museum Operating Grant and Pay Equity program for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Such funding supports Ontario's cultural heritage and strengthens the capacity of organizations in the heritage sector.

OMC 02-08-24 A letter dated December 5, 2023 from The Honourable Neil Lumsden Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport to the Oil Museum of Canada, announcing approval of grant funds under the Community Museum Operating Grant and Pay Equity program for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Such funding supports Ontario's cultural heritage and strengthens the capacity of organizations in the heritage sector.

#14: Boushy/Cook: That correspondence LHM 02-07-24 and OMC 02-08-24 be received and filed.

Carried.

Information Reports

#15: Hand/SageMan: That the following Information Reports from the Cultural Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Cultural Services Division 2023 Annual Report.
- b) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding 2024 Exhibition Schedules.

- c) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Enhanced Online Access to Museum Collections.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Consolidation of Sombra and Port Lambton Libraries

#16: White/Veen: That staff be authorized to investigate the feasibility of expanding the library space in Sombra, including the costs of the renovation and expansion project and expected allocations thereof between the Township of St. Clair and the County of Lambton, to assess the types of remote / outreach library services that could be offered to Port Lambton residents and the costs to provide such, and any operational considerations that would be taken into account concerning hours of operation and staffing levels and adjustments, and to report back to Council thereon.

Carried.

Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery Hours of Operation

#17: Atkinson/McRoberts: That the hours of operation for the Judith & Norman Alix Art Gallery, Lambton Heritage Museum and the Oil Museum of Canada be maintained as follows:

Saturday of Victoria Day Weekend to Sunday of Labour Day Weekend	Hours
Sunday	11:00am to 4:00pm
Monday, Tuesday	Closed to public
Wednesday	11:00am to 4:00pm
Thursday	11:00am to 8:30pm
Friday	11:00am to 4:00pm (First Friday to 9:00pm)
Saturday	11:00am to 4:00pm
Monday of Labour Day Weekend to Friday of Victoria Day Weekend	Hours
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday	Closed to public
Wednesday	11:00am to 4:00pm
Thursday	11:00am to 8:30pm
Friday	11:00am to 4:00pm (First Friday to 9:00pm)
Saturday	11:00am to 4:00pm

Carried.

Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Museums & Archives Collections Management, October & November 2023

#18: Broad/Loosley: That the Museums, Gallery and Archives Collections Management October & November 2023 Report be accepted, and items recommended for acceptance be approved for inclusion in the respective permanent collections and items recommended for deaccession be removed from the permanent collections.

Carried.

LONG-TERM CARE DIVISION

Information Report

Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Adult Day Program Enhanced Funding

#19: Miller/Hand: That the Information Report dated January 17, 2024 regarding Adult Day Program Enhanced Funding be received and filed.

Carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

CS 02-05-24 An email from Melanie Hudson, Acting Clerk, Township of Asphodel-Norwood dated December 22, 2023 advising that at its regular meeting of Council held December 12, 2023, the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood passed the following resolution regarding rising municipal insurance costs:

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are experiencing higher insurance rates at each renewal with limited access to insurance providers willing to quote on municipal insurance needs;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Asphodel-Norwood's annual insurance premiums have increased from \$150,280 to \$299,729 from 2020 to 2024, representing an accumulated increase of 99.5% over this period;

AND WHEREAS these annual increases are unsustainable and divert funds from critical municipal services as one of the most significant constraints in limiting yearly tax levy increases;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood directs staff to send a letter to the MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South calling for action to reduce insurance costs;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this Resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all Ontario Municipalities for support.

CS 02-06-24 An email from Jaclyn Grossi, Deputy Town Clerk, The Corporation of the Town of Aurora dated December 19, 2023 regarding Community Safety and Inciteful Speech which was considered by the Council of the Town of Aurora at its meeting held on December 12, 2023, and in this regard, Council adopted the following motion:

Whereas there has been an escalation in terrorist activity and unrest around the world that has triggered homeland rallies and advocacy that supports inciteful actions, which are causing uncertainty and unsafe feelings in our own country; and

Whereas inciteful speech is knowingly being utilized to create division, manipulation and spread misinformation, which could be defined as violent extremist propaganda and encouraging violent crimes; and

Whereas any loss of innocent civilian life is unacceptable and tragic; and

Whereas other local municipal councils and residents in Aurora have expressed concerns of uncertainty and safety who are asking for peace, protection and security; and

Whereas law exists to help maintain public safety, security, peace and order in society, and in Canada, where the responsibility for criminal justice is shared between the Federal, Provincial and territorial governments; and

Whereas it is important to protect our general freedoms of speech, while respecting the principles to protect and respect human rights, whether in person or in a free, open and secure internet, and to ensure transparency and accountability;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledges that residents in the community have expressed feelings of uncertainty and safety concerns, due to the recent global unrest, and condemns all acts of terror and violence resulting in loss of life or injury; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on all levels of government to acknowledge this uncertainty and safety concerns in Canada and look to strengthening their available tools to deny inciteful speech that encourages violent extremists the ability to publicly manipulate, advocate, and incite violence or physical harm to another human being, whether it be online or in person; and

3. Be It Further Resolved That Council encourages our community and diverse local leaders of faith to bring the community together to promote peace, healing and understanding during this difficult time; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be provided to both the Federal and Provincial government and all municipalities in Ontario.

#20: Cook/Ferguson: That correspondence CS 02-05-24 and CS 02-06-24 be received and filed.

Carried.

Reports Requiring a Motion

Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Deputy Clerk Appointment

#21: Broad/Loosley:

- a) That Ryan Beauchamp be appointed Deputy Clerk of The Corporation of the County of Lambton, effective February 7, 2024.
- b) That an appropriate By-Law effecting the above-noted appointment be presented to County Council for its consideration.

Carried.

Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding 2024 Services and Fees Schedule

#22: Sageman/McRoberts:

- a) That the revised services fees and charges schedule set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto be approved and implemented effective February 7, 2024.
- b) That an appropriate By-Law be presented to County Council to implement the revised services fees and charges.

Carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

Correspondence to Receive and File

SS 02-01-24 A letter dated November 16, 2023 from Owen Jaggard, Deputy Clerk, Town of Aylmer advising that on November 15, 2023, the Council of the Town of Aylmer endorsed the following motion regarding Provincial Consideration for Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act:

Whereas the Ontario government has acknowledged an affordable housing and housing supply crisis, communicating a targeted approach to build 1.5 million homes by 2031; and

Whereas nearly one-third of Ontario households rent, rather than own, according to the most recent 2021 Census of Population; and

Whereas the Ontario government has reported that Ontario broke ground on nearly 15,000 purpose-built rentals in 2022, a 7.5 percent increase from 2021 and the highest number on record, with continued growth into 2023; and

Whereas the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006, provides for the maximum a landlord can increase most tenants rent during a year without the approval of the Landlord and Tenant Board; and

Whereas the Ontario government recently strengthened protections for tenants with the intention of preserving affordability, by holding the rent increase guideline for 2024 to 2.5 percent, well below the average inflation rate of 5.9 percent; and

Whereas the rental increase guideline protection does not apply to rental units occupied for the first time after November 15, 2018, leaving an increasing number of tenants susceptible to disproportionate and unsustainable rental increases compared to those benefiting from legislated increase protection;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Town of Aylmer requests provincial consideration for amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006, to ensure that all tenants benefit from protections intended to preserve affordability.

SS 02-04-24 An email from Jaclyn Grossi, Deputy Town Clerk, The Corporation of Town of Aurora dated December 19, 2023, advising that on December 12, 2023, Council of the Town of Aurora passed the following motion:

Whereas the homelessness crisis is taking a devastating toll on families and communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, and that Council accepts that the responsibility to address these challenges rests with community stakeholders, partners, and residents as well as regional, federal, and provincial governments and agencies; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora recognizes the challenges of mental health, addictions, and homelessness, which are complex issues that have a significant and detrimental impact on the residents of the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas within Ontario; and

Whereas addressing and responding to these issues has placed extreme stress on all levels of regional, municipal, and non-municipal programs and services, including various not-for-profit organizations and provincially funded health services within the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic and health crisis, including people with substance use disorders; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora commits to ending homelessness in the community in collaboration with the Region, and both the Provincial and Federal governments; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on the Region, the Province and Federal governments to increase action and supports on the following:
 - a. Commit to ending homelessness in Ontario; and
 - b. Work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a broad range of community, health, and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal; and
 - c. Provide a long-term financial commitment to assist in the creation of more affordable and supportive housing for people in need, in York Region, including people with substance use disorders; and d. Increase investments in evidence informed substance use prevention and mental health promotion initiatives that provide foundational support for the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods, beginning from early childhood; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Minister of Health; the Minister of the Solicitor General; the Minister of Finance; the Chief Medical Officer of Health; Town of Aurora local MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and all Ontario municipalities.

SS 02-09-24 An email from Catalina Blumenberg, Clerk, The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward, dated November 17, 2023 advising the Council of the County of Prince Edward passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on November 23, 2021 Prince Edward County was certified as a 'Living Wage' Employer at the "support" level, through the Ontario Living Wage Network;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario livable wage for Hastings & Prince Edward, in 2022 was determined to be \$19.05, which is \$3.55 more than the Provincial minimum wage rate of \$15.50; and this rate is paid to all staff including students in 2023;

AND WHEREAS our residents on programs such as Ontario Works, receive targeted fixed monthly incomes of \$733, and ODSP recipients receive \$1,376;

AND WHEREAS the current Ontario minimum wage rate, a person working 37.5 hours per week will earn approximately \$2,500 monthly (before tax);

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the 2023 Vital Signs Report, up to 3,500 residents (10.1% to 13.5%) are living on low income (less than \$36,000 a year after taxes) and PEC's median income lags behind Ontario by \$7,500/year;

AND WHEREAS the median rent for one bedroom in Prince Edward County in accordance with the County Housing Plan for 2023 \$1,513 a month;

AND WHEREAS rent is considered affordable, when it is no more than 30% of gross annual income and the number of people receiving government benefits has increased to a level above the provincial average in Prince Edward County. Extrapolated, a full 30% of County residents are deemed to be low-income and unable to afford either market real estate or rental housing prices;

AND WHEREAS as of March 31, 2023, there are 1,089 households on the Prince Edward - Lennox and Addington Social Services wait list for subsidized housing in Prince Edward County;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with the County Food Collective, Food bank use is up 26% in Prince Edward County and as many as 6,000 residents experience food insecurity over a year's time;

AND WHEREAS on July 25, 2023 Council expressed support for a more generous Canada Child Benefit targeting low-income families struggling with food insecurity and urged Federal government expedite its 2021 election promise to roll-out Canada's first national school food policy, and endorsed the Coalition for Healthy School Food mission to work with partners across Canada to advocate for a universal cost-shared healthy Canada-wide school food program on September 26, 2023;

AND WHEREAS the 2017 Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) study/survey identified the general affordable workforce housing as a primary obstacle in our workforce attraction;

AND WHEREAS the collected data of housing and poverty statistics, and continuing to examine their pending economic vulnerability as a result is important in establishing a livable income;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County join other municipalities across Ontario, including Belleville, Napanee to urge the Federal and Provincial governments to establish a Guaranteed Livable Income program; and

THAT this resolution be sent to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Michael Parsa, M.P.P., Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, Ryan Williams, Bay of Quinte M.P.P., Todd Smith, Bay of Quinte M.P.P, Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition of Ontario and Pierre Poilievre Leader of the Official Opposition of Canada requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

#23: Boushy/Atkinson: That correspondence SS 02-01-2024, SS 02-04-2024 and SS 02-09-24 and be received and filed.

Carried.

Information Reports

#24: Broad/White: That the following Information Reports from the Social Services Division be received and filed:

- a) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Maxwell Park Place Affordable Housing Development Update #6.
- b) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Homelessness Prevention Services.
- c) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Children's Services Child Care Expansion Request for Proposal Update.
- d) Information Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding Affordable Housing Initiative - Seed Funding Update.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Invitation to MPP Sarnia-Lambton to Attend a Lambton County Council Meeting

#25: Case/Bradley: That a further letter be sent to Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton, extending an additional invitation to attend a Lambton County Council meeting for a question and answer period.

Carried.

CAO

Report Requiring a Motion

Report dated January 17, 2024 Regarding May 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting

#26: Broad/Sage: That the May 15, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting be held at the Western Sarnia-Lambton Research Park, 1086 Modeland Rd, Sarnia, Ontario.

Carried.

IN-CAMERA

#27: Case/Miller: That the Chair declare the Committee go in-camera to receive a report and provide instructions, regarding labour relations specifically regarding collective bargaining with CUPE Local 2557, pursuant to ss. 239(2)(d) of *the Municipal Act, 2001*.

#28: (Motion to be dealt with in-camera).

Carried.

Adjournment

#29: White/Veen: That the Chair declare the meeting adjourned with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Building, Wyoming, Ontario.

Carried.

Time: 9:40 a.m.

Kevin Marriott
Chair

Olivia Leger
Clerk